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Friday 26th May 2023

End of Summer Term One Updates

Dear families,

After 6 weeks, minus a few bank holidays, we have reached the end of summer term one. Fortunately for us, the sun is shining, and it looks set to continue into the Whitsun break.

As a primary school, we have a number of statutory assessments that we must make throughout a child's time in primary education:

- The reception baseline assessment (made within the first six weeks of a child starting reception in September)
- Year one phonics screening
- Year two phonics screening (for those children who didn't pass the screening in year one)
- Currently, year two statutory tests in reading, maths and spelling, punctuation, and grammar (optional)
- Year four multiplication check
- Year six statutory tests in reading, maths, and spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

This half term, our year six children have completed their SATs. We will not know of their outcomes until July; however, all the children deserve to be congratulated for their brilliant attitude towards this set of tests. They all gave it their very best, and this is what we ask of them. They loved attending their special breakfast club each morning and consuming copious amounts of toast, not to mention the biscuits after each test! The whole community should be very proud of this group of children.

Also taking place this half term has been the year two SATs. It must be said that are our year two cohort are known for being very chatty - they love sharing their news with everyone around school (getting passed them in the corridor can be quite a challenge as they all want to tell you something exciting). We were so proud of how quietly they sat to do their tests - or 'quizzes' as they like to call them. Just like their older peers in year six, they did their very best and kept smiling their beautiful smiles throughout the week.

For those children entitled to benefit-related free school meals, vouchers will be issued for the May holiday period. You will receive £10 per child. 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.

Here are some of our usual half-termly reminders...

For any children who are quickly growing out of their uniform, please remember that we have lots of preloved uniform available in school - just speak to a member of staff and we will do our best to find the right sizes for your child. We do expect our children to come to school in the appropriate school uniform every day. We appreciate any donations

of school uniform that are in good condition.

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.

We continue to have huge concerns regarding parking near the school. We are working closely with the local authority and the police to try to bring about change in the behaviour of drivers. This is paramount for the safety of our children and to prevent a potentially fatal accident from occurring. It is the responsibility of the driver 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. We have some parents who consistently park on the yellow zig zags; they are there to protect all school users and by parking and/or stopping on the yellow zig zags you are endangering the lives of others.

The sun has got his hat on, hip, hip, hip hooray! As we are now, hopefully, experiencing the warmer summer weather please do make sure your children come to school equipped for the sun. Hats are a necessity, and we don't mind the cool addition of sunglasses. Please make sure both are labelled with your child's name. We expect all children to have a water bottle in school with them everyday to keep them hydrated. Please apply suncream in the morning, and if you wish for them to reapply it during the school day, please make sure your child can do this independently.

At Olive Hill, we very much believe in creating an environment where everyone feels safe, listened to, and cared for. We want everyone to feel a sense of belonging to our community. We are very fortunate that we have a staff team who understand why this is so important, not only for the wellbeing of our children but also for their success in learning. The staff at Olive Hill are very special, and they will go above and beyond to do their best for the children. They do this because your children are such a pleasure to have in school - no matter what is going on, even if you are having the worst day ever, you can guarantee that the children will make you smile.

As always, our partnership with parents is imperative to the success of the children. Please do speak to us if you have any concerns, no matter how small. On our return to school, the focus for the remainder of the academic year will be on transition to the next year group - they grow up so quickly!

The children will return to school on Monday 5th June 2023.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Grasby
Headteacher