



Ormskirk Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr G.Storch B.Ed. (Hons) P.G. Dip. Psych. N.P.Q.H.

28th April 2024

Dear Parents,

At last the sunshine is here, temperatures are rising this week and there is an exciting and busy term ahead.

Teacher Vacancy

We have just put out an advert for a teacher vacancy to start in September. This is primarily for a maternity leave. If you are interested in this position or know someone who may be the vacancy is advertised on the Lancashire website. The deadline is noon tomorrow on 29th April and the interviews will be on 7th May.

New Reception

We are pleased to say that even though there is a trend of lower birth rate in West Lancashire our Reception is once again full and that all of those who currently attend our nursery were successful in getting a place. There is a meeting for the new reception parents' meeting on Wednesday 1st May at 6pm (Pupil Office / Waterworks' Road Entrance).

Swimming Pool Progress

We have now passed the feasibility stage of the initial plans to have a new swimming pool and are now working on some details. The new pool is now most likely to be located on the field below the infant playground. As with lots of public sector projects this will not be a particularly quick build, but I am excited that the momentum and direction of travel is there now. It is hoped that the majority of the cost will be through grants. Even though it will be larger than the current pool predictions are that it will cost a lot less to run the new pool due to recirculation of the warm air and far better insulation.

Curriculum Development

From Easter to October we are upgrading our humanities and PE curriculum. We are weaving together inspiring experiences and maximizing the opportunities using the school grounds. We already do many inspirational extras – for example on Wednesday last week Y4 had workshops all day about the Plague, whilst Y2 are jetted off to Manchester Airport as part of their study of transport. To help us to link the curriculum to real life we will be looking out for parents or grandparents who are scientists, ex sports stars and artists to come in and meet the children. There will be more details about this shared in upcoming newsletters.

Towards the end of the summer term we will be having a special design technology week. In June we are training up a member of staff in the skills and qualifications needed to lead our own forest school sessions from September (we are looking to link this to design technology and using it as part of the curriculum for the juniors). Meanwhile, orienteering is taking off and other outdoor sports. Nursery swimming is continuing through the summer term, but other year groups are only starting to swim after the Sports Day in June.

Clubs

Taekwondo Club is growing in popularity (Monday lunchtimes). This club is free for the first session and your child can wear a PE kit until they want to commit to purchasing a suit. The early evening session runs from 5.30 to 6.30 in the gym and is open for families not just school pupils (£7 a lesson free to any age and a free suite for beginners).

Football is continuing on Mondays (mixed) and Thursdays (girls) after school. There are details of how to join the football on the weekly newsletters. There are numerous other clubs available to the children and a

Inspire

Aim High

Achieve

Shine



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few new summer clubs are due to start in May. From next week we have employed Mr Fizz Siddique who has been coaching the upper juniors at lunchtimes in football and helps run the football clubs for Active Sport. He will be taking various sports lessons through the week and will be also be working on many evenings for our After School Club – he will be offering children in the after school club many informal and impromptu sports activities.

Sports Day Friday 7th June followed straight afterwards with the Summer Fayre

This will be held on the big field 1 to 3.30pm with seven sports event stations as we did last year, then we move around. All age groups start at the same time and we all finish together. Straight after Sports Day there is the PFA School Summer Fayre which is set up on the front field of the school, this runs from 330 to 530pm. Please save this date in your diary (and pray for fine weather!). We will remind you of which colour your child's house / team is nearer the time.

Residential Trips

The date for the Y4 Camp Night (held on school grounds) is decided within a window of weeks after looking at the long and medium term weather forecasts. The children go home at the end of a school day (typically a Thursday) and then return with sleeping bags and toothbrushes to do many activities such as go-karting, swimming, orienteering, football, marsh mellow cooking. They have tea in our dining room and the next morning wake up to the smell of bacon butties, which help them have the energy to get through the Friday. The Y4 staff will let you know more details and the date as soon as the weather suggests it will be warm enough to have a happy camp night, but is likely to be towards the end of June.

Y5 are off to York for three days Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th July. For any questions about the York trip please email the school office and in the subject heading please put 'York' in the subject heading. Mr Boyd is leading the York trip.

Y6 are heading to London and this year are travelling by train, the London Underground and even on a river boat! It will be a great adventure and will be from Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th June. For any questions about the London trip please email the school office and in the subject heading put 'London'. Whilst I am leading the London trip Miss Blake will be helping a lot with the logistics. A few things to mention: £10 recommended for spending money (the Harry Potter Museum on the way back is v expensive), if there is a train strike we do have a Plan B, but we will know at least two weeks before so fingers crossed won't need this. Trainers are the perfect footwear, but please don't buy a new pair just before as we don't want children getting blisters. A comfortable day bag/ rucksack would be ideal, the main bags / cases will either be transported the day before or collected from Euston station in a big van as explained at our trip meeting last term. There will not be a kit list sent out until two weeks before we travel due to the weather playing a big part in decision making. The first year we went there was a heat wave and last year we (successfully) dodged rain every day.

The Gateway App is not good at displaying balances for parents regarding the York and London Trips, so if you need us to check your balance please email the school office. Half term is the right time to have balances paid off.

Mobile Phones, Scooters, Bicycles and Reading Books

The school governors have been reviewing our policy on mobile phones as we have had a number of issues with social media and our upper junior children joining in with high school groups through siblings etc. Social media minimum legal restrictions are often for 13year olds. If you are worried about where your child



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is when walking home remember there are Air Tags which may help. If you want your child to have a phone before and after school due to a very good reason then they must hand these in as soon as they arrive, otherwise their phone will be confiscated and locked away (for longer than that day). We know that all schools are experiencing the same concerns and that the law regarding social media usage may tighten up, but in the meantime please be sure that you know what your child is reading and with whom they are communicating.

A few reminders: no cycling or scootering across the playgrounds etc. Please hand books in ready to be changed on the due dates (especially those in Year 3). Also, if you drive in a car please always consider where you park. Again a parent has recently parked right across a local resident's drive who has a disability, the next time this happens I have asked the resident to take a photo of the car so we can report the driver to the local police. Back to the school level of consequences – we have introduced a Green Think Sheet for children who intentionally damage the environment, so please check your children don't trample or pick our flowers and plants which will soon be growing all around school. A gardening club will soon be starting up, details will be in the next newsletter.

Holidays and Some Key Dates Ahead

Please ensure that your child arrives at school punctually and keep your child's attendance high so that they have every chance to succeed in their studies. Holidays in term time are only authorised if there are exceptional circumstances for which the criteria is very restricted.

Y1 to the local parish church: Monday 29th April

Y6 SATs: the week beginning Monday 13th May. Assessment for writing continues into June.

Bank Holiday and INSET day (school closed): Monday 6th May and Friday 24th May

Half Term: 27th to 31st May

Y1 phonics screening: the week beginning Monday 10th June.

Tadpole (new Reception) sessions 2.15 to 3.15pm on the 18th, 19th & 20th June

Nursery Open Evening 3.45-5.30pm Wed 19th June

Y3 Trip to Chester: 4th July

Y6 Production: 7pm Wednesday 17th July

Whole school end of year church service: 9am 19th July (this is the last day of the term).

Start of the new school year: Wednesday 4th September

Mr Storch