



Osmaston Primary School
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Dear Parents,

HALF TERMLY UPDATE

I would firstly like to welcome all the children back to school after their half term break and look forward to hearing what they have been up to during the short holiday. As previously promised, this letter is to update you on life at Osmaston Primary School.

Ofsted Report

The staff have been working very hard to improve the school over the last few months and this was recognised by our recent Ofsted inspection where we were judged to be 'requires improvement'. Although we are not yet officially judged to be 'good', there were many positive comments about the school and we already have in place an action plan to deal with those areas that Ofsted felt were not yet as good as they can be. Watch this space!

Knowledge Organisers

You will shortly be receiving the latest set of 'knowledge organisers' for your child, via their class teacher. Knowledge organisers set out all the information that your child will be learning over the next few weeks. They enable you to know what to talk to them about and also to support your child in their learning at home – they should be able to confidently tell you all the facts on the knowledge organiser by the end of this term.

Behaviour Expectations

This half term we will be launching our new behaviour policy, which we think has simplified and clarified our expectations of staff and children. We aim to do everything that we can to support children who struggle to meet our standards of behaviour. However, please note that aggression towards other children or staff will not be tolerated and is likely to result in a fixed term or permanent exclusion. We will also be teaching the pupils some new routines for moving around the school quickly and quietly and I hope that they will be able to demonstrate these to you at home and explain why we have introduced them. Further information regarding our behaviour policy and guidelines will be available on our school website.

Developing a Love of Reading

Mrs Rock and her team have been working hard over the school holiday to upgrade our school library, as part of our focus this coming half term on instilling a love of reading into our

children. Please support this by reading regularly to your child (no matter what age they are they will still love this) and, for our older children, encouraging them to read story books or magazines. If you don't have anything suitable at home, please ask your class teacher who can advise. If you feel that you could spare a couple of hours on a regular basis, we will be looking for parent volunteers to help us to run the library in the spring term, please contact Mrs Flint or Mrs Rock if you are interested in finding out more about this.

Move Towards Becoming an Academy

This half term the governors and I will be meeting with a number of possible academy trusts with a view to the school becoming an academy in the first half of 2018. We are looking for a trust that will support our school to become even better whilst ensuring that we retain our unique identity. We expect to have a shortlist of possible trusts by December and will keep you updated on this.

Becoming a School Governor

We are looking for some more people to join the school's governing body and would like to invite parents to apply. Alternatively, if you know anybody that you think would make a good governor, please encourage them to contact the school for a visit. We will provide full training, so please do not worry if you are not clear about the role, but it is important to understand that being a governor is about supporting the school strategically rather than representing any particular group of people. For more information, please ask at the school office.

Parents Evening

We had an excellent turnout at our parent's evenings just before half term and we hope that you found these to be useful. I know that there are still a number of outstanding meetings, particularly if your child is identified as having special educational needs. If you missed the parent's evenings, it is not too late to arrange an appointment, simply have a word with your child's class teacher.

If you have any further questions or issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be in touch again later in the term with an update and to let you know all about our events over the Xmas period.

Cycling to School

If your child comes to school on either their bike or scooter please make sure they have a suitable bike lock to secure it during the day. To comply with health and safety regulations we can no longer bring any unlocked bikes into school for safe keeping and therefore cannot accept any responsibility for unlocked bikes left in the bike racks.

To ensure that the school playground remains as safe as possible for all of our visitors please remind your child that the riding of bikes and scooters whilst on school premises is prohibited.

School Photographs

The final date for placing orders via school is **Thursday 2nd November**. Please ensure that your order is with the school office by 4pm on that date. Any orders after this date will need to be placed directly with Tempest via their website, the details are included in the pack you were given with the sample of your child's photograph.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Wendy Baxter

Interim Head Teacher