



November 2017 Newsletter

SCHOOL VALUE OF THE MONTH: NOVEMBER = HONESTY

Pupils have been sharing their 'honesty' stories in assemblies. Year one's *Value Bears* are making a good contribution to pupils understanding too so thank you parents for your help.

Our value is that we aim to have a strong sense of personal morality and integrity and to be truthful at all times being able to voice our opinion in a kind way. We aim to be truthful to others and to ourselves by doing what is right regardless of who is around and also being someone others can trust.



UNICEF ARTICLE 12: YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO GIVE YOUR OPINION AND FOR ADULTS TO LISTEN TO IT AND TAKE IT SERIOUSLY

STAFF NEWS

We welcome class 3.3's new teacher Mr Johnson who replaces Miss Riley who has moved to pastures new. We wish her all the very best together with Miss Lees as we sadly say goodbye to her with a huge thank you for her many years of hard work and effort at The Oval School.

We also extend a warm welcome to Miss Shah who is school's new Pastoral Worker and she will be looking after pastoral issues across school as well as working on developing attendance alongside Miss Robinson.

ATTENDANCE

Following my letter of earlier this month about attendance **please** send your children to school every day possible. Minor colds, coughs and tummy aches are normal for this time of year - we will, of course, send your child home if they are too poorly to be in school. **Thank you for your co-operation.**



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.

YEAR 6 HARVEST ASSEMBLY

On Friday 6th October Year 6 performed a wonderful assembly to parents and Year 4. They sang songs, recited a story and told the audience lots of interesting facts about harvest around the world. They performed with loud, confident voices and their teachers are very proud of them.

Children also brought in contributions of non-perishable goods which were donated to Birmingham City Mission.

Birmingham City Mission

The Clock Tower, 2 Langdon Street, Bordesley, Birmingham B9 4BP
Tel: 0121 766 6603
E-mail: office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk Web: www.birminghamcitymission.co.uk



THE OVAL SCHOOL

Dear Children,

Thank you so much for giving your harvest gifts to the Mission. It was very generous and kind of you. We enclose a Certificate as a token of our appreciation.

The food that we receive at harvest time goes to people who don't have much money for a number of reasons. Some of the people we help are elderly and live on a small pension, some are families who are in financial difficulty, some are refugees. We also help those who are homeless by providing food for them in our Care Centre.

We help anyone, whatever their nationality, race, faith or background.

Thank you for making it possible for us to help each one of them.

Yours sincerely,

Birmingham City Mission.

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BIRMINGHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Keeping children safe is everyone's business

The Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has launched a public awareness campaign 'Keeping Children Safe is Everybody's Business'. The aim is to raise community awareness of what to do if you are worried about a child and most importantly to encourage members of the public to call Birmingham City Council's Children's Advice & Support Service to report their concerns, so action can be taken to safeguard and protect the child.

If you wish to read more about the campaign, please visit:

<http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/campaigns/keeping-children-safe-is-everybody-s-business>

As a school we also take safeguarding of children very seriously and we now have our own Children's Safeguarding Board. We were very pleased to have so many children apply for the positions and it was a tough decision to select.

During the first meeting they named themselves 'The Rights Respecting Rangers' and voted themselves into different roles. You will be hearing much more from this group as they start to deliver their messages across school.

Article 12 - You have the right to give your opinion and for adults to listen and take it seriously.



BICYCLE RACK

Over October half term we installed a bicycle rack in school. If you wish for your child to cycle to school and use the new bicycle rack, could you please complete a 'Cycle Users Permission Letter' which is available from the school office.

Thank you!

CLARE BALDING TALK

On Wednesday 4th October Mrs Roberts took a group of Year 5 girls to King Edwards V1 Grammar School to hear Clare Balding talk about writing her books. We spoke to her about writing and having a growth mind-set. The girls were inspired by Clare and were excellent role models for our school.



DRIVING AROUND ROADS IN THE SCHOOL AREA

Due to a recent incident, we would like to kindly remind parents to have an awareness of the safety of pedestrians whilst driving through the local area surrounding the school site. Thank you.

Speed Down, Save Lives

Driving is unpredictable and if something unexpected happens on the road ahead - such as a child stepping out from between parked cars - it is a driver's speed that will determine whether they can stop in time. That's why we believe that Slower is Safer, and we are encouraging our school community to take part in the Speed down Save Lives campaign during Road Safety week (20-26 November 2017). In Birmingham, 20mph speed limits have been implemented in three areas of the city, City Centre, Central East and Central South.

The best way to improve road safety around the school gate and help improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our school community is to cut down on car journeys. We encourage children, parents and staff to walk, cycle and use public transport to get to school. And remember to wear bright clothing as we head into winter and darker mornings and nights.

ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

Pupils have all learned what it means to be allergic, what we can all do to help and what to do if a problem occurs. Parents who are paramedics by profession led an informative assembly on this subject for all pupils in school.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Pupils across school looked at how to stop all forms of bullying and especially 'how to stay safe on-line'.

SPORTING CLUBS

I am pleased to report that our pupils are enjoying having the involvement of a gymnastics coach in their PE lessons which means they are having fun, learning and improving all at the same time.

Some pupils in years 1, 2 and 3 are having an early start on Fridays as they take part in our 8.00am dance club which they are having great fun in!

CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE PROJECT 2017

In November, The Oval School partnered up with 80 schools in 19 different European countries to take part in a Christmas card exchange project. We have around 200 cards with 50 of which being made at home by our pupils and this is enough for us to be able to send 2 cards to each partner school. We have also now started receiving cards which are being opened everyday by our reception pupils and which will then be displayed in the lower school hall.



PARENT WORKSHOPS

I am pleased that these have been very well received and attended and I would like to thank you for your positive feedback - parental support with children's learning is invaluable.

THE BIRMINGHAM CANTATA

On the 18th October 2017, 18 Year 5 Children took part in 'The Birmingham Cantata' at Birmingham Cathedral. They worked alongside 7 other local schools to sing songs about the history of Birmingham. The children worked really hard to learn the songs in a short space of time and The Oval was extremely proud of their maturity and dedication to the performance. Parents also came to watch and were thrilled.

Well done Year 5!

YEAR 3 BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM TRIP

Year 3 went on a trip to the Birmingham Museum in the city centre to learn about the Ancient Egyptians. They went on the train which was brilliant, especially as some children had never been on a train before. Time was spent exploring the galleries, going on a treasure hunt in the Egyptian gallery, making their own amulets and then taking part in a mummification workshop.

All the children had a great day and represented the school really well whilst on the train, walking through the city centre and in the museum.

QUALITY MARK

During the month of November, school renewed its Quality Mark which is a nationally recognised standard for literacy and numeracy pupil skills.

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT TRUST FUND SUPPORTS SCHOOL PLAY AREA

The Oval Primary School was awarded £3,000 by the Birmingham Airport's trust fund to build a sensory playground area in the school grounds. They worked with adventure playground specialists, All Out Play, to plan and build the new interactive facility.

Andy Holding, Corporate Responsibility Manager at Birmingham Airport said: "The trustees decided to award The Oval Primary School with this funding as we could see that the planned learning environment would greatly benefit the local pupils.

"It gives a 'hands on' learning approach that will teach environmental awareness and knowledge of nature whilst protecting local wildlife with features such as a wormery, bug area, pergolas and climbing plants.

"This work is very much in line with our Corporate Responsibility Strategy of developing local communities and promoting health and wellbeing in the area."

In addition to the wildlife sections the play area also includes a musical area with drums, chimes and xylophones, a story telling corner, a bamboo maze and a water play section, amongst many other features.

Julie Gouldbourn, Strategic Business Manager at The Oval Primary School, said: "The outdoor retreat that has been built with the Airport's support is of huge benefit to the children and the local community.

"The design of the garden with its mixture of interactive zones combines play with learning. It has also made a huge difference to the local community by greatly improving the outlook of the area for future generations."

The funding awarded to The Oval Primary School, forms part of the Birmingham Airport Community Trust Fund which awards grants of up to £3,000 to community groups in areas most affected by the Airports operations. Each year the airport contributes nearly £80,000 to the Community Trust Fund. Additionally any charges made to airlines which breach night noise regulations, are added to the fund.

RECEPTION INTAKE - SEPTEMBER 2018

The process to apply for reception 2018 opened on 2 October 2017.

The local authority is advising all parents to apply online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. It is easy to do so using a PC, tablet, smartphone or other mobile device. Help on how to complete the form is on their website alongside information on each school and their open sessions. They have also included links to www.192.com and www.Myed.com where parents can find a wealth of information to help you make realistic preferences. The authority advises the following:-

- Visit schools to find out what they offer
- Check your child's chances of being offered a place at their preferred schools, using the 'cut off' distance information available at www.192.com and www.Myed.com
- Use all three preferences to maximise the chance of being offered a place at a local school
- Grounds for a successful appeal at KS1 are very limited
- Submit your application by **4 December 2017**
- Late applications will only be processed after those received by the closing date (15 January 2018) have been offered.

UNIFORM

All of our school uniform range is now available at Mansuri Schoolwear in the Poolway Shopping Centre.

Uniform is still available to buy from school online with your parent pay account.



FLU ADVICE

Please note the following advice as provided by the Health Protection Agency:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water and dry thoroughly
- Avoid touching surfaces/handles and then touching your face
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing/coughing and dispose of in a bin - 'CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT'
- For further information and advice visit www.nhs.uk or www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk



'CASHLESS'

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 we are working towards being a cashless school.

You should have received a letter with log on and password details to register online, if not please contact the school office to request a copy.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUTUMN TERM 2017	
Friday 20 th October 2017 at end of the school day	End of Term
Monday 30 th October 2017	School open to pupils and staff
Thursday 21 st December 2017 at end of school day	End of Term - Pupils break up for Christmas
Friday 22 nd December 2017	School closed to pupils - Teacher Day
SPRING TERM 2018	
Monday 8 th January 2018	School open to pupils and staff
Friday 16 th February 2018 at end of the school day	End of Term
Monday 26 th February 2018	School open to pupils and staff
Thursday 29 th March 2018 at end of school day	End of Term
Monday 16 th April 2018	School open to pupils and staff
SUMMER TERM 2018	
Monday 7 th May 2018	School closed to all - May bank holiday
Tuesday 8 th May 2018	School open to pupils and staff
Friday 25 th May 2018 at the end of the school day	End of term
Monday 4 th June 2018	School open to pupils and staff
Friday 20 th July 2018 at the end of the school day	End of term



CHRISTMAS DATES AND NEWS TO FOLLOW SOON