



OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the last Newsletter of this academic year. Where has the last year gone? New Reception children in September are now ready to move into Key Stage 1 and our 'little ones' of 7 years ago are moving onto High School.

We are extremely sad to see our 'Class of 2018' leave us as they have been so focused throughout the whole year and have 'done us all proud' with their work ethic, their fantastic production, their great SATs results, their enthusiasm at PGL, their interest in all people at the Careers Day amongst many other memories! We all know that SATs tests show us a very small part of what they can do in school and we hope that we have instilled in the children a sense of confidence, self-reliance, individuality and independence. We wish them all well as they move onto High School.



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 20th July - School closes
- Monday 23rd to Friday 27th July - Holiday Club
- Wednesday 5th September - School re-opens

Holiday Club

A reminder that our Holiday Club will be running from Monday 23rd July to Friday 27th July. By running the club in holidays of 2 or more weeks we hope we can help with your childcare arrangements. The Holiday Club is fully staffed by all our own Staff and the children really enjoy the activities that they carry out throughout the week. We still have places available (Tuesday is full) and if you would like to book your Child / Children in then please complete a form available from the School Office.

In addition to our own Holiday Club, Rainhill Footy Factory are running a Holiday Club at Oakdene from 28th August to Friday 31st August. For more information contact:

Matt@healthyactivelifestyles.co.uk or follow them on



Facebook

@RainhillFF



SCHOOL VALUE
THIS TERM:

EXCELLENCE

Request from Reception Class

Do you have any unwanted lego, toy cars or play mats? These items would be well used and loved by our children here at School. Any donations can be brought into the School Office. Thank you



School Dinners / Milk Money / Toast Money

Once again, our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be entitled to a free school meal next year. However, for those children currently in Year 2, if you wish for your child to have a school meal then they will have to be paid for unless you are on certain benefits.

For Junior Children the cost of School meals will be £2.35 per day (£11.75 per week). Our online payment system for School Dinner Money is now much more reliable (hope I haven't spoken too soon!) and we would ask for you to use this facility as it ensures a smooth transfer of money. Otherwise, cheques are payable to St Helens Council. We are still hoping to extend online payments to all payments eventually. Keep watching this space!

In the meantime, IT IS MUCH EASIER if you send in any money via your child, in an envelope, which will then be sent to the School Office. From September, we will be asking that all money coming direct to the Office is in an envelope with Child's name, class, amount and details of payment and put in the locked 'post box' in the Entrance Porch. No change will be given until all amounts have been checked. This has to be put in place as they are Audit requirements so all money is tracked. You will be asked to write an envelope (these can be provided for you) and place the envelope in the Post Box. Thank you.

Milk money from September will be £6.00 for each Infant Child. Please send this in, in a named envelope via the Child, to School during the first week back in September. If your Child does not have milk, please let your Child's Class Teacher know. Cheques for Milk Money should be made payable to St. Helens Council. If you are entitled to receive a particular benefit the milk will be given to your child free of charge as well as School Meals. We have forms in the school office for you to complete to see if you are eligible for benefits (including free school meals) or contact Education Benefits direct on 01744 67000

The cost of toast for the half term will be £6.00 (cheques payable to St Helens Council, or cash) starting on the 2nd week back. We are happy to take money in for toast before the end of term. Our new Reception Children will be allowed to have toast when they are full time (from 17th September – cost of £5.00 for the half term). Further details will be given to Reception children in September. Please send money for toast in a named envelope via your child's class or in an envelope into the post box in the Entrance Porch. This ensures that all money comes into the Office from one place and there is less congestion at the front office. We are happy to take money in for toast before the end of this term.

Summer Fayre

The Summer Fayre was a great success and a massive £2,611 was raised. Thank you to Friends for organising such a great event and thank you to all the volunteers - it couldn't happen without you.



