



Newsletter

25th October 2019

Oakley Cross Friends *Article 31 - children have the right to relax and play*

Our pumpkin decorating competition was very successful. There were some very imaginative entries and it was a difficult task for the judges to choose the winning designs. Thank you very much for supporting this event and for taking the time to help make some fantastic pumpkins. We raised a brilliant £45 - well done everyone! Your child will come home this week with a 'Bag 2 School' bag. If you are having a tidy out over the half term, please fill this bag with any unwanted clothes, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, soft toys, bedding, curtains and towels. Return the bag to school by Friday 8th November and you will help us to raise a little more money which we use to provide the children with treats in school.

Halloween Disco & EYFS Spooky Party *Article 14 - children have the right to believe what they want*

Once again our Halloween Disco was really popular and there were some very scary costumes! The children had a fun time dancing and scaring the teachers! As usual we don't invite children from Nursery or Reception Class but they have had a great time today at their own party, dancing and playing games. Thank you to all of our staff for giving up their time to support and organise these events.

Visits and Visitors *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Willow class had a really action packed day at the Centre for Life. They enjoyed their workshop sessions and had fun exploring the activities on offer! The children were a real credit to the school and represented Oakley Cross well. Thank you to Mr Smith and Miss O'Neil for arranging this visit. Maple Class had a visit from a local fire crew as part of their Phoenix Fire Champions project. Unfortunately the crew did have to leave in a hurry to attend an emergency. We are looking forward to hearing all about the project from Maple Class next half term.

Sporting events *Article 15 - every child has the right to join groups*

Our local tag rugby league has now finished. Our team played extremely well, represented our school to a high standard and showed great teamwork. Thank you to Miss Turner and Mrs Lowrie for overseeing our tag rugby team and for coaching them well! Next half term will see the start of our football league. For those children interested in taking part, football club will be on Mondays after school.

NSPCC Assembly *Article 19 - all children have the right to be safe*

This week all children have had a visit from Christine and Sarah from the NSPCC. With the help of their mascot, Buddy, they led an assembly for our children and covered the topics of bullying and abuse in a child friendly and age appropriate way. After the half term break, Christine and Sarah will be back to work with our Y5 and Y6 children to help them understand about their right to be safe and how to share their worries.

Attendance *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Our overall attendance today stands at 93.9%. Please make a huge effort to help improve our school attendance and put your class at the top of the leaderboard. Currently Maple is winning with a class attendance of 96.21%. Your child's attendance is important and we will contact parents of children where attendance is causing concern to offer further advice and support. We are monitored closely by the local authority; low attendance could trigger their intervention and persistent absence can lead to parents being issued a fine or further enforcement action.

Anti-Bullying Week *Article 19 - all children have the right to be safe*

Anti-bullying week runs from 11th to 15th November and all of our children will be engaged in activities to develop their understanding of what bullying is and the forms it can take. We will show our support by wearing odd socks on Tuesday 12th November. It is okay to be different!

Head Teacher, Mrs R Brannan email: oakleycross@durhamlearning.net Tel: 01388 833186

Children in Need *Article 27 - Every child has the right to a good standard of living*

On 15th November we will be supporting children in need again. The Theme is 'Get Together' so we are going to get together and make a school rainbow. Children are invited to come in their class colour and we would suggest a donation of £1 towards children in need. The class colours are:

EYFS - Yellow

Beech Class - Red

Pine Class - Green

Willow Class - Orange

Sycamore Class - Blue

Maple Class - Purple

Reading at Oakley Cross *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Mrs Collier will continue to lead our school book club this year. The savings club is still in place so children can save in advance. Children can save a small amount each week or fortnight and will have their very own savings card to keep a record of their savings. This money can then be used at the school book fair. Reading is important to us and we want your child to be the best they can be. We really appreciate your support by taking time to hear your child read at home and 10 minutes each day. This has a very significant impact on improving their fluency and comprehension. Please make sure children return their reading books regularly so they have chance to read a wider selection.

