



Occold Primary School

The Street, Occold, Suffolk, IP23 7PL

01379 678330

Executive Headteacher – Dr Paul Parslow-Williams

Head of School – Ms Gemma Watts

www.occoldprimaryschool.org

18th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a great summer and would like to wish everyone a warm welcome back to our school for the new academic year. We have already had an exciting and busy first week back, it's great to see everybody working so hard in our school.

Academy conversion

On the 1st September Occold School successfully converted to academy status. We are now part of the All Saints School Trust and if you would like any more information about the trust or the other schools involved please look on their website www.asst.org.uk

School building

During the summer holidays a lot of work was done in school to freshen it up. New floors were laid throughout the corridors, offices and in Rabbit and Hedgehog classrooms. Otter and Fox classrooms have had new carpets laid too. The walls have been painted throughout the school and the playground has been repainted. We think that the school is now looking fantastic and the children seem to be enjoying their improved learning environment. Thank you to all the staff and everyone who came in during the holidays to make this possible. If you haven't already seen it, please pop in and have a look inside.

New pupils

We would like to introduce you to some of our new reception children; James, Alfie, Charlie, Archie and Charlie who have settled in really well and seem like they have always been with us! There may be more children joining us shortly and I know you will all help to make their families feel included in our special community.

We also sadly said goodbye to Mrs Whayman during the summer holidays. She has worked at Occold for several years and will be missed by the children and staff. We wish her the best of luck in her new job.

Drop off and pick up

School starts at 8.50am each morning and you are welcome to drop off your children from 8.40am onwards. As you know our school is very small and we are especially short on space in the corridors. For this reason, we ask all parents of children in years 1 to 6 to please say goodbye at the gate and let them walk into school independently. The children are already getting used to their new morning routines in their classrooms and it helps us to settle and have a calmer start to the morning, particularly when the cloakrooms are less crowded. Of course if you need to speak to Mrs Pickard or your child's teacher you are more than welcome to pop in. Lessons start at 8:50am and if children are not in their classroom at 8:50am they do get marked as 'late' in the register. School finishes at 3.05pm and we will bring the children out to the playground to meet you. If a different person is picking your child up please let us know in the morning so that we make sure that everybody stays safe and leaves with the right person.

Holidays in term time

We are not able to authorise holidays in term time. This is a national policy and there is an expectation that schools should be fining families for unauthorised absences. Only in exceptional circumstances such as restrictions to annual leave, military service and family bereavements will be accepted as valid reasons. Attendance really does make a difference to how children achieve and we hope that you are able to schedule trips in the 13 weeks when children are not in school.

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Headlice

Unfortunately, Headlice are a normal part of childhood but we do understand how frustrating it can be when your child comes home from school scratching their head. Please be vigilant by 'taking a peak-once a week' to spot them early.

Friends

I would like to thank all the Friends for their valuable contributions to our school over the past year. So much of what we have and what we are able to do is down to their continued support and funds raised. Their next meeting will be after school on 31st October. It would be great to see some new faces.

Swimming

Well done to children and parents for remembering to bring their swimming kit on Friday. May I please remind parents that children should also bring swimming hats. Please ensure that children are not wearing bracelets, wrist/ankle bands or ear studs that cannot be very easily removed or covered as these can present a hazard in the pool. Boys must wear tight fitting swimming trunks and girls must wear a one piece swim suit.

Class sessions will take place as follows:

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Years 6, 5, 4 and 3.	Years 5, 4, 1 and R.	Years 3, 2, 1 and R.

Forest School

Year 1 and 2 children started Forest School last Friday and we feel very lucky to have the services of a very experienced Forest School Instructor from the village working with our children. We will send a letter home at the start of each term to let you know when it is your child's turn to do forest school. Please ensure that they have appropriate clothes for these occasions.

Curriculum

Please find with this newsletter an outline of the curriculum that your child(ren) will be following this term. If you have any personal expertise and/or interest and would like to contribute in some way we would be delighted. If this is the case, please let the class teacher know.

Nut allergy

We have several children in school with nut allergies, for this reason we are a 'nut free school'. In order to keep all of our children safe we ask parents to ensure that children are not bringing anything in their lunch boxes that contains nuts.

PE

PE continues to be on a Tuesday for all classes. Please ensure that your child brings their named PE kits to school with them every Tuesday.

Breakfast club

Mrs Selwood runs a breakfast club in school for any parents who wish to drop their children off early in the morning. Breakfast club runs from 7:45am until the start of the school day. We have cereal, toast and juice on offer for your child as well as activities to do or support with their homework if required. Breakfast club costs £3 per session and we ask parents to let us know at least one day in advance if you will be coming so that we can ensure that we have enough food for everybody.

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Bags 2 School

The Friends have organised a Bags 2 School collection again this year. If you need a clear out in your wardrobe they will be collecting bags of clothes, shoes, handbags, jewellery, bedsheets, towels and lots more. The Friends raise money for the school for each bag collected. Please see their website www.bag2school.com for more information about what you can put in the bag. The bags will be collected from school on Monday 29th October. If you would like to bring them to school before then please do.

School Money

As most of you will know, we are becoming a 'cashless school'. Instead of paying for dinner money and other things in school in cash or cheque, it is now all done online through School Money. If you are having any problems logging on or require any help, please see Mrs Pickard in the office.

Occold Summer fayre

This Saturday, 22nd September 12:00- 4:00 pm is Occold Summer fete. Please join us on the field for stalls, games, food and musical entertainment.

Occold School Farmers' Market

Miss Rowe is organising a farmers' market on Thursday 11th October in school at the end of the school day. The children have been growing their own produce and will be making their own products to sell at the market. You can have a stall to sell their own produce for a cost of £5. We hope that you can join us on the day.

We have a busy term with a lot of exciting learning opportunities planned, please see the diary dates below, we will update you with more as the term goes on!

Gemma Watts
Head of School

Paul Parslow- Williams
Executive Head Teacher

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Dates for the diary

Tuesday 14 th September	First Swimming Session/ First forest school session
Monday 24 th September	After School Clubs start this week
Saturday 22 nd September	Occold Summer fayre

Wednesday 3 rd October	Coffee afternoon in the Village Hall 2.00 – 3.00pm to raise money for MacMillan
Thursday 11 th October	Occold Farmers market
Monday 15 th October	Year 6 at Aylmerton
Friday 20 October	Last day of school- Half term
Monday 29 th October	Return to school Bags2school collection.
Tuesday 30 th October	Parents' evening
Wednesday 31 st October	Friend's meeting – straight after school

Thursday 1 st November	Parents' evening
Tuesday 13 th November	Individual and sibling photographs
Wednesday 14 th November	Friends AGM
Friday 16 th November	Big Sing- Snape - Key stage 2
Thursday 22 nd November	Flu immunisation programme for Rec, 1,2,3,4 and 5
Friday 23 rd November	Christmas fayre

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Wednesday 12 th December	Gymnastic trip – Piper's Vale
Thursday 13 th December	Fox class drama trip- Hartismere
Friday 14 th December	Last swim
Tuesday 18 th December	Last day of school Christmas dinner End of term assembly- 1:30
Wednesday 19 th December	PD day

Wednesday 2 nd January	PD Day
Thursday 3 rd January	Welcome back!

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