



# OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

## WIREHILL DRIVE, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH

Dear Parents / Carers,

A month in, and we've settled in to the routines of the new school year. We're so pleased with the way that the children have transitioned into their new classes and are building strong relationships with their teachers and teaching assistants.

Our "ready, respectful, safe" expectations continue to be seen lesson by lesson, day by day.

We've had a number of new families join us in both early years but also in other year groups. We appreciate that there's a lot of information and knowledge for you to take on board in a short space of time. Please don't hesitate to talk to staff if you're not sure about something. Please use Dojo messages in the first instance. To support my staff's wellbeing, staff do not review messages or make a response after 5:30pm. They will then check messages at 8:20am.

Our whole school improvement plan this year will focus on Writing, Attendance, further developments within our curriculum and developing our personal development programme to support the wider experiences 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 and we are continuing to embed our rigorous procedures for attendance following the revised expectations on schools which came out in August this year. We have sent out information to you already about some of these changes around penalty notice fines and the systems and expectations that we have in school to manage and ensure high attendance for our pupils. 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.

Parents/Carers Evening is soon approaching. If you are yet to sign up for an appointment please do so as soon as possible. Attendance at these meetings is so important so that we can work in partnership with you to help your child achieve and enjoy!

*L. Kelly*

### Dates for the diary

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

Monday 7th October	Year 1 parental engagement 9am
Tuesday 15th October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 17th October	Parents' Evening
Monday 21st October	RB parental engagement
Tuesday 22nd October	RM parental engagement
Wednesday 23rd October	RS parental engagement
Thursday 24th October	School Photos
Thursday 24th October	Last day of half term
Friday 25th October	Staff training day (children not in school)
Monday 28th October—Friday 1st November	Half Term
Monday 4th November	First day back after half term



	Average attendance since Sept	Recent No. of lates	Total of lates since Sept
RB	98.4%	3	3
RM	95.7%	2	2
RS	93.8%	8	8
1A	94.4%	10	10
1F	92.5%	9	9
1R	98.0%	7	7
2C	97.9%	3	3
2L	95.0%	10	10
2M	94.4%	9	9
3B	94.8%	7	7
3E	93.4%	12	12
3H	94.7%	4	4
4C	94.8%	1	1
4R	89.0%	4	4
4T	97.2%	1	1

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 our Attendance Officer for Oak Hill and liaises with parents, teachers and senior leaders when dealing with all attendance matters. She works alongside our class teachers and other senior leaders in order to manage attendance in our school

# Punctuality is the first step towards success!

In the summer term, it became noticeable that incidents of lateness, both in the morning and at the end of the school day, were increasing significantly. As an attendance team, we feel now is the right time to highlight this growing issue in order to re address our expectations to reduce this trend for the forthcoming term and academic year.

At Oak Hill, in the summer term alone (since 8th April 2024 up to 19th July 2024) there have been nearly 850 cases of pupil lateness. Below is a breakdown of the main reasons why pupils have been late. Medical appointments are not included.

Number of minutes lost in the summer term	Reason
703	Woke Up Late
140	Parking issues
Total 843 minutes of lost learning	

The amount of minutes of learning time lost in total due to lateness during the summer term is nearly 850—in just one term!

It is our role as educators, in partnership with parents, to prepare pupils for the next step in their school careers and beyond and to ensure that all our pupils begin the day in the right way, ready to learn and flourish. There are occasions when things can get stressful, things go wrong, or unforeseen circumstances can cause a family to be a few minutes late. Admittedly, modern day living can provide many challenges and, as a school community, we are aware of this and are supportive of this when we can be.

We understand this may happen the odd occasion, however we also expect that our children are on time to school and that systems and routines are in place at home to ensure that this happens.

## Being on time:

- Helps young people to be organised;
- Helps to build children's confidence;
- Reduces stress and anxiety;
- Maintains and improves academic achievement;
- Helps young people to maintain their routine and focus;
- Enables children and adults to start the day settled, ready and relaxed;
- Is a sign of respect;
- Allows others (including school staff) to use their time wisely and efficiently.

## Impact on pupils who are late

Unfortunately, but understandably, there are a number of negative consequences for pupils who arrive late to school:

- Arriving late can cause some pupils to feel very anxious as they go into the classroom by themselves once everyone else is settled, calm and working.
- Key learning time will be missed. Class teachers or teaching assistants may have also planned to work with a child in an intervention group during registration time, but who is late, meaning there is a knock on effect with respect to time being wasted.
- Pupils may miss the all-important start of the first lesson. Without question, class teachers will then provide support to the late pupil so they can engage in the learning, which inevitably interrupts the flow of the lesson and the teacher's aims and ambitions for other individuals.

As an attendance and senior leadership team, we will be continuing to monitor the punctuality of our pupils. Should we begin to be concerned about a pupil's punctuality, we will send letters home highlighting our concerns or may ask for meetings with parents to discuss the impact of this and how we can move forward positively in order to ensure children are at school on time.

## Every day in school counts...

and every minute counts...



## Reminders:

Our school operates a '**tie hair back**' policy for pupils whose hair can be combed back into a pony tail or plait. Pupils may 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** (**Reasonable size—they are refilled if necessary, and we don't have the available space in classrooms to store 2 litre water bottles. Children also find the size and weight more difficult to drink from, so they tend not to keep drinking**)



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. Juice needs to be kept for packed lunches and needs to be brought in in a separate bottle.

## 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.

## 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.



## Outdoor Equipment

We have noticed an increasing number of pupils who are on the playground equipment at the back of the school in the mornings before the bell has gone. For safety reasons, 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. We require your support to ensure that pupils do not access the play equipment for their own safety.



## Ball Games

We have a large number of parents and families moving around our site before and after the bell. Due to limited space and in order to keep everyone safe, ball games are not allowed on the playgrounds at either side of the school day. If there has been a piece of equipment left outside, please do not allow your children to use it and hand it into a member of staff when the doors open.



## 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.

