



## Head Teacher's Spring Term Updates March 2024

Dear parents / carers,

This term seems to have flown by and I wanted to update you on our projects and things to look forward to in the Summer Term

### **Staff training**

We continue to ensure that we have highly trained staff in the latest educational advancements. Our TAs have undertaken many SEND training sessions looking at different elements of SEND from Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia. Our teachers have attended subject specific training and Miss Hunt is actively teaching the Mastery for Maths approach which will be school wide.

### **Staffing**

Mrs Mitchell, our fantastic TA in Maple, is retiring and Miss Counce will replace her. You may also be aware that Mrs Thornton has been off recovering from surgery and it has been wonderful to see Mrs Cartwright back in the office. Mrs Thornton will be returning soon.



## **Trips / experiences**

We place a high emphasis on giving our children meaningful and interesting trips and experiences. This term we have had visits to The Liverpool Philharmonic, Council Chambers, Gawthorpe Hall and our Y6 residential. We've also welcomed a range of visitors into school to give our children first hand experiences. Maple have also had an archaeological dig which teaches the children about the skills of how Historians work. We are lucky to fund these from donations that we have put bids in for so that parents aren't having to pay during these tough times.

Please join us on the 13<sup>th</sup> May for a family craft afternoon – I have sent details out about this.

## **Magic Breakfast**

It has been wonderful to see the engagement of our children wanting to come in for their breakfast: they enjoy a good chatter with their friends before the school day starts and sets them for a great start to the day! Please remember, we open the doors at **8:30** at the dining hall and **not** before. Our staff are volunteering to do this and every second counts in the morning to get set up! We welcome anyone who wants a breakfast and kindly remind you that if your child is not having breakfast, to wait until 8:40.



# ORMSKIRK WEST END PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Term Dates and Holidays 2024/25

Autumn Term 2024		<b>75 Openings</b>
First day of term for pupils	Monday 2nd September 2024	
<b>INSET (school closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Friday 18th October 2024</b>	
Mid-term Closure	Monday 21st - Friday 25th October 2024 inclusive	
Closure After School on	Friday 20th December 2024	
Spring Term 2025		<b>60 Openings</b>
First day of term for pupils	Monday 6th January 2025	
Mid-term Closure	Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2025 inclusive	
Closure After School on	Friday 4th April 2025	
Summer Term 2025		<b>60 Openings</b>
First day of term for pupils	Tuesday 22nd April 2025	
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025	
<b>INSET (school closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Thursday 22nd May 2025</b>	
<b>INSET (school closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Friday 23rd May 2025</b>	
Mid-term Closure	Monday 26th - Friday 30th May 2025 inclusive	
<b>INSET (school closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Monday 21st July 2025</b>	
<b>INSET (school closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Tuesday 22nd July 2025</b>	
Closure after school on	Friday 18th July 2025	

**Total for year = 195 openings**

**As a Community School, we must follow the Lancashire County Council pattern for the standard school year. Within that, we allocate 5 days of training for teachers (INSET).**

<b>INSET Days (school closed to pupils)</b>	<b>Friday 18th October 2024</b>
	<b>Thursday 22nd May 2025</b>
	<b>Friday 23rd May 2025</b>
	<b>Monday 21st July 2025</b>
	<b>Tuesday 22nd July 2025</b>

### Attendance and Punctuality.

**96%** attendance is our aim for each child. We understand that from time to time children may become ill and so 100% is unrealistic for every child. I monitor attendance closely alongside the Attendance Team at Lancashire County Council and will contact parents if attendance becomes a concern. We learn so much each and every day and children can easily fall behind with period of absence. Please can you also ensure that your child arrives promptly for school, as again, lost learning is not acceptable for your child.

I know that holidays are expensive during school holidays and so, with the agreement of the governors, we have tweaked our Teacher Training days (INSET days) to wrap around school holidays so that you can get reduced holiday costs by going a day or so earlier than the official holiday starts. Please find next year's holiday pattern for your planning.



## **Sensory Room.**

We have the new equipment ready to install for our Sensory Room which we are all excited about. It should be ready during Summer 1 term and I'll update you when it's ready.

## **Building works**

Over the next few days we will be having a new gated area built outside of our main entrance. This will be linked to the electronic door system. We have discussed this as an SLT and then took this to governors who approved this. Our priority is ensuring that our children are kept safe at all times and cannot leave the building. We felt that the main door straight onto the carpark poses a potential risk and so this is designed to mitigate that risk.

## **Music lessons**

How wonderful it has been to see so many children enjoying their music lessons. We have also trialled giving every child free ukulele lessons from y1-6. We will be continuing to pay for this as I can see real benefit and purpose for every child learning to play an instrument.

**Thank you for your continued support throughout this term,**

**Mrs Currie & The West End Team.**