

Ongar Primary School Newsletter

Our real life learners are challenged and inspired in our safe, supportive and respectful school.



Monday 10th September
DINNER MENU WEEK 2

School Weekly Target – 96%

Attendance

Please ensure your child is on time and in school every day. Just 10mins late every day equals 2 ½ days of missed learning this term.

Our expectation is that your child will achieve above 96% attendance. Attendance has a direct impact on your child's progress and learning.

HOURS LOST IN LEARNING				
Description	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 Days	0	0
	99%	188 Days	2	10
Good	98%	186 Days	4	20
	97%	184 Days	6	30
Satisfactory	96%	182.5 Days	7.5	37.5

Description	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Cause for Concern	95%	180.5 Days	9.5	47.5
	94%	178.5 Days	11.5	57.5
	93%	176.5 Days	13.5	67.5
	92%	174.5 Days	15.5	77.5
Unsatisfactory	91%	173 Days	17	85
Serious Cause for Concern	90%	171 Days	19	95
	89%	169 Days	21	105
	88%	167 Days	23	115
	87%	165.5 Days	25	125
	86%	163.5 Days	26.5	132.5
Critical	85%	161.5 Days	28.5	142.5

As a parent or carer, you are legally responsible for making sure your child receives a full time education.

Essex will enforce the section of the attendance policy which states *'due to the importance of pupils settling into school at the commencement of the school year, penalty notices may also be issued if there have been at least 6 consecutive sessions of unauthorised leave of absence during the first two weeks of September due to a term-time holiday'* 6 sessions equals 3 school days.

Our current Attendance Policy is available on the school website – www.ongar-pri.essex.sch.uk. Please read through this to familiarise yourselves thoroughly.

Welcome Back Everyone to Ongar Primary School!

I hope that you have enjoyed a wonderful summer break from school and that you and your children are all refreshed and energised for the exciting year ahead.

We welcome eight new pupils within our school which is absolutely fantastic. They are: **Ahlberg Class** – Lily, **Butterworth Class** – Callum, Rhys, Sophia & Evie, **Morpurgo Class** – Faith, Olivia and Ellie-May, along with our 20 new starters in Donaldson Class.

And welcome to our new staff: Miss Green (Ahlberg Class), Miss Wilkinson (Dahl Class), Mr Butler (Morpurgo Class) and Mrs Mathews (Donaldson Class).



Welcome to your new class

Sessions have been arranged to give you the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher, see your child's new classroom and to find out about the year ahead.

Please note the dates and times for
Ahlberg Class (Yr1) - Friday 14th September at 9am
Butterworth Class (Yr2) - Wednesday 12th September at 9am
Dahl Class (Yr 3) – Thursday 13th September at 2.45pm
Rowling Class (Y4) Tuesday 11th September at 9am
Morpurgo Class (Yr 5) – Wednesday 12th September at 2.45pm
Horowitz class (Yr 6) – Tuesday 11th September at 2.45pm

Building works

Over the summer we have carried out a number of improvements to our school. We have a new hall flooring, with thanks to the Derek Shuttleworth Trust who contributed towards this expense.

We are converting our ICT suite into a break out space for small group work and interventions. We have invested in new IT equipment and have new laptops and storage so that computing can now be taught in classrooms. We have also improved security at the school with additional fob entries and a signing in system for visitors.

Asthma Pumps

If your child needs to use an asthma pump please ensure that their pump and spacer is in school and clearly labelled with their name. you will also need to completed a form which will allow us to administer medication, these are available from the school office. Please also check that the medication is in date.

Data Collection Sheets

These will be going out this week. It is important that you check your child's sheet thoroughly and return to the school, signed, even if no changes are made.

Diary Dates:

Diary dates will be added to the school website over the next week and are available on our website – www.ongar-pri.essex.sch.uk

Cashless Payment System

After a small glitch in the system, SIMs Agora is now up and running for the payment of school meals. Emails have been sent out to parents asking them to register, if you have not received your email or are having issues please speak to the school office who will be happy to help.

It is our wish that all payments will be made via the online system, making the school cashless by the beginning of 2019.

Please also remember that we have a no debt policy in respect of school meal. This means that meals need to be paid for in advance or on the day they are taken – Thank you for your co-operation.

Clubs

We are still waiting for confirmation for some of our externally run clubs. A club timetable will hopefully be available towards the end of this week. It is our plan to start after school club week beginning Monday 24th September, but please check start dates for each club when you receive the club timetable. Clubs are offered on a first come first served basis, however we will try to ensure that all children who reply promptly get a club of their choice where possible.

Key Stage 1 and 2 Ninja Maths



We are continuing with our programme to encourage children to learn and practice their timestables. Depending on how skilled they are at their timestables will determine their ranking. The more they practise their ranking will improve; with every new rank they will be awarded a new wristband.

The children from year 2 upwards will have taken their first Ninja test this week and will be awarded their wristbands as they progress. Please ask you child how they ranked in today's quiz and encourage them to practise so they can move up the ranks.

Parking

Please do NOT park on the pavement outside of our school. This is incredibly dangerous and puts our children at risk. We have been informed by residents of Aukingford Gardens that some of our parents are parking there to drop off and pick up children. Please be aware that Aukingford Gardens is a private road and as such should only be used when visiting residents. Please also be considerate of our neighbours when parking by the school and avoid blocking driveways and pavements.

School Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform every day. Details of our uniform policy can be found on our website. If you are unsure, please ask before making expensive purchases. Please ensure your child's name is in all clothing, including PE kits.

Academy Status Update

We are delighted to inform you that our conversion to academy status was completed on the 1st September. All of the Ongar primary schools and The Ongar Academy are now part of the Bridge Academy trust. We look forward to working together with other schools in the community for the benefit of all the children of Ongar.

Secondary School Applications

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opens on Wednesday, 12 September 2018, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2019.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2018.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 98% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

Further to my previous communication, this year, we are not sending letters to parents about making an application. All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2019-20 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies. I provide a link to the booklet below.

http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/econdary_Admissions_Booklet.pdf