

NEWSLETTER 1-September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of a new school year☺. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the kind gifts and cards that I received at the end of the summer term. ☺

I, with my staff, am very much looking forward to continuing leading and sustaining the good work that we offer at Orsett CE Primary (OUR) School as we move forward, working with The Vine Trust Academy.

Your children will continue to be at the heart of all that we wish to achieve! Alongside yourselves, we can work together to help each and every one of the children to become confident learners in order to support them in developing wider life skills, in preparation for their future. ☺

On behalf of us all at Orsett I would like to welcome: All the children and the new families, who have joined us this term. I would also like to welcome Mrs Lucas, who will be teaching class 5 this year. She already has a good knowledge of the school as she started volunteering several years ago, and, of course, completed her training with us. I hope that, for everyone who has joined us this term, their time with us will be happy, productive and successful.

Diary Dates

We have continued to plan key events for the year and these diary dates are attached with the newsletter. Therefore, as much as possible, you will have advance notice of the majority of events taking place at the school to help you plan your own diaries. However, there is always that possibility dates may need to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances, if this is the case you will be informed as soon as possible.

There will, no-doubt, still be additional events and/or activities taking place during the year and we will keep you informed of these as they are decided.

For our new families any Newsletter that I send out will be on bright yellow paper so hopefully it will show up at the bottom of your child's bag.☺ The newsletters will also be posted on the website.

Uniform

It was lovely to see all our children arriving at school looking so smart at the beginning of the year. Thank you for your support ensuring that the uniform policy is complied with as it does make such a difference and we are proud to show that our children are a part of Orsett.

Remember, that our uniform can be purchased from either Sue's Uniform shop, in Grays or Little Sprogs in Corringham.

PE T-Shirts

Last year we were very lucky to be able to purchase new PE tops for the children, due to the donation from OPT-IN. Every child in school belongs to a house colour, and their PE top should match this. Please make sure that you purchase a PE top from one of our suppliers if tops are lost or misplaced. Please remember that NO jewellery can be worn for PE, and if trainers are worn they MUST be changed into for the lesson and be black and non-marking. Thank you for your support with the uniform in general.

School Trips

We will continue to ask for voluntary contributions towards school trips or activities arranged with outside agencies. We will give you as much notice as possible for these additional opportunities that we offer to the children. However, if there are not enough contributions towards these activities we may have to cancel them at short notice. This is not taken lightly, as it is the children who miss out, but, unfortunately the school cannot afford to cover the costs of the non-payments.

If you do have **any** problems with sending in the money or making payments **please do come and speak to me confidentially**, so that we can see if we can come to some arrangement. I would hate for any child to miss out due to the lack of trying to help out.

Motivating and inspiring our children to achieve... in a creative, caring Christian community

School Dinners

As you know **all** Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a **free school** meal. Unfortunately, this still does not extend to Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6). Therefore, I would also like to remind you that we do ask for payment of all dinners to be taken in a week, to be paid on a **Monday** as we cannot keep large amounts of money in school. We are now **not** allowing for arrears to exceed £20, as this causes yourself and us difficulties when having to make payments and chase up.

Please can you also ensure that all money is in a **named** envelope. Change cannot be given to pay for school tuck. Thanks☺

Whilst on the subject of school dinners, we have several children in school with various **food allergies (including nut)**, therefore we would appreciate it if you consider what you are putting in your child's lunch box and remind them that they are **NOT** to share their food. The staff have all had up-to-date training regarding using an epi-pen, and a care plans are in place, but it would be good if everyone can be vigilant. Thank you.

Clubs

Clubs run by staff will restart the week beginning **September 18th and end on Friday, December 8th**. You will shortly receive a Club Letter outlining the clubs on offer this term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff who give up their free time to run these clubs for our children. We will continue to offer an increasing number of clubs which are very popular with our children. This does sometimes mean that we cannot always accommodate all those who want to do a particular club so it is important that, if your child is given a place in a club, they attend it as otherwise another child will lose out.

I would also like to remind you that clubs are **not** offered to **class R** for the first term, as we feel they need the time to settle into school and a regular routine first.

Reminder: the old style £1 coins go out of circulation in October, so we will **NOT** be accepting the old £1 coins from the end of September.

And finally...

We are all committed to working hard to ensure that our children receive an enjoyable and enriching education in an environment where every child feels safe, happy and secure. It was yet another hugely successful year, last year, and we remain determined to continue to improve the quality of education that we offer.

We are proud of the success of our '**Open Door Policy**' and, if you have **any** concerns at all (no matter how small they may seem), please come in and talk to your child's teacher or myself about them. Unless we are made aware of any issues we will be unable to deal with them and the sooner any concerns come to light then the quicker your child will once again feel confident and able to achieve.

Our children continue to be the most important part of our school and, by continuing to work together to support each and every child both at home and at school, I really do believe that our children will be given the very best start to their life both socially and educationally. So - here's to another year where together we will make a difference to all the children in our care ☺

Yours sincerely



Miss S Jones – Headteacher

PS Growth Mindset thought...

Teach your children that strength doesn't come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't!