



Dear Parents and Families,

I do hope that you found September's start-of-the-year newsletter useful. It is hard to believe that children have only been back in school for 22 school days! So much has taken place already – not least the return of 650 children to Oak Green. Their continued enthusiasm for school and their positive attitude to learning makes us smile every day.

Good Manners

Something else to have made us smile are the fabulous manners of children at Oak Green School!

You will hopefully have seen your children return home wearing a 'penguin' sticker. This rewards children for good manners, such as greetings adults at the door, saying hello in the mornings, saying "Please"/ "Yes please", "Thank you"/ "No thank you", "You're welcome." and "Pardon?".



We are also impressed by those children stopping when someone is speaking to them and looking at that person when they speak, and also standing back when someone approaches a door to pass, letting them through first and saying, "After you...".



Attendance

At the moment we are reporting attendance figures to you on a whole school basis, as there is understandable disruption to usual patterns and big differences between classes.

Our good news is that our attendance percentages since the start of this term have been consistently at **93%**.

A school attendance of 96%+ would be expected usually but currently schools nationwide are experiencing an average of only 87%. Thank you for your level-headed and informed approach to whether your children are fit for school and for supporting our efforts by, e.g. wearing masks around school. We feel that it is making a difference.

Covid-19 Update

It is good to share good news about continued effectiveness, in the Oak Green community, regarding Covid-19. We welcomed back our Year 2s and thank families again for quarantining for the 14 days, staying and learning at home. We hope our good health lasts.

With your careful cooperation, our figures are positive. We currently have no children and no staff members or their families having had a positive result.

Our attendance is steady and we continue to review our risk assessment daily and formally each fortnight, taking on new guidance and looking to see where school systems can be improved further and arrangements made easier for families. There are no changes next week.

A message from your Governing Board

Dear Oak Green School community,

We hope that you and your families are all well and keeping safe.

Your Governing Board work as a team and are responsible for making sure that our school provides a good quality education for all pupils, without compromising anyone's safety. Safeguarding remains the number one priority for us and the school's policies have been updated to reflect the new working arrangements.

We constantly remind ourselves of what makes this school such a special place and we build upon it every day. There has inevitably been some catching-up to do, but our pupils have settled back into school brilliantly.

We'd like to thank you all. The support that you have shown Mrs Garrett and all of the staff has been heart-warming and wonderful.

Take good care of yourselves and keep safe. Very best wishes to you all.



Please see our website for information about an online after-school club on 'Zoom' for families twice a week.



News from the English Team

It has been a pleasure to see all the children back in school and enthusiastic about their English learning.

I visited some of the classes in Year 5 and 6 this week and I was especially impressed with the vocabulary being used by the children – this will have a great impact on the creativity in their writing.

I have also heard very good things about reading across the whole school and teachers have commented on the amazing progress that children have made during lockdown and over the summer holidays.

On behalf of everyone in school, I would like to say a big thank you to parents for your continued support in encouraging your children to develop a love of reading - it makes a huge difference!

Mrs Mynott

English Lead and Assistant Head Teacher for Upper Key Stage Two

Maths News

Times table recall speed is one of the most important skills to later success in maths. At Oak Green we enjoy learning times tables in many different ways with daily practice at school (including singing popular songs to learn the 7s). We encourage all children to use 'Times Table Rockstars' at home and subscribe to this so that it is free. It can be accessed via www.ttrockstars.com or by downloading the app. Your child will be bringing home a reminder of their login and password. It's a fantastic resource and children love playing it, building up their knowledge and confidence whilst earning coins that can be used to change their very own Rockstar avatar!

We also use 'Cracking Times Tables' where children have a weekly challenge to complete levels of times tables questions in 3 minutes. If they succeed 3 times they move to the next level and receive a certificate for the completion of each level as well as a very special badge for Level 10 and 20. Our aim is that children will be fluent in times tables and associated division facts up to 12 x 12 by June in Year 4, when they sit their national Multiplication Tables Check.

We love times tables at Oak Green and hope you can join us in encouraging your child to remember these facts, it really will help them 'believe, achieve and succeed'!

Mrs Goodall

Maths Lead and Assistant Head Teacher for Lower KS2

Newsletter 01 – October 02nd 2020

Science News

I am delighted to inform you that Oak Green has been chosen to be part of the Royal Society Young People's Science Book prize for 2020!



Our science books and judging panel information will be arriving around 12th October and we can't wait to see the books and get started.

The Prize is unique in that the winner is selected by judging panels made up of young people at schools across the country. Children selected at Oak Green to form the judging panel, will have until Monday 11th January 2021 to decide which book is their winner using the given criteria and debate which they believe is the best. These results will then be collated with other across the country and the overall winner will be announced in February.

Once the results have been submitted we get to keep the books and they will be placed in our library for all our children to enjoy.

Miss Ingram

Science Lead and Assistant Head Teacher for KS1

Road Safety

Something that concerns us greatly is road safety on Oak Green, Paterson Road, Eaton Road and in the local area at the start and end of the school day. We will investigate again how to seek improvements. In the meantime might we suggest a voluntary one-way system? Into Oak Green from Eaton Road and along and out onto Paterson Road to help congestion?

I will mention bicycle helmets here also; if you wish your children to cycle to school they **must** wear a helmet. The roads are particularly dangerous, although residential, and children are at great risk.

Kind wishes,

Mrs J Garrett

Mrs D Kelloway & Mrs N Beesley
Headteacher & Deputy Headteachers

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