



NEWSLETTER

20TH OCTOBER 2023

Golden Book

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



- Reception - Ved and Elysia
- Year One - Ava and Milo
- Year Two - Scarlett and Denoan
- Year Three - Eden and Ruby
- Year Four - Clark, Tamara and Penny
- Year Five - Alex, Florence and Lili
- Year Six - Noah and Annabel

**CLASS OF THE
WEEK!**

YEAR 3



contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk

Telephone No.
01785 337 300
Absence Reporting
ParentMail



School Admissions

Staffordshire County Council has informed us that the online admission process for Reception class entry in September 2024 opens on 1st November 2023. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday 15th January 2024.

The preferred way to make your application is online at:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

The County Council no longer issue schools with paper application forms.

This year we will once again be holding Open Mornings during which parents are invited to visit the school to meet the Headteacher, view our learning facilities, meet our staff and ask any questions. These sessions will be held on:

- Friday 25th November
- Thursday 12th January

The session for next week is now fully booked.

All sessions will begin at 10am and last around an hour.

If you wish to attend could you please contact the school office so that we know how many visitors to expect.



We have been asked to remind Year 6 parents that the admission process for high school closes on Tuesday 31st October.

Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale in school next week in exchange for, at least, a silver coin. We will also be selling other British Legion Poppy related items, such as Poppy wristbands and bracelets for the prices detailed below.



Reflectors

£1.00



Zipp Pull

£1.00



Silicone Wristband

£1.00



Snap Band

£1.50

Data Collection Sheets

Data Collection sheets have been sent home this week.

If you could please return these by Thursday 26th October even if there are no amendment.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Saltmine Theatre Company Production for Years One to Six!

Intergalactic Online Safety!

As part of our continuous commitment to ensuring children's safety online, we are delighted to announce that children from Year One to Year Six will enjoy the Saltmine Theatre Company's production of 'Blast Off!' on Monday 23rd October.

In order to continue to fund these experiences, we are asking for just a £1 voluntary contribution, via Parentpay, towards the cost of the performance.

Thank you.

Our School Attendance Target is **96%**

This weeks attendance is **96.4%** which is
above our school target.

Reception	98%
Year One	97%
Year Two	95%
Year Three	95.8%
Year Four	96.9%
Year Five	95.3%
Year Six	96.6%

Year 6 SATS Meeting

Thank you to all parents who attended our SATs Meeting on Thursday evening. We hope you found it helpful.

A ParentMail with the presentation information has been emailed out to all Year 6 parents.

Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property. If you could please come into school no later than next Thursday 26th October if you think there may be any items here belonging to you.

After this date the items will be disposed of.

Thank you.



*Please note there will be no boys
football Monday 23rd October
as our Year 3 and 4 girls are at a
football match at Springfield
First School.*

Harvest

Thank you so much for your kind donations. We have had lots more come in this week to add to the already generous contributions.



Please keep them coming. We really appreciate all of your support!

Achievement

Well done to Alexander in Year 6 who is now a member of the “Word Millionaire Club” for reading One Million Words.

Congratulations !



Year 5 Visit to Lowry Art Gallery

On Wednesday 22nd November, Year 5 will be visiting The Lowry Art Gallery, Salford, Manchester as part of their ‘Lowry’ unit of art learning.

They will also have the opportunity to visit the Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler exhibition which features several of Julia Donaldson’s personal writing notebooks and Axel Scheffler’s artwork. This is a great hands-on exhibition.

Following this the children will take part in a drama workshop run by professionals from the gallery.

More information has been sent to you via ParentMail and it is now also live on ParentPay.



Year 1 Pirate Party



Parents Evening

Just a reminder that bookings for Parents Evening close at 10am on Monday 23rd October at 10am.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Don't forget
parents
evening!

Inset Day

Friday 27th October

Half Term

Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November.

Return to school

Monday 6th November.

Nursery Soup Party

Our Nursery children have enjoyed preparing for their Soup Party this week which was held on Friday 20th October. They made their own bread and butter and chopped some vegetables.

Thank you to all of the parents who joined us. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did !



Parking around School

We continue to receive complaints from concerned local residents regarding parking and driving around school.

- Parents driving on pavements and verges to overtake parked cars. I would add to this point that the cars weren't driving particularly slowly when on the pavement. This shocked and scared me since it is a dark morning and visibility isn't particularly good. I dread to think what could have happened if children were on the path at the time.
- Parents parking their cars on the single yellow lines on Silvester Way at the Overhill Road junction by the crossing lady. This not only made her job incredibly difficult but is very dangerous to park so close to the junction (hence the yellow lines are in place to try to stop this happening).
- Parents parking their cars on the single yellow lines at the Victoria Way/Silvester Way junction. This resulted in a bottle neck as cars could not turn into nor out of this junction.
- Parents stopping cars opposite parked cars on Silvester Way whilst children got out of the cars. The cars caused more bottle necks and as the cars drove off they had left their children on the opposite side of the road from the school. Thus the children had to cross the road on their own.
- Further bottlenecks were seen on Victoria Way as cars were parked along the road and this resulted in traffic having to overtake a number of parked cars to get passed. The oncoming traffic had to reverse which again resulted in cars mounting the pavement as children were walking by.

For the safety of all our children can we please ask that parents adhere to the parking and driving restrictions around the feeder roads into school during morning drop off and afternoon collection. Thank you.

A decorative border surrounds the central text area, featuring various school supplies like books, pens, pencils, and feathers on a light blue background.

Poem of the Week

My Treasures
by Kate Wakeling

These are treasures that I keep,
I hold them close before I sleep.

