

Message from Mrs Painter

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break and are ready for another busy and exciting term as we build up to Christmas. There's lots to look forward to, and I am thrilled to share some recent highlights and extend my thanks to our incredible school community.

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the FORO Fireworks Night! The turnout was fantastic, and it was a wonderful evening enjoyed by families and friends. A special mention must go to the volunteers whose time and effort made the event such a success. Your support means so much, and it's heart-warming to see the school community come together in such a positive way. Look out for some flyers and a survey to find out more about FORO and volunteering opportunities.

The very next day we had a huge amount of fun with our Times Tables Rockstars Day. Mrs Tinson organised this brilliantly and throughout the day the children enjoyed rocking out to music whilst also focussing on their times tables. This is part of our school focus on Maths this year, as it is a key priority for us. The very next evening, Mrs Tinson shared some fantastic resources to make the learning of number bonds and times tables quick and memorable. We will be looking at further ways to engage you as parents in the development of this subject but in the meantime please don't forget to watch the 'how to' films sent out by teachers to support you in helping your child at home.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Helping Hands, the brilliant group of children led by Mrs Hogan, who have organised our Pyjama Day for Children in Need. There's no doubt that it will be a fun and cozy day. Don't forget to make your contribution on ParentPay!

As we look ahead, there are lots of exciting events and activities planned to make this term memorable for the children. We will keep you updated on everything coming up, so please do keep an eye on our communications and the dates at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We look forward to a wonderful and busy Term 2 together!

On November 19th we have our second Open Evening from 4:30pm until 6pm. If you know of families who have a child starting in Reception in September 2025, then please do encourage them to attend. There is a flyer at the end of today's newsletter with further information, including dates of headteacher tours in the school day.

Children in Need - Friday 15th November 2024



We will be supporting BBC's Children in Need again this year. The children across school have all had their say and voted for this year's theme for our school. The votes have been counted and this year's theme will be come to school in your PJs!

Helping Hands would also like to run a colouring competition on this day. All children will be given a colouring sheet to complete for morning work on this day. These will be collected in and children in Helping Hands will choose a winner for each Key Stage. The prize will be for the winner's class to have some extra playtime that day.

Donations can be made via ParentPay.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=15952>

Holidays in term time

Due to changes set out by the Department for Education holidays in term time will no longer be authorised. Changes to the Leave of Absence form have been made to reflect these changes. A summary of the key changes is below:

Holidays in term time cannot be authorised. Unauthorised absence will be recorded on the child's report and families can be referred to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO). In some cases where holiday has been unauthorised parents/carers may be issued with a penalty notice by the EWO; this is £80 from each parent/carer for each individual child, rising to £160 if not paid within 28 days.

A penalty notice will be considered if a child misses 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

The threshold can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence e.g. 4 sessions of holiday taken in term time plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the register closes, all taken within any 10-week period. The unauthorised absence can be consecutive or not.

Please explain the reason for absence requests below, schools can only authorise absence for if there are special reasons in exceptional circumstances. Holiday prices and the fact that parents have booked a holiday before checking with the school are not special reasons.

Please note that holidays during SATs Week will not be authorised under any circumstances.

- If a parent/carer takes their child out of school without permission being granted, this will count as an 'unauthorised absence' and will show a 'G' on the student's attendance record.
- We understand that some parents have no choice about when to take holidays. However, the law requires attendance at school and many parents are not aware it is not a parental right to take children out of school during term time.
- Every school day counts and any absence from school will result in lost learning and a risk of underachievement.
- There are 13 weeks of the year during which the school is closed.
- A leave of absence form must be completed if you would like to take your child out of school during term time.
- For parents serving in the armed forces, proof of leave will be required.

Please be aware that if you have already received a penalty notice, further unauthorised absence may lead to prosecution.

To read the full Attendance Policy, please see <https://www.redoaks.org/documents/policies/Attendance.pdf>

To read the SBC Penalty Code of Conduct, please see

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/downloads/file/5542/education_welfare_services_penalty_notice_code_of_conduct

Attendance

A quick reminder that you can check your child's current attendance percentage on Arbor.

Registration Form	Present R/C: Marks	Registration Form	Present R/C: Marks
Birch	99.0%	Pear	94.0%
Hazel	99.0%	Pine	93.5%
Beech	98.6%	Cherry	93.2%
Lime	98.1%	Orange pm	92.9%
Chestnut	97.9%	Willow	91.3%
Forest	97.0%	Orange am	90.0%
Ash	96.9%	Apple	86.7%
Maple	96.0%		
Oak	95.0%		
Palm	94.8%		

Donations

Are there any parents who have links to a stationery company that could donate A4 card or stationery? Please contact the office.

Absence Reporting

Please contact pontingj@redoaks.org.uk to report children's absences. If your child is off for 3 days, we will send you a text to ask you to send in an email to report their illness. Many thanks.

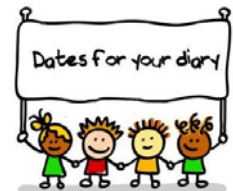
Upcoming Dates

19th November - Open evening 4.30-6.00pm

5th December - Nursery & Reception Christmas Performance 10am & 2pm (info to follow)

10th December - Key Stage 1 Parent Phonics

12th December - Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance (info to follow)

A promotional poster for a "Prospective Parents Open Evening" at Red Oaks Primary School. The poster features the school's logo (a red tree with stylized figures) and the text "RED OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL Aspire. Achieve. Grow". The main event is on Tuesday 19th November, from 4:30pm to 6:00pm, with no appointment needed. Headteacher tours are also available on 21/11 (11am-12pm) and 27/11 (1:15pm-2:15pm). The background includes photos of the school building and children in yellow raincoats.

Prospective Parents Open Evening

Tuesday 19th November
4:30pm – 6:00pm
No appointment needed!

Headteacher tours also available on:
21/11 – 11am-12pm
27/11 – 1:15pm – 2:15pm