

Red Oaks Primary School
2nd February 2024
Newsletter



Ofsted

Last week we had a 2-day Ofsted inspection. I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for your understanding during the inspection. We are very grateful for your support, thank you to those of you who completed the survey or spoke to the inspector on the playground. As soon as we have the final report, we will publish it.

Challenge Partners

On the 17th to the 19th January, we had a Challenge Partner review. Challenge Partners are a practitioner-led education charity accelerating school improvement, leadership development and pupil progress. They share excellent practice across schools and trusts through rigorous peer reviews, tailored school improvement programmes, and national and local collaboration. Our final report is published on the website. We are very pleased with the outcome of the review. We have achieved an Area of Excellence in Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We are all very pleased and I am very proud of all of our staff for helping to achieve this.

NSPCC Number Day

After last year's success, we will be celebrating NSPCC Number Day again this year, on Thursday 22nd February 2024. Children are invited to come into school wearing clothes related to or including numbers (a football or sports shirt, or maybe even dressing up as a dice or calculator!)

The children will then take part in maths games and activities throughout the day. We hope this will be lots of fun for all involved. Suggested donation of £1.00 for NSPCC will be payable on ParentPay.

Children's Mental Health Week 5th-11th February 2024 - 'My Voice Matters'



We will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week next week. This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'. It will be launched in a whole school assembly at the start of the week, during which we will explore what mental health is and help all children to understand that their voice is important and they have a right to be heard.

During the week all children will take part in class activities to promote positive mental health. 1 in 6 children and young people now have a diagnosable mental health condition. By taking part in Children's Mental Health Week, we can help ensure that all children and young people feel listened to and know that they're not alone.

At the end of the week, on Friday 9th February, there will be an Express Yourself non-uniform day. Children may come to school wearing clothes of their choice which they feel express their personality. Express Yourself allows children and young people to celebrate what makes them unique. This could be sharing their favourite hobby, such as skateboarding or dancing, or wearing their favourite colour or accessory. It could be just coming in as themselves - it's their choice!

Founder's Day - 22nd February

You may be aware that, in Girlguiding and Scouting, we have a special day on 22nd February called Thinking Day or Founder's Day. On this day all members of Girlguiding and Scouting celebrate to remember our founders and pioneers, Lord Baden-Powell and his wife, Lady Baden-Powell, both of whom were born on 22nd February. On this day we think about our Promise, our Girlguiding and Scouting heritage and our members around the globe, as we both have organisations all over the world. This year, unusually, 22nd February is on a school day and tradition is that all our members wear their uniform on that day, to shout out about Girlguiding and Scouting, and to show the world that both organisations are still very much alive and going strong in the 21st Century!

We would like to invite any children who are members of Girlguiding/Scouting to wear their uniform to school on Thursday 22nd February.

TimeTables RockStars

As the contest was so close, the Red Oaks Houses Times Table Rock Stars will be announced this Friday 😊

Boom Reader

Please don't forget to record your child's reading on Book Reader so we can celebrate their achievement in school. 😊

RSE Materials

Parents are invited into school to view RSE Materials on 26th March. A letter has been sent to all parents recently with the information.

Multiply scheme- Sing Play Read initiative

A very keen group of Nursery mums have met with Mr Cowell and their children as part of a 5-week free program to share books and boost maths skills and ideas. These are very informal sessions and we already have some names down for a second group of 5 to start in term 4. Anyone interested in F1 (Nursery) please let Mr Cowell or Miss Newton know as there are free books and resources available for both parents and the school, so we all benefit.

Year 3/4 Tournament

Our Year 3/4 children took part in a 5 a-side festival on Wednesday at the Swindome. They showed tremendous teamwork, skill and bravery during the tournament which resulted in a very successful outing. Scoring 14 goals in their 4 games, Red Oaks finished in second place! We couldn't be prouder of their effort, achievement and exceptional ability to represent the values of our school.

Year 5/6 Tournament

Our Year 5/6 children participated in a 7 a-side tournament on Thursday at Lydiard Park Academy. They came top of their group, scoring 5 goals and conceding 0 across 3 games! After the group stages, they made it to the semi-final where they were beaten on penalties. They went 2-0 down in the last game but managed to persevere to bring the game back to 2-2; their resilience and desire to win was incredible. They eventually won the 3rd Place Play-Off and were presented with a bronze medal for finishing 3rd in the tournament.

No Screen's Week

From time to time we all need a break from our screens, particularly, children. Results from a recent study by Ofcom show that 93% of 5-7-year-olds watch videos online, predominantly using tablets. Those of primary school age make more use of consoles and computers. 22% of children aged 3-4 use consoles for gaming compared to 59% of 5-7-year-olds.

