



24th January 2025

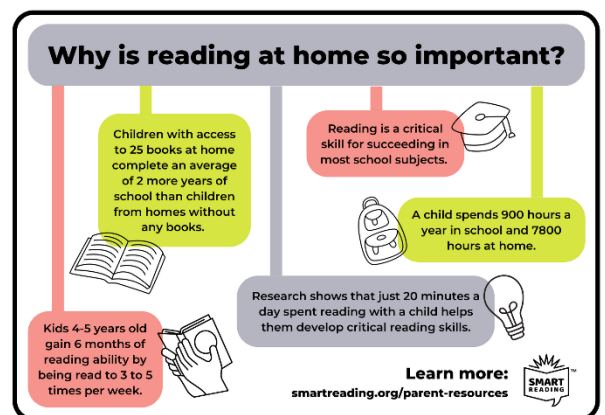
Dear Families,

Vocabulary

During this week's assembly we discussed vocabulary and the importance of adding new words to our speaking and writing. We really want to make sure children are building their language skills and fostering a love for words. The assembly covered interactive activities, word games, and discussions aimed at expanding students' vocabularies in a fun and meaningful way. Ask your child if they are able to tell you about a new word they have learnt this week. Our assembly fits in with our focus on **reading reading reading!** More information about this below.

Home reading

This term, we launched our new home reading expectation. This is for pupils to read at home six times a week and get their reading record signed by an adult. Pupils must bring their reading book and reading record into school every day, so that staff can monitor how often pupils are reading at home. Pupils are expected to read their reading book from school and can also supplement this by reading other texts they may have at home. Please support us with this by encouraging your child to read regularly at home and signing their reading record when they read.



Individual Reading Rewards – Reception to Year 6

Reading record to be signed by an adult from home for each reading session completed.

School staff will log adult signatures in reading records.

Bronze Certificate awarded when, a pupil reaches 50 signatures.

Silver Certificate awarded when, a pupil reaches 100 signatures.

Gold Certificate awarded when, a pupil reaches 150 signatures.

Platinum Certificate awarded, when a pupil reaches 200 signatures.

Class Reading Rewards - Reception to Year 6

Each half term, the class in each phase with the highest combined total of signatures will win our 'Summerswood Super Readers' morning. Parent/ carers will be invited in to share a reading session with pupils, with juice and biscuits. Please see more information about the importance of reading using the links below:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/literacy/the-importance-of-reading-in-early-years-education>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/reading-children-so-powerful-so-simple-and-yet-so-misunderstood/>

Attendance Week Ending 17th January 2025

RPeterPan	RRosen	1Anning	1Donaldson	2Attenborough	2Johnson	3Rashford
75.7%	84.2%	94.6%	95.7%	★ 100% ★	97.5%	94.0%

3Wicks	4Queen	4Thunberg	5Boseman	5Southgate	6Malala	6Obama
95.3%	92.1%	94.4%	87.5%	94.8%	93.0%	95.4%

We are very happy to see that 2A have achieved the first 100% attendance week of the Spring Term. They will be able to come in to school in non uniform on Monday 27th January as a reward. Well done 2A!

Reminder – school gate timings

Our school gates on Elmwood Avenue and Arundel Drive open at 8.30am and close by 8.55am each day. In the afternoon the gates are opened just after 3pm and close at 3.25/3.30pm.

Online Safety Reminders

Please remember how important it is to keep an eye on what your child is doing online. Many students report that they are allowed to play 'Roblox'. Roblox is a gaming platform where players can create and publish their own games. The platform can be a great educational tool to help teach children new skills like coding; however, there are also some risks.

Roblox allows players to build and publish their own games. This means that other users could build games that contain adult or inappropriate themes that your child might see. Players can use the communication features of Roblox to talk to one other while they are playing. This means that there is a risk of cyberbullying or unwanted contact. We have had difficulties of children in school being unkind to each other – this is something parents need to be monitoring.

The NSPCC shares the following tips to keep your child safe on Roblox:



- **Sign up with the correct age**

Make sure your child creates an account using the correct age. On Roblox, certain safety settings and parental controls are enabled by default for children under 13. However, you should still review the settings to ensure they've been set up correctly.

- **Build a list of age-appropriate games**

Not all games on Roblox will be appropriate for your child. The platform has a setting that lets parents and carers limit what their child can play by allowing them to build lists of age-appropriate games. You can also switch off in-app spending or set them monthly limits.

- **Explore communication settings**

You can manage who your child can speak to by disabling chat completely or limiting it to friends only. You can also switch off their inbox to stop them receiving direct messages.

