

OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

WIREHILL DRIVE, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful holiday and are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that the new year brings. As we step into January, we're excited about all the growth, learning, and fun that lies ahead for our pupils. In this month's newsletter, you'll find important updates, upcoming events, and tips to help support your child's progress. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you. Wishing you and your family a wonderful start to 2025!



ASDA shopper?? Thank you for your help!

Just before Christmas we received some wonderful news that we had been successful in securing funding from the Asda cashpot for schools initiative.

Thanks to the points that have been accumulated by our parents/community, we were the highest earning school or community project in Redditch. Our children will benefit from a fantastic sum of money which we will be putting towards enhancing the wider opportunities that we offer to our children - specifically curriculum visitors. We are so grateful for your support. Mrs Thomas was lucky enough to be invited by the Asda to



meet other members of the community who had also benefited from the work and support of the Asda Community Champions, including Issac's food bank, local girl guides and the Redditch NightStop charity. Chris Bloore, our local MP also joined us and was keen to hear about the work that has been happening in our community and how we will be spending the money we will receive.



Friday 31st January	Year 2 parental engagement
Monday 3rd February	RS parental engagement
Tuesday 4th February	RB parental engagement
Thursday 6th February	RM parental engagement
Thursday 13th February	Year 3 outdoor learning day Year 4 parental engagement
Monday 10th February	Year 1 Parental engagement
Friday 14th February 2024	Break up for half term

Keep your eye out for further information about parent

Dates for the diary



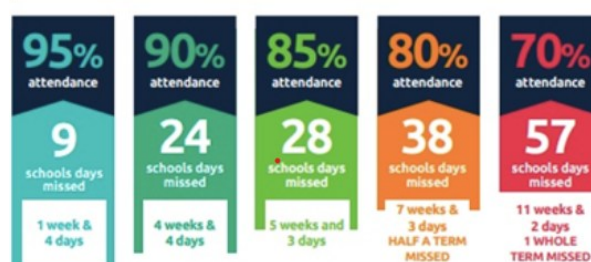
	Recent % Attendance compared with national	Average attendance compared to national since Sept	Recent No. of lates	Total of lates since Sept
RB	96.00%	94.38%	2	22
RM	93.21%	92.94%	2	41
RS	95.24%	93.59%	6	68
1A	94.54%	93.71%	5	70
1F	93.61%	94.65%	1	29
1R	98.28%	95.64%	4	34
2C	96.53%	95.71%	2	20
2L	87.96%	91.96%	3	48
2M	96.47%	94.06%	5	89
3B	94.87%	93.64%	7	75
3E	88.33%	91.67%	5	53
3H	90.38%	93.68%	1	25
4C	94.83%	95.83%	2	24
4R	93.21%	93.50%	6	54
4T	89.33%	96.19%	4	31

Classes in a green box have achieved or exceeded the minimum expectation with regards to attendance
 Classes in a red box are potentially a cause for concern and further analysis will take place.

What is good attendance?

Children need to be in school in order for them to achieve their potential and make progress in their learning. Every minute missed represents learning lost. Good attendance means being in school every day that children can possibly attend. We will write to you with updates around your child's attendance regularly and class teachers will raise concerns with you so that we can support you and work together to improve your child's attendance. This term, we are also working on how we can identify and celebrate attendance improvements through certificates so watch this space!

Every day in school counts...



Attendance and lateness

Whilst it is vital that your child attends school as often as possible, it is also vital to their education that they are on time each day. The beginning of a lesson is often the most important part where they get settled in and ready for the school day. Children are disadvantaged if they miss this and it can impact on the rest of their day. Therefore, as a school we also track children's lateness and will write to you should we have concerns about your child's lateness. Any lateness after 9:10am will be counted as an unauthorised absence and will add to their non attendance percentage.

Reading

Let's make 2025 a year for Reading!

We all know that reading is important but why? There are so many benefits to reading to and with our children - for us and for them! Reading builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and well as being an enjoyable time to spend together.



As you know, we celebrate reading in school through our class dojo pages and through the reading rewards that children can achieve. We ask that children are read to or with three times each week and that this is recorded in their reading records by an adult.

Don't forget that your reading time can include:

Your child reading to you

Sharing a book together

You reading to your child

Asking questions about the story or characters

Trying to predict the ending before you read it

Changing your voices as you read or trying to make it into a song

Using teddies or toys to tell or star in the story

There are so many ways to enjoy reading - we look forward to hearing about your reading adventures this year!

The Brambles

The children in Year 4 have recently taken part in a trust initiative to develop links within the community. After lots of discussions from the children about how they would like to help, it was decided that they would like to send some festive cheer to the residents of The Brambles care home in Headless Cross. The children were eager to send some fun and smiles and worked at creating some bright and colourful Christmas cards to the residents with festive messages inside.

The manager at the care home was thrilled to receive their gifts and thanked us for putting a smile on the residents faces at what can be a challenging time of year for many of the people that they care for.

The member of staff we spoke to was in fact an ex Oak Hill (formerly Arrowcrest) pupil. This initiative was driven by the year 4 Pupil Lead Ambassadors attendance at the CRST attendance at the PSHE Conference.



Year 1 trip to Black Country Museum

On the 19th December Year One went on their school trip to The Black Country Museum. There was lots of excitement on the day and the coach was full of very excited children. When we arrived we were greeted by a guide who took us around the museum and told us lots about the houses, shops and the museum. The children listened well, asked many questions relevant to the History learning that we had done during the term. We all spent time in a Victorian school where lessons were had in maths, writing and reading. They also had hand checks to see if their nails had any



dirt behind them. Mrs Field had to have the cane as she was wearing nail varnish and she also spend the money that had to go to school on sweets!!! When in one of the shops, the shop keeper said that Oak Hill had been a pleasure to have and had been great to see as they asked lots of questions and were able to answer questions that he asked. We were commended as a school for our behaviour and how lovely they all were.



Loan Sharks information:

Not Sure What A Loan Shark Is?

If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions you might be borrowing from a loan shark:

- Did they offer you a cash loan?
- Did they not give you paperwork?
- Did they add huge amounts of interest or APR to your loan?
- Have they threatened you?
- Are you scared of people finding out?
- Have they taken your bank card, benefit card, passport, watch or other valuables from you?

Stop Loan Sharks investigates and prosecutes illegal money lenders and provides support for borrowers in the UK.

STOP LOAN SHARKS
Intervention . Support . Education



If you have borrowed from a loan shark or are worried about someone else, they are a great support who you might find useful to contact. They have specially trained staff will provide you with emotional support which can be tailored to their needs. Further information can be found at [Home - Stop Loan Sharks](#)

Safeguarding at Oak Hill

Our DSL is Mrs Harris and she is supported by Miss Kelly, Mrs Winterbourn, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Reynolds. If you have a safeguarding concern please contact school and speak to one of the safeguarding team. If you have a concern about a child/ren outside of school then please call Worcestershire Family Front Door on 01905 822666 (Mon-Thurs, 9-5pm and Friday 9-4.30pm) or out of hours on 01905 768502. If you believe a child is in immediate risk of harm contact the police on 999.