After the success of our last No Screen's Week 2 years ago we have decided hold a second No Screen's Week at Red Oaks. To support us in this we would love for your child to complete a sponsored no screen day. This means no game consoles, iPads or any other electrical distractions. How about a personal challenge to get involved in non-screen-based entertainment for example; colouring, reading, drawing, playing board games.

You could be sponsored for the day or per hour! How much do you think you will raise? How many hours will you complete?

The week will commence on Monday 19th February. More information will be sent out closer to the time.

Seat Belts

It has been noticed that some children are not wearing seat belts when leaving the school car park. It is illegal for anyone to be in a car without a seatbelt. Children must [normally use a child car seat](#) until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first. Please make sure your child is in a car seat before moving off from the car park.

Beginning and End of School Day

A reminder that school starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.00pm. Gates open at 8.25am with the classroom doors opening at 8.30am. We have noticed lots of children coming into school late which has an impact on the class learning time. Nursery starts at 8.30am. This is also apparent at pick-up time - if you think you are going to be late to collect from school, please ring the school to advise them. As a reminder, school finishes at 3.00pm. Teachers and staff often have meetings after school and late pick-ups have an impact on this. Many thanks

Attendance

Why is it important that my child is on time each day?

When children are late to school, they may initially feel unsettled and they might miss important information and activities.

Schools are required to record late arrivals. If pupils arrive after the start of the school day but when the register is still open, it will be recorded as a late mark. If pupils arrive after the register closes then their morning mark will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, unless evidence can be provided that there are exceptional circumstances that led to the late arrival.

How does occasional absence affect my child?

Missing occasional days from school may seem unimportant at the time; however, this can have a significant impact on your child in the long term:

% of attendance in a school year	Number of days absent	Weeks missed
98%	4	Less than 1 week
95%	9.5	Nearly 2 weeks
90%	19	Nearly 4 weeks
85%	28.5	Nearly 6 weeks

A pupil with 85% attendance is missing nearly half a term of learning time each school year.

Regular absences can result in poorer outcomes over time. Research shows that pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school (which is between half and one day per week on average) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.

Late arrivals also add up over time - being 10 minutes late each day adds up to two weeks of lost learning time over the whole school year.

A copy of the school's attendance policy can be found here:

<https://www.redoaks.org/documents/policies/Attendance.pdf>

Library Books

As a result of our visits to the library we have a number of overdue library books that need to be returned urgently. The value is in the hundreds of pounds. Please can you look at home for any books from North Swindon library that may have accidentally left school. Please can you return them to the main office. A list of titles we are looking for are:

Spaceboy	The Story of Darth Vader	The last Bear
Mr. Stink	The light in everything	William Wenton & the lost city
Father Christmas and me	Leading (Alex Ferguson)	Dog Days
The Sandman	The best bear in all the world	
Papercraft	The 143-storey treehouse	
Vardy: from the playground to the pitch	What's that in dog years?	
The insiders	Flames of Amazonia	The epic Canadian expedition
Wolf of the plains	Code Name Bananas (audiobook)	
Last stand of dead men	A street through time	
100 most feared creatures	The beast of Buckingham Palace	

If you know anyone who left the school last year who may have a copy of one these books, please can you ask them to return it.

Upcoming Dates

- 6th February 2024 - Y3 Performance, 2.00 & 6.00pm - tickets will be sent home Monday.
- 8th February 2024 - PJ & Popcorn Night - Info to follow on Monday
- 9th February 2024 - Bags2School
- 9th February 2024 - End of School 3.00pm finish

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OPEN MORNINGS 2024

Open Morning is the perfect opportunity for Year 5 pupils and their parents to visit Nova Hreod Academy during a school day. Join us for a short presentation, meet staff and current scholars and have a tour of the building.

Tuesday 12th March 2024	9am - 11am
Thursday 6th June 2024	9am - 11am



Catalyst STEM Stream Open Morning 

Tuesday 19th March 2024 **9am - 10am**

The Catalyst STEM Stream is Nova's specialist provision for ambitious scholars who have a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

www.novahreodacademy.org.uk To register Scan the QR code 

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in aid of Swindon Women's Aid

Donate by 22nd March 2024

Bring items to Reception

1 Merit for every student who donates!



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 **RED OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Aspire. Achieve. Grow.




NSPCC

Number Day 2024

IT'S MATHS, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT.



Thursday 22nd February 2024
#numberday

Number Day is supported by Maths Council, Man Group and Oxford University Press, led by NSPCC.

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR