



Orford Church of England Primary School & Nursery

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It seems hard to believe that I have been here for half a term already! Time has really flown by in what has been a busy eight weeks. We've had the Macmillan coffee morning, in which we raised an amazing £215.99; a visit to the church to celebrate Harvest Festival; Autumn Reports; Parents' Evenings this week; Year 5 & 6's trip along the Deben and the first of our half-termly share sessions.

Our school journalists have appeared in the Woodbridge Talk and Link Parish magazine and the school now has its own FaceBook page.

Let's hope that next half-term is just as successful and just as busy!

I wish you a all lovely half-term and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 4th November.

Mr Head



Values Cup Aware Winners

With the arrival of our brand new and sparkling diary for the Values Cup Award, we are proud to announce the first winners of this year were:

Lainey - Compassion, Kindness & Perseverance
Ayden- Teamwork, Perseverance & Kindness

Whole School News

It is with sadness that I announce that Mrs Nicholls has made the decision to leave the teaching profession and to explore new challenges. Mrs Nicholls has played a significant part in the success of the school over the past five years and it is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to her on the 29th November and I know that we all wish her well.

Mrs McCart, who has a wealth of experience in Early Years, will be taking over from Mrs Nicholls on a Thursday & Friday, led by the hugely experienced Mrs Marriott. Mr Head & Miss Phillips will be taking over Class 3 on a Thursday and Friday. This arrangement will start after half term to ensure a smooth transition for all of the children.

Alongside this, we are also pleased to announce the return of Xtratime, who will be teaching PE to Classes 2 & 3 on a Thursday afternoon as well as running a number of lunchtime and after school sports clubs.



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Lunch Clubs

- Monday - Maths Club
- Tuesday - Art Club
- Wednesday - Choir
- Thursday - Bible Club & Sports
- Friday - Quiz Club



After School Clubs

- Monday - Forest School Club
- Tuesday -
- Wednesday -
- Thursday --Xtratime Sports (Please sign up on Arbor £3.50 per session)
- Friday - Craft Club

Team Points

Autumn 1 Totals are as follows:

- Green - 366**
- Red - 384**
- Yellow - 333**
- Blue - 311**



School Improvements

First of all, thank you again to all of offers of support to help to improve the school's building and premises and to restore this fabulous building to its former glory. Mrs Scarce has been busy in the office over the last half-term putting together lots of applications for grants to help fund the improvements. Here is the progress of note so far:



- A funding application to replace the school roof has been lodged with central government alongside another to replace the electrical circuits in the main building.
- Quotes are now being gathered to replace the decking outside the Teaching Kitchen. When gathered, I may call on support to remove the old decking to reduce costs.
- The Orford Gardening Club have offered to help reset the Teaching Garden. If any parents wish to come and support the clear up please do pop along on Saturday 2nd from 9:00-1:00 if you are able to help.
- If anyone is interested in running one or more of the vegetable patches, please let the office know subject to DBS checks.



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Message from the Chair of Governors

Half way through the autumn term already! We see the children's reports of what they have been doing and it all sounds so positive; and so much fun. Memorable to parents, families and governors who attended, was the Harvest service on 11 October in church, when all of you had a role to play. The drawing and painting of pumpkins and carrots and peas, and so many more vegetables was stunning, accompanied by so much skill in rhyming poetry and the singing that went with it. The community larder in Orford was grateful for contributions to help those who needed them. Otherwise we can see that a lot of baking has gone on for the Macmillan coffee morning and OSLOF and families have come together to support the school. This is so warming to see, and we look forward to more of this.

Janet Bishop
Chair of Governors



Term Dates for 2025/2026

Our term dates have now been added to the school website for the academic year 2025/2026.

News from Class 1

Class 1 have had a busy half term. All the children have been settling in and learning new class routines. With the weather being so wet we have made sure we've put on our puddle suits and have made full use of the mud kitchen and all those lovely puddles. In science we have been learning about ourselves and our bodies. We have enjoyed becoming doctors in our role play doctors surgery and had a visit from Doctor Thomas who showed us lots of exciting pictures and talked about what it is like to be a doctor. In Maths, Year 1 have been learning about place value to 10 and addition and subtraction. Reception have been working hard on numbers to 5, size and capacity.



In Literacy, we have read many different texts including Traction man and Funny bones, which relate this terms topic. Year 1 children have focused on writing sentences focusing on using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces, Reception children have been focusing on their fine motor skills and sounding out each grapheme when writing simple words. Nursery children have access to all continuous provision and are able to join in with whole class sessions if they choose.



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News from Class 2

Class 2 have made a super start to the school year. We are so impressed with how quickly the new Year 2s have settled into the Class 2 routines as it's a big step up from Class 1 - well done to all of you!

We have had an 'enlightening' half term in science studying light - what it is, what is dark, the importance of reflection and how shadows form and change size. It was wonderful to have so many parents and carers join us in Class 2 last Friday afternoon to help us with our shadow experiment - thank you so much for coming in. We loved having you share in our science! In history we have examined the Anglo Saxons. We investigated who they were, why they wanted to settle in Britain, what life was like, their leaders and how the Anglo Saxons recorded events, to name a few of the features studied. We are very much looking forward to investigating the Sutton Hoo treasures (that we have been drawing in Art) when we visit the site in November.

In RE we have been looking at the question 'Why do Jewish families talk about repentance at New Year?' We have had many thoughtful discussions around repentance and forgiveness and have a much deeper understanding of the Jewish festivals of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It has also been interesting for us to see how both Jews and Christians share the same Old Testament bible stories such as Jonah and the Whale. In English we have written news reports (a really challenging text-type!), diaries, limericks and diamante poems and the children have been impressing themselves (and us!) with their progress. Maths has required much hard work to cover the highly important topics of place value and addition and subtraction - everyone's efforts will be worthwhile as we build on these foundations throughout the year.

Have a lovely, relaxing half term break Class 2!
Mrs Reeve and Mrs Nottingham





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News from Class 3



Class 3 have been really enjoying reading the novel, 'A Twist of Gold', by Michael Morpurgo. The children have been exploring the characters and the rich vocabulary in the book, and written responses to the text such as letters, diary entries and chapters of their own. Importantly, we have also spent time on checking our spelling, handwriting and punctuation are accurate in editing sessions. In maths we are using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to calculate and solve problems.



During our science lessons on living things and their habitats, the children have explored ways that scientists classify plants and creatures. Then, focusing on microorganisms, the children have designed and carried out an experiment to test optimum conditions to grow mould! The children have collaborated on their findings to form conclusions, and recommend storage conditions for bread, so that it will inhibit mould growth.



In geography, Class 3 have studied rivers, how they form and how they can affect those that live near to a river. The children have worked hard to develop their map skills by using atlases and digital maps to locate and track rivers in the UK and in the world, from source to mouth, including listing some of the towns or countries they pass through. I've been very impressed with Class 3's determination and teamwork in their gymnastics lesson this half term. Many of the children have pushed themselves outside their comfort zone, supported each other and worked very well as a team to practise skills and produce a routine to music.



Other News



OTHER REMINDERS

- With colder and wetter weather approaching, please send your child into school with a coat everyday and gloves, hats and scarves if necessary. We do always try to have a break outside whenever possible.
- Celebration assemblies are every Friday at 8.45am - all are welcome to join.
- Achievements - Please do send in any achievements (photos/certificates) your child has made outside of school that we can celebrate here and display on our Wow Wall.

OSLOF

What a great 1st half of term we have had with the success of the cauliflower cards raising just over £80 for our wonderful school as well as the start of the tuck shop.

The tuck shop will be running every last Friday of the month. £1 for a pot of scrummy sweets for every child in the school.

We are looking forward to the Christmas fair in December and will keep you all updated with the date. We are asking if anyone has any donations to the raffle or the teddy tombola? They would be gratefully received when left at the school office.

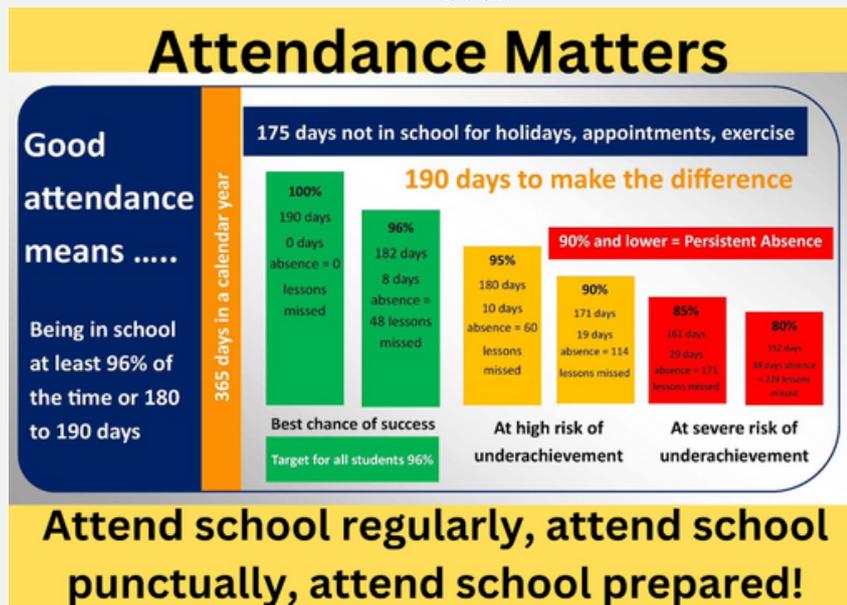
Alongside this if anyone would like to help out we would be very grateful. Have a wonderful half term.

Written by Daisy (Lily & Amelia's mum)

Attendance

We understand that at this time of year children do get headaches, coughs, colds etc but good attendance has a strong correlation with achievement.

Did you know you can sign a medical consent form and keep Calpol in school for your child? If they have a minor illness, we can administer a dose at lunchtime to help see them through the day. Once in school and occupied, you'd be surprised how many children do 'perk up' and manage well, even if they aren't feeling 100%. The exception to this is sickness and diarrhoea - your child must stay away from school for 48 hours after the last bout.



Dates

- Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November - Half Term
- Monday 28th October - Gardening Club Bonfire preparation - any support most welcome 2:15pm
- Saturday 2nd November - Gardening Club helping reset Teaching Garden (Parents and Carers welcome to help 9:00-1:00).
- Monday 4th November - First Day of Autumn Term Part 2
- Monday 4th November - Forest school for Class 3 starts.
- Tuesday 12th November - Class 2 Trip to Sutton Hoo
- Friday 15th November - Orford CoE Open Day 9.30-11:00 (please help spread the word- leaflets available at the office if you're able to spread more widely)
- Friday 29th November - Christmas Movie Night (more information to follow).
- Wednesday 11th December - Orford CoE Open Day 9:30-11:00 (please help spread the word - leaflets available at the office)
- Friday 20th December - Christmas Service at Church 1.30pm & end of term
- Tuesday 7th January - First Day back