Back to School Meetings

Our Back to School Meetings for Years 1 – 6 will take place during the second week back in School. At these meetings, you can meet your Child's new Teacher, listen to details about the curriculum and learn about the high standards and expectations for your child in their current year group. We will be holding the meetings at 3.15pm until 4.00pm and provision will be made for Staff to look after School age children in the ICT Suite. Unfortunately we will not be able to look after children younger or older than children at Oakdene. The Reception Parents Workshop is taking place at 9.00am on Thursday 13th September when the children are in school.

Year 6 Meeting will be in the evening for PARENTS ONLY - no children will be looked after at this meeting. This meeting will include information on SATs Tests and will be the only meeting about PGL.

The meetings will be held on the following days:

Year 2 Monday 10th September. 3.15pm (Miss. Barlow)

Year 1 Monday 10th September, 3.15pm (Miss. Syeda)

Year 5 Tuesday 11th September 3.15pm (Mr. Byrne)

Year 3 Wednesday 12th September 3.15pm (Mrs. Garton-Pope and Mrs. Hodgson)

Year 4 Thursday 13th September, 3.15pm (Miss. Harrison)

Year 6 Thursday 13th September 7.00pm. (Mr. Weston & Mr. Byrne. This meeting will cover Y6 curriculum, SATs and PGL).

Schools Music Service Roadshow

If your child is in the Juniors and would like to learn a musical instrument in School we will be hosting a workshop from the Schools Music Service on Friday 14th September in the School Hall at 3.15pm. At this meeting, there will be the opportunity to listen to staff from the Music Service regarding their lessons which take place in small groups in school and are a paid for activity. These lessons do take place during the school day which means that children do miss lessons.



School Uniform

A few reminders about our School Uniform ready for our return back to School in September. This does seem like a list of dos and don'ts but, if all Parents ensure that their child keeps to the Uniform Policy, it is fair for all children and Parents. We do have high standards of Uniform and we will ensure that all aspects of the policy are adhered to so that children are not spending their day making comparisons with each other – enough time for that later on in life! If your child does not have the correct uniform, please send a letter of explanation in to the Class Teacher so that we know the reason for not having the correct uniform, shoes etc for the odd day.

Earrings and other jewellery are NOT part of our School Uniform. If your Child wishes to have their ears pierced please do this at the beginning of the Summer Holiday so that by the time they come back to School in September they will be able to remove their earrings for School. If your Child comes to School wearing earrings they will be kept in School at break-times and lunchtimes and will be unable to do PE. They will have to wear plasters for the whole day but will sit inside when the other Children are out on the playground. When the Children are running around, earrings are a health and safety risk to the Child. Any other jewellery is not allowed except for a watch when the Children can tell the time. Nail varnish is not allowed in School. Please ensure that this is removed before your Child comes into School.

A reminder that extreme haircuts including shaved parts are not allowed in school. This is part of our Uniform Policy that Governors regularly review. Braids in hair need to be tied back as all long hair does. Hair which is longer than neck length needs to be tied back with a small, blue bobble with no large hair adornments. Small, blue clips or a thin, blue hairband is all that is required for School. We do not want Primary School to become a competition as to what each other are wearing.

Summer or Winter Uniform can be worn by all Children when they return in September. This is very much your choice - dependent on the weather! Winter Uniform must be worn after the October Half Term Holiday. All coats should be navy blue or black with no logos on them. For our PE kits, children need pumps for indoor lessons and they can wear trainers when outdoors. You will be informed of the days of (possible) outdoor PE in September so that the children can bring trainers in. If the children do not have trainers in school they will still be able to wear their pumps; please ensure that these are in school every day.

Sorry for the long list but I would not want you to buy the wrong uniform, have an extreme haircut, have ears pierced late in the holiday or the children come to school in the wrong colour of coat and children get upset or you ending up out of pocket in September.



Packed Lunches / Allergies in School

If your child has a packed lunch, please ensure that it is brought into school in a **SMALL** packed lunch bag / box. We have limited space and we are trying to encourage our children to put their lunchboxes on the trolleys neatly. This is not easy if some people bring carrier bags, backpacks etc.

