



## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

At times, I have struggled to keep up to speed with all of the information we have to digest from the government. Guidance can change at very short notice and it seems as though there is a new headline every day. I know that I can end up feeling a little confused.

With this in mind, I want to say thank you (again) for being patient with us whilst we put new routines in place. I like to think that I am giving you enough advanced warning and plenty of reminders about the routines for the start and end of the day but I appreciate that you are all doing your part. I do feel like a tough taskmaster when calling out at the school gate but these measures are part of how we are making sure the school is safe for everyone. I have been reminded again that children are very adaptable and that it can be harder for us as adults to adjust to something new. I have been especially pleased by how many children, even those in the younger year groups, are able to come into school on their own. Don't worry if your child isn't ready to do this yet. It will happen in time.

I've always taken pride in the quality of the communication that we send home and that we communicate honestly and on time. When I first started teaching, before some of you had even started school, there would be the occasional paper copy of a letter and a very infrequent newsletter. It is hard to imagine that a school could operate in that way today and there have been many changes for the better.

We are excited about using DOJO with parents and have some amazing plans in place for when we start to develop our website. I am increasingly using Twitter as a way of sending out a quick message from the school as it is easier and faster than using ParentMail. If you haven't already, please follow the school on Twitter, as well as your child's class. The school twitter name is @OWPSchool.

In his message last week, Mr Marks beat me to it when he congratulated the children on how smart they look in their PE kits. We were worried that it was a bit of a gamble when we decided to let the children wear their PE kits for the whole day but we are already seeing the benefits. We have saved lots of time that would have been spent on getting changed, there is less lost property and the children still look smart. We are being firm about insisting on the correct kit, but you knew that we would as I wrote to you about this several times last summer.

Last week, Mr Marks and I visited every class to see how the children were settling back into school. I was so relieved to see that they had settled in quickly and were the same OWPS, well-behaved children that we saw in March. I think that it is a reflection of you as parents, us as staff and your children, that they have remembered the PRIDE Code and have a positive attitude to learning. Whatever the next few months have in store for us, even if it involves a bubble of children having to work from home, I am confident that we will make it a success.

Although we have sent out a full school calendar to parents, we are having to think carefully about whether things can go ahead as we intended. My gut feeling is that it will be a while before we can meet you all face to face or have any large groups of parents in school. I like to think that I see any problem as a challenge waiting for a solution so I am sure that there will be a way around each issue.

Thanks again for your support and flexibility. We appreciate it!

Simon Eardley  
Headteacher



## Attendance

This week, our Whole School Attendance was:

**97.31%**

Gordon the Good Attendance Gorilla was most impressed by the following classes which had the highest attendance of 100%:

**ELEPHANTS  
IGUANAS  
MACAWS**



## Shining Stars



Well done to the following children who all received a Shining Star this week!

Penguins: n/a	Magpies: n/a
Elephants: Joel Starkey	Iguanas: Isaac Esward
Giraffes: Alex Bentley	Squirrels: Phoenix Webb
Macaws: Alex Buchanan	Nightingales: Eddie Radford
Cobras: Brandon White	Flamingoes: Harley Jayne
Wombats: Maisie Keane	Armadillos: Amy Farquhar
Sharks: Auriol Stronach	Toucans: Jenny Retiola

## Reading Champions

Every time a child reads with an adult at home, they earn a Dojo point towards their class reward.

Our target is that every child reads **WITH** an adult at home 5 times a week. This week's class averages were:



Penguins: n/a	Magpies: n/a	Elephants: 406	Iguanas: 278
Elephants: 7.4 ★	Iguanas: 7.1	Giraffes: 433	Squirrels: 598
Giraffes: 5.8	Squirrels: 5.7	Macaws: 335	Nightingales: 157
Macaws: 5.4	Nightingales: 5.1	Cobras: 254	Flamingoes: 808 ★
Cobras: 4.2	Flamingoes: 3.8	Wombats: 346	Armadillos: 435
Wombats: 4.3	Armadillos: 5.4	Sharks: 471	Toucans: 350
Sharks: 4.2	Toucans: 5.3		

Children in Years 1-6 earn Dojo Points for their class by reading with an adult at home,



**ClassDojo**

demonstrating the PRIDE Code and our Learning Toolkit, and for gaining House Points.

This week's Dojo Scores were:



## Dojo Masters

Our Top 3 Dojo scorers were:

**KS1:** Everly Goose 27

**LKS2:** Harley Jayne and Riddhi Ghosh 42

**UKS2:** Finley Robertson, Rosie Ward and Tiana Emmins 23



Children in Years 3-6 are challenged to practise their times tables at [www.trockstars.com](http://www.trockstars.com).

These children were the most improved this week:

<b>Toucans:</b> Imogen Mabbutt	<b>Sharks:</b> Oscar Czyz
<b>Wombats:</b> Ryley Honeywood-Down	<b>Armadillos:</b> Safiya Khan
<b>Cobras:</b> Niall Fox	<b>Flamingoes:</b> Daniel Al- Samirraie
<b>Nightingales:</b> Danika Meshi	<b>Macaws:</b> Daisy Palmer

## HOUSE POINTS

 <b>DEMPSEY</b> 53	<b>MALLARD</b> 47	<b>NENE</b> 38	<b>FENS</b> 50
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## Flu Immunisations

On the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the NHS School Immunisation Team will be coming to OWPS. Children in Foundation and Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are entitled to the vaccination free, from the NHS, in school. The school-based nasal flu immunisation programme helps protect your child against flu. Flu can be a dangerous illness and can cause serious complications.



You can consent or decline on behalf of your child at <https://tinyurl.com/ybk5f6ng>. Please note that this link will close on **30/09/2020**.

