

'Growing and Learning Together'

through our values of

Responsibility, Respect, Friendship,
Honesty, Determination and Pride.



Oakdene Primary School
Ashton Avenue
Rainhill
L35 0QQ
01744 678410
email: oakdene@sthelens.org.uk

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and that you have enjoyed your first few days back at Oakdene Primary School. A special welcome to all of you who are joining us for the first time. It has been a pleasure to meet several parents at the school gate and in the playground, and if we haven't met yet, I'm sure we soon will.

On Wednesday, as the children walked through the school gates, I felt immensely proud. All the children looked incredibly smart, were punctual and ready for school. Well, done parents and children alike.

I am delighted to be able to write my first letter as the Headteacher of Oakdene Primary School. The staff and children have made me feel very welcome during the first week and I feel privileged to have been appointed to lead this school into the future.

We have a very exciting Autumn Term ahead of us. For me, it is particularly exciting as it is my first term at Oakdene. As a staff, we very much aim to unlock the amazing talent that your children have. We will have the highest expectations of behaviour & attitudes to learning, and we will strive to help all children achieve in a safe & happy environment where they are enriched by the exciting and engaging activities. All children deserve the very best education. From my experience of being a teacher, Deputy and Headteacher of several schools, I know that a successful, happy and an ultimately 'great' school depends on all of us working together.

Being a parent myself, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is evident in all areas across the school. Together with the Governing Body and the Local Authority, the staff and I intend on continuing to improve the school at every level and make Oakdene a truly 'Great' school.

Since my appointment, I have had the opportunity to visit the school on several occasions and to meet with Mr Forester, Mrs Shelford, Mrs Lee, pupils, and staff. I would like to thank them all for their support and help in ensuring that the transition has been smooth and successful, and I believe stand me in good stead for a great year ahead.

During my visits to classrooms this week, I was very pleased to observe children who were happy and engaged in their learning. The children here have exceptional behaviour as well as a positive attitude to their learning and school life. I believe with the right attitude, respect, and excellent behaviour, the children here can achieve, what for some, may be the impossible.

I know how vital working in partnership with parents is in ensuring that children experience their primary school journey as one which is truly positive and rewarding. I strongly believe achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand to ensure each child's excellent progress. I hope you will support our high expectations in all areas, especially in behaviour, growth mindset and achievement.



I hope that all parents/carers will join us in wanting & achieving the best for their children. At Oakdene Primary School we have an 'open door' policy, so if you ever want to speak to us, or just to know more, please come in & ask.

I will write a regular fortnightly newsletter which will aim to keep you up to date with everything that you need to know. Information can also be found on our school website and ClassDojo.

Finally, I would like to thank you personally for your continued commitment and support towards the staff and pupils of this school. Together we will ensure that Oakdene is, 'THE BEST SCHOOL IN THE WORLD!'

Yours faithfully,

Ms L Young

Thank You

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to pass on their thanks for the cards, good wishes, and gifts that you provided at the end of the year. We really appreciate all your kind thoughts and gestures. Thank you.

School clubs

We are in the process of organising which clubs will take place this term. A letter regarding school clubs will follow as soon as possible.

Back to school Meetings

Back to school meeting dates have been published on our termly calendar of events. We are looking forward to welcoming all parents and carers into our classrooms to go through what our expectations are for the year ahead. We would love to see you all, so if you are able, please come along.

Reminder about the School Day in September

Just a reminder that all children need to be in school from 8.45am every day. The gates close at 8.55am when the register will be taken. Anyone arriving after 8.55am will be marked as late.

At the end of the day all children come out of school at 3.15pm. The gate is opened at 3.10pm.

Reception class may come out just after 3.10pm to enable them to meet their parents safely. Please can Reception parents stand at the front of all Parents so that we can see you to dismiss the children to you. Once you have collected your child(ren) please ensure that you exit from the playground as soon as possible.

Parents Evenings

Parents consultation will be face to face in the Autumn and Spring Term this year. We would like to ensure that parents are invited back into school and can meet their child's class teacher face to face and build a happy and successful relationship. In the Summer term, we will send out your child's annual report with an opportunity to discuss the report if required. Please see dates in our Calendar of Events that has been placed onto Dojo.

Any concerns, worries, queries or questions

Please flag up any concerns or questions that you have at any time. There are always members of staff on the playground in the morning, including a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Our email address is oakdene@sthelens.org.uk or phone on 01744 678410.

Free School Meal Eligibility

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals (even when they are in the infants) we will receive extra funding called Pupil Premium which we use to improve the educational provision and resources at Oakdene.

We encourage all Oakdene families to register their details into an online free school meal portal. Once your details are entered, it will keep checking your eligibility over time in case your circumstances change, ensuring that you (and the school) don't miss out on entitlements. If you haven't done it already, please follow this link:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

Eligibility is based on one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Once eligible, your child will continue to receive free school meals in primary or secondary school until they have finished their current phase of education i.e., primary (Year 6) or secondary (Year 11).

From 1 April 2025, if your child moves between primary and secondary school you will need to reapply for free school meals.

If you would like to apply for Free School Meals, please go to <https://sthelens.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

Children leaving our school site at the end of the day

We do not permit any children to leave the school site unless they have an "adult" collecting them (someone over 16 years old). This is to ensure our children's safety as they leave school.

However, if your child is in Year 5 or 6, we do allow them to leave the school site and walk home, if we have written permission in the form of a letter or email. We will not let children leave school with older siblings unless we have written permission for your child to leave the school site without an "adult" (and this is only for children in Years 5 and 6). This is to ensure the safety of all our children leaving the school site.

Have a great Weekend!