

Newsletter

20th January 2023

Christmas seem a long time ago now, but I do hope you had a lovely Christmas break and have had a good start to 2023. School is already busy, but the children are very much engaged with their learning and there is a lovely atmosphere at school. As always, we have lots planned over the next term.

Dates for the rest of this term:

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| January | |
| Tues 24 th | Y3 Football Festival |
| Thurs 26 th | Swimming session 4 – Hawks & Kingfishers |
| Thurs 26 th | Young Voices to Birmingham |
| Fri 27 th | Welcome Weekday – 2.30pm |
| Tues 31 st | Ten-pin bowling competition |
| February | |
| Wed 1 st | Choir club starts (lunchtime) |
| Thurs 2 nd | Swimming session 5 – Hawks & Kingfishers |
| Thurs 9 th | Swimming session 6 – Hawks & Kingfishers |
| Fri 10th | Break up for February Half term |
| Mon 20th | Staff Training Day |
| Tues 21st | First day back after half term |
| Thurs 23 rd | Y6 Rotary Quiz – 7pm |
| Tues 28 th | Y5/6 Quicksticks Hockey Competition |
| March | |
| Thurs 2 nd | Spring Bingo Night 5pm-6.30pm |
| Tues 7 th | Y2 Football Festival |
| Tues 7 th | HSSP Gymnastics Competition Y3/4 |
| Thurs 9 th | Welcome Weekday 2.30pm and Caterlink taster session (3pm) |
| Fri 17 th | Red Nose Day |
| Tues 21 st | Y5/6 Netball Competition |
| Thurs 23 rd | Hawks Play Performance (afternoon and evening) |
| W/B 27 th | Parent Consultation Evenings |
| Tues 28 th | Visit to Church for Easter Assembly |
| Thurs 30 th | Music Concert – 11am |
| Fri 31 st | Last Day of Spring Term |

Welcome Weekday

Our next Welcome Weekday is taking place on Friday 27th January. We would like to invite you in to the school from 2.30pm to see the school in action join in your children's learning. Lessons that afternoon are:

Wrens – gymnastics in the hall (wear appropriate clothing so you can join in with the children)

Robins – Music

Hawks – RE

Kingfishers – Computing

The next Welcome Weekday will be on Thursday 9th March, where Caterlink will also be holding a taster session.

Diary Dates and 2023/24 Term Dates

Please see the table on the left for this terms events. As always things get added to the diary at the last minute, but hopefully this will help you plan for the next term.

We are also sending out the terms dates for next academic year alongside this newsletter, so you can start booking your holidays!

Following the announcement of the extra bank holiday that has been set for the Coronation of HRH King Charles, the school will be closed on Monday 8th May (the previous Monday (1st) is also a bank holiday). The extra bank holiday has an effect on the Year 6 SATS. These will now be starting on the Tuesday (9th) and running through to the Friday (12th).

The Curriculum & Seesaw

We do hope you are enjoying being able to see some of your children's learning through SeeSaw. If you have not joined, please do so, an email was sent before Christmas, but we can resend it if you let us know.

Feedback has been very positive so far, the children especially like it that they can show their families what they have been up to at school.

We will be asking Wren families to upload pictures to their child's SeeSaw to help the EYFS teachers gather evidence of development for the Early Learning Goals. We have had a little blip with this, but we will let you know how to do it soon, once it has been properly set up for us.

We are continuing to deliver a full, broad and balanced curriculum for the children at Offord. The main topics for History and Science this term are:

Robins: "Famous Explorers" and Materials (Heroes is part of both the history and geography curriculums)

Hawks: "The World – countries, cities and major landmarks" and Living things and their Habitats

Kingfishers: "Comparing the UK to Spanish Speaking Countries" and Forces

We love hearing about how the children are extending their studies at home by visiting museums or reading books. Thank you for providing the children these opportunities to strengthen their learning.

Music – a concert and choir

As you will already know, we offer lessons in piano, singing, guitar, ukele and drums to our children. Our music teacher, Matt Young delivers music lessons on Wednesday and Thursday.

If your child is interested in music lessons, please contact Sarah Brown in the office who will be able to give you the information needed.

We are very excited to announce that Matt is going to start a choir. This will be held at Wednesday lunchtimes, is open to all children and I am sure it will be a fantastic half hour. We will be telling the children about this soon and it will be starting at the beginning of February.

On Thursday 30th March we will be holding our first Offord Music Concert. The children that Matt teaches and our new choir will be invited to perform to the rest of the school in the concert. Parents and carers will also be invited along. The concert will be held during the day at 11am – more information will be shared nearer the event.

Working Together To Achieve

The children at Offord Primary School have been discussing our ethos of 'Working Together To Achieve'. They understand and can explain why they come to school and what the purpose of learning is. They were recently asked what they feel they need to achieve by the time they leave Offord at the age of 11 and move on to the next stage of their schooling. Their answers included being competent readers, to know right from wrong, to be respectful, to have good social skills (by being polite, have manners and know how to respectfully talk to others), to have confidence in themselves, have good maths skills and to have a good general knowledge.

This shows the children have good learning behaviours and it has been demonstrated well through recent Governor visits and Trust learning walks.

To support this work and focus the children, the children and I have decided that we are going to have foci each week which the Celebration Certificates and Learners Cup will be awarded for. Last week was 'concentration', this week is 'kindness'.

Participation in Sports & Free Tickets to POSH

We are continuing to participate in various sporting events. Last term we saw Years 6, 5 and 4 participate in football festivals, we sent a team of children to a Penathlon event. A Y5/6 football team competed in a football competition against other local schools and another Y5/6 team competed at a rugby tournament.

This term sees more football festivals for the Y3 and Y2 (Year 1 will be participating after Easter) as well as netball tournaments, Quicksticks hockey, ten-pin bowling and gymnastics. The children are very much enjoying being able to take part in sporting events outside school, it is a brilliant opportunity for them to work as a team, meet other children from other schools and participate in some healthy competition. Thank you for your support in this area.

POSH – Peterborough United Football

We have been given vouchers to share with you so that every child in the school can receive free tickets to three of POSH's football matches. They can also take an adult for free and get reduced priced tickets for extra adults.

The matches are:

Peterborough United Women vs Long Eaton Women on Sunday 29th January, 2pm kick off (at Bourne Town FC)

Peterborough United Vs Shrewsbury Town on Tuesday 7th March, 7.45pm kick off.

Peterborough United vs Cheltenham Town on Saturday 11th March, 3pm kick off

For the first match, a voucher needs to be presented at the gate, for the second and third, tickets need to be booked through the POSH website. Attached is a letter that has the voucher and the details of how to claim the free tickets for the men's matches.

Staffing Updates

As I have already told you, we said goodbye to Michelle Moore in the office last week. She has moved on to a fulltime Finance role at Bushmead School in St Neots. We wish her the best of luck in her new role.

It is also with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Miss Wildber, one of our teaching assistants, at half-term. Due to a change in personal circumstances, Karen has decided to leave her role as a TA at the school although she will continue to work a few hours each week in her role as caretaker. I know she will miss working with the children in Hawks class very much and I would like to thank her for all her work and commitment to the school.