- **Explore the platform together**

Ask your child to give you a demonstration of the platform to help you understand how they use it and explore some of the parental controls together. You could even consider setting up your own account and playing the games yourself.

- **Have regular conversations about gaming**

Continue to have regular conversations with them about what they are doing online. Ask your child open questions like 'What games have you been playing on Roblox recently?' or 'What platforms have you been using to play games?'

- **Check out our Online Safety Hub**
Visit NSPCC's [Online Safety Hub](#) for more advice and tips on gaming, talking to your child and much more. If you need more information on setting up parental controls on Roblox, visit [their Parent Guide](#).

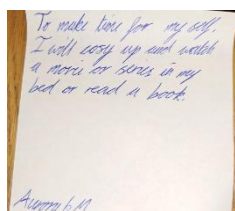
Spare Clothing

If you have any unwanted childrens tracksuit bottoms, of any size, and are able to donate these to the school, please bring these in to the Office. During the winter months children are more likely to get wet or muddy, and having spares available in school is really useful. Thanks in advance.

Winter Hygiene

Illnesses such as coughs and colds are more common during the winter months. To help stop the spread of germs, Please encourage your children to wash their hands with soap regularly and use then discard tissues when they have cold symptoms like coughs and runny noses.

World Mental Health Day



For world mental health day, last year we asked children, staff and parents how you make time for yourselves. This week's great idea is:

“ I will make time for myself, I will cosy up and watch a movie or series in my bed or read a book”

Kind regards,

S Kneller

Sarah Kneller
Headteacher

Dates to Remember


<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wednesday 29th January	5S Class Assembly- 9am
Wednesday 5th February	5B Class Assembly- 9am
Wednesday 12th February	4T Class Assembly- 9am
Thursday 13th February	Spring Disco- KS1 (Years Reception, 1 2 and 3) 4-5pm
Thursday 13th February	Spring Disco- KS2 (Years 4, 5 and 6) 5.15-6.30pm
Friday 14th February 2025	School finishes at Normal times for Half Term
Monday 17th February-Friday 21st February	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	Start of Spring Term 2
Tuesday 1st April 2025	Class and Year 6 individual photographs for Autograph books
Wednesday 2nd April 2025	Last Day of Term for Nursery
Thursday 3rd April 2025	Last Day of Term- School finishes at 1.30pm
Friday 4th April 2025	INSET DAY- No pupils in School

Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Start of Summer Term 1
Monday 5th May 2025	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 23rd May 2025	School finishes at normal times for Half Term
Monday 26th May- Friday 30th May	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	INSET DAY- No pupils in school
Tuesday 22nd July	Last day of Term for Nursery
Wednesday 23rd July 2024	Last Day of Term- School finishes at 1.30pm

Wednesday, 29 January

DSPL6/Hertsmere Schools Partnership SEND Surgery January 2025


A 30-minute advice session with our SEND School Family Worker and DSPL6 manager to discuss any concerns and queries you have


By Hertsmere Schools Partnership · 18 followers


Follow

2 years on Eventbrite


Date and time

 Wed, 29 Jan 2025 09:30 - 15:00 GMT

Location

 Online

About this event

 Event lasts 5 hours 30 minutes

Hertsmere Schools Partnership (DSPL6) is offering a 30-minute session with our SEND School Family Workers to answer questions and to offer support and signposting for parents/carers of children with additional needs.

Example Topics for discussion:

- Strategies to help support your child at home
- EHCP queries
- Liaising with schools and other professionals
- Navigating the SEND world

Please see link to book this event here:

[DSPL6/Hertsmere Schools Partnership SEND Surgery January 2025 Tickets, Wed 29 Jan 2025 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)



Funded by
UK Government



OAKLANDS
COLLEGE

STEP 2 SKILLS
PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS

Introduction to Becoming a Teaching Assistant

Fri 31 Jan - 14 Mar (5wks), 09:30-12:30, Borehamwood Campus

Course Code: S2S261B1P, Fee: £37*

Scan to Enrol

alternatively go to www.oaklands.ac.uk & search
'intro teach assist' or phone 01727 737000

For more info Email: acl@oaklands.ac.uk

Joining : Must be 19+, achieved Entry 3 in Reading & Writing.



SCAN ME

Understand how a school operates and the TA role

Identify different ways children learn and how this
can be supported

Strategies to effectively deal with behaviour issues

How equality, diversity and inclusion is seen in
schools

The importance of Safeguarding and Wellbeing

***FREE if on Universal Credit or earn less than the income threshold,
submission of evidence is required. Please contact us.**