If your child cannot have the nasal Flu Vaccination or if you require further advice or information, please contact the School Immunisation Team on 0300 555 5055 Option 1 or email [ccs-tr.cambsimmsteam@nhs.net](mailto:ccs-tr.cambsimmsteam@nhs.net). More information can also be found on the letter that was sent home from school this week regarding Immunisations.

## Jeans for Genes Day



A big THANK-YOU to everyone who donated to Jeans for Genes Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

It was wonderful to see so many children in jeans last Friday. The Kitchen Team also made a special batch of jeans-shaped biscuits for the children to enjoy.

This year we raised a fabulous total of **£516.46**. Thank-you for supporting this charity!

## School Applications

### Starting Primary School 2021

The application round for Reception September 2021 is now open and will **close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. Please visit the Peterborough City Council website: [www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions) to apply.

Children who have a Date of Birth within the following dates are eligible to apply: September 2016 - 31 August 2017

New Tours for September 2021 entry would usually start in October, but unfortunately, due to Covid-19 Government Guidance that we have been given, these tours will not be taking place this year.

As a result, we will be looking at ways to present the tour in an alternative way. We will update you on this as soon as possible. Thank you.

### Starting Secondary School 2021

The round has now opened for all Year 6 students to begin applying to secondary schools to join Year 7 in September 2021.

A copy of the leaflet to support you in submitting their applications has been sent to you via Parentmail.

The deadline for applications is **31 October 2020**. The outcome of applications will be announced on 1 March 2021.

The King's (The Cathedral) School is advising that the academic testing will not be taking place this year for Year 7.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Mindful Minis Workshops

By Mrs Atwood, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) Lead



Last week on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020, children in Years 1-6 enjoyed a mindfulness session to support their mental health and well-being.

'I really liked it because it was really calm.'

Bea

During the session, each year group practised breathing techniques and learnt a range of yoga poses.

'Mindfulness is something that calms you down.'

Sheema

Mindfulness helps children to improve their concentration, develop patience, understand and make sense of their emotions and become more efficient learners. We were

delighted to see the children listening to the tutor's instructions and making the most of their mindfulness session.

If you'd like to find out more, you can visit [www.mindful-minis.com](http://www.mindful-minis.com).

## School Census

On Thursday 1st October, it is Census Day. This is an important day for schools across the country as we have to submit data to the government. This data helps them to decide how much funding we should have in the next financial year. We are one of the lowest funded schools in Peterborough and so we need to make sure we get as much funding as possible.

### Thursday 1st October Menu

New: Beef Lasagne  
New: Vegetable Lasagne  
Margherita Pizza  
Pudding: Chocolate brownies  
and a new Lemon Shortbread

We would like each child to have a school dinner on this day if at all possible, as it would assist the school with gaining this important funding.

For **every** Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 child having a school meal **on that day**, the school receives **a year's worth** of school meals funding, which is £444.60 per eligible child (an allocation assumes that pupils will take 190 school meals over a school year). If your child misses the dinner on that day, we won't receive the funding.

For the last three years, we have had one of the highest uptakes in the city - over 95%! Thank you very much for your support. Please contact the School Office if you have any questions or concerns with the menu, and we will do our best to resolve them.

## Bike to School Week 2020

By Mrs Porter, Eco Education Lead

The week beginning the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 is Bike to School Week. We would like to encourage all children (and parents!) to come to school by pedal power. As part of our Eco code, we aim to 'Ignore the car, use green power' from Monday to Friday during Bike to School Week.

There are plenty of bike racks for you to use. It may be easier to come through the Platform One gate if you have a bike. Children in the Foundation Stage can bring their bikes into the FS garden through the car park gate.

To check that your child's bike is roadworthy, please visit the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qtx60bcNk0>. Thank you for your support in promoting safe active travel.



## FOWS UPDATE

By Sophie Chambers, Chair

It feels very surreal to finally be writing a newsletter update after six months off! Welcome to the new families joining OWPS, we hope that you are settling into school life and that all of the veterans amongst us are adjusting to our new version of normal.

In previous years we would be busily preparing for our Autumn term events and writing to you with lots of dates and details. You may have seen on the school planner that the Disco, Christmas Sale and Fayre have been included. The reality of the current situation is that it would be very tricky to pull together these events whilst complying with all of the COVID-19 guidelines. We also feel that in these uncertain times asking for donations would be difficult, certain children may end up not being able to participate and that the staff do not need extra pressure placed upon them. We are very sorry to say that these events will not take place this term. We remain hopeful that by the Spring term we may be able to restart some of our fundraising and will write to you with more details in due course.

There are, however, valuable ways in which you can continue to support our school if you would like to. The school lottery continues to be played each week, joining is very easy by visiting [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk) and searching for Orton Wistow Primary School. You can also help to raise funds for FOWS simply by shopping online, which is what most of us are doing more than ever. Use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,500 big-name retailers and each time you do, you'll raise a free donation for us-it's that easy! More details can be found by visiting [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofortonwistowprimaryschool](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofortonwistowprimaryschool)

You may have seen on Twitter that over the summer holidays, work was being carried out to build the wonderful outdoor story area. The final planting for this is happening in the next week, which means it will be ready for a grand opening very soon. Over October half term work will then commence in the library to install some stunning wall murals in the theme of book characters. This will replace the brickwork that is currently exposed and will help to make the library feel a very special place for the children to visit. We are so grateful to everyone who participated in our fundraising last year, which has meant we are able to donate almost £15,000 for these causes.

## Coming Up!

**Next Week: WB: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Monday**

Foundation children start full-time  
Bike to School Week

**Thursday**

School Census

**In Two Weeks: WB 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

No confirmed events as yet.

**In Three Weeks: WB 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

No confirmed events as yet.