
Newsletter

11th February 2022

We have come to the end of the first half of the Spring Term. We have had a busy few weeks – read on to find out what each of the classes have been up to.

Covid Update

I was going to remove this completely from this newsletter, but I just wanted to say that we are still being cautious at school to try to avoid another spread. It looks like national Covid restriction may soon be lifted and the need to isolate also removed. How this will affect schools is yet to be announced. It looks like a national announcement is on the cards for 21st February, so we will see what will be announced then. Thanks again for all you are doing regarding limiting the transmission of Covid and getting your families tested.

Have a lovely half-term break and we will see you back at school on Tuesday 22nd February.

Diary Dates

This is a list of dates – please see sections for further information about each event.

February	
Friday 11th	Break up for half term
Monday 21st	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 22 nd	Return to school 'Twosday' – sponsored event
Monday 28 th – Thursday 3 rd March	Parents Evening week
March	
Tues 8th	Y5/6 Visit to Fitzwilliam Museum
Thur 24 th	Bingo Night
Tues 29 th	Production by Hawks 'Glint of Gold'
Wed 30 th – Friday 1 st April	Hawks Residential Visit
Fri 1 st April	Last day of Spring Term

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Last Sunday the Queen marked her 70 years on the throne with her announcement to the nation.

We discussed this milestone in assembly and have begun putting plans in place to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee later in the year.

We are booking an artist to come to school to work with the children to make some commemorative artwork.

Other plans currently include two street parties - a 1950's themed one (to celebrate the coronation) and a 2022 party to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

We had better buy our bunting before it all runs out!

Parent Consultation Evenings

Week of 28th February

Appointments are now available to book through the School Cloud system for online meetings.

<https://offord.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Appointments for all teachers are 10 minutes long and you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and learning attitudes at school, celebrate their successes and share their next steps. Staff are available anytime to discuss your child. Do not feel that a parent's evening is the only chance to do this. To contact class teachers, please get in touch via the office, through the class emails or on the school gate.

Parent Questionnaire

forms.office.com/r/WeTVdXQmD3

We would like to get your views on a number of aspects about Offord Primary School. It is important that we get your views to feed into our school development and although we have asked questions in the past, we have not completed a more formal questionnaire.

Thank you, to those that have already filled the questionnaire in. If you haven't, it can be found on Microsoft forms, so should be easy to complete. You can either leave your name or not. Each parent can fill in their own form as you may have differing views. There is a space to add any extra information if you wish, please do give feedback (good or bad) as I do want to know what you think about the school at present. Please fill in the form by the end of February.

Thank you

Robins

We have had a very busy half term.

Robins have really enjoyed developing their reading comprehension skills and writing skills whilst reading 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' as well as 'How to wash a Woolly Mammoth.' They have really enjoyed linking their reading to their Design and Technology project and are currently finishing sewing their finger puppets in the shape of a pig. Reception and Key Stage 1 will be able to retell the story with the puppets. They are looking forward to bringing their puppets home soon.

Robins are thrilled to have more iPads available to use in class and are keen to use them for Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars during maths morning work. They are also using them to create music as part of their computing and music curriculum.

Their knowledge of London Landmarks during geography sessions have developed steadily and they are remembering lots of facts about places like Tower Bridge and Buckingham Palace. Next term, during History sessions we are learning about 'The Great Fire of London.'

In dance, they have developed their sense of balance and ability to use a variety of jumps and spins whilst story-telling and moving as well as developing sports multi-skills in P.E. During music, they have been developing their vocabulary to describe the instruments, voices and structure of music and have started to record music as a written graphic score.

In science, they are keen to develop their science investigation skills (and are having to be patient) to see the results of their 'changes over time' investigation observing changes in their height periodically over the year. The topic in science has been and will continue to be (after half term) about animals and their habitats with lots of investigations outside as the weather warms up.



Residential Visit to Burwell Hawks Class

The plans for the residential trip are well under way. The activities have been organised and most importantly the food choices have been chosen.

Please continue to make payments for the trip via Parent Pay and if you have any concerns regarding this contact Mrs Moore.

Mrs Whitehead will hold a meeting to explain more about the residential trip to Burwell House on Wednesday 9th March, at 3.30pm. The plan is for this to be in person.

World Book Day Thursday 3rd March

Plans for World Book Day are taking shape and will include a number of book focused activities and competition throughout the week. On the actual day we will be having a 'book character day', but it will not be fully dressing up as a book character, so please do not spend money on outfits. The idea is to have a 'nod' to a character – maybe one item of clothing, a prop or a hairstyle. Miss Brown will be sending out information after half term. We will be using this day to raise some money to buy some newly released books for the school library.



Kingfishers

This term in Kingfishers we have been busy with many areas of the curriculum. We started this term with our history topic Ancient Greece, the children have developed their knowledge of the ancient world, how it is ruled, what architectural styles they used and the types of buildings they had in their towns.

In science we have been doing many investigations into the properties of materials and states of matter, the children have learnt what a solution is and how a solution can be separated by evaporation, sieving and filtering.

In English our text this term has been *The Switch* by Anthony Horowitz, this has been an exciting adventure story to study and the children have written some fantastic suspense writing, that keeps the reader on the edge of their seat!

