

## Newsletter

### 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

We have come to the end of the first half of the Spring Term. As always, the children have been busy learning in school, I hope you have enjoyed seeing their work on Seesaw.

Here is a round up of some of the things that have taken place so far this term, and plans for the next half term. I do hope you all have a lovely half-term break. We will see you back at school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

#### Dates for the rest of this term:

February		March (cont)	
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for February Half term	Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day Lunch
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Training Day	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>First day back after half term</b>	Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Y5/6 Netball Competition
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Y6 Rotary Quiz – 7pm	Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hawks Play Performance (afternoon and evening)
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/6 Quicksticks Hockey Competition	W/B 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultation Evenings
<b>March</b>		Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Church for Easter Assembly
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Book Day	Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	Music Concert – 11am
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Games and Quiz night 5pm-6.30pm	Fri 31st	Last Day of Spring Term
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Y2 Football Festival	<b>April</b>	
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	HSSP Gymnastics Competition Y3/4	Mon 17th	Staff Training Day
<b>Wed 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>#LetGirlsPlay – Football afternoon</b>	Tues 18th	First day back after half term
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Weekday 2.30pm and Caterlink taster session (3pm)		

#### Welcome Weekday

Thank you to everyone that came to the latest Welcome Weekday. It was our busiest one yet with 43 adults coming to see their children/grandchildren at work and join in the lessons.

Our next Welcome Weekday will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Again we will invite you to join in your child's lesson from 2.30pm, but this time we will stop the lessons earlier to allow time for your child to show you around the school and their work. If you have more than one child in the school, then they will be able to join together.

Also that afternoon, Caterlink will be cooking samples of food and will be in the hall to show you their products and talk to you about their food. It will be a chance for you to ask questions and give feedback direct to Caterlink regarding the school dinners.

I do hope you will be able to join us.

The last Welcome Weekday of this academic year will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.





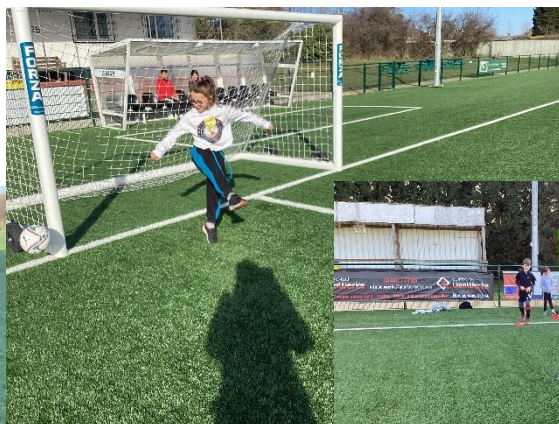
## Sports at Offord

We have been taking part in many sporting events this academic year. The children have really enjoyed being able to get involved in some different sports and represent the school at different festivals and competitions. This term we sent a team to St Neots where they entered a Ten-Pin Bowling Competition. They really enjoyed themselves and represented Offord really well.

We also sent a group of Hawks children to a football festival. The morning was spent completing football drills and then they had a match against Godmanchester Bridge Academy. One of the children described this as 'The best day ever!', so I think it's fair to say that they had a good time.

We are currently sorting an order for some sports kit. Although we do, sort of, have some sports kit for the older children that we can use when we take part in sporting events, it really isn't the nicest. As the sporting participation is going so well, we have decided that we must make sure we also look the part. Hopefully, the teams heading out from March onwards will be sporting our new 'Offord Sports Team' t-shirts. Watch this space!

Sporting activities coming up include a Quicksticks (Hockey) tournament, football for years 1 and 2, netball and #LetGirlsPlay (a national event encouraging girls to play football). The Friday running club is proving really popular. We are expecting to find out about a cross-country tournament soon, so we are looking forward to being able to enter a strong team this year. I am also still hoping to get as many Offord children as possible taking part in a single Junior Parkrun. These take place on Sunday mornings and our closest one is in St Neots. I will ensure the date is ok with the organisers, but hopefully we can have an 'Offord goes to Parkrun' one Sunday in May (we'll choose a weekend that isn't a bank holiday). I am suggesting May as the weather will be a bit warmer, but also until the end of April, my Sunday mornings see me pounding the streets of Cambridgeshire as I am marathon training (again!) I am very excited as I have finally got a place to run the London Marathon for the charity Get Kids Going! Keep Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May (or 21<sup>st</sup>) clear in your diaries so we can see how many Offord children we can get parkrunning. I'll send more information out nearer the time.





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## Parents Evening – W/B 27<sup>th</sup> March

We will be holding parent evenings during the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> March. We will be offering them over Monday to Thursday, with the later appointments being available on the Thursday. We will be using the School Cloud booking system to book the appointments and information about how to book will be sent out after half term. We would like to hold the meetings in person, but may be able to do some hybrid appointments if needed.

We are leaving them a bit later than usual this year as historically we have done them at the beginning of February. We have done this because the children will be taking more assessments in mid-March. Waiting until we have these results ensures that we can share the most up-to-date information with you.

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## World Book Day – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Miss Brown has already sent out some information about World Book Day. Rather than fully dressing up, we are asking the children to wear an item of clothing or bring an item that is a 'nod' to a character – it was really fun last year guessing who everyone was. Miss Brown has also sent home her wish list for some new books for our library. If you are able to sponsor a book, please sign up on the list [docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1U-R0un1mLfjDafQ0Slapdhxx9C9TGTmKlfUrqjv-8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1U-R0un1mLfjDafQ0Slapdhxx9C9TGTmKlfUrqjv-8/edit?usp=sharing)

We will also be holding a book day competition (this was not in Miss Brown's original letter). The theme for this year's World Book Day is 'Let's Read'. We would like each child to bring in a photograph of them having been 'caught reading' – maybe on a beach, maybe up a tree, on an aeroplane, along with their guinea-pig.....anywhere – but we would like these photos to show our children enjoying reading. Please send photos to Miss Brown at [kingfishers@offordprimaryschool.org](mailto:kingfishers@offordprimaryschool.org). The photos will be displayed in our library. Everyone that sends in a photo will be entered into a prize draw where some lucky winners will receive a book token.

And finally, on the evening of Book Day, we would like to invite the children back into school between 5-6.30pm where we will have a book themed games night – with plenty of prizes to be won. This is an OPTA fundraising event. Please pay £2 direct to OPTA or by cash via your class teacher.

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## Children's Mental Health Week

The children have been looking at how making connections can help their mental health. We have been using resources from Place2Be to think about the connections we have in our lives and how having healthy relationships with people – the connections – can support us in the things we are trying to achieve and can also be fun.

The whole school constructed one big paper chain. Each loop was made by one child or adult in the school showing their connections, these included family, friends in their class, Brownies, football and a number of other things. The paper chain has been put up in the school corridor above our mental health wall.

In school we teach the children about online safety as part of their PSHCE and computing lessons. As children are also online at home, we feel that it is important that parents and carers are also aware of online safety. In this fast moving digital world, children are often more tech savvy than the adults!

[National online safety](#) have a great range of resources to support you and your child at home. Each week they produce a #WakeupWednesday leaflet. We will begin sharing these with you each week. This week's is attached and is about '10 ways gaming can support positive outcomes in children and young people'.

