



NEWSLETTER

12TH JANUARY 2024

happy new year

Sporting Clubs

Just a reminder that we will begin our new after-school sports clubs next week.

Clubs will run from 3:15pm - 4:20pm and will run from Monday to Thursday.

The clubs we will offer up until half-term are as follows:

Monday—Year 3 & 4 boys football

Tuesday—KS2 girls football

Wednesday—Year 5 & 6 boys football

Thursday—Year 5 & 6 girls and boys netball

Please remember that for football after-school clubs, football boots and shin pads must be worn.

Please ensure children have a waterproof coat with them too.

Dates for your Diary

15th January

Sports clubs begin this week (except football which is cancelled for Wednesday 17th January)

16th January

Year Five Fire Station Visit

12th—16th February

Half Term—School Closed

contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk

Telephone No.
01785 337 300
Absence Reporting
ParentMail





Year Five have their Standon Bowers Residential Visit 18th to 22nd March.

Please can we remind you to pay the full amount by no later than Monday 11th March. *Many Thanks.*

Year 4 Whitemoor Lakes

On 6th—8th March our Year 4 children are at their residential visit to Whitemoor Lakes.

Please can we remind you to pay the full amount by no later than Monday 26th February. *Many Thanks.*



Music Tuition

If your child is learning to play a musical instrument in school please note that the second instalment is now due and can be paid via your ParentPay account.

Payments should be made at the beginning of each term.

Thank you to those parents who have already paid or who have paid in full.



Year 5 Fire Station Visit

On Tuesday 16th January, our Year 5 children will be visiting Stafford Fire Station to take part in their Safe and Sound Event. The children will take part in a number of safety and life skills workshops.

We will leave school at 9:00am and arrive back at school for lunchtime.

Children will need to wear their school uniform.

This is now 'Live' on ParentPay.

Please note that if we receive insufficient contributions the visit may be cancelled.



Contact Details

If you have moved house, changed your telephone number or email address since October please don't forget to let us know so we have up to date information should we need to contact you.

Thank you!



Nursery Admissions

The Nursery admissions process for admission in September 2024 opens on 5th February 2024 and closes on 15th March 2024. Places will be offered no later than 22nd March 2024.

Please get in touch if you are interested - or complete the Nursery Admission form on our website.



Reception Admissions

If you have a child who is due to start in Reception class in September 2024 please note that the admissions process will close on 15th January 2024. Staffordshire County Council will offer places on 16th April 2024.

School Admissions do not issue application forms as the Service is keen to provide a paperless system in all its admissions processes wherever possible. All applications should be made on-line via the Staffordshire County Council website.

We regret that no priority is given in the admission process if your child is currently in our Nursery.

Tesco Stronger Starts

We are delighted to let you know that our application to the Tesco Stronger Starts has been successful and our project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will commence in store very soon and will commence until the end of March 2024.

Our project of choice is for play equipment to make outdoor playtimes more enjoyable by providing equipment such as bats, balls, hoops and other engaging apparatus.

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on our project.

3244 Stafford Express, Small unit, Rising Brook, ST17 9DH

3398 Stafford Extra, Large unit, Main Supermarket, Newport Road, Stafford, ST16 2HE

6569 Stafford Express, Small unit, Stone Road, ST16 2TQ

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here:

<http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk>

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

**Stronger
Starts.**

In partnership with



Tax Free Childcare for Before and After School Care

The Government offer a Tax-Free Childcare scheme which offers up to £2,000 a year per child towards childcare costs, including nursery, childminder, before and after school clubs and even some holiday camps.

Over 1.3 million families are eligible, around 800,000 aren't currently using this benefit.

The Government-backed Tax-Free Childcare scheme is designed so that for every 80p you put into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the government will add 20p. It essentially gives you basic-rate tax back on your bill – hence the scheme's name.

In short, this is what you can get:

Eligible parents can get up to £2,000 per child per year. In total you can use the scheme to help pay for up to £10,000 of childcare per child each year – giving you an extra £2,000 per child each year.

Both 8am Club and Little Oaks After School club can accept payment this way and by signing up it's a great way to save some money towards your childcare costs.

For more information including eligibility please see the website below:

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>



Attendance

The Department for Education (DfE) has recently released some further information to try and help children with their attendance in school. Please see below which you will hopefully find helpful.

Why is school attendance important?

Being in school is important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a contributes to better mental health and wellbeing.

Attendance at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood, and to support their longer term economic and social participation in society. There is also evidence that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A level results.

Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

What does it mean if a child is persistently or severely absent?

Children who are registered at a school but regularly fail to turn up are officially referred to as being 'persistently' absent.

The school day is split into two sessions – one session counts as a morning or afternoon spent in school.

It's encouraging that the number of absent pupils has fallen since the pandemic, but there is still work to do.

Is my child too sick to go to school?

It's usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. Children should stay at home if they have a high temperature (38C or above).

Further information about whether your child is too ill for school, including information on other illnesses like chickenpox, headlice, and a sore throat, is available on the NHS website.

My child is anxious about going to school, should I send them in?

Children can sometimes feel a little bit worried about going to school. Mostly, this is a very normal emotion. It is important to recognise that going in to school can help children to feel less worried than letting them stay at home.

If your child is anxious over several weeks, please talk to us so we can support you.

