

Dear Parents,

JANUARY UPDATE

Welcome to the start of a brand new year and a new term in the school. I am writing to update you about some of the changes in the school as follows:

Lexia Xmas Challenge

The Lexia Christmas challenge has been a great success and over 300 certificates were achieved. As a result we have decided to make this a regular monthly challenge and the three classes in the school each month that have achieved the most certificates will be treated to a non-uniform day.



The three top performing classes in December were Koala, Tiger and Lynx and the children in these classes only will therefore have a non-uniform day tomorrow, Friday 5th January.

Improving communication to parents

This term we are working hard to improve our communication with parents. In order to do this we have started a new Facebook page and a Twitter account. These will be updated daily, together with the news page of the school website. You can find our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/osmaston.primary.1> or just search for Osmaston Primary and look for our school logo. Our Twitter handle is @osmprisch



Please note that it is very important that parents do not name their children or any other pupils at the school on the page as this breaks our e-safety rules and jeopardises the safety of our pupils. For the same reason our pupils have been asked not to 'like' or 'friend' the page.

Parents are free to leave comments and to ask questions via direct message. We will aim to get back to you as quickly as possible. However, if you wish to complain or make comments about an individual pupil or member of staff then please speak with a member of staff directly as online is not the appropriate place to do this.

For those parents that do not have online access we will continue to send out monthly updates as well as letters from individual class teachers.

New Staff

This term we welcome the following new staff on the team:

Mrs Cat Birchall – Jaguar class teacher

Mrs Amena Chaudhury-Ajaib – KS1 teaching assistant

Mrs Afsheen Khaliq – KS1 teaching assistant

Mr Dave Fairhurst – cover teacher

Mr Graham Purdy – catering manager

Mr Simon Walker – KS2 teaching assistant

Mrs Laura Parkin will also now be co-teaching Gorilla class with Miss O'Brien and Mrs Julie Sheldon, teaching assistant, will be moving to work in Lower Key Stage Two.

New Pupils

This term we have a number of new pupils joining us across the school as well as 17 new children in our nursery class. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries. We will do everything that we can to ensure that your children settle in quickly and positively.

Marvellous Me



We are increasingly using the Marvellous Me app to send messages directly to parents. If you are not already able to receive these messages, please do ask your child's class teacher to assist you in getting access.

Attendance

The overall attendance for last term was 93.43% which is well below the national average for primary schools of 96%. Can parents please therefore ensure that their children are in school every day unless there is a serious health issue. Each day of absence is a day of lost learning.

Medical Needs Update

Please can parents ensure that the school has the most up to date information regarding any medical needs that your child might have. In particular we need to know if there is any regular medication that your child is on or any condition that they might have that could require medication. If your child has an asthma inhaler then it is important that we are aware of this and have an inhaler ready for them in school that is within its 'use by' date.

PE Kits

Please can I remind all parents to ensure that their children have full PE kits available in school.

Knowledge Organisers

The next set of knowledge organisers are now ready to be distributed to pupils and parents. You can already find these on the class pages of the school website and we will also be sending out a copy of these shortly. Please note that, for this half term, not all children will be using their English knowledge organiser. Those children that are in a Read Write Inc Group (they will tell you that they have a colour or a number group) will not be working from an English knowledge organiser.

Read Write Inc and Fresh Start

We are pleased to have started our new system of teaching children to read using Read Write Inc and Fresh Start groups. You can find out more about these from our school website. We will also be holding two information morning meetings for parents about our new system. Please note the dates in your diary – either 09:00 on 23rd January or 09:00 on 25th January.



INSET Day

A reminder that our next INSET day will be on Friday 2nd February when the school will be closed to pupils.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Baxter

Mrs Wendy Baxter

Interim Head Teacher