

We have come to the end of March and the end of the Spring Term. As always there has been much going on. Here is a round up of some of the events, activities and learning that has been taking place. Also, we have set out all the events that we currently have in the diary for the rest of the summer term. There will probably be more that crops up, but here are the dates for many of the key events. We do hope you have a super Easter break, and we look forward to seeing your children back at school on Tuesday 18th April.

Dates for the rest of this term:

April		June	
Mon 17 th	Staff Training Day	Mon 5 th	Kingfishers - visit to Houses of Parliament
Tues 18 th	First day back after Easter	Tue 6 th	Robins – visit to Shuttleworth Collection
Wed 19 th	Tennis Taster event – am (all children)	Thur 8 th	Kingfishers – Alive n Kicking NHS Workshop (every Thursday afternoon for 6 weeks)
Wed 19 th	Y5 Maths Challenge	Mon 12 th	KS1 Phonics screening checks (all week)
Fri 21 st	London Mini Marathon Run – am (all)	Tues 13 th	HSSP Y5/6 Cricket pm
Mon 24 th	Leanne Martin (Education Inclusion Family Advisor) coffee afternoon 2pm	Fri 16 th	Father’s Day Lunch
Tues 25 th	Kingfishers – Heritage England Awards Ceremony and Concert	Mon 19 th & Tue 20 th	Safer Cycling – Y6
May		Wed 21 st	Hawks Trip to Verulamium
Mon 1 st	May Day – Bank Holiday	Tues 27 th	HSSP Y3/4 Cricket pm
Thur 4 th	Y1 Football Festival	July	
Fri 5 th	King Charles III Coronation Celebrations	Tues 4 th – Thurs 6 th	Hinchingbrooke Taster Days for Y6 children
Mon 8 th	Bank Holiday – Coronation Day	Tues 4 th	Change over day – new classes in morning
Tues 9 th	Y6 SATs (for rest of the week)	Tues 4 th	New starters afternoon – all current Robins parents invited for coffee afternoon
Tue 9 th	HSSP Orienteering Event 4-6pm Y3/4	Thurs 6 th	Wrens visit to Shepreth
Mon 15 th	Y2 SATs (for rest of month)	Fri 14 th	Sports Morning and Parent Lunch
Tues 16 th	Cross-Country championships 4-6pm Y5/6	Thurs 13 th	Kingfishers’ production
Tues 16 th	HSSP Tri-golf competition Y3/4 4-6pm	Mon 17 th	Y6 leavers trip and party
Mon 22 nd	Welcome Weekday – 2.30pm	Wed 19 th	Y6 Leavers assembly
Fri 26 th	Pyjama Day – OPTA Fundraising		
Fri 26 th	Break up for half-term		

Heritage England Awards

We have been lucky enough to work alongside Heritage England over the last couple of years, specifically looking at the history of the village.

Two years ago, KS2 worked with The Young’uns to write the Offord Song.

The song is to be performed by The Young’uns at a concert, which the Kingfishers will join in online. We will also be presented with our Heritage Schools Award too.

Name the Lamb Competiton

Mr and Mrs Hartop have put their lambs in the field at the end of the village. Please have a walk to see them over Easter and count how many lambs you can see. Send your guesses in to school, either via email or on a piece of paper when we return. The person whose guess is closed to the actual number of lambs will be ale to name one.

The lambs will come in to visit us after Easter.

The Coronation of King Charles III

We will be marking the Coronation of King Charles III in school on Friday 5th May, which is the Friday before the long weekend with the extra Bank Holiday. We have not made firm plans yet, but we will mark the occasion in some way and OPTA have purchased commemorative bookmarks for all the children.

Alive n Kicking with the NHS

This is a six week workshop looking at healthy food, healthy eating and positive body image. The NHS funded programme is a fun and interactive look at food and lifestyles.

We are lucky to have colleagues from the NHS coming in to work with our children and lead this fun 6 week programme with our Kingfishers class.

OPTA

The Trustees of OPTA are now Alia Ali, Kelly Holley and Naomi Rees and they have a team to support them with events. As well as the regular tuckshop they are also planning some fundraising events. Smarties tubes have been sent home this week. We are asking the children to do jobs for money and fill their tubes up. There will be a 'treat' for the year group which raising the most money on average. The next event will be a pyjama day on Friday 26th May. A huge thank you to OPTA for providing the daffodils for all mothers following our Mother's Day lunch. They will be providing gifts for fathers in June too. OPTA have also supported our school trips by helping to cover some of the transportation costs.

Summer Trips to Enhance the Curriculum

Each class will be going on a day trip as part of their curriculum learning. More information for each trip will be out soon, giving specifics for each day and the costs.