A reminder that we have a number of children with severe allergies in school. Due to this we cannot allow nuts or nut based products to be sent into School in their packed lunch boxes. Although we do appreciate that the children like these, please leave these for home consumption. We have taken nuts and nut based products off Children who bring them into School and we will continue to do this to ensure the safety of all our Children. We also do not allow sweets/ chocolate bars or fizzy drinks in School lunchboxes.

Due to various allergies in School, other medical conditions and other considerations to be taken into account, we do not allow sweets in Packed lunch boxes and we do not give out sweets or treats that are sent in for children's birthdays or from holidays. I am sure that you will understand that we have the health of all our children at the forefront of our minds at all times.



Leavers

As well as saying Goodbye to our Year 6 children we are saying 'Au Revoir' to a number of other people from Oakdene over the next week.

We say Goodbye to Miss. Green, Ms. Heath and Mrs. Roberts who have all worked extremely hard supporting our children in classes. Also Mrs Hewitt who has been working in the office is leaving us. We wish them well as they move onto pastures new.

We also say Goodbye to Cerys who is moving to a new school in September. Cerys will be missed by everyone at Oakdene and I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in her new school.

Goodbye

Breakfast/After School Club

We have already started taking bookings for Breakfast and After School Club for September. Please note that we must have payment **IN ADVANCE** of bookings. We can still accept ad hoc bookings to help parents, but you must ensure that payment is made within 24 hours of the booking. Thank you



Parking

Many of you will have seen the problems that the coaches had coming up Ashton Avenue last Friday when returning from a trip. This was due to cars being double parked or not leaving any access for other vehicles.

This was extremely worrying as a Fire Engine or Ambulance may not have been able to get along Ashton Avenue in an emergency.

Coupled with this incident there have been numerous occasions when there have been altercations outside school due to parking difficulties.

We all appreciate that parking is an issue (the car park is being extended so that Staff do not have to park on the road) and we know that Parents, Grandparents and friends need to drive to school in most cases. The school was built when there were less cars on the roads and Ashton Avenue is used as a thoroughfare by many people.

I just ask that you think about the safety of our children (especially if there were to be an emergency in School) and also think about our residents who have to put up with parking at all times.

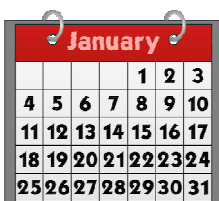
Please park sensibly and thoughtfully and if there are any issues, please try to be polite!!

There will be Police and PCSOs patrolling the areas outside of school but we know that there are no issues when they are there!

Thank you so much and I do appreciate how difficult it is for everyone.



Term Dates:



School Closes	School Re-opens
	Wednesday 5 th September 2018
Friday 19 th October 2018	Tuesday 30 th October 2018
Thursday 20 th December 2018	Tuesday 8 th January 2019
Friday 15 th February 2019	Monday 25 th February 2019
Friday 5 th April 2019	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019
Friday 24 th May 2019	Tuesday 4 th June 2019
Wednesday 24 th July 2019	

Building Work

During the holidays you may notice that the school will have some building work being undertaken. As most of you will recall, we had half a new roof last year. Thankfully the other half will now be replaced over the Summer. There will be cabins on site as well as a large amount of scaffolding. I really hope that the weather remains dry so that the roof can be completed before we come back in September.

We are also having the staff car park extended as well as improving security measures in the car park. There will be no pedestrian access to the main entrance across the staff car park which will have an electronic access system. The entrance to the main entrance in school and for Breakfast Club / After School Club will be the gate opposite the top of Galston Avenue, which will be moved slightly. The car park will be for staff and deliveries only and an inter-com will be in place to the office.

These works will not have any effect on the School Holiday Club during the first week or the sports club in the last week of the holidays.

We hope all the work will be finished by 5th September but they are all very much weather dependent. If there are any changes to these access arrangements for the first day back you will be informed by text. Thank you.

Summer Holidays

A reminder that school closes on Friday 20th July at 3.15pm with After School Club running until 5.45pm. School re-opens on WEDNESDAY 5th September 8.50am, with Breakfast Club opening at 7.45am.

Once again, we hope our Year 6 children have many happy opportunities, wonderful dreams and a fantastic future. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H. Lee

Headteacher

