

*'Be the best
you can be.'*



Issue No 04

Kindness

Confidence

Resilience

Message from Mrs Welbourne

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've made it to the end of January! Despite the cold and dark mornings, it has been wonderful to see our pupils and families return to school after Christmas. It is pleasing to see the children return with such enthusiasm for their new learning, excitement to see their friends and displaying our school values really well.

This term has also got off to a determined start as we have introduced morning interventions to support children to stay on track towards their Early Learning Goals. These interventions begin at the very start of the day and include activities such as fine motor skills, speaking and listening, reading and handwriting; all vital skills for children to develop this year. We are already noticing the positive impact these activities are having not only in children's progress but confidence too. I'd like to kindly remind parents that arriving on time ensures that your child doesn't miss out on these crucial interventions.

Over the last few weeks, I have enjoyed spending lots of time in the Reception environment, particularly monitoring the hard work our pupils are putting into their phonics and reading sessions. If you did not see my recent post on Tapestry about Reading, may I direct you to read it to gain important updates and reminders about how we facilitate reading groups and distribute books.

Our focus value of this half term is **Responsibility**. Our class and phase assemblies and PSHE lessons will focus on teaching our pupils what responsibility is, what it can look like in and out of school and the importance of everyone playing their part. It also ties in nicely with Reception's Learning Theme 'Out of this World', where they are learning about Space, and the importance of looking after our world. Parents and carers can help embed this half term value by supporting children to be responsible for their belongings (such as coats, bookbags and water bottles), being responsible about their learning and encouraging children to read their schoolbook frequently and be responsible for the environment with things such as tidying up and litter picking.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in encouraging our school values and fostering the importance of being responsible. Together, we can ensure that our school remains a positive and welcoming place for all.

Best wishes,

Mrs Welbourne
Assistant Headteacher



New learning theme 'Out of this World!'

This half term, Reception pupils are embarking on an exciting new learning journey with the theme 'Out of this World' – all about space! The children are in the process of exploring our solar system, learning to name the planets and discover fascinating facts about key astronauts like Neil Armstrong and Mae Jemison. They'll also get hands-on with the

parts of a rocket and be able to name them, and discuss the importance of looking after our planet, linking to this

half term's value of Responsibility. In the next couple of weeks children will enjoy a theme day all about Space with an imaginary crash landing—more information about this to follow over the next week.



Reading Books and Diaries

In reference to my post on Tapestry, Reading books and diaries are carefully managed by staff to ensure children are making excellent progress. Please may we ask that parents and carers do sign the reading diary as frequently as possible and encourage

children to take care in bringing their diary every day to school. We have already had to replace a number of misplaced diaries, something we cannot afford to keep doing. Similarly it's wonderful to track the progress your child is making through comments within it. We thank you for your support with this.



Healthy Eating

At our school, teaching children about healthy eating and making informed food choices is a top priority. We are committed to promoting a balanced, nutritious approach to food that supports both their physical and mental wellbeing. As part of this commitment, we want to share some valuable resources available to parents and carers.



The **Change Makers Healthy Lifestyle Services** offers a free programme designed to help families in Warwickshire lead healthier lives. The program, which is part of **Connect for Health** (your school nursing service), includes a variety of healthy lifestyle initiatives, including workshops that can support you as parents and carers. One of their new workshops focuses on **Fussy Eaters** – a useful resource for those navigating mealtime challenges with their children. You can find more information about this and other programs on their website: [Change Makers Healthy Lifestyles Service](https://www.changemakers.org.uk/healthy-lifestyles-service).

For children who enjoy school lunches, we are proud to provide a carefully planned menu that ensures a balance of nutrition and supports their overall health. For those who bring packed lunches, we kindly ask that you support our healthy food choices by packing meals that include **fruit and/or vegetables**, and avoid items like **chocolate, sweets, fizzy drinks**, or anything containing **nuts** (for allergen safety).

Exciting Staff News—Miss Melles is going international!

As well as being a teaching assistant for Myton Gardens, Miss Melles continues to work very hard outside of school hours, as she is also a trustee for Headlines Craniofacial Support charity, a charity very close to her heart.



As a result of her hard work and dedication to the charity, Miss Melles was carefully selected to attend a 2-day workshop based on mainstreaming genomics for precision population health, which is taking place in **Singapore**, during the week commencing 3rd February. This is an amazing opportunity for Miss Melles, as she will be working with The UK Academy of Medical Sciences and the College of Clinician Sciences Singapore, to identify many important elements facing our society, such as the challenges and barriers to implementing genetic testing for personalised population health, and to discover ways of how to overcome these, plus many more topics. Not only will she be attending a workshop, Miss Melles has also been asked to be a guest speaker on a panel at a seminar whilst she's out there too.

Despite being miles away, Miss Melles is keen to share her journey and the learning opportunities it will bring with the children at Oakley and Myton Gardens. She will be sending us photos of famous landmarks she will visit, the traditional food Singaporeans may eat and where she will stay. Exploring the world of technology, she may even video call us too!

I'm sure you will join us all in wishing Miss Melles a wonderful adventure, we are very proud of her and look forward to supporting her in her role with Headlines charity in the future.

If you would like to learn more about the work that this charity carries out please click this link – [Headlines Craniofacial Support](http://www.headlines.org.uk).

