

Newsletter

23rd September 2022

I can't believe we are already three full weeks into the new school year. All our children are in school full time now and everyone has settled into their new classes well. This newsletter is to inform you of some of the developments at school and also some reminders and notices.

Autumn Term:

September	
Wed 28 th	Tour of school for Sept 2023 Starters
October	
Wed 5 th	SATS information evening for Y2 & Y6 3.30pm
Friday 7 th	Flu Immunisations – opt out letters to follow
Mon 10 th	Harvest Festival at the church 11.15am
Wed 12 th	Individual and family group photographs
Thurs 13 th	Robins visit to Cambridge Botanical Gardens
Tues 18 th	Welcome Weekday 2.30pm
Wed 19 th	Kingfishers Virtual STEM day at Ely Cathedral
Thurs 20 th	Kingfishers visit to West Stow
Thurs 20 th	OPTA AGM 2pm
Fri 21 st	Last day before October Half Term
Mon 31 st	Return from October Half Term
November	
Tues 1 st	Hawks visit to Flag Fen
W/B Mon 7 th	Parent Consultation Evenings (late night appointments on Monday)
W/B Mon 14 th	Anti-Bullying Week
Thurs 17 th	KS2 Whistle-stop Tour: History and Music session in school
Wed 30 th	Welcome Weekday 2.30pm
December	
Mon 12 th	Virtual Christingle Service from Ely Cathedral
Wed 14 th	Snowman Drive (Evening event)
Mon 19 th	Wrens and Robins Nativity - Morning and afternoon
Mon 19 th	KS2 Carols at Church 6pm
Tues 20 th	Christmas Lunch and visit from Father Christmas
Wed 21 st	Last Day of Autumn Term

New SENDCo

You were informed at the end of the last academic year that Offord Primary School is working closely with two other schools in the Trust (Everton Heath Primary and Gamlingay Village Primary) and have formed the West Village Partnership.

One development of this collaboration is a dedicated SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator) who is working across the three schools. Mrs Anna Rumbles has begun working in school and will be supported by Miss Hartland as she gets to know our children and families. The role was becoming increasingly difficult for Miss Hartland while also having a class responsibility.

Mrs Rumbles has begun meeting families and other professionals to support our SEN children. She will be spending about 2 days a week at our school, but the days will depend on meetings and other commitments. She can be contacted through the School Office, or if you have any concerns, speak to your class teachers in the first instance.

Parking at drop off and collection

Our school is not situated in the best location for access by car. We would encourage as many of you to walk or cycle/scooter to school each day, but we do understand that that is not always possible.

If you do have to travel by car, please can you ensure that your park respectfully, safely and legally. Please do not park in front of any of the drop curbs in Millers Close as you will be blocking residents in, and although you may not be there for long, they may still need to access their drive during this time. Also please do not park or stop in front of the school gates. The car park needs to be used as a pedestrian access at these times, so parking here can cause an obstruction.

The pub kindly allows us to park in their car park, both before and after school. Parking there will keep cars away from the roads around the school and keep our children safe.

Can I please ask that children do not ride their bikes or scooters around the front of the school, in the car park or through the Wrens outdoor area. The paths here are narrow and we need to give priority to the pedestrians. Cycling up the front drive to take bikes to the bike sheds is ok, but please dismount before reaching the school. Thank you.

New Starters in Reception Next Year

Do you have a younger child who is due to start school in September 2023 (ie born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019)?

We will be holding tours of our school, so you can have a look around and see what happens not only in our EYFS classroom but the rest of the school too.

If you would like to have a look around, please book onto one of our tours through the office.

Tours are being held:

Wednesday 28th September at 9.30am

Tuesday 11th October at 2pm and

Monday 21st November at 3.30pm

The application portal is now open. Places need to be applied for by 15th January 2023 and you can do so by going to the Cambridgeshire portal [here](#).

EYFS Outdoor Classroom

Our outdoor classroom is beginning to take shape. We have had our new balancing and gross motor skills play equipment installed. Soon some storage sheds will be arriving and we are hoping to have a new sand pit and performance area built soon.

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Johnson set activities out for the Wrens children to use during the day. Quite often the children's learning also includes tidying up at the end of the afternoon too. They have therefore asked me to remind parents not to let their children play on or with the equipment outside, as it is either set out or tidied away deliberately. I know the equipment is very tempting for the children but we would appreciate your help with this. Thank you.

