



HEADTEACHER'S BULLETIN

November 2023 Edition

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy December and I'm so pleased to be back at school, working with you all. We are already two terms into the school year and the children are hard at work, learning lots of new things. Our new curriculum is being well taught and when talking to and questioning children about their learning, their answers are stunning.

If asked, our Year 6 learners could explain clearly how the heart pumps oxygenated blood to the muscles through the circulatory system. They previously visited our trust secondary school, Ratton, making use of their large Science labs to dissect an actual animal heart. In geography they have also discussed and explored whether our oceans are healthy and if they're not, why? Year 5 learners could explain what a megacity is and can name some of the megacities around the world. In Year 4 learners have discussed weather and climate and can tell us about different climates around the planet. Year 3 are currently learning about life in Britain during the Iron Age. They are asking how we know about history and the lives of people thousands of years ago.

Our new Year 3 children have shown how to be Ocklynge learners. They have settled very well and are a polite, mature and lovely year group. We are so pleased to have them as part of our school. They have focused their learning around using maps and satellite photos to identify places and even create their own maps. We hope that the curriculum letters sent to you all in September and November are providing you with sufficient information, allowing you to explore what is being taught in school and further engage with your children at home.

These curriculum documents are always available through the school website, should you wish to revisit them at any time. **Link here:** <https://www.ocklynge.co.uk/curriculum/our-curriculum> .

As started in October, moving forward, every half term we will be inviting all of our parents/carers into school to attend our Open Events, an opportunity to share the learning taking place within the classroom. The children can share with you all their exercise books, events could be in the form of a creative workshop or even a performance. Each teacher will alert parents to the day and timings of their event. With 24 classes these will obviously need to be on different times and days. We are trying to be sympathetic to those of you with twins (there are 6 lots of them in school!) and hope not to always clash with the other twin's class. To offer some consistency, our **Open Events** will be held during the last week of each half term, further details, as ever, will follow via Edulink. **Date for the diary:** this term these will be held during the **week beginning 11th December**. Watch this space for more information!



Earlier in the year, large parts of our school were redecorated and renovated. The school looks fresh and clean in many areas, and we continue to ensure this is the case. There were new offices built, walls painted, woodwork painted, and some areas were re-carpeted. Many of the old tubular light units have been replaced and new bright, efficient LED lights now make classrooms and communal areas look so much better, as well as being more cost effective! Hopefully, by the December Open Event you will notice the new white walls and dark woodwork all illuminated by the crisp white LEDs.

As we march through Term 2, we already have a large mountain of unclaimed school jumpers and coats at the back of the hall. Any items that are named, these are regularly checked and returned to the children in school. I do this myself! No named uniform that is left unclaimed, will remain in lost property. It only takes seconds to write your child's name on one of the labels, please have a check at home this week and, if needed, write your child's name in their clothing and on their water bottles.

Finally, I am proud to share with you all that last term Ocklynge was awarded the 'Primary Science Quality Mark'. Schools that have achieved a Primary Science Quality Mark have demonstrated a significant commitment to science leadership, teaching and learning and the profile and quality of science in each accredited school is very high. Ms Debi Hanson, our Year 5 Teacher and Science Lead, worked tirelessly last academic year, gathering evidence, examining the curriculum and advising colleagues. I wish to personally thank Ms Hanson for the work involved and am proud we can include PSQM on our headed paper. Well done.

We are now less than two weeks away from the Christmas break. The children's excitement is tangible, and we all look forward to the festive holiday. With festivities and celebrations in mind, we hope to see many of you at our **Values assembly on December 15th**, where some children will be awarded medals for expressing our values of **Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, or Reflection**.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2024 and look forward to continuing our journey in the New Year.

Paul Reilly
Headteacher