



Oaklands School

"The best for all, the best from all"

Montgomery Way, Winsford,
Cheshire CW7 1NU
Telephone: 01606 551048

Head Teacher: Neil Oxley

9th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

End of term Newsletter

As we approach the end of what has been a busy and successful autumn term, I am writing to provide some key information on the following areas:

- The arrangements for the final week of term
- Ensuring your child has good attendance in order to be successful in school
- Providing your child with appropriate and acceptable uniform
- Holiday Activities for families over the Christmas holidays
- Cost of living support – West Cheshire
- Free School Meals vouchers for eligible families over the holiday period
- Staff leavers – Mrs Kidwell and Mrs Clewes
- Return to school date in January

FINAL WEEK OF TERM – CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Monday 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day/Non Uniform Day to support Save the Children

Students are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper or their own clothes on Monday to support Save the Children. A donation of £1 is suggested which can be paid via SchoolMoney.

Tuesday 13th December – Christmas Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 13th December at Over St John's Church, CW7 2LY, Winsford. You are all invited to join us for the carol service which will be held from 11.00am – 12.00pm. Students will be taken to the Church from school and will return in time for lunch. Mince pies and coffee will be available to purchase, and there will be a raffle with a number of prizes.

Please note: Students must attend in full school uniform on this day

Wednesday 14th December –Christmas Lunch/Non Uniform Day

On Wednesday 14th December we will be having our Christmas lunch in school. This is a whole school event and students will be served with a Christmas dinner; therefore students who normally bring a packed lunch will not require one on this day. This is a non-uniform day and we would

An OFSTED Outstanding School 2010/2011, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2019/2020

www.oaklandsschool.org



request a voluntary contribution towards the lunch costs of £2.50 per student which can be paid via SchoolMoney.

Thursday 15th December – Pantomime visit

As mentioned in a previous letter, students will be attending the Sleeping Beauty Pantomime at the Grange Theatre in Northwich.

Students must attend in full school uniform on this day

Friday 16th December – Last day of term – Finish at 12.30pm

The last day of term will include the end of term celebration assemblies in the morning.

Student must attend in full school uniform on this day, and school will close at 12.30pm.

ATTENDANCE: Ensuring your child has good attendance in order to be successful in school

We must again stress the importance of how essential it is for students to have good school attendance. Oaklands prides itself on the comprehensive curriculum and qualifications on offer to the students. However, for any student to be successful in their learning they must have good attendance. We do not wish for any student to not make expected progress or fail any qualifications due to poor attendance. Every single day counts - and a day missed here or there is a day in which your child misses out.

Please see the table below which provides an indication of the impact of absence:

Attendance percentage	Amount of school lost in a year
100% Attendance	0 Days Missed 0 days of learning missed
95% Attendance	9 days Absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed
90% Attendance	19 Days Absence 3 Weeks and 4 days of learning missed
85% Attendance	28 Days Absence 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed
80% Attendance	38 Days Absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed
75% Attendance	46 Days Absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed

The attendance policy can be viewed on the following link: [Attendance policy](#) or via the school website. You can also discuss your child's attendance with their form tutor and attendance will also be discussed and shared with you during parents' evenings.

UNIFORM: Providing your child with the appropriate and acceptable uniform

Uniform is an essential part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps students feel pride in their school.

For the start of the next half term, we will be expecting and reinforcing that all students are required to attend in full school uniform, and this includes wearing:

- **School Blazer** - Blazers are available to order from the school office or online using School Money, which can be accessed by clicking the link on the School Website.
- **School Tie** - Ties are available to order from the school office or online using School Money, which can be accessed by clicking the link on the School Website.
- **Appropriate school shoes** - Only **plain** black low heeled shoes are allowed. Shoes with bold logos or colours are not acceptable.

We are aware that due to the needs of some students, individual plans have been put in place around uniform. I also understand that some families may be facing financial difficulties, so we will do all we can to support the purchasing of uniform items. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor if you have concerns or questions.

Please refer to the [School Uniform and Appearance policy](#) on the website for further information.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES: Holiday Activities for families over the Christmas holidays

The Council, alongside Edsential and a range of community partners, are running a wide range of fantastic activities for the Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) that will run throughout the school winter holiday.

