



Newsletter

January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the words of the Ofsted inspector, we are 'good without a doubt!'

I apologise for the slight delay in producing this month's newsletter but I wanted to wait in order to share our latest Ofsted report. As you may be aware, Ofsted visited the school on January 11th to carry out a short inspection. It had been almost 5 years since our last inspection so we were keen to know if they shared our positive view of the school. I am delighted to say the inspector wholeheartedly endorsed our opinion and the school continues to be good.

The report is highly positive and is testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff here who give one hundred percent every single day to ensure your children have an excellent, well-rounded education. I would like to thank every one of them for all their hard work and commitment to the school. Of course we already knew that Old Leake Primary School is a great place to learn but it is lovely to have external validation of that. I would like to congratulate the children whose behaviour was exemplary as always. During the visit they responded to the inspector articulately and politely. Thanks too to the governors who challenge and support the school and make a positive contribution to children's education here. It is important to remember that they are volunteers but have a vital part to play in raising standards.

I was particularly pleased with the report, as I felt it captured the very essence of our school and I would like to share with you some of the particularly pleasing aspects of their findings:-

'You and your staff are a committed and passionate team who are determined to provide the best possible education for the pupils at Old Leake Primary School.

Staff provide a vibrant place to learn where pupils are well cared for.

The positive and caring ethos is evident.

Teachers show warmth and acknowledge when pupils are kind and considerate.

The adult expertly facilitated the children's learning.

You are proactive and tenacious in your approach.

Teachers provide exciting and stimulating lessons.

Pupils' workbooks show that they have a rich curriculum that enables them to think deeply and enquire.'

I hope you will agree that the report is extremely accurate and well-deserved. I would like to take this opportunity too to thank you, the parents and carers, who support us in our endeavours at Old Leake Primary School.

All of the school stakeholders are rightly thrilled with Ofsted's findings but rest assured we will still be striving to improve further.

Thank you for your continued support.

Susan Rayner

Attendance for Term 2

Pupil attendance is closely monitored by the school, aiming to achieve at least 95% attendance by all pupils (excluding Nursery). All requests for absence must be requested in advance in writing. Following is a breakdown of attendance across the school from Monday 30th October 2017 to Wednesday 21st December 2017. Well done to Year 1!

R	96.62%
1	99.04%
2	94.69%
3	96.73%
4	97.60%
5	97.31%
6	96.06%
Whole School	96.88%

Winners of the cinema tickets last term were Holly Collins KS1 and Ryan Jay KS2. Well done!

Parking

To avoid an accident occurring please ensure that children do not enter school via the staff car park. Children must wait for the gate to be unlocked and enter school via the playground entrance. Please also ensure that you do not use the staff car park for parking or as a turn-around point during the morning drop-off and afternoon collection times. The yellow zig-zags also indicate that the school lay-by is for buses **only** at these times.



Thursday 8th February

The PTA are organising a



Valentine's Disco

Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One : 5pm-6pm

Key Stage Two : 6pm-7.30pm

Tuckshop available!

£3.50 each

to include a bag of sweets and a burger or hotdog

Please reserve your place at the school office by Monday 5th February



Name of Child..... Class.....

I am enclosing £.....

**I would like my child to attend the Valentine's Disco
On Thursday 8th February at:**

5pm-6pm / 6pm-7.30pm

My child would like a burger/hotdog

(please delete as appropriate)



Old Leake Primary & Nursery School
Term Dates for 2016/2017

Term 1:

Thursday 1st September 2016 (Training Day)
Friday 2nd September 2016 - Friday 14th October 2016

Term 2:

Monday 31st October 2016 - Wednesday 21st December 2016

Term 3:

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 - Friday 10th February 2017

Term 4:

Monday 20th February 2017 - Friday 31st March 2017

Term 5:

Tuesday 18th April 2017 - Friday 26th May 2017
Monday 1st May 2017 - Bank Holiday

Term 6:

Monday 5th June 2017 - Thursday 20th July 2017



Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 8th February - Valentine's Disco.

Friday 9th February - End of Term 3.

