



# May 2018 Newsletter

We are immensely proud of the children this term and their determination to do their very best.

Children in year 6 have shown great perseverance towards their SATs tests and have demonstrated great resilience and a positive attitude.

This term school has focused on visits to places of worship. The children have all enjoyed their visit, asking pertinent questions and showing respect for their surroundings.

We would like to thank parents in nursery, reception, year 2 and year 4 who have been enjoying sharing books with their child during early morning reading sessions.

Next half-term will be extremely busy and we look forward to seeing parents at the numerous events taking place. More news to follow about this after half-term.

Finally, we would like to share some wonderful news - Mrs Roberts (class 3.1 teacher) has had a baby girl and we share our congratulations with her and her husband.

Miss J Harris and Mrs D Williams



## ASSISTANT HEADTEACHERS' NEWS

### Nursery And Reception - Mrs Chadda

Wow! This term we have been invaded by pirates in our nursery. All children have enjoyed the pirate show and developed their imagination. They have been making pirate stories, treasure maps and pirate ships using junk modelling. Children have also enjoyed reading stories about pirates and treasure hunts. They have been hunting for treasure in their playground. This topic has developed their vocabulary and imagination and they all had fun! Thank you to all the parents for dressing their children in lovely pirate costumes and face paintings on the pirate fun day.

Reception has enjoyed their amazing trip to the zoo. It has been great topic to inspire children to write about their favourite animals. They have learned about animal habitat and used their imagination to create the wonderful art. They have used clay, collage, painting, junk modelling and transient art to create their favourite animals. Children also had discussions and gained knowledge to help the animals that are endangered species. Children have been reading non-fiction books to find out facts about different animals and creating their own quizzes for friends. Through this topic all children have been intrinsically

motivated to learn.

Thank you to all the parents for their suggestions about the workshops and continually attending them. A request to all the parents to save small boxes, (no big cereal boxes please) cardboard tubs, yogurt containers and small bottles for our junk modelling areas. Finally, enjoy the holiday break and looking forward to see you for our very busy exciting time of the term.

### Years 1 And 2 - Mrs Poulson

Year One have had a busy half term learning all about the beach. We are getting very excited about our trip to Burnham on Sea in July. Mrs Miller has ordered our chips and ice creams - now we just need the lovely weather! There will be a meeting at the beginning of next half term with more information. Let's hope we have fabulous weather! Year One are also getting ready for their Phonics Check in June. Please keep practising any sounds and words brought home - and lots of other reading always helps too!

Year Two have had a very busy half term. We have been learning about dinosaurs and had a very special visitor! Sophie the T-Rex came to see us with her 'owner' Adam. We found out lots of interesting facts and got the chance to be palaeontologists too! We dug for fossils and bones - it was lots of fun! This half term has ended with our SATs assessments which we have worked very hard for.

### Years 3 And 4 - Mrs Williams

It's been another busy half term in years 3 and 4!

The pupils have been working extremely hard in lessons and also with improving their resilience and perseverance when they find tasks challenging. There are only a couple of months left for them to apply everything they have been learning this year and show in every lesson how much progress they have made.

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have been attending the Year 4 'Read With Your Child' mornings. The children and staff have greatly enjoyed having so many parents in school and reading with their child. The reading mornings will continue every Tuesday, 8:45-9:15. Just come into school with your child on the morning and have some quality reading time together. Thank you also to all of the families who have been hearing their child read, asking them questions about what they have read and signing their diaries at home - your interest and support makes such a difference to your child's progress and love of reading!

In Topic lessons, Year 4 have been learning all about the Romans and enjoyed a fantastic day out at Lunt Fort where they got to experience life as a Roman soldier - seeing where they fought and slept, dressed up in Armour and even took part in pretend battles. The children (and staff) had a fantastic time and the pupils have produced some wonderful work as a result of this.

Year 3 have been learning all about The 'Unsinkable' Titanic. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and have gained so much knowledge and understanding of this tragedy which occurred over 100 years ago. Pupils have discovered what it was like for rich and poor people aboard the Titanic and who was more likely to survive and why. Ask them some questions at home and test their knowledge!

In all lessons, Year 3 has had a big focus on handwriting and presentation. Staff are teaching pupils the correct handwriting joins which they should be using in all pieces of work and also reminding pupils to keep letters a consistent size and shape. We are encouraging the pupils to take pride in their work and understand that every piece of work is important.

The year 3 and 4 football team, which is run by Miss Bovan and Miss McIntyre, have had great success this half term and have been training hard. They are a dedicated bunch of pupils (and staff) who are implementing our school values into their games: co-operation, perseverance, showing respect. They did a super job of scoring 4 goals in a game they played this half term, despite going into half time 2 goals down - they kept their heads up and came back even stronger. Well done to the pupils and thank you to the staff

for the time and effort you put into such a great team. We look forward to even more success going forward.

