OAKLEIGH SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Clare Power

9th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a great 2026. The theme this term is 'The World Around Us', and your class teacher will be sending you a letter shortly describing all the activities being undertaken during the term. Please make sure you log into Tapestry to see the photos and videos of your child taking part in all these activities.

During the year you will be receiving your Annual Review invite letter. Please ensure you read through the paperwork thoroughly and complete the parent/carer review form and return it on the date stated. We enjoy meeting parents face to face but also appreciate that for some parents/ carers you prefer a meeting via ZOOM, so if this is the case, please let us know so the link can be sent to you.

We would like to remind all families to park carefully and respectfully around the school at drop-off and pick-up times. To help ease congestion please ensure children are dropped off and picked up promptly. To avoid congestion in the school foyer, could parents also wait outside the building at the start and end of the school day to keep everyone safe.

OOPS will run a play scheme for 2 days in the half term break on 16th and 17th February. If you have any queries or questions regarding playscheme and funding please email janna.chandler@oakleigh.barnet.sch.uk and she will be able to support you with this. Further details of the four days playscheme running during the Easter holidays will follow.

We have connected with a local charity Give. Help. Share., a charity dedicated to supporting families through nutritious food and practical food education. Their mission is simple: to GIVE nutritious food, HELP feed families, and SHARE food knowledge to help build a healthier future for all. They would be delighted to offer families the opportunity to receive food parcels from them delivered to school.
Each food parcel is designed to help you provide balanced, healthy meals for your family. The parcels may include:

- Ambient food ingredients for healthy meal options
- Child-friendly snacks
- Cereal and milk
- Bread or crackers
- Some fruit or vegetables

The goal of these parcels is to provide some healthy fillers to assist in your weekly food provision. From time to time, they also include meal bags containing all the ingredients needed to make a family meal, along with an easy-to-follow recipe card.

If you would like to participate and receive these food parcels, please let us know by contacting Claire Marsh, Family Support Worker claire.marsh@oakleigh.barnet.sch.uk

Please see the below reminders:

1. **Attendance**
   There is government statutory guidance on pupil attendance which all schools must follow and as such we are unable to authorise any holidays within term time and have a duty to follow up any attendance issues. Please inform school as soon as you know that your child will be absent for any reason and do not pass messages through transport escorts as they may not always reach us. Parents must also inform transport. It is now possible to record absences on the Parent Portal and Arbor App. You can only record same-day absences, so for any extended or future absences, please contact the school.

2. **Arbor app & update of personal records**
   All parents will need to download the 'Arbor' app to receive emails from the school. As a school we are increasingly going 'paperless' and using emails as our main form of communication so please do ensure you have downloaded this app or you will not receive key messages. A reminder is attached to this letter. *Please can all parents/carers update their child's consents on here.*

3. **Free eye testing service from the NHS- SEEABILITY**
   'Seeability' charity are funded by the NHS to provide a comprehensive eye care service in special schools and are now running clinics for all pupils across Oakleigh School. The information leaflet with a link to complete an online consent form will be resent to all parents. The appointments will take place at school and parents will be invited to attend. It is important to get your child's eyes regularly tested and this service will deliver the test in a sensitive way for the children so do sign up.

4. **Uniforms**
   In this cold weather the children will have more items that need labelling for school please such as hats, scarves and gloves. Uniform with the Oakleigh School logo can be purchased via a link on our website Uniform Information - Oakleigh School through 'Smiths Schoolwear'. However, we are happy for parents to purchase the sweatshirts without the logo which can be purchased form all major supermarkets. As a school we believe uniform is helpful in supporting our children to recognise when it is a school day and for supporting developing independence in dressing and toileting. It also helps to foster a sense of belonging and pride in our school community. Please send in wellington boots/spare shoes and waterproofs for your child if they enjoy playing in the puddles.

5. **PSA**
   The school's PSA is a group of staff and parents who help fundraise for the school with different events throughout the year. We are in need of new members to keep this important group going. If you are interested in joining, please contact the school office.

Dates for your diary

- 3rd, 4th & 11th February-Oakleigh main site classroom visits and coffee mornings
- March-Behaviour and communication workshops. Parents will sign up for individual meetings to discuss any behaviour issues and suggested strategies to support behaviour at home
- Thursday 5th March -World Book Day celebrations. *Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character!*
- March (date tbc)- Barnet Dance Festival
- Summer term, Tuesday 21st April - curriculum workshop for all parents/carers led by Sandra Down

We will keep you informed of key events and dates as the term goes on. I look forward to working with you this term.

Kind Regards

C.Power

Clare Power
Head Teacher