Monday 19th February - Start of Term 4.

Friday 9th March - Y5/6 Trip to Amazona Zoo (more information to follow).

Monday 26th March and Wednesday 28th March - Parents' Evening (more information to follow).

Thursday 29th March - End of Term 4.

Monday 16th April - Start of Term 5.

Friday 25th May - End of Term 5.

PE Kit

Please kindly ensure your child has a winter PE kit at school as well as their normal shorts, t-shirt and plimsolls. We suggest a pair of jogging bottoms and jumper/hooded top in the winter months as on dry days PE still takes place outside.

Headlice

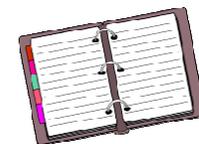
We have been advised of several children in different classes with headlice. Please ensure that you check your child's head regularly for headlice, they will not go away on their own. It is advisable for children with long hair to wear their hair back whilst at school. Treatments can be obtained from your child's doctor on prescription or from a chemist or supermarket. Please ask at the school office if you would like any further advice.

Reception Class

In Reception we have been learning about Space. The children have been focusing on the story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. They have enjoyed acting out and retelling the story with props. They have also created their own story maps to help them remember key events in the story.

We have created a new space role play area and over the last few weeks and many children have taken on the roles of astronauts and aliens.

This week we have begun exploring the planets and will be making our own papier-mâché planet models. The children are really engaged in the topic and love learning space facts.



Key Stage One

After the excitement of Christmas, the children have settled back in to working hard and have become really engaged in our "Ready, Steady, Go" topic. We started this topic studying the book "Oi, Get Off Our Train!" The children have written their own stories based on this imaginative story by choosing their own mode of transport and selecting a troubled animal to board their vehicle. The stories were great and we all enjoyed reading each one to see how the children had put their own stamp on this repetitive tale. Currently, in literacy lessons we are investigating a Transformers crash landing and we look forward to reporting on this event!

We have looked at transport in our own environment too. We walked in to the village and carried out a traffic survey to observe how many different modes of transport venture through our village. The children were so excited every time a vehicle passed us and we even got a friendly toot from a passing lorry! We compiled a tally chart and graph with our results. A discussion about road safety followed too.

As you know, we encourage the children to read at home as much as possible as it is so important they are constantly building those key reading skills. However, we are also seeking parents who might be able to come in to school to listen to year 1 and 2 readers. So if this is you please speak to a member of the Key Stage 1 team. (Please note DBS checks need to be carried out prior to volunteering). In addition to this help, next term we are planning a trip so if you are able to support either class on a trip please, again, speak to a member of the KS1 team. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Year 4

In Literacy this term, we have been writing a story based on the 'Tear Thief' book and next week we are starting our new genre - Instructions, which will be linked to our topic 'Waterworlds'. In Maths we learned all about multiplication and division and we are now extending our knowledge of Fractions and hopefully by the end of this term we will be able to: find equivalent fractions, simplify fractions, add and subtract fractions.

In Book Study we have just finished a wonderful book called 'When Jessie Came Across the Sea'. In Art we are looking at Monet and his water paintings and in Music we have started to prepare a small presentation with Year 3 for Easter time.

So far, we have had a good start of the new year.

Year 5

Another busy term so far in Year 5 has seen us win the reading cup three times in a row! Well done Year 5 and keep up the good work. During a PE lessons this term we have been learning the skills needed to play hockey. Unfortunately the weather has not been kind to us on a couple of Mondays and so our plans have had to change. This week we played "crab football", where the children have to move around the hall like crabs whilst trying to control a ball and ultimately score a goal. This was great fun! On another wet and miserable Monday, we got out the climbing frame in the hall. We considered how to travel under, over and through the apparatus. The children had great fun on the frame, with some being brave enough to climb over the top of it.



Year 6

Year 6 have been really absorbed by our rainforest topic this term. They have carried out lots of research into the different layers of the rainforest, looking closely at which animals and plants make their homes there. In teams, they have made models of the different layers, using their research to create accurate representations of each layer and its inhabitants.

