



'At the heart of learning in the community'

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and productive first half term we have had. A huge thank you to everybody who has helped out and supported our school with all of our exciting things that we have been doing.

Farmer's market

Thank you so much to everybody who came to our Farmer's market on October 11th. It was a huge success and we raised a grand total of £385.90 for the school. Thank you also to everybody who provided produce to sell and helped make things.

Aylmerton

This week our year 6 children have been at Aylmerton. They have all had a fantastic time and I'm sure that they will come back with lots of stories to tell.

Photos

Van Cols our school photographer will be taking individual and sibling photographs on Tuesday 13th November. We will be grouping brothers and sisters together in school but if you wish any pre-school or high school children to join us, we will be taking these as a priority first thing in the morning – just before school starts.

Parents will receive proof of any photographs and please keep a look out for them as the deadline for orders is normally quite tight. Parents are under no obligation to purchase prints.

School dinners

We have a new school dinner menu for the next half term and parents seem to be getting to grips with the new online School Money system. Children thoroughly enjoy choosing their options each morning!

Swimming

Swimming continues after half term for the year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children. Don't forget that boys are required to wear fitted swimming trunks and girls a one piece swim suit. Children should also wear a swimming hat.

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 have had a fantastic time doing forest school this term.

After half term reception and year 1 children will be doing forest school on a Friday morning and year 2 children will be in school with Mrs Watts.

Children need to come to school in appropriate clothes for forest school, including a warm/ waterproof coat, warm trousers, wellies and as the weather gets colder hats, gloves etc. They need to bring their school uniform to school to change into afterwards.

Snack time

Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable at break time in the morning. We recommend that older children also bring a snack to keep them going through the morning. Snacks should be fruit or vegetables.

Breakfast club

Mrs Selwood runs a breakfast club in school for any parents that 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 needed. Breakfast club costs £3 per session. We ask parents to let us know at least 1 day in advance if you will be coming to breakfast club, this way we can ensure that we have enough food for everybody.

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.

Attendance

Whilst the majority of our children have very good attendance, we would like to remind families about school arrival times. School begins at 8:50. Children can arrive from 8:40 and if they are in school early they have quiet tasks to begin their day. Please make sure that you are here by 8:50 at the latest. If children are here on time, it gives us a chance to have a calm start to the day, get the registers done and settle them in appropriately so that lessons can begin promptly at 9:00. Children who are regularly late often find it more difficult to settle which then has an impact on their learning.

Christmas fayre

Occold Christmas Fayre is on the 23rd November 6pm – 8pm In the village hall. There will be a variety of stalls for you to do some Christmas shopping, as well as some musical entertainment. We would also love it if you could join us in singing some Christmas carols too.

Chocolate party

Friends are holding a chocolate party at the Beconsfield Arms on Tuesday 30th October from 7:30. You can sample some chocolate and purchase gifts or a treat for yourself and also help raise funds for school.

Big Sing

Our children in Otter and Fox class will be taking part in the Big Sing this year at Snape Maltings on the 16th November. It takes place during the school day and provides a fantastic opportunity for children to perform on stage along with singer and songwriter Errollyn Wallen. There will be a letter with more information in the next few weeks and we hope that your child will be able to go!

Remembrance day- Friday 9th November

We have kindly been invited to take part in a service of remembrance of people from Occold that fought in the First World War. The children have started designing and making some art work and will be reading poems during the ceremony in the village hall. Parents are welcome to join us and others from the village in the Village Hall at 2pm on 9th November.

We also have Poppy related items in the school office for children to purchase for a suggested donation of 50p per item to raise funds for The Royal British Legion.

Gemma Watts

Head of School

Dates for the diary

Monday 29 th October	Back to school after half term. Bags2school collection.
Tuesday 30 th October	Parent's evening Chocolate party

Thursday 1 st November	Parent's evening
Friday 9 th November	Remembrance day – village hall- 2pm
Tuesday 13 th November	Individual and sibling photographs
Friday 16 th November	Big Sing
Monday 29 th October	Return to school
Thursday 22 nd November	Flu immunisation for year R, 1,2,3,4 and 5.
Friday 23 rd November	Occold Christmas Fayre
Thursday 29 th November	Fox and Otter class trip

Monday 3 rd December	Year 6 transition day to Hartismere
Wednesday 12 th December	Whole school gymnastics trip to Piper's Vale
Thursday 13 th December	Year 5 and 6 day of Drama at Hartismere school
Monday 17 th December	Christmas play
Tuesday 18 th December	Christmas dinner End of term assembly- 1:30
Wednesday 19 th December	School holidays.

Wednesday 2 nd January 2019	Staff training day.
Thursday 3 rd January 2019	Back to school