

Newsletter

19th January 2024

This is the first newsletter of 2024 – Happy New Year! I am not sure where the last few weeks have gone, as school has continued to be very busy. The children are all enjoying their new topics and getting involved in their learning. We have lots planned and look forward to seeing the children develop in their learning and share it with you.

Spring Term:

January	
Thurs 25 th	Swimming session 3 – Hawks & Kingfishers
Thurs 25 th	Young Voices to Birmingham
Mon 29 th	Supporting with Feelings of Anger Workshop for Parents with Leanne Martin 2pm
Wed 31 st	Y6 English Challenge
February	
Thurs 1 st	Swimming session 4– Hawks & Kingfishers
Thurs 1 st	Welcome Weekday 2.30pm
Friday 2 nd	OPTA Comedy Night – Harvey Greenfield in Running Late
Thurs 8 th	Swimming session 5 – Hawks & Kingfishers
Sun 11 th	OPTA – ‘Bring someone you love dance’
Tues 13 th	Hawks Burwell Meeting
Wed 14 th	Phonics and Reading Workshop
Thurs 15 th	Swimming session 6 – Hawks & Kingfishers
Thurs 15 th	Break up for February Half term
Friday 16 th	Staff Training Day
Mon 26 th	First day back after half term
March	
Mon 4 th	Supporting with Feelings of Worry Workshop for Parents with Leanne Martin 2pm
Wed 6 th – Fri 8 th	Hawks residential trip to Burwell House
Tues 12 th	Mother’s Day Lunch – NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
W/B Mon 18 th	Parent Consultation Evenings (Late night on Wednesday)
Tues 26 th	Hawks Play Performance (afternoon and evening)
Thurs 28 th	Easter Church Visit (TBC)
Thurs 28 th	Last Day of Spring Term

Welcome Weekday

Our next Welcome Weekday – the third of the 5 that are being held this academic year – will take place on Thursday 1st February.

We do hope you will be able to join us from 2.30pm to join in part of the afternoon lesson with your child and their class. In the past parents have been honing their netball skills, naming body parts and making videos.

The next Welcome Weekdays will be on Tuesday 23rd April and Wednesday 5th June.

Year 6 English Challenge

This is an event that is held annually and organised by the English Team in the Local Authority.

We would like to wish our team of 4 year 6 children the best of luck in the challenge. They will be having their knowledge of everything books and literature tested during the fun quiz.

Mother’s Day Lunch

We have had to change the date of the Mother’s Day Lunch due to operational needs in the kitchen.

Mother’s Day itself is Sunday 10th March, and we are trying to keep the lunch date in school as near to it as possible. We cannot hold it the Friday before, as we would normally do, because Hawks are at Burwell.

The new date is Tuesday 12th March. We do hope that mothers (or another female relative) will be able to join us. Details of what’s on the menu and how to order will be sent out nearer the time.

Mrs Hannah Mooring - SENCO

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Mooring is now working across the three schools of Gamlingay, Everton Heath and Offord Primary full time. Her intention is to base herself at least one day a week at Offord. She will be working closely with the teachers and supporting our special needs children and families. If you need to get in touch with Mrs Mooring, please do so via the school office.

Reading Millionaires

Miss Brown has introduced a new competition for reading to challenge the children to become 'Reading Millionaires'. The AR quizzes the children take calculates how many words the children have read and two of our pupils have read over one million! Thomas and Daniel were presented with a book token each as a reward for passing this milestone. Lots of other children are already over the 500,000 mark – keep encouraging your child to read (and do their AR quizzes).

OPTA

OPTA are changing the way they communicate with you.

They now have a dedicated channel on our Parent Hub. This has been set up so that all their messages are in one place and so that it is easy for people to look back at past OPTA messages by searching the dedicated channel.

Sarah Brown sent out an invite to all our parents to join the new channel. If you did not receive a joining message you can join the channel by clicking on 'Schools' at the bottom of the welcome page on the app. Click on 'Manage Channels', select Offord PTA and save your settings.

To just look at the OPTA channel: once you have clicked 'schools', select 'Select a channel' where you will have the option to choose Offord PTA. You will then see all the messages on that channel.

The PTA have a few events planned this term.

Firstly there is the comedy night on Friday 2nd February - see the separate newsletter item below for more information.

They are also holding a 'bring someone you love' dance on Sunday 11th February. More information will be sent out soon regarding this event.