Headlice *Article 24 - every child has the right to the best possible health*

Children love to share and one of the things they share frequently are headlice. Please spare some time while your child is off school to check their hair and treat if necessary. Thank you!

Parent, Child and Teacher Meetings *Article 3 - the best interests of the child should be top priority*

After half term you will receive an invitation from your child to come along to meet with them and their teacher, share some of their work, look at books and discuss how they have settled this year. Your child's teacher will be available on the following days but your invitation will have more information on times.

Monday 18 th November	EYFS - Mrs Chapman (drop in during your child's session) Pine - Miss Turner Maple - Mr Robinson
Tuesday 19 th November	Beech - Mrs Askwith Willow - Mr Smith and Miss O'Neil Sycamore - Miss Curry

Breakfast Club *Article 24 - every child has the right to nutritious food*

Breakfast Club begins at 8.10 a.m. for all of our children. Breakfast Club is free and there is a good choice of cereals, toast, yoghurts, fruit and drinks on offer - a filling and healthy breakfast! Please enter through the Sports Hall entrance.

PE Kits *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

PE is a compulsory element of the curriculum and children must have a PE kit in school at all times - plain black/navy shorts, plain, white t-shirt and plimsolls or indoor trainers. Some children do not have a change of footwear and outdoor shoes can't be worn for indoor PE lessons.

Governor Vacancy *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor on our school governing body. If you are interested in this role or would like more information, please pop in to school.

Parent Mail *Article 17 - you have the right to get information that is important to you*

Thank you to everyone who has now registered with Parent Mail to receive all our school letters and bulletins. If you have registered but not downloaded the FREE app please do so. Parents who have, tell us this makes receiving our messages so much easier than relying on email alone as you will receive a notification alert.

Nursery Places *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

We still have places available in our nursery. If you are interested in a place or would like more information, please pop in to school and we will be happy to show you round and provide you with an application form.

Messy Play Sessions *Article 31 - all children have the right to play*

This term we will have Messy Play Sessions running in school. These are led by 'Little L's Mess-a-Lot' and are open to anyone interested. The sessions are suitable for babies sitting up unaided through to children of 5. Sessions are in our school hall on a Tuesday morning at 10:00am and cost £5 per session. This includes coffee for adults, a drink and snack for children and time to explore and play. Our session dates are as follows: 5th November, 12th November, 19th November, 26th November, 3rd December

Dates for your Diary

Friday 25 th October	Break up for half term
Monday 4 th November	School re-opens
Tuesday 5 th November	Flu vaccines - more information to follow
Wednesday 6 th November	Y5/6 football league begins
Monday 11 th November	Sycamore Class Remembrance Assembly
Tuesday 12 th November	Odd Sock Day for Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 13 th November	Y5 and Y6 to Dukeshouse Wood
Wednesday 13 th November	Beech Class 'Special Person' Lunch
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need Rainbow Day
Week beginning Monday 18 th November	Parent and teacher meetings this week
Tuesday 19 th November	Y2 kurling and boccia festival
Tuesday 19 th November	Maple on the Cornish Trail
Thursday 21 st November	PTA PJ and movies night
Thursday 28 th November	Y5/6 boccia school games event
Thursday 28 th November	PTA Christmas Fair
Friday 29 th November	Maple visit Auckland Castle
Tuesday 10 th December	Y3/Y4 Dance Festival
Thursday 12 th December	EYFS Christmas Sing Song/Nativity 9am
Thursday 12 th December	KS1/KS2 Christmas play 2pm
Friday 13 th December	KS1/KS2 Christmas play 9.30am
Monday 16 th December	KS1 party
Tuesday 17 th December	KS1/KS2 Panto trip
Tuesday 17 th December	EYFS party
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas dinner
Thursday 19 th December	EYFS Littlest Elf 9.30am
Thursday 19 th December	KS2 party
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20 th December	Carols in school 2pm
Friday 20 th December	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 7 th January	School re-opens

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with school if you want to put forward a suggestion or discuss anything.

Thank you.

R Brannan