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Friday 27th October 2023

End of Autumn Term One Updates

Dear families,

We have reached the end of the first half term of this academic year, and after eight weeks of lots of learning everyone is ready for a well-deserved break.

For those children entitled to benefit-related free school meals, vouchers will be issued for the holiday period. You will receive £10 per child, and they can be accessed via a text that will be sent out tomorrow. If your child does not currently receive benefit-related free school meals, please check the following website for eligibility criteria and to apply online: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>. Benefit-related free school meals are different to universal free school meals, and you will only receive the voucher if you have applied for and are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals (this can be confusing, so please contact the school if you need any support with this).

The cost of living continues to be a concern for many and if any of our families are struggling financially, we would urge you to contact the school as we do have some funding available to support our families in difficult circumstances. Don't forget, we also have lots of preloved uniform available and not only does this support financially, but it also supports the environment by creating less material waste. Thank you to everyone for your uniform donations - please keep them coming as it is lovely that the community can support each other in this way.

The children will return to school on Monday 6th November, and this will also be flu vaccination day at Olive Hill. Flu vaccines will only be given to the children where parents have accepted the offer online. School is not able to do this for you as it is organised and delivered by Vaccination UK on behalf of the NHS. We believe they will offer a further date later in the academic year.

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education, it is vital that they attend regularly. We expect the children to be in school and on time every day unless they are not well enough to attend. A leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and then only for a period of less than five days. School will not consider a leave of absence request unless the correct form has been completed with at least 10 days' notice given. Exceptional circumstances are unavoidable, significant, and short. If you decide to go ahead with an unauthorised leave of absence, you could be fined.

Once again this is an urgent appeal to all our parents, carers and relatives who drive and park around the local area - please always consider the safety of other road users. As the driver, it is your responsibility to be aware of pedestrians. Please do not mount

kerbs as this increases the dangers. If you witness any driving or parking that is likely to cause a danger to life, please report it to both the police and school. We would always encourage car users to park safely, even if this means walking a little further.

Our school website contains a vast amount of information regarding your child's education at Olive Hill. We would encourage all families to read the weekly Headteacher's Blog, as this contains information about what has been happening in school over the week, along with important reminders and frequently has lots of praise for our wonderful children. You will also find a school calendar on the website which details events for the rest of the autumn term. All dates are subject to change, as sometimes things happen, like snow! We will also add more dates as arrangements are finalised. More detailed communication regarding each event will be circulated closer to the actual date.

As mentioned, the children will return to school on Monday 6th November and the term will end on Thursday 21st December. Friday 1st December and Friday 22nd December are INSET days and the children will not be required to attend on these days.

For a child to get the most from their education it is important that the school and parents can work together in partnership. We do our best to make sure we are visible at the beginning and end of each day should you wish to share anything with us. During the school day, most staff are with the children so they are not able to return/make phone calls and emails during this time - individual staff members will always endeavour to communicate with you as soon as possible.

Wishing you all a lovely holiday.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Grasby
Headteacher