



Ormskirk Church of England Primary and Nursery School

Inspire, Aim High, Achieve and Shine

Headteacher: Mr G. Storch, BEd (Hons), PGDip Psych, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S. Boyd, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

25/02/2026

Spring 2 Update

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a good half term break. I felt last half term zipped past and no doubt this one will do just the same. I am writing to update you one of our strategic aims of 'preparing for the future.' Including imminently, the short term and slightly longer term.

Imminently

Parents' Evening

Next week is parents' evening for Nursery - Year 6. Mrs McBride has communicated with nursery parents regarding arrangements for this. For parents of children who are YR – Y6, appointments run over two nights (Monday 2nd March 4pm – 6pm and Wednesday 4th March 5pm – 7pm). Please respect the time immediately after school on Monday as it is a long day for staff. If you have not already booked an appointment, please do so by the end of the day tomorrow. If you need help booking appointment, please call school or message on gateway and the booking link will be sent to you. On both evenings, a creche will be available for children from YR-Y6 in the IT suite. Please ensure children don't bring mobile phones.

In terms of logistics, parking will be available on the infant playground and station approach. Please enter through The Hub where you will be welcomed by myself, Mrs Harrison and a few prefects. After signing in, you will be directed to your children's books which will be in the dining room for Y1 – Y6 and 'The Busy Room' for Reception. Once it is your appointment time, please make your way to your child's class (do ask prefects or I for directions if needed).

By the end of the week, a link will be sent to some parents inviting them to make an appointment to meet with Mrs Bull to discuss their child's attendance, discuss successes and how we can signpost for support to remove barriers to good attendance. Some of these slots will be on parents' evening and others will be after school on various nights between now and the end of this half term. By attending these meetings, it demonstrates your commitment to supporting your child to attend school.

 Greetby Hill, Ormskirk, L39 2DP

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World Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday 5th March and, if children wish to, they can come dressed as their favourite book character or wear a hat which links to the book *You Must Bring a Hat* by Simon Philip. On Friday, we will send home WBD tokens that can be redeemed at participating retailers. Mrs Rigby (school librarian) has diligently organised an exciting timetable for the day including visitors reading stories to children, a book swap café and many other activities which will inspire children to read and provide time in the curriculum dedicated to developing high quality book talk.

Regarding reading, please support your children with reading at home by reading with them as much as possible and by returning reading records regularly to ensure that their books can be changed. If you are unsure of the day reading books are due to be changed, please ask your child's teacher at parents' evening.

Short term

Outdoor Learning

The first time I ever visited school, I was amazed at the size of the site and how much outdoor space there is. I still feel we are very fortunate to have space, and its use is something I feel can become a real strength of school. Mr Peetoom whilst being very passionate about sport is also very passionate regarding outdoor learning. This passion coupled with the return of Miss Clarke from maternity leave has created the opportunity for school to develop outdoor learning across school with Mr Peetoom driving this. From 13th April, Mr Peetoom will be leading outdoor learning across school and Miss Clarke (3 days) and Miss Blake (2 days) will teach 4P. Mr Peetoom will still teach 4P for some lessons mainly PE and outdoor learning. Miss Clarke will have the opportunity to teach the children before the end of this half term to get to know them prior to the start of the summer term.

Additionally, the PFA have agreed to fund improvements to the faith garden (this is the area with the table tennis table off the Y6 link corridor) and it is increasingly likely that this work will be completed over the Easter holidays. This will provide additional space for social time during breaks and lunchtime and increase the already numerous activities available at breaks and lunchtimes. I am grateful to the PFA for supporting this.

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Slightly longer term

Broadband and Connectivity

As I mentioned at the start of last half term, we are upgrading our broadband infrastructure. The Department for Education has digital standards that they would like schools to meet by 2030. One of the standards is around broadband connection. We have opted to go for a leased line which is our own dedicated line straight from the telephone exchange. This will make the internet more reliable in a world where it is increasingly important to have good access to internet and many of our school communication systems rely on a secure internet connection to work well. In addition to this, we are likely to be one of the few schools in Lancashire to have an offsite server. This means that there is no physical server here that could be damaged by flood, fire or just fail one day. Again, this is a digital standard the Department for Education would like schools to pursue, and I feel whilst we are updating broadband infrastructure it makes sense to update the server.

I am sharing this with parents as, whilst we fully expect the migration to be seamless, it is worth bearing in mind that there may be some teething problems initially and some school systems may be offline for a day or two. We have requested the migration to happen from 1st April which is during the Easter Holidays to minimise any potential disruption. If I think it's likely that we will lose connection, I will try and communicate this ahead of time and share alternative communication methods.

This work also lays the foundation for any further digital technology improvements we may make in the future and will make those improvements more seamless and sustainable in the long run.

Finally, thanks for reading and I hope you enjoy the significantly brighter mornings and the longer stretch in the evenings as we move towards the Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Boyd

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