



Oakhurst Community First &  
Nursery School  
*'From Little Acorns Mighty  
Oaks Grow'*

12/02/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Class Assemblies**

This half term Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children have had fun preparing and performing their class assemblies. Thank you to those who have managed to come along and we hope you enjoyed watching and listening to the children share their learning.

**Reading workshops**

Hopefully those who have attended the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 reading workshops found them useful. The children certainly loved having mums and dads in the lessons with them. As I stressed during these sessions, reading is the most important thing we teach and your support at home is vital to their success. Please remember to read with your child at home at least three times a week and record this in their reading diaries. As the children are starting out learning to read, using their phonic knowledge to segment and blend the words is the first stage. Once they are able to read the book fluently ask them questions to help them with their understanding of the text. The children should be able to read 95% of the text within the books fairly fluently by the time they take the book home. If you have any questions about how to support your child with reading, please speak to your class teacher in the first instance.

**Pupil questionnaires**

We have recently carried out a questionnaire with the children to find out how they are feeling in school. The results of this were very positive with the vast majority of children saying that they enjoy school, like their topics, feel safe in school and think they are good learners. Only a small number of children raised any concerns or worries, which we will be looking into about what action we need to take to address this.

One frustration we have which was also reflected in the children's responses, is the cramped conditions in the cloakrooms. This is particularly an issue in the Year 2, 3 and 4 cloakroom, and is mostly due to the small space and coat pegs being very close together. There is very little we can do to solve this, however a lot of children are bringing rather large bags into school, which are difficult to store and take up a lot of space. The children really do not need to bring large bags into school as they only need their bookbag, water bottle and lunchbox (unless they have a hot school meal). We do understand that there may be occasions when other things are required and the use of a backpack is necessary, but by not bringing large bags into school, there would be more space in the cloakrooms. Thank you for your co-operation regarding this.

**Lateness**

We still have a number of children who are regularly late arriving to school. Please be reminded that the gates open at 8.40am and our school day starts promptly at 8.50am and first thing in the morning is key learning time. If a child is late they are missing out and often feel rushed and on a 'catch up', which is not good for their self-esteem or confidence. We have an awful lot to fit into each day as the National Curriculum is vast, good attendance and promptness are vital for many reasons.

Our Nursery door opens at 8.45am and parents of nursery children do need to accompany their children into school through the nursery door and ensure they have signed them in.

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The Heath Academy Trust  
St James CE First School  
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ALDERHOLT SP6 3AJ  
Company Registration  
Number 098098095

### **Pencil Cases**

The children do not need to bring pencil cases into school with them. Historically the children have been allowed to bring their own pencil case and stationary in Year 4 and we have continued this into this academic year. However, after much discussion we have decided that from next year (September 2020) we are going to stop this. This is due to a number of reasons including items going missing or being broken, competition over 'designer' and 'elaborate' pencil cases and equipment and distraction during lesson time. We are sorry if this is going to cause any disappointment, but wanted to let Year 3 parents know as soon as possible.

### **Respect**

Currently, we are having a big focus on manners and respect across the school. We are delighted to inform you that all the children are showing a good awareness and understanding of this and we are seeing more and more respectful behaviours.

### **Jury Service**

Just to make you aware I will be away from school from the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> March (last week of term) as I have been called for Jury Service. From a school point of view, it will only affect the one week (as the rest will be in the Easter holidays). I have informed the CEO of The Heath Academy Trust, Mrs Justine Horn, and for that week your main point of call will be Mrs Ros Monaghan.

### **Site Security and safety**

Please can I remind you that any parents using the school car park need to come and speak to myself as to why this is necessary. During drop off and pick up times, the car park is for staff, blue badge holders and anyone who has agreed this with myself only. This is for safety reasons as we have a large number of pedestrians (mostly) children entering and exiting the premises at this time. Please can you make sure that the children are using the pedestrian gate and not the car park gate, and walking rather than running as they come in or go out. Please can anybody using bikes or scooters dismount before they enter the school site. As a reminder the children are your responsibility until they enter the school building and from the moment they are handed over at the end of the day. Dogs are not allowed on the school site, so please ensure they are tied up outside the school gate. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Safeguarding**

We have recently had our annual safeguarding audit, which was very positive. If you have any safeguarding concerns please speak to myself as Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mrs Monaghan or Mrs Hunter as the Deputy Safeguarding Leads. If we speak to you about any concerns please do not be offended, it is our job and our duty to challenge in order to make sure all of our children are safe from harm. All staff have had the relevant Safeguarding training and are all excellent at raising any concerns.

All young children are learning how to manage themselves in social situations and will not always get on with everyone or deal with issues in an appropriate manner and we see normal, age appropriate and developmental stages along the way. Bullying is when hurting somebody else emotionally or physically regularly with purpose and intent. This is rare in a first school, but does happen from time to time. We take this seriously and have an Anti-bullying policy place. The PSHE scheme we use, Jigsaw, help us to educate the children in managing and dealing with situations in an appropriate manner. Mrs Hunter is our Anti-bullying Champion and investigates these situations offering support and intervention to both the victim and perpetrator. If you have concerns regarding bullying, your child's teacher is the first person to speak to regarding this.

On-going work takes place in school to educate the children about keeping themselves safe when on-line. Miss Hollis is our E-safety lead and we have children from each year group who are E-safety champions and each class has a lesson every half term dedicated to this. Staff ensure they are kept up to date with their knowledge of E-safety. We are trying to arrange a workshop for parents and carers later on this year, but please remember to always be aware of what your

children are doing and accessing on-line, including who they are communicating with. Make sure that the highest security levels are on websites they are accessing. The NSCPP website has further and more detailed support for this.

All in all it's been a busy, but very enjoyable half term.

Have a good break.

Best wishes

Ann Clark

Headteacher

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