Phonics and Reading Workshop

Mrs Taylor and Miss Brown would like to invite you to a workshop to explain how we teach phonics at Offord Primary School. Learning to read through phonics is the expected method used in UK schools and it can be quite different to the way that many of us were taught to read.

This event will be held straight after school on Wednesday 14th February. We will happily look after your children while you find out more.

This is mainly aimed at parents of Wrens and Robins, but everyone is welcome. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

Healthy Eating and New Food Guidelines for EYFS

The School Council has asked me to send a message out regarding healthy snacks at school. Guidance for schools is that schools should encourage healthy eating, which includes snacks and lunch box contents.

The School Council has said that they do not consider crisps to be 'healthy' and have asked that we make it a rule to not have crisps for a snack. Can we also ask that snacks are not chocolate based.

Chocolate or sweets should also not be included in lunch boxes.

We are currently reviewing our packed lunch guidance, further information and recipes for packed lunches can be found on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Can we also take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free environment, so please do not send any food products that contain nuts into school. Thank you.

There has been new guidance for children in EYFS. Children who are not yet 5 must be supervised when eating, therefore the Wrens will be having their fruit and snack in the classroom where the teaching staff use the time to have class discussions and work on developing social skills.

There is also new guidance on the preparation of foods:

- Remove any stones and pips from fruit before serving.
- Cut small round foods, like grapes, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, lengthways and into quarters.
- Cut large fruits like melon, and hard fruit or vegetables like raw apple and carrot into slices instead of small chunks.
- Do not give whole seeds to children under five years old.
- Cut cheese into strips rather than chunks.
- Do not give popcorn as a snack.

We are asking therefore that any snacks brought in from home be prepared in line with this guidance. This will also apply to children in Wrens that have packed lunches. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Harvey Greenfield is Running Late

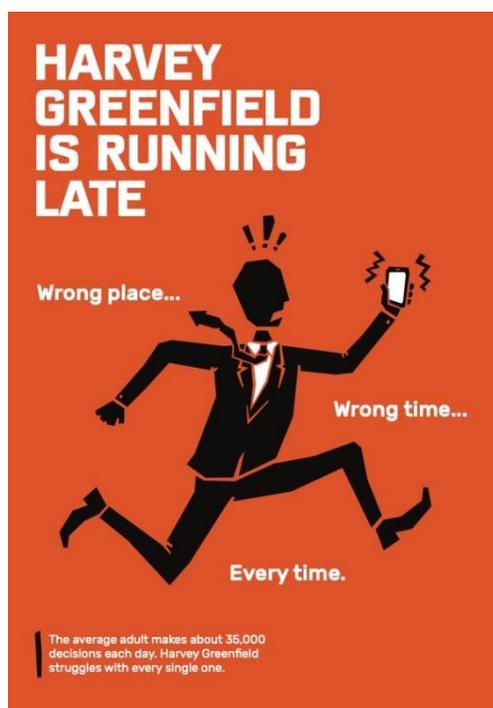
A Comedy Show by Paul Richards is coming to Offord Primary School on Friday 2nd February at 8pm

Some of you may know Paul as he used to be our drum teacher. He has written many one man shows, but this was his original and the only one that has been made into a film (so far!)

The movie was filmed a couple of years ago and one of the locations was Offord Primary School. The film sees Harvey Greenfield attend a school assembly – this was filmed in our school hall!

The film recently won awards at the Dublin Film Festival. Hopefully it will be released soon as Miss Brown and Mrs Ruddock were extras for the filming of the school assembly – maybe our school staff will soon be famous!

Paul is trying to perform this play 1000 times before the film is on general release – come and watch his only production in the original Harvey Greenfield school Hall.



'A groundbreaking one-man piece of comedic theatre that asks a simple question: Is it possible to please everyone, all the time? And at what cost to your family and health. In this fast and frenetic comedy, award-winning writer/performer Paul Richards explores our need to please, and why it's sometimes healthy to, every now and then, just sit in a shed and play Subbuteo by yourself, eating biscuits and listen to Meat Loaf.

A licenced bar available on the night from 7-10.30pm.

£5 per ticket, or £20 per table seating four people.

To purchase tickets please transfer directly into OPTA's bank account: Account Number: 20176346 Sort Code: 20-05-73 Ref: Comedy + Name Or pay cash via the school office.

For more information contact: events@offordpta.co.uk or see information on the Offord PTA Parent Hub channel.