Playground Equipment

We are delighted to announce that our playground equipment has finally been installed. Despite delays due to weather and materials, the children are over the moon after patiently waiting and observing its progress during their playtimes! We have worked with [Pentagon Play](http://www.pentagonplay.co.uk) to create two wonderful areas for our children to



enjoy whilst also developing many skills such as gross motor development, social interaction and communication and language. Running along the side of the building by Early Years, children now have the chance to enjoy practising their physical skills in riding trikes, bikes and scooters on our new road markings. We ensured these provided examples of real life road markings to develop their understanding of the world and we are positive children will have hours of fun out there. In addition to the road markings, we have also opted for a play area to support children's physical development and enjoyment. This carefully planned area has shock proof flooring covered by artificial grass to give it a wonderful aesthetic, completing our new build. Children also have the opportunity to use the multi-purpose blocks to support climbing and imagination.



Next Steps

Our next steps towards developing this area, is to build multi-purpose wooden huts alongside the road markings that can be used for role play in a variety of ways, such as shop, petrol station, train station and so on. If you know of anyone handy who may be able to dedicate some time to helping us achieve our goal please do come and speak to Mrs Welbourne. We would be delighted and incredibly grateful for any support.



Road Safety



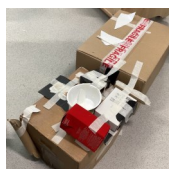
At the start of this half term, we welcomed Louise from Warwickshire County Council's Safe and Active Travel Programme into school. She delivered a brilliantly interactive assembly to both classes about the importance of staying safe when out and about, and taught the children important checks to make when crossing the road. All children received a book and a reflective teddy bear key ring to clip to their bag or the zip on their coat, to encourage extra safety.



Road safety is a huge priority at Oakley School, especially whilst we await for the country park to open. We take this opportunity to remind parents and carers, that although our car park is relatively secure, we have noticed an increasing number of children running across the road, not using the zebra crossing appropriately and not waiting for adults when crossing. The safety of our children is paramount and we encourage them to practice the tips shared by Louise when moving around school site. We appreciate your support in addressing this.

Design and Technology

This half term, children in Reception have been working hard on a Design and Technology topic all about making models and exploring different types of joins. Linked to their topic on space, children have been using their new skills to create a range of spaceship models. We have been incredibly impressed with the children's enthusiasm but also their developing skills in using a range of tools such as scissors, hole puncher and using different temporary joins such as tying, sticking, split pins, flange, tabs and folds. Well done to our budding designers and creators!



School Health Newsletter

Read your November health and wellbeing newsletter, delivered to you from Connect for Health, your School Nursing Service. [Click here](#) for newsletter.



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Upcoming Dates for your Diary

WB 3rd February—Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 7th February—Express yourself' non uniform day—see email on MCaS for more information

WB 10th February—Theme Day linked to Space—more information to follow

Friday 14th February—Term ends 3.15 p.m.

WB 17th February—Half Term Holiday. School closed.

Monday 24th February—Spring 2 Term Begins

Playtime Resources

We are still on the lookout for extra items to enhance our playtime provision. If you have any of the following items that you are looking to get rid of or no longer have a purpose for please drop into the Primary office:

- Milk crates or stackable crates / supermarket delivery crates
- Large outdoor connect 4
- Large outdoor Lego bricks
- Large tyres (especially looking for some tractor size ones)
- Plastic Small world toys
- Small toy cars
- Outdoor bowling skittles
- Chalk
- Space hoppers / pogo stick
- Old large decorating paintbrushes and paint rollers
- Scooters
- Bikes
- Trikes
- Balance bikes
- Children's helmets

Term Dates

Autumn term 2024

Friday 29th November: Teacher Training Day (children not in school)

Friday 20th December: Autumn Term Ends at 1pm.

Spring term 2025

Monday 6th January: Teacher Training Day (children not in school)

Tuesday 7th January: Spring Term Starts

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February: Half Term Break

Friday 11th April: Spring Term Ends

Summer term 2025

Monday 28th April: Summer Term Starts

Monday 5th May: Bank Holiday

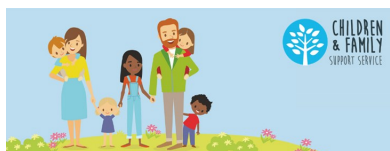
Monday 26th to 30th May: Half Term Break

Friday 27th June: Teacher Training Day (children not in school)

Friday 18th July: Summer Term Ends

Monday 21st July: Teacher Training Day (children not in school)

Family Information Service



The latest edition of the Family Information Service newsletter is available to read at: [FIS Newsletter](#)

Tell us what you think...



... and help influence the development of services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Warwickshire

**Progress starts with listening,
which aids understanding and
enables better solutions.**

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendfamilyfeedback

Warwickshire's SEND Local Offer

**Has lots of information and support for children
and young people with SEND and their families.**

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send





Information Sessions for Warwickshire Parents and Carers

Courses available online – via Zoom

Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People with Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Thursday 26th September 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Understanding Emotion Regulation in School Aged Children

Thursday 10th October 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Understanding and Supporting Children aged 3-11 Years with Anxiety

Thursday 24th October 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Understanding and Supporting Children Aged 12+ Years Anxiety

Thursday 7th November 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Understanding and Supporting School Aged Children Who Self-harm

Thursday 21st November 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Understanding Sensory Needs in School Aged Children

Thursday 5th December 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Understanding Low Mood in Children and Young People

Thursday 9th January 2025, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Understanding Self-esteem in Children and Young People

Thursday 10th April 2025, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Places on our sessions are subject to availability. To book your place please email risecommunityoffer@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

Please note: the sessions are available for Warwickshire residents only.