



September Newsletter

Welcome back to all our Oval families and we warmly welcome all new families joining us.

Already we have had lots of exciting events taking place - dinosaurs have visited year 2 pupils, a menagerie of animals spent a day with year 3 pupils and year 6 pupils participated in a fabulous two-day camping experience!

We look forward to working with the NSPCC in November who will be leading assemblies and workshops for our pupils.

Educational visits planned so far for this term include Cannock Chase Museum, Blakesley Hall and Tamworth Castle - more details further on.



A big thank you to all parents who attended the 'expectations workshops' delivered by class teachers. It was lovely to receive such positive feedback from parents and we hope that the workshops gave you lots of ideas of how you can support your child at home.

Finally, before- and after-school clubs have started and include gymnastics and dance. We are looking forward to starting more clubs as the term progresses including cooking clubs for both key stage 1 and key stage 2 pupils.

Best Wishes - Miss J Harris and Mrs D Williams (Headteacher)

DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER NEWS

Mrs Mason - Deputy Headteacher

It has been a very busy start to the new academic year. Well done to all our fantastic pupils who have made a great start to life in their new classes. Every day I see so many children focusing on the teaching in their classroom, trying their hardest to produce amazing work and making their teachers really proud. One of my favourite times of the week is our lovely celebration assembly on a Friday afternoon. It is so nice to celebrate all the successes of the week, including the Dojo winners, class marble winners and, of course, Star of the Week. I really hope that the pupils are proud of their achievements and enjoy showing you their certificates and explaining what they were awarded for.

Just a reminder for pupils and families in Year 6. Hopefully you have been able to visit some of our local secondary schools and have decided the school that you would like your child to move on to after The Oval. Please remember that you need to apply for a place before 31st October and you must do this online. The website is www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Mrs Poulson - KS1 Assistant Headteacher

Well what a busy half term it has been already! It has been lovely to see how well our Key Stage One children have settled back into school and into their new classes. They have coped very well with all of the changes.

In Year 1 the children had a very special visitor from 1666 - Samuel Pepys! The children asked him lots of questions and he told them all about The Great Fire of London and about how he buried his cheese. They are experts on how and where the fire started and have produced some super work about the fire. We are looking forward to our trip to Blakesley Hall to investigate the past and find out even more.

In Year 2 the children were very excited (and a few of us a little scared) to meet Millie the dinosaur. They have found out lots of information about dinosaurs and have produced some impressive factual writing. Lots of children have taken part in homework challenges too. During Millie's visit the children had the chance to be palaeontologists and excavated some fossils themselves.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Parent Meetings held in school and also to those of you who have attended our morning Parent Library sessions - your support is very much appreciated.

Mrs Roberts - Assistant Headteacher

I am very proud of the hard work the children have been doing in their lessons. If you come into school for Parent Library, please look at the work displayed on the walls. I'm looking forward to reading Year 6's diary entries about their experiences camping overnight at school.

It has been lovely to see so many parents support their child's reading at the Parent Library sessions. Here is the timetable for each year group. Nursery and Reception's sessions will begin shortly :

Monday: Year 3
Tuesday: Year 5
Thursday: Years 1 and 6
Friday: Years 2 and 4

The children have really enjoyed reading with their parents and showing them their classroom.

The school's Safeguarding Board, The Oval Rights Respecting Rangers, are looking forward to reading the applications for places children have written and selecting new members. We have had a large number of applications and the standard of them is high, so thank you to all the children who have applied. The Oval RRR will carefully consider them all when making their selection.



URGENT REQUEST FOR CONTACT DETAILS

New requirements now mean that school must be provided with details of at least TWO contact people for each child. If you have only given contact information for one person for your child then please provide school with details of a second person as a matter of urgency. Don't forget also to update school immediately with any changes to contact details or medical information. Thank you for your co-operation with this very important request.

UNICEF ARTICLE 12

Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously

We have recently elected our Oval School councillors. Due to being a democratic school, we believe it is important for everyone to have a say so we voted in a polling station. All classes took part in the election and had a great day making big decisions. We are very pleased with our 2018-2019 school councillors and know that they will do a fantastic job!

School council will meet every Wednesday during singing assembly and they will have an agenda to discuss and then feedback to their classmates every Thursday so they know what has been discussed.

Every child at The Oval School has a voice and a say!



WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs will be taken on Tuesday 16 October 2018 for all pupils in school - individual photos and siblings during the school day and family groups and pre-school children groups will be taken from 8.00am onwards until the start of the school day (8.45am) in the upper school hall. Please ensure all children come to school dressed smartly in their full school uniform - thank you.

IMPORTANT HEALTH NEWS

Flu vaccination forms will soon be coming out for all pupils from reception to year 5. Please can parents complete and return to their class teacher - thank you.

CASHLESS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

School is no longer accepting cash payments which means that you must pay for school meals, toast, trips and uniform online via ParentPay.

