

Dear Parents/Carers,

With e-mail and texting, it is easy to think that handwriting is now out-dated, but by no means is this true! The need to be able to write well, and quickly, is greater today than it ever was. Accurate handwriting not only enables a child to write fluently, but it also supports their cognitive development, helping them retain new knowledge in their long-term memory. Therefore, it is important that your child develops a secure, fluent handwriting style. Like many schools, we review our practice. We have invested heavily in a new handwriting scheme, 'Nelson'. The resources start from nursery and really help promote good posture and support children to form the tripod pencil grip.

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful group of parents at Oakdene and we know that you are always looking for ways to support your child at home. Open days this term will provide you with an idea of the resources we have available and the activities that will consolidate the learning taking place in school and help develop your child's fluency in handwriting.

Free First-Aid Training Session for Parents/Carers

We are pleased to announce that St Johns Ambulance are offering parents/carers with a child in Years 4, 5 or 6 the chance to take part in a two-hour first-aid training session after school on **Thursday, 21st March 2019** with their child. The session will be ran by a qualified first-aid trainer from St Johns Ambulance and will run through the basics of first-aid including resuscitation and the recovery position.

Spaces are available for 12 parents/carers and 12 children (one per adult). The children need to be in Years 4, 5 or 6 to take part. The session will take no more than two hours and will start at approximately 3.25 pm in a classroom at Oakdene.

If you would be interested in taking part with your child please can you contact the school office to put your name down. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mrs E Bramley and Miss C Champion



The Y3 children enjoyed their 'Stone Age Survival Day' at Hardwick Park last Friday and the snow just added to their excitement. The Y3s followed the 'Forest School' curriculum by hunting and foraging for materials, building shelters and creating fires. They also used their creative skills to create cave paintings and stone age weapons.



Dates For Your Diary

Spring Term 1

Mon 11th Feb	Visit - Y3 Harehope Quarry
Wed 13th Feb	Y2 Open Afternoon 1.30pm
Thurs 14th Feb	Planetarium in School for Reception Pupils
Fri 15th Feb	PD Day (school closed for teacher training)



HALF TERM Mon 18th Feb - Fri 22nd Feb

Spring Term 2

Mon 25th Feb	Fairtrade Fortnight commences
Thurs 28th Feb	Visit - Y1 Fire Station
Fri 1st March	Hoopstarz Day for Reception & KS1 Pupils
Wed 6th March	Y1 Open Morning
Thurs 7th March	World Book Day - dress as your favourite book character
Mon 11th March	Launch British Science Week
Thurs 14th March	Y3 Open Morning
Fri 15th March	Y5 Aspirations Day @ Inspire2Learn
Mon 18th March	Parent Consultation Evening
Tues 19th March	Parent Consultation Evening
Thurs 21st March	First-Aid Training Session Afterschool for Pupils and Parents Y4-Y6
Thurs 28th March	Y4 Open Morning
Thurs 4th April	Y5 & Y6 Open Morning
Fri 5th April	PD Day (School Closed for Teacher Training)

School Reopens on Tuesday, 23rd April for the Summer Term

 ★ **Weekly Awards - week-ending Friday, 1st February 2019** ★
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 ★ **Class Attendance Certificates:** EY YRD KS1 Y20 KS2 Y6S ★
 ★
 ★ **EY Star Pupils:** YRD Morgan Titlestad YRL Ellie Smith-Sewell ★
 ★
 ★ **Top Table:** ★
 ★ Y1/2F Amelia Wood Y1LR Kaveesha Soyza Y20 Sydney West-Oyston ★
 ★ Y3L Isabella Hinchcliffe Y3S Joel Dale ★
 ★ Y4G Riley Wray Y4SW Georgia Wood ★
 ★ Y5Be Jessica Fox Y5Br Hannah Wilkinson Y6S Megan McHugh ★
 ★
 ★ **100% Weekly Attendance Award:** ★
 ★
 ★ NAM Amber Hammond NPM Lily Mullin ★
 ★ YRD Max Harris YRL Betsy Phillips ★
 ★ Y1/2F Kaci-Leigh Blackburn Y1LR Rocco Garthwaite Y20 Jessica Noon ★
 ★ Y3L Tieron Grainger Y3S Imogen Gate ★
 ★ Y4G Zackary Kirk Y4SW Harley Cornforth ★
 ★ Y5Be Abbie-Leigh Perry Y5Br Emily Davies Y6S Vihan Soyza ★
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