

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fabulous first week back! The children have come back ready, eager to learn and there is already a buzz in the Academy with regards to their topics. Please do support your children with work at home as it has a real impact on their learning at school.

Thank you all for attending Parent Consultation Evenings this week, it is a hugely beneficial opportunity for us to share information regarding your child's progress, attainment and targets for this half-term. If you have been unable to schedule an appointment, please do contact your child's Class Teacher.

As you will read further on in this newsletter, there are many wonderful events happening in the run up to the Festive Season. We are grateful to Harrogate Road Methodist Church for the use of their hall for two afternoon Christmas Production slots this year. It was so well supported last year that we didn't have adequate space for you to sit comfortably and watch: this year, two showings will enable you all to sit back, relax and enjoy the performance!

Since starting back, we've been exploring the values of 'Respect' and 'Compassion' which will be brought to life as the children will learn about Remembrance, Anti-bullying and Children In Need in the coming weeks.

We are proud of the role we play in our local community and the support which we receive from all of you. As always, if you would like to speak to a Class Teacher, please arrange an appointment for before or after school. If you do not feel that your issues are resolved, then Mr Charlton, Miss Mullery and Mrs Cooke are on hand as members of the Senior Leadership Team, followed by myself as Principal. Meetings with the Principal should be arranged at the office where I will be more than happy to speak to you. Can I also ask you to be mindful of what is written on social media in accordance with our policy. We work incredibly hard at OPAG to resolve issues and put your children first so please do raise concerns through the correct channels. That said, it is always wonderful to see positivity on social media or via word of mouth in our local community.

Your children are working incredibly hard on a daily basis, let's work together to ensure standards are raised and lives transformed.

Thank you all for your continued support

Victoria Kirkman
Academy Principal

Teaching and Learning

We've had a fantastic start of the year and are looking forward to continuing in the same manner with another brilliant half-term - all the staff have been busy preparing superb sessions that will support, challenge and enthuse the children.

As well as great progress already starting to be seen in subjects, we've enjoyed taking part in other events, such as our outdoor learning week and having sessions with the NSPCC. Many students went the extra mile and raised money for the NSPCC by completing a maths challenge. We've also seen a fabulous Harvest Festival performance and very spooky, yet creative, pumpkin carving designs.

Following on from last half-term's fabulous start to the year, this half-term, our theme is **CREATE**. The topic for each class is as follows:



Nursery – Journeys & Celebrations
Reception/ Y1 – Journeys & Celebrations
Year 1/2 – Colour Explosion
Year 2/3 – Colour Explosion
Year 4 – In The Shadows
Year 5 – Spirit of America
Year 6 – North American 1st Nation artwork.

I'm eager to discover all of the wonderful work and events for these inspiring topics.

Mr Neil Charlton, Assistant Principal

Parent Pay £

Please ensure that your Parent Pay balance remains **in credit** at all times. Any outstanding payments must be paid **immediately** to ensure no further action is taken. If you have any issues please speak with Mrs Spedding in the school office.

OPAG Gallery

Welcome back to OPAG!

Nursery



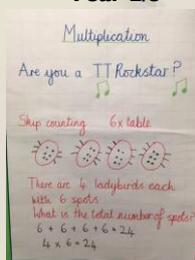
Reception/ Year 1



Year 1/2



Year 2/3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



Changes to Lunchtime Provision

Our new lunch providers have got underway and the response has been extremely positive, both in terms of efficiency (even at registration times) and in the dinner hall. Please note that dinners can be chosen prior to the school day which aids school in meeting the choices of your children even more efficiently. If your child brings a packed lunch, can we please remind parents/ carers that nuts are not to be brought to school and that it's strongly advised that any grapes or tomatoes be cut length ways where possible to minimise any choking risk.

Attendance

Towards the end of last academic year. The attendance for OPAG was 95%, just below the national average of 96% for primary schools! We must all play our part to raise and maintain higher figures.

Please support school with this push on attendance and really raise standards, consequently transforming the lives of our children at OPAG.

Teacher Meetings

On some occasions, you may need to speak with Class Teachers. This is absolutely fine, however we still ask that any meetings are scheduled for before school (8:30am) or after school (3:15pm). As you are aware, everything at OPAG is about putting children and their learning first and so Class Teachers will not be released for meetings during the school day.

Thank you for your support with this.

MATHLETICS and ACCELERATED READER

Please continue to work on Mathletics and reading daily with your children. The impact that these initiatives has on your child's learning cannot be underestimated! Any reading that is completed, please log this in your child's planner and sign in the relevant box. This helps us to keep on track and supportive for your child's reading.



Academy Autumn 2 Term Dates



-Wed 14th Nov: Superheroes for Diabetes UK (full uniform with superhero masks, suggested donation amount of £1)

-Thurs 15th Nov: Flu immunisation (Reception to Y5).

-Fri 16th Nov: Children In Need (full uniform with Pudsey ears, suggested donation amount of £1).

-Mon 26th -Thu 29th Nov: Book fair, 3:30pm.

-Tue 11th Dec: Christmas performance (Nursery & Reception), 9:15am.

-Wed 12th Dec: Autumn term Talent Awards, 9am.

-Tue 18th Dec: Christmas performance (Y1-6) at Harrogate Road Methodist Church, 1:30pm.

-Wed 19th Dec: Christmas performance (Y1-6) at Harrogate Road Methodist Church, 1:30pm.

-Wed 19th Dec: End of term.

-Mon 7th Jan: INSET day.

-Tue 8th Jan: School starts. Children return.

Please see our website for additional or revised dates.

www.greystone.outwood.com