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



CAR PARKING HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUEST

Please be mindful of parking when you drop off and collect your children from school by respecting road markings, our neighbours' driveways and runway crossings. Also remember that there is no parking permitted on school site for parents to protect the health and safety of everyone - thank you.

FOOTBALL NEWS

This week Miss Bovan and Miss McIntyre took a group of year 3 and 4 pupils to a football tournament at Erdington Academy. They have not had any time to train together but played brilliantly and represented the school really well.

This was the first sports competition school has attended this year but it will hopefully be the first of many!

YEAR 2'S DINOSAUR DAY

On Thursday 20 September, year 2 pupils had two very special visitors: Baby Jax the Allosaurus and Millie the T-Rex.

All of the children learnt lots of interesting facts about these dinosaurs that lived 65 million years ago as well as taking part in an exciting fossil hunt. The children became palaeontologists and, using their special brushes, found claws, teeth, skulls and egg fossils from under the sand.

Attendance and Punctuality

The Oval School are working in partnership with parents to improve school attendance. **We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly and on time!**

Children can enjoy collecting their "movie tickets" for their Attendance Treat this half term! Winning classes achieving 97% attendance and higher will enjoy a Movie and Snacks afternoon on Friday 26 October!



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.**

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 on our website to outline the process that the Local Authority (Birmingham City Council) will take if there are serious concerns with a child's attendance.

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.

Attendance and Punctuality - continued

The Local Authority has fined 6 of our parents this year for their child's poor attendance from Leave in Term Time:

£3,244

£60

£120

£60

£511

£240

Please remember, fines are per child per parent. Therefore a family of 2 adults and 2 children would be looking at a fine of £240.00

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.

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.



ATTENDANCE HEROES

The Oval School is committed to improving and sustaining excellent attendance. ABC Teachers has very kindly donated an iPad for children who get 100% attendance over the year by entering them in to a draw, and vouchers can be won termly! More details coming soon!

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Could you be an

Attendance HERO?

Give school 100%



Attend school everyday...

- Win termly prizes throughout the year
- **PLUS!** Attend all year round & get entered into a draw to win an iPad Mini!



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Diary Dates

School Trips

Tuesday 9 October	Class 1.1 to visit Blakesley Hall
Thursday 11 October	Class 1.2 to visit Blakesley Hall
Friday 12 October	Class 1.3 to visit Blakesley Hall
Monday 12 November	Half of year 6 pupils to visit Cannock Chase Museum
Wednesday 14 November	Half of year 6 pupils to visit Cannock Chase Museum
Wednesday 13 February 2019	All year 2 pupils to visit Tamworth Castle
More information coming your way soon about other trips!	

Parent Consultations

Week Beginning Monday 5 November	Parent consultation meetings to take place for all year groups
More information coming your way soon about specific dates	

Christmas Productions

Monday 17 December	9.30am	Pupils in years 1 and 2
Monday 17 December	2.00pm	Pupils in years 5 and 6
Tuesday 18 December	9.30am	Pupils in reception
Tuesday 18 December	2.00pm	Pupils in years 3 and 4
Wednesday 19 December	10.45am	Pupils in nursery

Please note that school will close to all pupils for Christmas on Friday 21 December 2018 at 1.00pm - please ensure you arrange to collect your child promptly ready for the start of their Christmas holidays

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2018

Opens To Staff	Monday 3 September 2018 (teacher day - no pupils in school)
Opens To Pupils	Tuesday 4 September 2018 for all pupils in years 1 - 6 Wednesday 5 September 2018 for reception pupils who didn't attend nursery Friday 7 September 2018 for reception pupils who have attended nursery Monday 10 September 2018 for new nursery pupils
Closes To All	Friday 26 October 2018 at the end of the school day
Half-Term	Monday 29 October - Friday 2 November 2018 (school closed to all)
Opens To All	Monday 5 November 2018
Closes To All	Friday 21 December 2018 AT 1.00PM PROMPT
Christmas	Monday 24 December 2018 - Friday 4 January 2019 (school closed to all)

Spring Term 2019

Opens To Staff	TO BE CONFIRMED
Opens To Pupils	TO BE CONFIRMED
Closes To All	Friday 15 February 2019 at the end of the school day
Half-Term	Monday 18 - Friday 22 February 2019 (school closed to all)
Opens To All	Monday 25 February 2019
Closes To All	Friday 12 April 2019 at the end of the school day
Easter	Monday 15 - Friday 26 April 2019 (school closed to all)

Summer Term 2019

Opens To Staff	TO BE CONFIRMED
Opens To Pupils	TO BE CONFIRMED
Closed To All	Monday 6 May 2019 (May Day Bank Holiday)
Closes To All	Friday 24 May 2019 at the end of the school
Half-Term	Monday 27 - Friday 31 May 2019
Opens To All	Monday 3 June 2019
Closes To Pupils	Friday 19 July 2019 (TO BE CONFIRMED)
Closes To Staff	Monday 22 July 2019 (TO BE CONFIRMED)