



NEWSLETTER

18TH NOVEMBER 2022

Golden Book

Congratulations to our Golden Book Winners who were presented with their certificates during assemblies this morning. This week's theme for Golden Book was "Resilience"



- Reception - Orla, Harry and Alex
- Year One - Jamie and Emmie
- Year Two - Eden, Harry and Oliver
- Year Three - Nell and Stanley
- Year Four - Daisy, Seth and Florence
- Year Five - Leon, Harry and Leyla
- Year Six - Jayden and Noah

contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk

Telephone No.
01785 337 300
Absence Reporting
ParentMail



Our School Attendance Target is **96%**

This weeks attendance is **93.7%** which is
below our school target.

Reception	96.7%
Year One	90.7%
Year Two	94.3%
Year Three	93.3%
Year Four	97.5%
Year Five	86.7%
Year Six	97.0%

Food Surplus Donations

In the last few weeks we have been fortunate to receive food surplus donations each Wednesday from a local charity.

We are aware that a number of parents have asked if they can make a donation or contribution in return.

We have decided that when we receive donations we will place a collection bucket outside should you wish to make a contribution.

We've been informed by the charity that they are intending to make a hundred charity Christmas hampers this year and that in exchange for taking surplus food parents could donate either a packet of stuffing or a jar of cranberry sauce. Please bring these into the school office and we will pass them on.



Attendance

As you are aware from previous Newsletters and through our Meet the Teacher meetings school attendance is a major Government priority. For children on the school roll, regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise their educational opportunities and become emotionally resilient with statistics showing a direct link between under-achievement and poor attendance. Regular attenders also make better progress, both socially and academically and find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with.

Our school attendance figures from September are provided each day by the DfE for every child in school and the Government have set a target that every child should have an attendance figure of at least 95%. Any child who has an attendance figure of less than 90% is classed as a persistent absentee and we have a responsibility to contact the parents of these children to inform them that their child's attendance has dropped below 90%. We are well aware that over just ten weeks of the school year it only takes one illness of five days to be classed as persistently absent, however Government and school policies must ensure that we keep parents fully informed.

As we have said before children should not attend school if they are unwell however next week we will be contacting the parents of children who are classed as persistently absent. This can include children who have been absent from school but can also include children who are persistently late for registration in a morning.

Spelling shed

Since we returned after half term we have successfully launched the use of Spelling Shed to enable children to practise their spellings at home. These spellings are linked to learning in class and are based on:

- Phonic rule—taken from the national curriculum
- Spelling rule—taken from the national curriculum
- Red words/common exception words/key vocabulary
- Any common misspelt words children are using in their learning

Once the children have accessed the assignments they will be assessed on the spellings in class to track each child's individual progress. Thank you to all the parents who are supporting their children in accessing the spelling shed assignments and can we kindly ask parents to continue to support their children in practising their spelling assignments at home regularly.

If you have any difficulty accessing the spelling please let the class teacher know.



Please note that there are no after school sporting clubs on Tuesday or Thursday next week due to competitions.

Millionaire Reader

Congratulations to Alexander who is our first millionaire reader this year and who was presented with his certificate in assembly this morning.



Cycling to School

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that children are safe when cycling to and from school.

In Year 6 the children complete Level 2 Bikeability which includes road safety. Level 2 teaches children how to grow more confident and with the instructors leading the children onto quiet roads, to experience "real" cycling. It is when they have completed the Level 2 course that we allow them to bring their bikes into school.

To ensure the safety of all children, parents and carers, we ask that children dismount their bicycles and walk them to the bike storage area.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Year Two Visit to Ancient High House

On Wednesday it was the turn of the Year Two children to visit the Ancient High House as part of their history learning this term. They had a lovely time and learnt all about the history of the Ancient High House and how it has changed over the years.



Reception Owl Encounter

On Thursday all of our Reception children welcomed some special feathered guests into school when they were visited by some owls. They had the opportunity to ask lots of questions to their handler and to stroke the owls. Later, as part of their science learning, they dissected some owl poo looking for bones and fur.



