

OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

WIREHILL DRIVE, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH

Dear Parents / Carers,

Wishing you all a warm welcome back after the summer holidays - it seems like a distant memory now that we are back and into the swing of things. The children are settled into the structure of the school day and come to school looking bright and breezy after hopefully getting back into weekday bedtimes routines. I'd like to particularly welcome "new to Oak Hill" pupils and families.

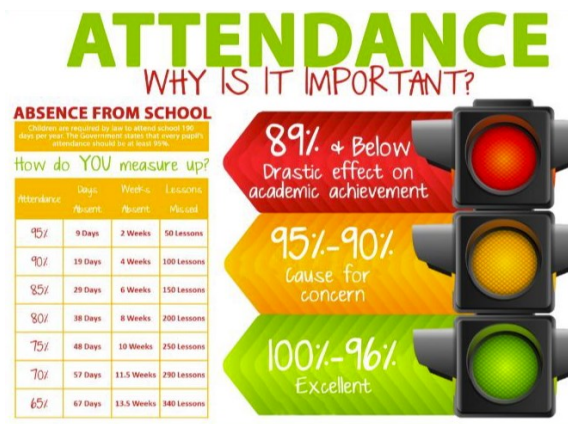
Our reception children are settling in – there's a lot to get used to and we will make sure that we give them the time they need to feel comfortable with the adults around them, their classmates, classroom and at times, moving around the school.

All of the children look so smart in their new uniforms, please make sure that jumpers and cardigans are labelled otherwise we have no way of returning it – small heaps of lost property are beginning to grow!

School is calm and the children are following our agreed behaviour approach well - behaviour across school is very good which allows the children to enjoy their learning. They are working hard and enjoying their new topics.

Our whole school improvement plan this year will focus on Writing, Attendance, Curriculum redesign and developing our programme to support the mental health of pupils. As these areas are developed we will keep you up to date with the progress we are making in these areas.

Attendance is clearly an area which is significantly influenced by parents. The government have placed additional expectations on school from this month going forward. We have to amend our policies and our practices to ensure that we demonstrate a rigorous approach particularly to persistent absentees. Information will be sent to you shortly giving you an understanding of these expectations and how we might seek ways to increase your child's attendance. Once a child misses 4 days of school this would be classed as a possible concerning level of absence and formal notification is shared with the possibility of Early Help support being offered where appropriate. The next milestones for actions are then 7 days/10 days and then a very tailored response if your child has more than 15 days absence, as it is at this point that they are deemed to be a persistent absentee. It is our intention to focus on support or signpost to other agencies that could support. Engagement with this process at an early stage will hopefully help to resolve any attendance issues quickly and give your child the best opportunity to thrive in school.



L. Kelly

Tuesday 10th October	Flu Vaccinations Rec-Year 4
Tuesday 10th October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 12th October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 26th October	School Photos
Thursday 26th October	Last day of half term
Friday 27th October	Teacher Training Day
Friday 27th –Friday 3rd November	Half Term
Monday 6th November	First day back after half

Dates for the diary

Please keep checking ClassDojo!!
Further year group
specific dates will follow during
this term .



	Recent % Attendance since last report	Average attendance since Sept	Recent No. of lates	Total of lates since Sept
RM 😊	97.9%	97.9%	1	1
RS 😊	100%	100%	2	2
RW 😊	97.3%	97.3%	0	0
1A 😊	97.7%	97.7%	1	1
1C 😊	100%	100%	3	3
1W	95.8%	95.8%	1	1
2C 😊	96.00%	96.00%	3	3
2F	94.9%	94.9%	7	7
2S 😊	97.53%	97.53%	1	1
3E 😊	98.86%	98.86%	2	2
3G	93.4%	93.4%	8	8
3T 😊	97.8%	97.8%	5	5
4F	92.7%	92.7%	1	1
4PW	87.9%	87.9%	4	4
4R	95.3%	95.3%	2	2

Classes with a green box attendance have achieved or exceeded the minimum expectation.

Classes in red are potentially a cause for concern and further analysis will take place.

Mrs Aldridge (Office) is now the Attendance Officer for Oak Hill and liaises with parents, teachers and senior leaders when dealing with all attendance matters.

Reminders:

Our school operates a 'tie hair back' policy for pupils whose hair can be combed back into a pony tail or plait. We ask that pupils only wear small hair accessories.



