

# Oak Hill First School

## September 2025

### Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm thrilled to be writing to you as the new Principal of Oak Hill First School. In just a few short weeks, I've already fallen in love with the children, the staff, and the wonderful atmosphere here. I'm genuinely excited to get to know each of you and become part of this special community.

A little about me: I grew up in the South and have worked in education for over 20 years, with more than a decade in leadership. I've been based in Redditch for some time now, including leadership roles at Abbeywood First School and Arrow Valley First School—both part of the Central Region Schools Trust (CRST). I'm passionate about helping children learn to read, write, and become confident, articulate communicators.

I absolutely love my job—but I'll be honest, I'm not perfect! I have a habit of mixing up dates and might even answer the phone with "Good morning!" after school hours. But I promise to give my all to care for your little ones and lead our school with dedication and heart.

At Oak Hill, we are proud of our strong values and shared vision. We aim to create a nurturing, inclusive, and respectful environment where every child feels safe, valued, and ready to learn. Our ethos is rooted in kindness, curiosity, and high expectations. We want our children to grow not only academically, but also as thoughtful, resilient individuals who show empathy, integrity, and a love of learning. Working closely with families and the wider community, we strive to ensure every child thrives and enjoys their journey through school.

I'm not the only new face at Oak Hill—please join me in welcoming **Mr Dove, Miss Hay**, and all our new starters in Reception and Nursery. It's been wonderful to see how well they've settled in. Monday marks their first full day—welcome to "big school"! We're so proud of each and every one of you.

Thank you for your warm welcome and your patience as I settle in and learn the routines. I'm truly excited to be part of this delightful learning community and look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Mrs Allen

## Attendance Matters

At Oak Hill, we expect children to attend school every day they are well. Please remember that holidays during term time cannot be authorised. The school day begins promptly at 8:35am. We are unable to authorise any holidays in term time.



## Drinks in School

We encourage children to drink water throughout the day. However, we understand that not everyone enjoys it! If your child prefers, you may send them with a bottle filled with sugar-free squash. Bottles can be refilled at school, but we are only able to provide water.

## Class Dojo Communication

Teachers check Class Dojo before and after school but may not be able to respond during the day. Our policy is to reply within 48 hours. If your message is urgent or just about who is picking up at the end of the day, please contact the school office directly—our lovely office team will be happy to help.



## Free School Meals Vs Universal Free school meals

**Universal Free School Meals** are provided to all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 in state-funded schools, regardless of their family's income—no application is needed.

In contrast, **Free School Meals** are available to children from families who meet certain income-related criteria, and parents must apply to receive them. These meals can be given to children in any year group, including older pupils, and eligibility also allows schools to receive additional funding through the Pupil Premium.

Those families who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) based on income-related criteria qualifies for FSM, it brings extra benefits not just for your family, but for the school too:

- Additional funding is provided to the school to help support your child's learning.
- Subsidised school trips – this is a new initiative at our school to make enrichment activities more accessible.
- Free access to clubs through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.
- Supermarket vouchers to help with food costs during the longer school holidays.

If you think you might be eligible, we strongly encourage you to apply – even if your child already receives Universal Free School Meals. It makes a real difference.

To see if you are eligible please click follow this link

Apply online [Citizen Portal - Sign in](#)

## Dates for your Diary!

- 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Sept - Year 4 Residential Trip to CONDOVER HALL
- w/c 15<sup>th</sup> Sept - Afterschool Clubs start
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept - Year 1 Parental Engagement
- 17th Oct - Individual and Sibling school photos
- 21<sup>st</sup> Oct & 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct - Parents Evening (more info will follow)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct - Break Up for half term



**Have a wonderful weekend and we will see you on Monday**