After the half term break, there will be lots of events going on in school...sports day, parent consultations, meet the new teacher etc. Keep a lookout for the key dates.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

### Years 5 And 6 - Mrs Mason

Congratulations Year 6, you completed your SATs! You all did fantastically and we were so impressed with the effort you put into your work. You have really shown how mature you all are over the last few weeks; applying yourself to revision and coping with changes in the timetable. We hope you had a great 'fun day' to celebrate. For all those wondering, we get the test results in July and will inform families of the outcome before the pupils leave The Oval School. Year 6 pupils now move on to completing their writing assessments, preparing for the transition to secondary school and putting together a Leavers Assembly.

Year 5 have been very busy recently, with trips to the Ikon Art Gallery in Birmingham and to a Buddhist Temple. Both trips greatly enhance learning in school - developing pupils' appreciation for the arts and understanding of other cultures and religions. It will not be long before you need to start thinking about which secondary school you would like your child to move on to, so look out for the local schools advertising their open days. If you would like your child to sit the entrance exam for The Birmingham Grammar Schools, the online application form is now live - applications close on Friday 29th June.

### UNICEF ARTICLE 29

*Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities.*

We would like children to bring in certificates and photos about their own special talents from home and pass on to the Rights Respecting Rangers to share.



#### UP TO DATE CONTACT DETAILS/MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please can you ensure the school is updated with any changes to contact details or medical information. Thank you.

### IMPORTANT – PRIVACY NOTICE

Please ensure you read the new privacy notice which is now available for you to read on school's website and which is also being sent home as a paper copy with all pupils.

## ATTENDANCE NEWS

### **poor attendance + poor punctuality = lower academic achievement**

It is a parent's **legal responsibility** to ensure their children receive appropriate education. **Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.**

**The Local Authority has fined 2 of our parents this year for their child's poor attendance:  
£851.00 and £275.00**

If your child is going to be absent from school, parents must contact the school following our absence procedure on the **FIRST DAY OF ABSENCE BEFORE 9:30AM** to provide a suitable reason for not attending:

- **TELEPHONE (0121 464 3248 OPTION 1) OR MOBILE WHATSAPP ON 07376923669 (MESSAGE ONLY)**
- If school has not been contacted, parents will be notified by telephone, home visit or automated call every day the pupil is absent. Parents can respond to the Truancy Call by following the prompts.
- If no reason is provided the absence is recorded as unauthorised.

Please take time to read the Fast Track Policy which you will be receiving in a separate attendance newsletter and is also available via a link on school's website.

**The Oval School's attendance target is to achieve greater than 96% attendance.**

ATTENDANCE KEY
100% - Attendance Super Star
97%-99% - Well Done, This is Excellent!
93%-96.9% - Be Careful
90%-92.9% - Improvement Needed!
Less than 90% - You are now a Persistent Absentee

**How does your child compare?**

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

**Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.**

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Following on from the previous article on attendance, please remember to make all non-urgent medical / dental / optical appointments outside the school day or during school holidays. An increasing number of pupils are being collected during the school day to go to appointments which means that they are missing vital learning time. Thank you for your co-operation.

## SCHOOL BAGS / WATER BOTTLES / PE KITS / LUNCHES

Children should be coming to school every day with all the equipment they need for their day in school in order to prevent their learning being disturbed by having to collect things from the school office which have been brought in late for them or the office having to call parents to ask for missing equipment. Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Please don't forget the following special dates:

- Tuesday 12 June (afternoon) for nursery and year 2 pupils
- Thursday 14 June (all day) for the rest of school

Make sure all children come to school dressed smartly in their full school uniform ready for their photograph to be taken - thank you.

Please note that pre-school groups and sibling photographs will be taken next academic year and there will be no facility for these photographs to be taken in June.

## UNIFORM

With effect from September 2018 school will no longer accept cash in payment for uniform as it will only be available to order online through your ParentPay account.

Alternatively, our school uniform is available to purchase over the counter at Mansuri Schoolwear in its brand new premises at the Yew Tree Shopping Centre.



## CASHLESS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

As you will be aware you can now pay for school meals, trips and uniform online via ParentPay. Please make every effort to pay online as, with effect from September 2018, school will no longer be accepting cash.

You will have received a letter with log on and password details to register online. However, if you have misplaced this, please contact the school office to request a further copy.



## NURSERY / RECEPTION INDUCTIONS SESSIONS

If you have a child starting either nursery or reception in September 2018 at this school you will shortly be receiving a letter inviting you to attend the first induction session as part of the transition process from home to school. For your information, however, the dates are as follows:

- Friday 29 June 2018 from 9 - 11am for nursery new starters (PARENTS ONLY SESSION)
- Wednesday 4 July 2018 from 9 - 11am for reception new starters (PARENTS ONLY SESSION)

Induction meetings are very important so please ensure you come along - thank you.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 25 May	School closes at the end of the day for half-term
<b>MON 28 MAY - FRI 1 JUNE</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF-TERM HOLIDAY</b>
Monday 4 June	School opens to all after half-term
Friday 20 July	School closes to pupils for summer holidays



*Have a very happy half-term holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone back safely in school on Monday 4 June*