Who's Who in School

We would like to welcome Miss Meechan to our school. She is a student teacher, training at the University of Bedfordshire. She is working alongside Miss Hartland and the children in Robins and will be in school four days a week until mid-December.

Other staff in our school are:

Mrs Ruddock (Head)

Mrs Brown (Office Administrator)

Mrs Moore (Finance Assistant)

Mrs Webb (Pastoral Support)

Mr Puckey (PE Coach)

Miss Charlotte (Dance teacher)

Mr Paine (Football coach)

Teachers:

Wrens - Mrs Taylor & Mrs Johnson

Robins – Miss Hartland

Hawks - Mrs Whitehead

Kingfishers – Miss Brown

Learning Support Assistants:

Mrs Williams (all classes, covers PPA and teaches KS2 maths)

Mrs Bull (Wrens & Robins)

Miss Wildber (Hawks)

Mrs Spafford (Hawks)

Miss Clarkson (Hawks)

Mrs Blackhurst (Kingfishers)

Y2 & Y6 SATS Information Evening

Wednesday 5th October

(Note the date as I made a mistake with the date on the original list)

The children in year 2 and year 6 have to take Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in the summer term.

We will be holding an information evening on Wednesday 5th October so we 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 Writing (and Grammar and Punctuation in Y6 too).

This meeting is aimed at parents/carers of Year 2 and Y6, but anyone can come along if you are interested. We have been informed that 2023 will be the last KS1 SATs (this was supposed to stop 2 years ago, but due to the Covid Pandemic the DfE decided to continue them. Although the formal tests will not be taken, we are assuming we will still need to Teacher Assess and the expected standard will not be changing).

Welcome Weekday

Our first Welcome Weekday this year is to be held on Tuesday 18th October.

From 2.30pm we invite parents and carers to join the afternoon lessons in school. This will allow you to see the school in action and to be able to join in your children's learning.

We hope you'll be able to join us.

Harvest Festival – Monday 10th October 11.15am at All Saints Church

We will be holding our Harvest Festival at the Church this year and Father David will be joining in our celebrations.

We would like to invite you to join us for the festival – please come to the church from 11am, it will last about 45 minutes, I would think.

We are asking for food donations for Godmanchester Foodbank again this year. We would be very grateful for anything that you can donate. Accompanying this newsletter is the list of items that Godmanchester Foodbank use the most – for example boxes of tea bags and longlife milk or juices. Please do not buy huge bags of items, as we are told that many people do not have the facilities to store large packets.

Please do not feel that you have to donate if you can't. If you yourself are having financial difficulties with the current cost of living crisis, please do get in touch with us. We can organise Foodbank vouchers and your child may also be eligible for Free School meals.

PE Days and PE Kit

For the children to be able to get fully involved and take part safely in PE lessons it is vital that they have their PE kits in school.

PE kits for all are plain t-shirts and shorts, a change of socks and trainers. As the weather gets colder, longer leggings/tracksuit trousers and a jumper would also be useful.

We would recommend that you send a PE kit in on a Monday and it stays here all week. Sometimes we have to change PE days at short notice or do extra PE. PE days at present are:

Wrens – Friday

Robins – Wednesday & Friday

Hawks – Monday & Friday

Kingfishers – Wednesday

Earrings need to be removed for PE. If they have recently been pierced and cannot be removed they may be taped while they are healing.

Y6 Buddies

Our Y6 children are doing a fantastic job at being 'buddies' to our new Wrens class. They wrote letters to their new buddies which were delivered by Mrs Taylor & Mrs Johnson on the home visits. The Y6 children have been helping the Wrens children settle in by playing with them at playtimes, sitting with them during lunchtime and just being great new friends. Well done Year 6, you have been fantastic buddies – Thank you.



OPTA AGM

The OPTA AGM is being held on Thursday 20th October at 2pm at school.

Please come along to hear about what OPTA have been up to over the last year and find out their plans for the current. There will be tea and cake for you to enjoy at the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there. 😊

School Meals

Thank you for getting to grips with the new way that we are ordering and paying for school meals. We are working with the other Trust schools and Caterlink to ensure that the food service and ordering is as good and simple as it can be for you and the meals are hearty and tasty for the children.

The menu is currently available until half term, when it will be updated.