Kingfishers – Monday 5th June. Visit to The Palace of Westminster to enhance their history topic of Our Monarchy since 1066. They will be travelling to London by train, walking along the river and having a tour of the Houses of Parliament. They will also be taking part in a workshop about Laws and Debating . We will be asking if it is possible for your children to meet us at St Neots station on the Monday morning and be collected from there in the late afternoon. More information will be on the letter that will be sent out soon.

Hawks - Wednesday 21st June. Visit to Verulamium (Roman St Albans) to bring to life the learning they will be doing in the classroom on their History Topic of The Romans in Britain. They will be having an interactive workshop where they will get to dress up as the Romans of Verulamium and be tasked investigating the market and finding the Roman objects on their shopping lists. They will also be able to handle Roman artefacts and explore the museum which will help them develop their understanding of Roman life.

Robins – Tuesday 6th June. Visit to The Shuttleworth Collection in Bedfordshire to study transport through the ages as part of their History and Geography topic. The Shuttleworth Collection has many old vehicles and forms of transport that the children will learn about to help them understand how transport has changed over time.

Wrens – Thursday 6th July. A visit to Shepreth Wildlife Park. This will be the Wrens first 'big' trip out of school. They will be travelling on a coach to Shepreth where they will get to see lots of wild animals. This will be a really fun trip and will enhance all the social skills learning that the children do every day in their foundation class.

Staffing Changes

We are very sad to inform you that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Spafford at the end of April. Mrs Spafford has worked at the school as a Teaching Assistant for nearly 24 years, so has seen many children pass through our doors.

She is taking early retirement to help her children out by taking on grandma duties for her ever expanding ?? of grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by the staff and children here, but we wish her all the best in her new ventures.

The end of April sees the start of a new member of staff. Miss Smith will be joining the team as a Teaching Assistant. We look forward to welcoming her to Offord. She will mainly be based in Hawks class to begin with.

2. Please indicate how you feel about the following :-

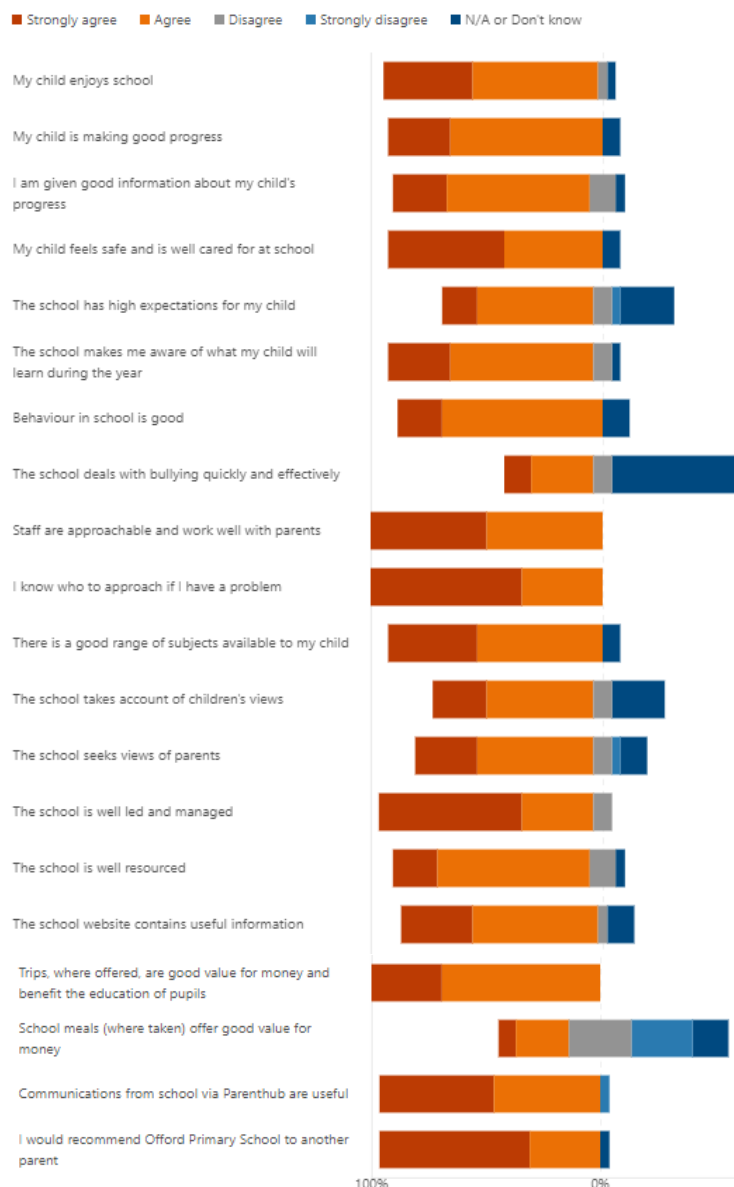
Results from Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone that completed the parent questionnaire. The results are being analysed and are vital for us to use to help us develop our plans for school improvement as we can get the voice of all our stakeholders. The general summary is shown here which is on the whole very positive. This supports what the children tell us, what visitors to school feedback to us and more formal school observations show. The summary is a screenshot of the microsoft form, where you can see the percentages better. The link can be found here :

https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=A3jS89vU183PocF6siXSb8zdSiQpkKHD&id=1u3qfje_FUCP6Rn7wsAtVYZm4qAUu41liwOuLlmg3yFUN0tVSVAYmUXJDRGUjVYVkuXNzZDTVFGSy4u (It is also on the school website on the Parent & Carers pages)

