



# OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

WIREHILL DRIVE, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH

## Charity week



### Staff Update

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Reynolds and Mr Hatton to our senior leadership team and Y3 team respectively. Mrs Reynolds will be taking over the role from Mrs O’Kelly as Assistant Head for Year 3 & 4.

We bid farewell to Mrs O’Kelly at the end of the month and wish all the very best with as she takes a break from teaching and pursue other interests. She had play pivotal role in promoting a love of reading including “3 times a reader” and VIP Readers which has had a really positive impact on reading in school.

### Dates for the diary

25th April	Roman visitor for Year 3
25th April	Reception height, weight and audiology



Did you know that schools are graded by OFSTED in relation to attendance. For attendance to be considered "good"

*'Pupils have high attendance, come on time to school and are punctual to lessons.'*

By working with parents ,we have previously achieved this but the current picture is not a positive one. If there is any way that we can help you to reduce the absences or lates that may currently be on their record, please get in touch with the class teacher.

	Recent % attendance	Average attendance since September	Recent No. of lates	Total of lates since Sept
<b>RM</b>	92.85%	95.21%	10	58
<b>RS</b>	87.35%	90.96%	29	151
<b>RW</b>	95.57%	96.06%	13	59
<b>1A</b>	96.21%	96.02%	15	64
<b>1C</b>	93.29%	95.53%	26	135
<b>1W</b>	93.31%	94.15%	7	80
<b>2C</b>	92.06%	94.53%	9	78
<b>2F</b>	86.84%	90.70%	23	152
<b>2S</b>	89.79%	92.00%	20	107
<b>3E</b>	92.82%	95.15%	30	134
<b>3G</b>	90.26%	93.56%	39	194
<b>3T</b>	93.14%	93.53%	8	132
<b>4F</b>	88.97%	94.28%	8	59
<b>4PW</b>	94.53%	95.49%	20	131
<b>4R</b>	94.26%	94.24%	20	168

Classes with a green box attendance are matched to the current national averages. Classes in orange are very close to attaining the current national average. 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.

## Summer 1—Wellbeing theme:

### Social connections



Our mental health and wellbeing focus for the first half of the Summer term, will be thinking about the value of being connected to our friends, family and community. In school we will be playing lots of social skills games.

#### **Why social connections are good for children**

When your child is connected to extended family, family friends and people in their neighbourhood and community, they have:

- a sense of belonging to a place and community
- opportunities to learn about getting along with others
- people to go to when they need help
- a network they can use to learn about different ways of life, jobs, skills etc...

Strong social connections can also boost your child's confidence and lead to new friendships.

#### **Helping children make social connections: tips**

Here are ideas for helping your child connect with extended family, friends and people in the neighbourhood and community:

- Make opportunities for trusted relatives or family friends to have time with your child. Check with your child that they're OK with this and enjoy their time with these people. If your child feels forced to spend time with someone, this might not be a positive experience for them.
- Walk or cycle to a local park and let your child play on the equipment. Being out in your neighbourhood gives you and your child the chance to meet new people.
- Get involved in community events and take your child along with you. Working bees at school, community gardens, fetes and festivals give you and your child an opportunity to connect with people who are working together.
- Show your child that connection goes both ways. When you work with others and help them, they'll do the same for you. For example, you might collect your neighbours' mail when they're on holiday, and they collect yours when you're away.
- Look at photos of family and friends with your child to spark their interest in the relationships that are important to your family.
- Model social skills with people in your community. This can be as simple as saying 'hello', 'please' and 'thank you'. Your child will watch the way you talk with people and follow your example. And this helps your child learn how to get along with people.

## EASTER BONNETS IN NURSERY

We hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday.

On the last day of the Spring term Nursery put on their traditional Easter Bonnet Parade for the rest of the school. They looked fabulous in their creations and were so confident parading around in front of the older children—well done Nursery.



### Also in Nursery....

Fun indoors exploring ice.....



And outdoors blowing bubbles and exploring water in the sunshine!



And finally are these our architects and builders of the future?



## When Reception Met Farmer Duck

During the Spring term Reception were on a mission to help Farmer Duck sort out the farm. We spent several weeks solving lots of problems for the weary and teary duck, so as a thank you we were invited to visit Hatton Country World.

We had a great time visiting pigs, sheep, donkeys, and chickens. We even meet some terrapins, spiars, rats, rabbits and got the opportunity to hold a guinea pig!

Whilst we didn't get to meet Farmer Duck – he was taking a well earned break. We did meet our guides Kiera, Lindsay, and Wiz, who taught us how to hold different animals, to drive a tractor and play in the soft pay area.

We all had a great day and some of us even fall asleep on the way home.



## Year 3 trip to Lower Smite farm in Worcester

What a fantastic day we all had at Lower Smite farm today! The weather was kind to us and despite being a little overcast the rain thankfully held off.

We were met at the farm by Marissa and her team of helpers. We discovered that Lithic Liz had hidden some packs of rocks around the farm and we would need to follow the clues to find them.

We split into teams and went off on our missions to help the geologist Lithic Liz. We had to carry out tests on the rocks we found to identify them and sort them into groups, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.

We tested our rocks to see how hard they were, if they were permeable to water and if they reacted with an acid. (lemon juice)



We had a very full day of learning at Lower Smite farm and once we had identified the rocks that Lithic Liz had hidden we had to find out how rocks are formed. We did this using old sweets!!!



We also explored soil and looked at the ingredients that make up soil. We tried to make our own soil by collecting the ingredients and mashing them together. We decided to investigate further and find out more about soil. We went out to a field on the farm with soil augers and took soil samples from the top soil, sub soil and attempted to get down to the bed rock. Taking soil samples in this way is hard work, which is why we took it in turns to twist the auger.

We had an amazing day out and we learnt a lot about rocks and soils. We all enjoyed being out in the fresh air and arrived back in school just in time for the final bell!



## Year 2 went wild!

Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to All Things Wild in March.

The trip was to enhance children's learning on Animals and their habitats and learn more about the life cycles of animals. We searched for meerkats and beavers in rather wet conditions and it turned out that the like to hide from the rain as much as we do but it was lots of fun crawling through the tunnels to hunt for them.

The children were excited to venture past the camels, zebras and wallabies and were incredibly surprised to see a Joey hiding in its mother's pouch!

We took part in a workshop where the ranger spoke to us all about life cycles and gave the children the opportunity to hold and touch animals like; a cockroach, an armadillo, a snake and a rabbit.

We even got to spend time splashing in the muddy puddles with the goats- some of us even lost a wellie along the way.

While the weather wasn't perfect for an outdoor trip we didn't let that stop the fun!



**Year 2 Music: In other Year news....** As part of their music lessons, they practiced and learnt Twinkle Twinkle to perform to the year group. They were fantastic!



## #LetGirlsPLAY

12 children from Oak Hill took part in the third annual #LetGirlsPlay Biggest Ever Football Session at Arrow Vale this morning. This is an England Football run initiative aiming to give young girls more opportunities to get involved in playing football.

The children did amazingly well and they all really enjoyed themselves! They did lots of skills activities, including passing, shooting and dribbling, followed by some mini games at the end!



### April Picture News Assembly Themes

Each week, we have been 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 Class Dojos with questions that you can discuss with your child.

#### Questions discussed last month were:

What is the best way to handle disappointments?

Should mobile phones be banned in all classrooms?

How do you think World Book Day should be celebrated?



#### **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**

Reading can help us to learn more about our world. It can help us understand and respect other people's faiths, beliefs and culture and that life is not the same for everyone.