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Monday 24th July 2023

End of Year Letter for Families

Dear families,

We have come to the end of another academic year at Olive Hill, and what a year it has been. Our wonderful children and staff, along with our wider community, have come together through the hardest of times and the best of times. As the year ends, it is important we all take time to reflect on the last 12 months and everything we have experienced. Many of those experiences will fill us with joy, but one tragic event from this year will never leave us. It is heartfelt when I say make the most of the summer break and the extra time you have with each other - enjoy adventures, both big and small, and make memories together.

Statutory assessments

At Olive Hill we want the best for our children and there are many, many ways that we measure their success both academically and as happy, confident, responsible citizens. The government direct us to measure the children's attainment at certain times throughout their primary education and below you will see our outcomes for this academic year. (We have compared this to national where the data is available.)

- In reception, 63% of the cohort achieved a good level of development.
- In year one, 88% of the children passed the phonics screening test.
- In year two, 71% of the children attained age-related expectations in reading; 61% in writing and 83% in maths.
- In year four, 77% of our children scored 25/25 on the multiplication check.
- In year six, 67% of children attained age-related expectations in reading, writing and maths combined, this compares to a national of 59%; 84% of the children attained age-related expectations in reading compared to a national of 73%; 72% attained age-related expectations in writing compared to a national of 71%; 79% attained age-related expectations in maths compared to a national of 73%; and, 82% attained age-related expectations in grammar, punctuation and spelling compared to a national of 72%.

We are very proud of all the children; they have all worked incredibly hard to achieve the best outcome from their individual starting point.

Term dates for next academic year

Monday 4th September - INSET

Tuesday 5th September - INSET

Wednesday 6th September - Return to school

Friday 27th October - Last day of autumn term one

Monday 6th November - Return to school

Friday 1st December - INSET

Thursday 21st December - Last day of autumn term two

Friday 22nd December - INSET

Monday 8th January - Return to school

Friday 9th February - Last day of spring one
Monday 19th February - Return to school
Friday 22nd March - Last day of spring two
Monday 8th April - INSET
Tuesday 9th April - Return to school
Monday 6th May - Bank holiday
Friday 24th May - Last day of summer one
Monday 3rd June - Return to school
Friday 19th July - Last day of the academic year
Monday 22nd July - INSET

School uniform

We expect our children to attend school in the appropriate school uniform and take pride in their appearance. We know that many of you will purchase new school uniform over the summer break and below is a reminder of the expected uniform at Olive Hill:

- Charcoal grey trousers or skirt (these should be tailored and skirts of a suitable length)
- White Polo shirt
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (these can be purchased from the school office if you wish to have the school logo on them)
- Headscarves in grey, black or royal blue
- Hair accessories in white, royal blue, grey or black
- Socks or tights in plain white, royal blue, grey or black
- Plain black shoes or white, blue or black sandals during the summer (plain black trainers are permitted)
- Summer dresses are to be royal blue and white for the summer
- Charcoal grey tailored shorts during the summer

Please note, leggings and cycling shorts are NOT part of the school uniform

Please make sure all items of clothing are labelled. There are over 450 royal blue jumpers worn to school each day; it is very difficult to reunite lost items with the correct owner if they aren't labelled.

PE kit

Children are expected to wear their PE kit to school on specific days. The days will be specified at the start of the autumn term. As with school uniform, we have high expectations of the children and will expect them to wear the correct PE kit at all times. PE kits are to be worn with a school jumper or cardigan; children do not need a separate hoodie or tracksuit top. Below you will find a list of permitted PE kit:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts
- Trainers (if your child wears plain black trainers to school, then the same trainers can be worn for PE)

Pre-loved uniform

There is a designated space in school where you can donate unwanted uniform and PE kit, and a place where you can browse what has been donated in the hope that it can be reused. We set this up for a variety of reasons: not only does it help people financially,

but it also supports the environment. We encourage all our community to use it if they wish. The donated uniform is available free of charge. Please do save any unwanted uniform over the summer and bring it to school on the first day back. If you'd like to browse the items available, please speak to a member of staff in September.

School attendance

We are committed to providing all our children with the best possible education and care. For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly. Every child should be in school, on time, every day that the school is open unless the reason for the absence is authorised by the school. It is very important therefore that parents and carers make sure that their child attends regularly. As a school we closely monitor the attendance of all our children, including those who are not statutory school age. We are not able to authorise term-time holidays and failure to comply with this could result in a fine. When requests for a leave of absence detail exceptional circumstances, we expect the minimum amount of time off school to be requested.

Free school meal summer vouchers

For those children entitled to benefit-related free school meals, vouchers have been issued for the summer holiday period via email today. You will receive £60 per child.

The staff at Olive Hill work exceptionally hard throughout the year to deliver a high-quality education to the children. Sadly, on occasions we do have to say goodbye to members of our team. This year we say goodbye to the wonderful Miss Care, who is relocating Nottingham. Tracy, the school cook, has made the difficult decision to move to a smaller school in the local area and Mrs Honey will leave us for a year as she commences her maternity leave. Mr Priest is also leaving us for the year as he has been deployed to support another school within our multi academy trust - I think it is fair to say that Mr Priest was distraught on Friday as he has a great love for our school, a place where he has given the staff and children his very best and we are going to miss him so very much. We wish all of them well in the future and know they will take many happy memories of Olive Hill and the amazing children with them.

We also said goodbye to our year six cohort on Friday. Every year, without fail, this causes the tears to flow. We spend years investing in the lives of our children and doing our best to make a difference to them. We know they are ready for the next stage of their educational journey, but it doesn't make it any easier. We wish them well in their next adventure!

As always, it is a privilege to be the headteacher of Olive Hill. A huge thank you to every member of our community - parents, staff, governors, grandparents, children - for all your support this academic year. On behalf of all the staff, may I wish you a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

We look forward to seeing the children at 8.45am on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

Yours faithfully,
Miss Grasby
Headteacher