The HAF Programme is funded nationally and provides funding for local organisations to provide activities for children and young people during the holidays, helping them to access healthy food and take part in fun activities over the school holidays.

Over the winter there will be a wide range of HAF programmes delivered across the borough by our local partners.

Edsential

Community interest company, Edsential, is working with 24 organisations, including schools, community, voluntary and faith sector organisations, to organise 32 holiday activity clubs throughout the borough this winter period. The holiday clubs will provide local children and families with the following.

- Good quality healthy meals and snacks, with some family cooking sessions plus food and nutritional education
- A variety of directly delivered physical activities such as, climbing, swimming, yoga, golf, judo, skateboarding, dance and drama workshops
- Diverse enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, musical theatre, carol singing, archery, street dance, mindfulness, forest school, trips to Chester Zoo and local Pantos

These sessions can be booked via the Edsential website - <https://edsential.com/haf2022/>

Youth Zones for 11-16 year olds (up to 25 for our SEND children and young people)

Youth Zones, operated by the Council's Youth Service, will be providing eligible children and young people across the borough with a winter offer.

Youth Zones will be open across the borough and all families of children and young people who are eligible for free school meals will be able to register to attend our winter fun activity programme. All children and young people will be offered a healthy balanced hot meal.

Our winter programme will include a Christmas party, including arts and crafts, games and sports and a trip out.

If you would like more information, please email:
EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

A number of organisations have been funded to deliver SEND specific HAF provision across the borough, the varied offer will include sessions for children and young people with an identified need, some sessions will also offer places to their siblings these include ten pin bowling, trampolining, simple cycling and a wide variety of other sessions such as sensory play, festive fun and crafts and disco along with the opportunity to attend the theatre to see a pantomime, food workshops, community cookery, swim sessions and lots lot's more

A healthy meal will be provided at every session for the children and young people in attendance.

For more information, please email:
AimingHighForDisabledChildren@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Please help us to continue to promote the HAF programme to children, young people, parents and carers who may be interested. We want to ensure that all children and young people entitled to access HAF provision are aware of the programme and are supported to take part.

Criteria/eligibility for the programme

This holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Benefits-related free school meals (FSM) are available to pupils if their parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits, and have a claim verified by their school or local authority.

- [Further information on eligibility for free school meals](#)

The Council wants to ensure that the offer of free holiday club provision is available for all children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals in the area, though this does not mean we expect all to attend as the provision is voluntary.

Further information on the HAF Programme can be found on Live Well Cheshire West: [Live Well Cheshire West](#). If you have any questions regarding the HAF programme, please email haf@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT:

It is currently a really challenging time for a number of families across west Cheshire. Families may be worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport. The cost of living is rising, and this could have an impact on all aspects of finances.

Families may want help accessing welfare rights, benefits and debt advice, support getting all the money they're entitled to, or simply want to know more about national recent support measures.

Whatever their money worries may be, the Council has put together some useful information to help.

The page includes a wealth of information including the Household Support Fund, the Council's HELP Scheme, Warm Welcoming Spaces and much more.

- Visit: [Cost of living support](#)

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND PAYMENTS:

Payments for households in receipt of FSM will be made over the Christmas break. Each eligible family will receive £20 per week per child; a total of £40 per pupil for the two-week winter holiday period. We will inform parents by text when the e-codes are available to download.

STAFF LEAVERS:

As some of you may be aware, our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Kidwell and one of our Assistant Headteachers Mrs Clewes, will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Kidwell and Mrs Clewes have been at the school for 14 years and 12 years respectively. We wish them the very best for the future.

Due to the two senior staff leaving, there has been a restructure of the Senior Leadership Team, and from January 2023 the Senior Leadership Team will consist of:

Headteacher: Mr Oxley

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rouse (Curriculum)

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Bradley (Pupil Welfare)

Assistant Headteacher: Miss Howbrigg (SENCo)

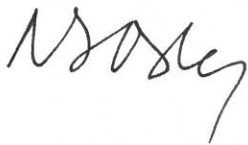
The Governors and I very much look forward to working with the new Senior Leadership Team in January, as we strive to continue to develop the school.

Return to school:

As mentioned previously the school will reopen for the spring term on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023.**

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Oxley', written in a cursive style.

Mr N Oxley
Headteacher