A silver coin,
a twisty shell,
a leaf that has a lovely smell,
a birthday badge,
an apple pip,
a very shiny paperclip,
an acorn cup,
a curly straw,
the key to a forgotten door.
These are treasures that I found,
I keep them safe,
I keep them sound.

© Kate Wakeling, from *A Dinosaur at the Bus Stop*
(Otter-Barry Books, 2023)

Summary of Equality and Accessibility Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Equality and Accessibility Questionnaire. We received 187 questionnaires which was fantastic!

The Health and Safety Committee met this week to discuss the concerns that were raised and the suggestions that were made. Below is a summary of the feedback that we received as well as the Governors responses and agreed actions. Once again thank you to everyone for taking the time to respond it is very much appreciated.

Item	Governors response
Written Correspondence from School	
When receiving letters from School	
99.3% positive	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive comment - ParentMail works very well and it is good to be able to refer back to communications e.g. for school trips to see if they need waterproofs weeks after the message was sent. All correspondence from school is clear and easy to access, thank you! Brilliantly informative, succinct and professional at all times. Find the newsletter brilliant and very informative 	
School Website	Governors response
Easy to use 93%	
Some pages are difficult to access 7%	
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Really appreciate the fantastic support and infrastructure. Great work by everyone at Oakridge. I would prefer the lunch menu to be in a simpler plain text format. Can I suggest the pages which are used the most often there are quick link on the home page. I used the calendar quite often however, it's located deep within the website. I am sure the web designer can track where the most traffic is and add quick links to these pages. school calendar / key dates were hard to find. A pdf would be good somewhere on the website. A school Instagram would be nice, I have seen other school have them, I have followed on Twitter but Instagram seems to be used a lot more by people. I wish the Leave of Absence request form was able to be filled in electronically on mobile devices 	<p>The lunch menu is on a simpler plain text when booking the menu on ParentPay.</p> <p>The calendar is on the home page of the school website and all major links meet the 3 clicks criteria</p> <p>We have looked into this and will soon be launching our Instagram account as it will be compatible with the school website.</p> <p>This can be done from a computer but unfortunately not from a phone.</p>

Do you or your child find it difficult to access the school environment?	Governors response
<p>100% easy to know where to go</p> <p>Smooth and easy to walk on 99%</p> <p>Free from hazards (eg bins) 99%</p> <p>Free of kerbs/steps/tripping hazards 99%</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>There were a number of comments about the pathway being too small. We have not included them all as they all relate to the same issue. Below are a sample.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's obvious that the school entrance is too narrow, has the option to resite or improve the entrance to school been looked into? • Not always too easy to fit a pushchair through to Reception class when other parents are waiting for older children along the entrance path. • The pedestrian path to enter school grounds is too narrow, making it very difficult if you are going in the opposite direction to others. • One of the few good things about Covid was being able to exit the school via the drive. It's so crowded on the path and there is a bottleneck at the exit. • Parents who drive and park on the double and single yellow lines around school continue to pose a hazard. Some drivers idle their engines while parked, which is illegal (Berkswich has signs up outside asking them not to do this). • I find it scary watching the cars driving down Silvester Way when children are attempting to cross the road. I wish it could be a school street closed to traffic at school finish time although appreciate that is not something the school can easily put in place. • Sometimes I can see branches of trees are coming to pathways that may cause an injury either to parents or children. • The only time the path into school is not wide enough is when pupils are bringing in bikes, sometimes the handlebars are really wide. • Why cannot year 3 or 4 pupils ride their bikes to school. there does not seem to be enough bike racks in the school either. Can this be arranged? 	<p>We have looked into removing the hedge and widening the school footpath on many occasions, however with school budgets already very stretched this has not been something that we have been able to afford. We have however placed a 'bid' to the LA to help pay for the costs of this work.</p> <p>This is not feasible as since we have returned to 'normality' since covid the driveway is used for deliveries, peripatetic teachers leaving at 3:15 and other school traffic.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this is a situation faced by many schools. We remind parents regularly of the importance of being respectful and courteous to each other at drop off and pick up times.</p> <p>We constantly remind parents through the school newsletter as contacting our PCSO.</p> <p>This is not something that is within the gift of the school.</p> <p>The hedges are cut at least twice a year and pathways are checked weekly by the school caretaker.</p> <p>As we have outlined to the children and through the school newsletter, once the children have attended the Year 6 bikeability course they then can with their parents' permission ride their bike into school.</p> <p>If we have more than one Year group riding their bikes to school it creates further congestion problems as outlined above.</p>

Pathways around school	Governors comments
All 99% positive feedback	
Main Entrance	Governor comments
95.7% positive Comments The main door is hard to open	The school entrance doors meet all the safety requirements.
The main office	
100% positive Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff at Oakridge are lovely • Staff are always happy and smiley giving you a warm welcome when you arrive in the school • Really appreciate the fantastic support and infrastructure. • The reception staff are really wonderful, very friendly and helpful • Reception staff are so lovely • Office staff very friendly 	



HALLOWEEN SOCCER SCHOOLS

Stafford Soccer School

Venue: Stafford Rugby Club, Blackberry Lane, Stafford, ST16 2TT

Dates: Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November 2023

Times: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Ages: Reception to Year 7

Cost: From £60

Booking Options: 3 days: £60 or 5 days: £90

To book, visit coaching.wolves.co.uk or email
footballdevelopment@wolves.co.uk for more information





STAFFORD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

WOLVES FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Where: Stafford Rugby Club, Blackberry Lane, Stafford, ST16 2TT

When: Saturday mornings

Who: Mixed session (boys & girls) Reception to Year 7

Times: 9:30-10:30am Reception to Year 3
10:30-11:30am Years 4 to 7

To book, visit coaching.wolves.co.uk or email
footballdevelopment@wolves.co.uk for more information.