Thank you for all the extra information and free text that you wrote. It is very interesting to see what the school is doing through your eyes. We want to continue to provide an exciting, full educational and social curriculum to our children in a safe and stimulating environment. Your feedback is always welcome, so please email in or speak to your teacher if you have any concerns (or praise). If you asked to be spoken to directly about your comments, you should have been contacted by now.

Thank you again for your continued support.



Attendance

Many thanks to all who have been following the national guidance of keeping their child off for 48 hours if they have had sickness or diarrhea. Our attendance for this term has been just above the national average at around 95%. Well done to Wrens, Robins and Year 3 who last week managed 100% attendance, in fact last Thursday our whole school had 100% attendance...whoop whoop!! Let's hope our bouts of illness are behind us and our school continues on an upward trend.

As always please call our absence line 01840 810308 (option 1) or email absence@offordprimaryschool.org if your child is unwell. Please note the main phone is unlikely to be answered before 8.30am, but by leaving a message we are notified by email.

Coming to School By Car

May I remind you that if you need to drive to school then the safest and easiest place to park is in the pub car park. I would urge you not to drive up Miller's Close at drop off or collection time, as there are many children walking along the road and the paths are very narrow. Please do not use the entrance to the car park as a turn around point, which again can be quite dangerous, so please park a little further away and walk.

Can I also ask you to ensure that the children or their younger siblings do not play in the EYFS outside classroom before or after school. Mrs Taylor and Mrs Johnson will have set things up or tidied away with Wrens class and do not want their equipment moved or broken. Thank you.

Sports Events

We have continued to ensure we are taking part in various sports activities inside and outside of school this term. As you can see from the diary dates, there are many sports activities planned for this term too.

Some of them will involve whole classes, year groups or the whole school. Others such as the HSSP events and the cross country competition will be via invitation only. We are trying to ensure that all children get to represent the school in a sporting event during the year.

Unfortunately we do not have much silverware to show for our efforts so far this year, but every team we have sent out has had a fantastic time. They have shown great team work and resilience and have really enjoyed themselves, which has been great. Transportation costs to these events are often very high. Thank you for your support in helping to provide transport at times especially with the after school events.

London Marathon:

You will see that we plan to take part in the TCS Mini London Marathon. This will involve the children running a mile each and we will be getting our running club members to take the lead on this. This year they have teamed up with Guinness World Records so all schools where children who run, jog or wheel a mile will be part of the world record attempt. If they succeed, we will get a certificate from Guinness World records to display.

We will be doing our challenge on Friday 21st April. This is 2 days before I run the London Marathon myself, so I will be channelling the children enthusiasm for support. I have been asked by a couple of parents about the charity I am running for and to share the donation link. I am raising money for the charity Get Kids Going! who raises money to provide wheelchairs and other aids for disabled athletes up to the ages of 26 – many of our paralympians are sponsored by them. If you can, any donations to spur me on will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

<https://2023tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/kate-ruddock>

Some of this terms sporting stars – Y5/6 Netballers, Y3/4 Gymnastics squad, Offord Dance Troupe & Y5/6 Hockey Stars



Hawks Perform 'A Big Green Adventure'

Well done to Hawks class on an amazing performance of 'A Big Green Adventure'. We ensure that every class has the opportunity to put on a production each year. Being able to perform, develop public speaking skills and to experience standing on stage (even if it is scary) are great skills to be able to experience. We build the performance in to our English curriculum, where we study script based stories. This particular play was chosen as it fitted in with other topic areas in the Y3/4 curriculum of being green and caring about our environment.

The rest of the school very much enjoyed the Hawks performance, and they also performed it twice to adult audiences who thoroughly enjoyed the shows. Well done Hawks!



Offord Musical Concert

We held our first ever Offord Primary School Music Concert this week. Matt Young, our music teacher led the young musicians in a performance of pieces of music that they have been learning and practising in their music lessons. We had performances on drums, piano and guitar as well as a singing solo. The concert ended with a song from our newly formed Offord Choir and then Matt played some classical music on the piano.

The performers were all brilliant. They said they were nervous, but did not show it at all. The music was a variety of classical and rock and it was lovely to see these children's musical talents. The children and parents in the audience very much enjoyed it and it will definitely become a regular fixture in our school calendar.