Earrings

For safety reasons, children who have pierced ears should only wear small stud earrings. Children who wear stud earrings should have these taken out at home before they come to school on the days they participate in PE. If they can not be taken out, then these must be taped at home before they come to school and the tape removed when they get home. This will not be done by teaching staff at school.

Water Bottles

Children learn better when they are hydrated so please make sure your child's water bottle is in school every day and is clearly labelled. Plain water only in bottles please.



Uniform

Thank you in getting your child "school ready" and ensuring that they are looking smart. We would like this to be maintained throughout the year. Should you have any difficulties in doing so please discuss this with your child's teacher at the earliest opportunity. Please see the school uniform policy on the website if you have any queries about the exact requirements.

Please check to ensure that **all items have your child's name in**—we have lost property piling up already!

Bikes & Scooters

We encourage children to ride their bike or scooter to school taking into account pedestrian safety. Please remember though that bikes and scooters **should not be ridden on the school grounds** so that we can keep everyone safe. Bikes and scooters are to be stored in the bike shed which is accessed through the main back playground. Security of these is the responsibility of the owners however we do keep our gates to the playground locked during the school day.

School Website

Whilst ClassDojo is great for day to day information we have a lot of information to share with parents on the school website.

www.oakhill.worcs.sch.uk

Dogs

Dogs **may not** be brought onto the school grounds regardless of whether they are being carried by hand, carried in bag or walking. Only registered guide dogs are allowed on site. Many of our children and adults are fearful of dogs—should you need to bring your dog on the journey to school please ensure that they aren't tied up outside of school but not near the entrance gates as this again can cause anxiety for our pupils as they leave.



Reminders continued:

Smoking (including e cigarettes)

Smoking is not allowed on any school grounds, so please could you wait until you have left the premises—clear of the entrances before you light up!

Outdoor Equipment

The outdoor play equipment is only for use during the school day when supervised by school staff. Please do not allow your children to play on this before or after school for their own safety.



September Picture News Assembly Themes

Each week, we will be discussing issues that are in the news in an age appropriate way. Your child may come home and want to discuss views on the question of the week. To support this, we will send a sheet via email with questions that you can discuss with your child.

Questions discussed so far are:

What can we learn from new adventures?

Should lifejackets be compulsory for all on open water?



This week, we are discussing:

Is a school more than just a building?



September Assembly Themes, Festivals and Awareness Days

Throughout the school year at Oak Hill, we learn about a range of festivals and awareness days.

During September, the whole school will have the opportunity to discuss:

- Great British Beach Clean-Up Recycling
 - Genes for Jeans day
 - Harvest Festival



Behaviour

We are proud of our children who have set high expectations of their own behaviour and that of others. There are few instances of challenging behaviour and our pupils have told us that they feel safe in school and feel the zone board works.

We want our pupils to display a thirst for knowledge and develop their values of respect and responsibility. This creates a positive climate for learning so that the children can make the most progress possible.

Our School Rules are:

- We follow instructions first time.
- We treat others kindly.
- We listen when someone is speaking.
- We take care of things inside and out.
- We always walk around school.

Zone Boards (Gold, Silver, Green, Yellow and Red)

GREEN IS GOOD! Being in Green means we have followed the school rules. When children go up the zone board, they receive lots of praise and a reward. When they go down the zone board, they receive an appropriate sanction for breaking rules.

We know that most children follow the rules all the time and their reward comes on a Friday afternoon - **Friday Challenge!** A range of curriculum subjects are taught in mixed groups within each year group, with a focus on team building, creativity and problem solving. Each class have had an input into the kind of activities they would like to take part in. Groups will be led by one of the teachers, teaching assistants or sports coaches. Friday Challenge is fun and exciting, but it also develops skills like communication, sharing and resilience when faced with a challenge.

If you have any questions about our behaviour management system, please speak with your child's class teach in the first instance.



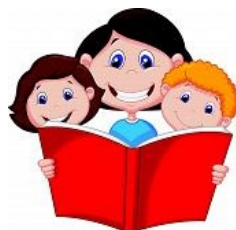
Three Times Readers

Well done and thank you to everyone for bring in your diaries each day. We have noticed a real effort in every class and most children have handed in their reading diary everyday - AMAZING!

By FRIDAY, aim to read at least 3 times with your child and record it in their school reading diary.

Reading does not always have to be their school book. It could be:

- Reading with your child
- Your child reading independently
- Hearing a story being read to them
- Reading anything of their choice
- Reading their school book



Thank you for your continued support.