In maths Year 6 have been focusing on percentages and decimals and preparing for their upcoming SATs tests. Year 5 have been working on fractions, including addition and subtraction of these. Both year groups are developing great fluency skills and are beginning to be able to apply these in problem solving situations well.

Other highlights in the curriculum have been swimming, learning about the Christian Bible in R.E and most recently editing our own school movies on the new iPads. Next term, we will continue to learn more about the Ancient Greeks, their beliefs and the first Olympic games. Our next text in English is a modern American text, which is very different to any other we have studied before. With this text we will continue to develop our writing for different genres and audiences. In Maths Year 6 can look forward to developing their Algebra knowledge and Year 5 will continue to develop their fractions multiplying and dividing fractions! Science next term we will be developing the children's knowledge of light and continue to develop of scientific investigation skills. We also have D&T next term where we will be sewing cushion covers and in P.E the children will continue their outdoor lessons with Mr Puckey and gymnastics with Miss Brown.

'I am so proud of how hard the children are working and cannot wait to get started with the new half term!' Miss Brown

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is currently at 91.79%. Well done to Hawks Class for the best class attendance and Year 5 who have the best year group attendance for the year so far. We would also like to say congratulations to Delilah W, Cayden M and Kaycie H who, despite all the bugs and Covid cases that we've had so far this year, have managed 100% attendance! Well done you three! Most of the children who were off with Covid continue to be on an upward trend and the reduction in isolation times has made a difference to some of our most recent Covid sufferers. Hopefully in the next half of the year we will see our attendance figures going up.

Below are some interesting facts and figures. It is worth noting too that poor attendance not only affects children academically but can also have an adverse effect on their Mental Health and well-being too.

96% attendance is:	8 days absence per year from school the equivalent to 11 weeks missed over 7 primary school years
95% attendance is:	10 days absence per year from school 70 days or 14 weeks missed from a child's primary school education
90% attendance is:	19 days absence per year from school 133 days (almost 3/4 of a school year) missed over their primary school career

Twosday – 22.2.22

 **SPONSOR TWOSDAY 2022**

Can you help us with our fundraising for the school?

We are challenging you to raise **£22.22** by Twosday 22.2.22!!!

Try to raise **£22.22** through whichever method you choose...

- Bake a cake
- Sponsored run / cycle
- Car wash
- Mow the grass
- Sponsored silence
- Sponsored read
- Help with the chores
- Sponsored skip
- Surprise us with your own fundraising ideas!!!

We would love to see your progress. Send your photos to office@offordprimaryschool.org and bring your sponsorship money in to school on 22.2.22. Are you up for the challenge?!!? Good luck everyone and thank you for your support. **OPTA**



Please send in any photos of your children completing 'jobs' for the Twosday Challenge. (to the school office email) Flavia has already been busy making a very tasty looking chocolate cake. We'd love to see everyone else's sponsored activities too.



Money raised by OPTA this year is being earmarked to spend on enriching the children's school experience through the creative arts.

Hawks

This term we have been reading our very exciting book: Boy Overboard. The children are hooked! They are looking forward to finding out what will happen next.

In Maths, the Year 4 children have been learning about multiplication and division, and then fractions. We have discovered how to calculate equivalent fractions by multiplying and dividing the numerator and denominator by the same amount. The next unit is all about adding and subtracting fractions. The Year 3 children have been learning about multiplication and division, and then money. If at all possible, it would be great to continue these skills in real life and for them to use proper money in a shop! They will be working on pictograms after half term.

In Science the children have really enjoyed finding out about solids, liquids and gases. They loved predicting what would happen to different liquids when we froze them in the freezer, and we had a go at making a mini water cycle in a beaker.

The children have learnt about the hierarchy of power in Ancient Egypt and they produced some lovely hieroglyphs on their cartouche.

We are looking forward to our play – Glint of Gold – next half term, and also going to Burwell!



Wrens

The Wrens are always busy learning in their classroom and outside.

This year they have had a visit to the arctic – learning all about life there and building their own igloo, making collages of penguins and drawing polar bears. They have also visited Indi - learning all about the animals there and learnt about watercolours to paint beautiful sunsets.

Stories they have read have included The Owl Babies. With all these animals there has been a vets in the classroom so many animals have been nursed back to full health.

Phonics and maths activities also take place daily. The children have settled so well in to school and they are loving being at school (and we love having them here too).



Outside in Club

The Outside in Club runs on two lunchtimes. It is a club where children can spend time playing board games and other inside games with their friends. It is run by Mrs Webb in 'The Roost' the new name for small room off of the Kingfishers cloakroom (other small group teaching also takes place here).

It is called The Roost as this compliments The Nest – a small room off of the library. The Nest and The Roost are places that birds can live. The Nest is currently undergoing a face lift as it becomes our hub as a nurture room. It is going to be a calming environment where pastoral work can take place, supporting children with their emotional learning and needs. Mrs Webb (our Pastoral Support Lead) is very much looking forward to the IKEA delivery coming after half-term, but not so much on building the flat pack furniture! (Anyone handy with a screwdriver and a bit of free time?)