Christmas Comfort Appeal

Following the previous successes of our shoebox appeals, we have decided this year to again support two Stafford based charities—Staffordshire Women’s Aid and a Child of Mine.

Staffordshire Women’s Aid provide support for women and children who have experienced domestic violence, and a Child of Mine support families who have suffered the loss of a child.

Below is some more information and a guide explaining what to donate. All donations need to be new items and we would recommend that they are sent in gift bags if possible.

Could all donations be in school by Monday 5th December.

A Child of Mine

Please provide gifts for a sibling or family member who has suffered the loss of a child and needs cheering up this Christmas:-

- A toy or Christmas Gift
- A t-shirt for a teenager
- A book
- Stationery/pens/colouring books
- Toiletries/cosmetics
- Chocolates and sweets
- Christmas decorations
- Jewellery
- Hairbrushes/clips/accessories



Staffordshire Women’s Aid

Please provide gifts for women and children who have experienced domestic violence and are in refuge accommodation:-

- A mug
- Drinking chocolate/marshmallows
- A toy or Christmas gift
- Toiletries/cosmetics
- Hairbrushes and hair accessories
- Chocolates and Sweets
- A Christmas book for a child
- A small festive gift or decoration



The women's refuge have asked that they are particularly in need of new hot water bottles with covers for the 75 women and children who are currently in the care of the refuge. If you would like to donate a hot water bottle they would be most grateful.

Year One and Two Visit to the Pantomime

On Thursday 15th December Year One and Year Two children will be given the opportunity to experience live theatre, when they will be visiting the Gatehouse Theatre to see a performance of Cinderella.

We will be leaving school at 1.00pm and will return back at approximately 4.30pm. We will text you with an exact time when we know that the coach has left the theatre.

Contributions of £19.25 are invited towards the cost, payable via your ParentPay account.

The children will also have the opportunity to purchase an ice cream for the performance. You can order these via ParentPay. They are £2.50 and you can select from 4 flavours. This payment will need to be received at the latest Friday 9th December as the Gatehouse require them to be pre ordered.



Foundation Stage Visit to National Forrest Adventure Farm

On Tuesday, 13th December Nursery and Reception children will be spending the day at the National Forest Adventure Farm in Burton-on-Trent. The children will be taking part in a magical North Pole Adventure, where they will help Santa's elves to sort parcels, learn how to be Father Christmas' helper in Elf training and meet the special man himself, where they will also receive a gift. They will also take part in an interactive nativity with the farm animals as well as going on a farmyard safari tractor and trailer ride.

Children will need to wear suitable clothing and footwear for the outdoors (wellies or trainers dependent upon weather) with their school sweatshirt/cardigan and a waterproof jacket. All children will need a packed lunch for dinnertime, could you please put these in a backpack so the children's hands can be kept free. They will also need a water bottle that can be packed into the backpack.

A letter giving full details will be sent out on Monday together with a form to complete should you wish to order a school packed lunch.

Contributions of £29.95 are invited towards the cost of the trip, payable via your ParentPay account from Monday.



Nursery Pudsey Week

Our Nursery children have been very busy this week preparing for their party today. They made invites for a special Pudsey party which they took to the Post Office and posted home. They also made special Pudsey biscuits which they ate at their party today.





Christmas Dates for your Diary

This year we are looking forward to celebrating the festive season with our school community. Below is a list of the dates when we have our Christmas events and activities:-

- 2nd December School Christmas Fair
- 5th December Reception, Year One and Year Two Christingle
- 5th December Deadline for Christmas comfort donations
- 7th December School Christmas Dinner
- 8th December Christmas Jumper Day
- 8th December Foundation Stage Nativity
- 9th December Foundation Stage Nativity
- 9th December Christmas Crafts Day
- 13th December Foundation Stage visit to National Adventure Forrest
- 13th December Key Stage One Nativity
- 14th December Key Stage One Nativity
- 15th December Year One and Two visit to the Pantomime
- 15th December Key Stage Two Carol Concert
- 16th December Christmas market in school

Further details about the events and timings will follow closer to the dates.

