

Ongar Primary School Newsletter



In our safe and supportive school, we provide lessons full of challenge, inspiration and real life learning in order to promote independent, respectful, high achievers who step out of their comfort zone, smiling.

Monday 9th January 2017
DINNER MENU WEEK 1

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL WEEKLY TARGET - 96%
% for w/e 6th January 2017

Class	Weekly %	Points to Date
Donaldson	96.7	3
Hargreaves	76.2	0
Morpurgo	85.7	0
Dahl	93.8	2
Rowling	87.5	0
Tolkien	90.3	1

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

The following children will be receiving certificates in this Friday's assembly

Donaldson	Dahl
Rebecca	Dylan
Olivia	Billy
Kai	Ruby-May
Alisa	Oliver
Teddy	

DIARY DATES

Diary dates are now available on the school website – www.ongar-pri.essex.sch.uk. Please be aware diary dates are subject to change occasionally.

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you had a lovely Christmas break.

Just before the holiday the government launched the school performance tables so that you can compare your school with other local schools. I encourage you all to visit the web site which can be found on the address: www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/. You will see that we are the highest performing school in our locality which is absolutely wonderful to see, but more importantly it means that we are preparing our children exceptionally well for their secondary education. Our autumn data has surpassed last years and looks set to continue to get better and better. The only children who seem to be making slower progress are those whose attendance is below 90%.

Record 100% Attendees

On Friday, I gave out a record number of 100% attendance certificates to the pupils who had been in school every day across the autumn term which is fantastic to see. This next term is much shorter, but it is a vital term for preparation for SATs for Year 2 and Year 6; for the Year 1 children to prepare for their phonics screen and for all other year groups to increase their level of understanding of their year group expectations. Class teachers have worked hard over the holiday time to ensure that the topics being studied are as engaging and exciting as possible and so if your child is to get the most out of this term, they must be in school, on time, every day.



Spam Email

It has been brought to my attention that some parents received an email addressed to their child from Paypal. Our ICT technician has thoroughly checked our system and all our security is in place and fully functional. However, previously a school email was sent to parents without addresses being concealed, and we believe that these addresses were harvested from a recipient's machine and used without knowledge to send Spam emails. This is a matter we take very seriously and steps have been put in place to avoid this happening again. For your own internet protection, please check your security regularly and never click on links contained in emails if you are unsure of the sender.



We are also looking at ways to further improve the way we communicate with parents and will be exploring using the ParentMail service. This service will require parents to register with ParentMail to allow the school to communicate via email and text message. Further details will follow in due course and your co-operation is very much appreciated. I apologise on the behalf of the school for any inconvenience that this may have caused. It will not happen again.

Writing Competition

Congratulations to Morgan Skipper and Francesca Luetchford for winning the writing competition set by Mrs Natrass before Christmas. Both children wrote imaginative stories which contained many, if not all the criteria for writing in their year group. They each received a £20 voucher for The Entertainer toy shop. Whilst quite a few children submitted stories, overall participation was poor, with no children from Rowling class entering. The purpose of the competition was to allow children to independently use the skills they are taught in class to improve their writing. Mrs Natrass hopes for an improve uptake when the new competition is set.

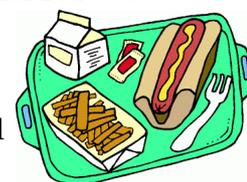


Before and After School Clubs

As we are at the start of a new term please find attached the new club timetable. Please complete and return your preference slip to the school office as soon as possible to reserve your child's place. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to speak to the school office.

School Dinner for EYFS and Key Stage 1 Children

Just to remind all parents of children in Donaldson, Hargreaves and Morpurgo that from this week we will be providing a hot school meal every day for your child. Children in these classes are entitled to a Free School Meal. Our current uptake is below the national average for this provision and this is largely due to some of our children being unsure of trying new foods. We wish to encourage the children to try new flavours but understand that they may still wish to have the security of also bringing the packed lunch that they enjoy into school. If your child normally brings a packed lunch into school and are in any of the above classes, they may still do so but they will be given a school meal to try. If you do not wish your child to have a school meal, please notify us in writing as soon as possible.



Dinner Money

With effect from Monday 5th December, we began trialling a No Debt policy in relation to school dinners. I would like to thank the majority of our parents who are adhering to this. We do however still have children requesting school meals who have not been given the money to pay for them. Please ensure that if your child is having a school meal you have either credit on their account or the money is given in on the day the meal is taken.

I am also aware of outstanding arrears to dinner money and the children concerned are no longer taking a school meal. If you have dinner arrears and would like to discuss this further with me, please do not hesitate to come and see me otherwise please arrange to settle any arrears with immediate effect.