

OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents

As we are now in January, the weather can change very quickly from warm to very cold, icy or even snow. I have therefore included a bit in the newsletter about how to check if the school is open should we get snow etc – however much to the children's dismay – this very rarely happens and so school will normally remain open. In the wintery months it is very important that the children come to school with warm coats and the correct outdoor PE kit. We will take them outside in all-weather as long as it is safe to do so. As they say, "there's no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing" and I am sure that you agree that the children benefit from playing and learning outdoors as much as possible, rather than being indoors all the time.

Stars of the Week!

Congratulations to the Stars of the week– wonderful work and attitudes shown; what brilliant role models we have in our school.

6R Evan McKenzie
6R Maia Walker
6E Logan Carolan
6E Zach Craske
5JS Elliott Freezer
5JS Miley Banham
5GS Paige Wright
5GS Millie Tennant
4N Adam Lakey
4N Evie Brittain
4C Finlay Dann
4C Nicole Warner
3E Charlotte Day
3E Henley Olds
3C Braydon Granados
3C Elisa Claxton



Golden Book!

The following children were put into the Golden Book for amazing work that has astonished, astounded and amazed their teachers. Huge congratulations to the following children:

Lola Body
Asha Kandola
Riley Cornish
Junior Ngalo
Adam Young
Tyler Guidone
William Morgan (Two entries!)
Alicja Drozdzik
Olivia Garvey
Elsie Blackman
Harry Miller
Tabitha Bates
Anna Chettleburgh
Luca Price
Conor Day
Joshua Everson
Luca Colebrook
Jakub Grzyb
Finley Cardis

Attendance Cup

3C won the attendance cup for their attendance last week, with an attendance of 99.33- Well done!

Key Dates for this Term

NB: Please note that dates in red are additional items

Friday 24th January —Young Voices Choir to sing at the O2 Arena, London

Wednesday 5th February—Parent Meeting for Year 4 Holt Hall Residential Trip—3:30pm

Week Beginning 10th February —Assertive Mentoring meetings. Appointments will be made for you to see your child's class teacher to discuss progress, achievement and attainment to date

Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February—Half Term
Wednesday 26th February, Thursday 27th February, Friday

28th February —Year 4 Residential Trip to Holt Hall

Thursday 5th March—World Book Day! Come to school dressed as a character from a book—get creative with your costumes

Week Beginning Monday 9th March—Sport Relief Week—details to follow

Thursday 12th March—Disco Years 3/4 5:30-6:45pm Years 5/6 6:50-8:15pm

Wednesday 25th March—Year 5 Cathedral and Mosque Trip in Norwich

Thursday 26th March—Easter Service at St Margaret's Church Year 3/4 9:30am

Easter Service at St Margaret's Church Year 5/6 2:00pm
Parents invited to attend the service

Monday 30th March—Year 6 Cathedral and Mosque Trip in Norwich

Tuesday 31st March —Celebration Assembly 9:00am—by invitation only please

Thursday 2nd April—Friday 17th April—Easter Holiday

Monday 20th April—Staff and children back to school for the Summer Term

Holt Hall Parent Meeting

On **Wednesday 5th February** there is a meeting for parents whose children are going on the year 4 residential trip at **3:30pm**. This will be a chance to hear about the trip and ask any questions that you may have regarding their time away.

Smart Watches

We have noticed a growing number of children who are wearing Smart Watches to school. Some of these watches have the capacity to take photos and send and receive messages. These functions are not acceptable in school. If your child's watch can take pictures or send or receive messages please can we ask that you keep them at home. As you are aware we have to be so careful with data protection and laws regarding consent. We do not have consent for all pupils in school to have their photos taken. As we do not allow pupils to carry mobile phones in school, the messaging facility on Smart Watches would potentially cause the same issues that a mobile phone presents, so again we ask that these devices remain at home. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.



Hopefully you will be aware of a letter I sent out to all parents and carers this week regarding our Friends Group at school. We are looking to start a brand new Friends of OCJS group ASAP but definitely by the end of this academic year. Please read the letter that went out this week and see if you may be interested in helping. Without your input, events that raise money for your children in school will become impossible to run. Please contact the school office if you are interested in signing up! office@oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk or 01603 426973

Winter Weather - Finding out if the School is Open!

We are now entering the time of year when it is possible that we may have snow or adverse weather conditions which means we have to take the difficult decision to close the school. I am sure you will acknowledge that it is a very difficult decision to make and is never taken lightly. In some circumstances closure is unavoidable, for example where there would not be enough staff on the school site to ensure pupils' safety or the school site cannot be cleared sufficiently to ensure everyone's safety on the premises. We also have to take into account the travelling conditions and risk assess whether pupils, parents and staff can travel to and from school safely. Information regarding whether Old Catton Junior School is closed and a list of all schools which are closed can be found on the website www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk. As well as publishing the information on the website, Norfolk County Council will also highlight closures on the local radio stations and on our Facebook and Twitter channels using #norfolkwinter. In the situation where there has been snowfall and our school is open, pupils will only be able to play outside in the snow at break time and lunchtime if they have suitable clothing and footwear for the conditions. E.g. wellington boots or snow boots, warm clothing, winter coats, gloves and hats.



End of the school day.

Please can I reinforce the importance of the way that we operate the school gates at the end of the school day. We have a member of staff on the school gates at the end of each day; Mr Semmens at the Rec Road gate and Mr Eastwood at the

[The Nebula Partnership](#)

Church Street gate. If the children can't see the adult that they are expecting to go home with, **they must return to the member of staff on the gate and they will bring them back into school so that we can contact their parents or carers. If for some reason the children can't see the member of staff on the gate they must return to the school office so that we can phone home.**

If another parent is going to take a child home with them at the end of the day – for a play date or to help another parent out – all parties must know about this arrangement before doing so.

We remind the children of this regularly in school and by having written signs on all of the doors leading out of the school building. I would be very grateful if you could talk through this process with your children at home too so that they hear it from all angles. Together we can all work to help keep the children safe at all times.

Could I also remind you that if you are collecting children, please do not allow younger children to come onto the playground and play whilst waiting. This can be distracting for children and teachers who are still in school until 3.15pm. Thank you.

TALK HOMEWORK & 'WOW' WORDS

Each week we send a Talk Homework activity and 'Wow' Words home and we would be very grateful for your support.

We are trying to help all our children develop excellent speaking and listening skills, which in turn will help them with their writing. "If a child can't say a sentence then they can't write it either!"

Please spend at least 10 minutes talking with your child about the questions below;

In school, unfortunately sometimes people's things are taken by others. It may be something small or something that is very precious to someone else. It could be that we don't even realise the value that something small has to someone else and even if it's not worth a lot of money, the item could mean a great deal to someone.

Why is it wrong to take something that isn't ours? Are there ever any reasons that would justify taking someone else's property? How would you feel if something of yours had been taken? What would you do if you saw someone taking something in school that didn't belong to them?



Our 'WOW' Word this week is

Purloin

(steal, thief, take, help oneself to, loot, pilfer, abscond with, run off with)

In Big Talk, we use **'WOW' Words** to improve our vocabulary and 'big up' our sentences to make them more interesting!

Please encourage your child to use this WOW word, in the right context, as much as possible.

- The 'Talk Homework' and 'WOW' words will be set every Friday in the newsletter; children will then share their 'Talk' with their class on a Friday afternoon.
- We will encourage the children to use the WOW word throughout the week.

Thank you for your support in helping your child.

Please do not hesitate to come into school and speak to me or another member of staff if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great week!



Mrs K Connelly.