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

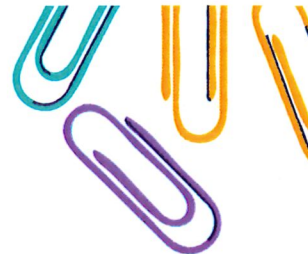
Poem of the Week

January
by John Updike

The days are short,
The sun a spark,
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.
Fat snowy footsteps
Track the floor.
Milk bottles burst
Outside the door.

The river is
A frozen place
Held still beneath
The trees of lace.

The sky is low.
The wind is gray.
The radiator
Purrs all day.



Dear Parents and Guardians

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Ofsted registered holiday club at Oakridge Primary School starting Easter 2024!

At JC Academy we are dedicated to providing engaging and enriching experiences for children during school holidays. Our team is excited to bring our award winning holiday camps to your school, offering a wide range of fun and educational activities tailored to suit various interests and ages.

Our camp will be open every school holiday following Easter 2024, from 8.30am - 5.30pm. We have several time slots to choose from and flexible payment methods including childcare vouchers and tax free childcare.

Registration details and additional information about the Easter holiday club will be shared with you soon. In the meantime, you can find more information about our camps on our website listed at the bottom of this letter.

All children attending Oakridge Primary School will be entitled to one FREE trial with us in Easter. Please contact us via email below to book yours.

We look forward to joining the Oakridge team and meeting your children.

Best regards,

JC Academy Holiday Clubs



☎ 01543 651894
✉ admin@jcademy.co.uk
📍 www.jcademy.co.uk



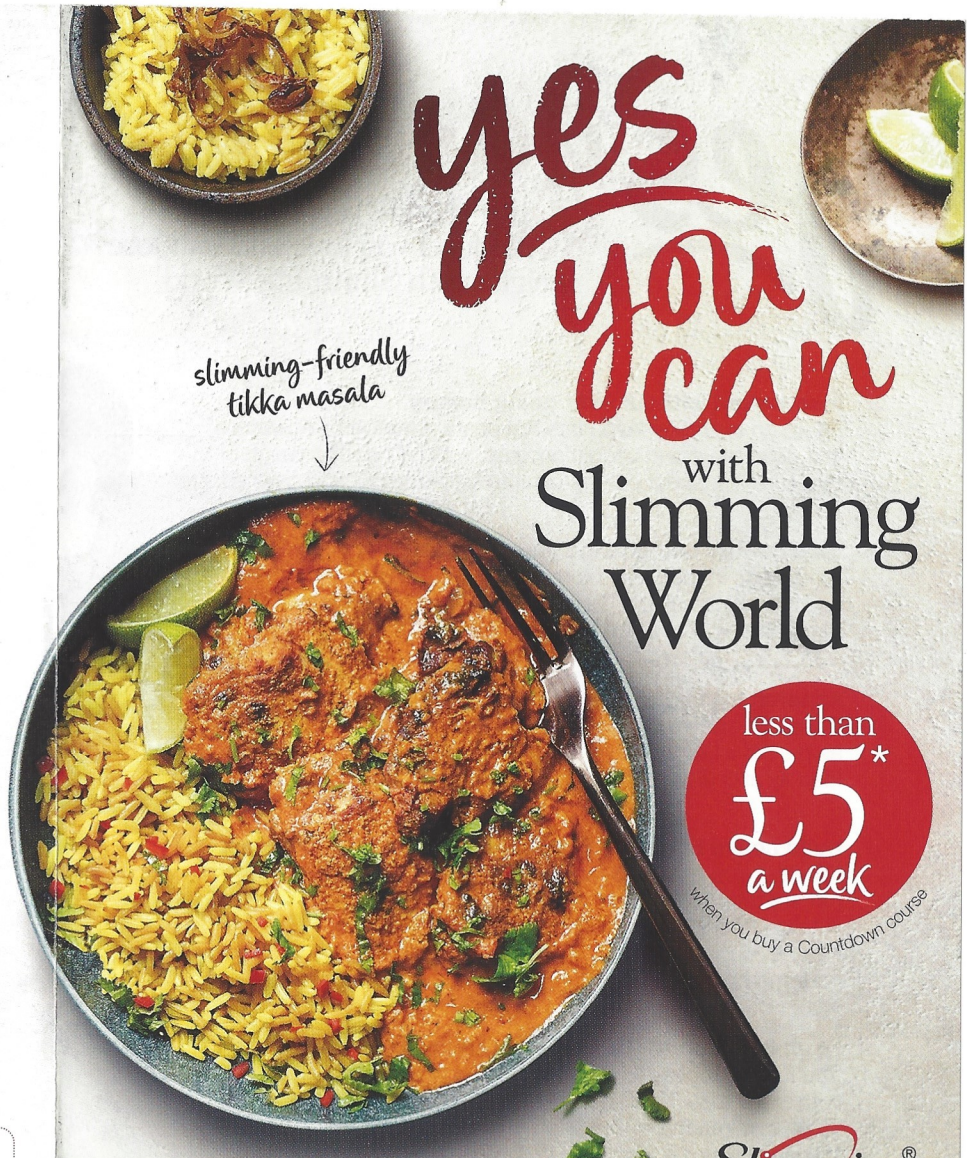
join a *friendly* and *super-supportive*
Slimming World group today...

HILLCROFT PARK
Oakridge Primary School
Silvester Way
ST17 0PR
Thursdays at 7:30pm
Call Kay on 07979 155460

222802

new shorter sessions – because time is precious, and so are you.

To find out more, please contact your local Consultant (you'll find their contact details above),
call Group Enquiries on 0344 897 8000, or see slimmingworld.co.uk



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