

Newsletter

20th October 2023

I can't believe we have already reached half term. The children have all settled back into the school year with ease and the new Wrens class are finding their feet.

We have been busy with our learning and the children have been speaking to governors and Trust colleagues about their learning and what they enjoy about Offord School.

Here is some information about things that are coming up soon and some pictures from some of the events this half-term.

Diary Dates:

Autumn Term:

October	
Sunday 29 th	OPTA Spooktacular
Mon 30 th	Training Day
Tues 31 st	Return from October Half Term
Tues 31 st	Y5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament
November	
Wed 1 st	Vision Screening for Reception children
Thurs 2 nd	Y6 SAT information event 3.30pm
Thurs 2 nd & Fri 3 rd	Grandparents Lunch
Mon 6 th – Fri 10 th	Kingswood Residential for Kingfishers
W/B Mon 13 th	Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 13 th	Caterlink Smoothie making sessions (Robins and Hawks)
Tues 14 th	Apple Garage Band App
Wed 15 th	Flu Vaccinations
W/B Mon 20 th	Parent Consultation Evenings (Late night on Tuesday)
Tues 21 st	Y1/2 Cricket Festival
Wed 22 nd	Reception & Y6 Height and Weight Measures
December	
Fri 1 st	Welcome Weekday 2.30pm
Mon 11 th	Ely Cathedral virtual Christingle Service
Wed 13 th	Christmas Bingo (Evening event)
Thurs 14 th	Kingfishers trip to London to see The House with Chicken Legs (theatre show)
Mon 18 th	Wrens and Robins Nativity - Morning and afternoon
Tues 19 th	KS2 Carols at Church 6pm
Tues 19 th	Christmas Lunch and visit from Father Christmas
Wed 20 th	OPTA Christmas Craft afternoon
Wed 20 th	Last Day of Autumn Term

Updates to Diary Dates

These are the current diary dates for the autumn term. There have been a few additions to the dates since they were first sent out.

Two sporting fixtures have been put in, these are by invitation only. We have chosen to join in with a variety of sporting activities run by Hunts School Sports Partnership (HSSP) and plan that every child in Year 1 and above will be able to take part in at least one sporting event out of school this year.

Christmas events – we have moved the Christmas Bingo to the Wednesday night. This because it has just been announced that the tour of the theatre production of The House with Chicken Legs is coming to London and there is a schools performance on Thursday 14th December. This has been Kingfisher's novel this term and they loved reading it. The production looks amazing, using puppetry to tell the story. We have managed to reserve tickets and will be heading to London on that day, coming back after the end of the school day, hence the need to move the Christmas Bingo.

Also, I think there was a mix up with days and dates last time – please note the Carols on the Playground is now on Tuesday 19th.

Parent Consultation Evenings

These will be taking place in the week beginning Monday 20th November. We will be holding them in person. Sign up sheets will be sent out after half-term.

I think we are going to go back to using google forms, as the School Cloud system we were using is rather expensive. It was great for when we were meeting on-line, but not worth the expense when using it as a sign up facility.

More details will be sent out after half-term.

WELCOMING OUR PARENTS TO JOIN IN THE LEARNING AT WELCOME WEEKDAY

Welcome Weekday

It was lovely to see so many people able to make it to the Welcome Weekday on Monday.

The Hawk's parents seemed to enjoy their netball lesson and I was very impressed with the Robin's parents sorting of animals. Wrens children very much enjoyed showing their parents around their classroom and Kingfishers taught their parents about Humanism.

Our next Welcome Weekday is on Friday 1st December. We do hope you will be able to join us from 2.30pm. We'll let you know what lessons you will be getting involved in nearer the time.



Jewellery & Toys

Can I please remind you that our policy states that children should not be wearing any jewellery to school. The only exception is a pair of stud earrings (not dangling earrings or hoops).

This is not only for Health and Safety but also so items do not get lost. A watch can be worn as long as it is not a smart watch and does not have a camera feature.

Can we also ask that no toys are brought into school in bags or pockets. Again, we do not want anything getting lost at school so it's best that any little toys are kept at home or given to you at the door. Thank you.

Apple Garage Band

On Tuesday 14th November each class will be learning how to use the Garage Band App on their ipads. As part of our journey to become Apple Certified Teachers the children will be shown how to use Garage Band from David Macquire an Apple Professional Learning Specialist.

The children will be using their reading books to make a podcast, a sound-scape composition or a loop-based composition. I don't really know what this means, but I am sure you'll see the work shared on Seesaw following this fun and educational day!

Y6 SATS Information Evening

The children in year 2 will not be taking Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in the summer term this year as the government has made these optional.

The Year 6 tests are continuing to be administered and will take place during the week of 13th May 2024.

Miss Brown will be holding an information event on Thursday 2nd November straight after school, so she can share more information about these tests with parents and carers. There will be an opportunity to see examples of tests and discuss what level of work and understanding is required to 'pass' the test in English, Maths and Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and the Teacher Assessment in Writing.

If you can't make this date, but want to know more, please get in touch with Miss Brown directly.

Wrens in the Hunts Post

A photograph of our new Wrens class was in the Hunts Post this week as part of their First Class feature. Mrs Taylor, Mrs Storr and Mrs Bull are enjoying getting to know their new class. The Year 6 buddies have done a brilliant job at making them feel welcome and showing them the ropes at Offord Primary School.



Staffing at Offord

Some of you may have noticed that Mrs Blackhurst has not been around recently. She had a hip-replacement about 3 weeks ago and is at home recovering. She is desperate to get back to school and is very frustrated at home but needs to take the time to recover and heal. Hopefully she will be back to Kingfishers by the end of term, but in the meantime we are keeping her posted about their super work and we're looking forward to her being back when she is fit and able to.

We will be welcoming a new Teaching Assistant to the school in November. Mrs Michelle Oakley will be joining the team, working mainly across Robins and Hawks. She is very much looking forward to joining Offord and getting to know the children and supporting them in their learning.

Abilities in Me

In September we had a non-uniform day and discussed the differences we all have and experience. OPTA sent your donation off to the charity Abilities in Me, who have very kindly sent us their whole set of books (we were only expecting a couple!)

The books are beautifully written and illustrated and are designed to help children understand disabilities that they may see in others or themselves, such as Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Tracheostomy and Downs Syndrome. It is a fantastic resource to have in school. Please get in touch if you would like more information or to see the books.

After school

Can I please remind you to ensure that your children or any younger siblings do not play in the Wrens outside area, or with any of their equipment while waiting for collection or after school. This also applies before school as Mrs Taylor and Mrs Storr will have set up activities for the day ahead for their children. This also includes the climbing frame, can the children not play on it after school, please.

Can we also ask you to ensure your children do not walk between the cars in the carpark. We are trying to encourage the children to walk around the cars rather than through the middle. We have had a couple of cars scratched in the car park unfortunately.



Friendship Run



Girls Football



Y1/2 Sports Festival



Sporting events this term

We have already begun to participate in sporting events outside of school. All of Robins class participated in a Y1/2 Multi-sports Festival, where they got to try out lots of different sports and had a great deal of fun doing it too.

Some girls from Y5/6 took part in a Girls Football tournament in St Ives. Unfortunately, they lost all their games, but they very much enjoyed the experience and learnt lots from their time there. They have asked if they can play some more games so we will give them some coaching and arrange some friendly matches for them. Well done to Martha for being presented with a football and t-shirt for showing great sports(w)manship during the morning.

The whole school took part in the HSSP Friendship run. They set themselves a challenge for the 15 min run and were very supportive of their friends as they took part in the run.

