



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

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I just wanted to update you on a few things happening at school at present.

**Extra-curricular experiences and trips**

As you are very aware we have not been able to take any of the children on any school trips or provide them extra-curricular activities over the past two academic years due to the pandemic.

We feel this is very sad as these opportunities are an important part of school life, enhance learning and create memories.

We are delighted to say that as restrictions are beginning to ease we have planned some exciting opportunities for the children to take part in before the end of this school year.

Year 4 will be going on a trip to the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne to enjoy a Roman day experience on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June. We are thrilled to say that we have been awarded a grant from the The Mansel-Pleydell & Cecil Trust, and the Drew Trust, who award prizes and educational grants to individuals and groups to reward and support them in their exploration of Dorset's rich natural and human environment. The grant they have very kindly offered covers the full cost of the trip (excluding coach travel) as they recognise many families have financial pressures at this moment in time.

In addition to this we are offering Year 4 the opportunity to take part in level 1 Bikeability programme after school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Year 4 will also be performing their end of year performance on the very last day of term (16<sup>th</sup> July) for which we are really hopeful we will be able to invite parents into school to watch.

Unfortunately the Year 4's have missed out on their school residential for the past two years. And whilst this will not take place for current Oak class, we have booked for next year's Oak class (current Year 3's) to go to Springhead Trust for two nights – 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September.

We will not be taking any other classes on educational visits this academic year, but fully intend to next year. However, we are in the process of planning an experience week for all of our children (Nursery to Year 4) during the last week of term (w/b 12<sup>th</sup> July). This will include a Circus day, Sports festival, African drumming and a Science Dome experience.

More details will be sent out nearer the time for all of these events.

**Attendance**

Just to remind you that pupil attendance in school is now compulsory once again and Dorset Council have resumed regular register checks. Over the past few weeks we have noticed a decline in some of our children's attendance and this may result in a conversation with us, a letter being sent or an invite to an attendance panel meeting. The children have all missed enough face-to-face learning over the past year and really do need to be here to avoid any further impact to their education. If a child has 10 unauthorised absences (5 days) within a 12 week period this may result in a penalty notice. Similarly, we have noticed a few families requesting time off for holidays. Whilst we fully understand the reasons behind this and that every single one of us desperately needs and deserves a holiday after what we have all been through for the last 15 months, we are not able to authorise this unless there are exceptional circumstances. Our five inset days for this academic year have all been blocked to the end of term, meaning that the children's last day is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July with term officially ending 23<sup>rd</sup> July meaning that last week would be a good opportunity to take a holiday as it is still officially term time. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation regarding this.

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The Heath Academy Trust  
St Ives Primary School  
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Company Registration  
Number 098098095

## Reading workshops

As you know learning to read is a major priority and clear evidence and research has shown children who are able to read age related books fluently by the end of Year 2 are likely to achieve more highly in the wider curriculum as they move through their education and achieve good grades at GCSE level and beyond. We give the children a significant amount of daily reading and phonics opportunities in school, but it is essential that this is backed up and supported at home. Our expectation is that the children read their school book at home at least three times a week and this needs to be recorded in their reading diary. Several of the teachers have spoken to me concerned that this is just not happening for quite a number of our children. Therefore, to support you with this we are going to hold three reading workshops via zoom on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May. The first one will take place at 9am and will focus on early phonics and pre-reading skills- mainly aimed at Nursery and Early Reception, the second will begin at 10am and will focus on Read Write Inc (our phonics and reading scheme) – mainly aimed at Reception, Years 1 and 2. The third session will begin at 11am and will focus on what happens beyond Read Write Inc and developing comprehension skills- mainly aimed at Years 2, 3 and 4. You are very welcome to come join any or even all of the sessions. If you are unsure which one would benefit you the most, please ask your child's class teacher. The sessions will be recorded so if you are unable to attend we will be able to share them with you to watch at your own convenience.

## Governor vacancies

We have an exciting opportunity for two enthusiastic members of the community to join our Local Governing Committee. As a governor you will have responsibility for the strategic management of the school, to ensure accountability, and to act as a 'critical friend'.

Being a school governor is a hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to our children, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in an educational environment.

Please see the attached letter for more information.

## School Meal Provider

From September we are changing our hot meal provider to a local company called Forerunner. Forerunner are currently being used by several schools in the Heath Academy Trust and the feedback has been very positive. Forerunner are providing an information and taster session for parents at school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm.

If you have any questions about any of the above please don't hesitate to ask.

## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Reception Hearing Checks taking place

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Reading Workshops via zoom – 9am, 10am and 11am

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Last Day of term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Start of Term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Bikeability for year 4 children – 3pm-5pm – letter to follow

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 Roman Experience Day at the Ancient Technology Centre, Cranborne – 8.50am – 6pm – letter to follow

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Climbing wall in school, and Sponsored run – letter to follow

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June – School Meal Provider parents taster session – 5pm

July 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – Experience week for all children including Circus day, Sports Festival, African drumming workshop & Science Dome.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Year 4 end of year performance – more details to follow.

Kind regards

Ann

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