



Ormskirk West End Primary School

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Head Teacher's Autumn Term update letter.

Dear parents / carers,

Thank you for a great start to the year, the children have settled into their new year groups well and we've been busy with a packed term activities. I wanted to share some updates with you this term.

Staff training

Although our staff have a wealth of experience, I'm really keen to keep developing our team to ensure that we are up to date with all education developments and best practice. We've joined a cluster of schools across West Lancashire called Shares which provides us, amongst other things, a range of training from local advisors and national speakers. So far, we have been trained in Metacognition, Maths for Mastery, Using Retrieval Practice, as well as subject leader updating. We will continue our CPD (continuing professional development) throughout this academic year.

The government has introduced NPQs (National Professional Qualifications) and I will be the first to access one of these this year by completing the Senior Mental Health lead qualification. Other staff will complete different NPQ's towards the end of the year.

School communication

We will be communicating all letters and newsletters via SeeSaw – so in order not to miss anything, please allow notifications. Seesaw will be continue to be the platform for homework and Facebook and Twitter will be where we update you with worthy photos from the school day. A previous letter stating our methods of communication with you have been shared.

Parent Pay

Thank you for signing up to Parent Pay, we hope this proves easy for you to access – one of the reasons we chose this company. If you haven't signed up yet, we cannot guarantee that your child can get a school lunch as it is made to order to ensure that we have no over ordering and therefore, waste, is reduced.

School Telephone system

We are moving to a new telephone system which should be up and running in the New Year. We are doing this as the current telephone system will be redundant in two years, so we're getting ahead of the game!

School Linking Project.

I am really excited about this project where we are partnered with a school in Preston which has a greater diverse school profile. We will meet the children and visit them and vice versa. I am sure that our children will embrace this opportunity to learn about different races and religions. Mrs Horton is the Lead Professional in this project.

Some exciting extras to the curriculum.

Reception children have enjoyed having their parents come in to read with them and are looking forward to their first school trip in November.

Elm children have taken part in Forest School which has been great to see. Research shows that children feel less stressed and calm when learning outside which was a huge factor in our decision to run Forest School classes during the school day, as well as learning about the great outdoors!

Maple children have been incredibly lucky to have a professor from Liverpool University to teach them all about Ancient Greece – this really brings the topic to life for our children. It was a pleasure to hear how well our children asked pertinent questions and engaged with the topic.

Oak year 6's went off to their residential trip to Hothersall Lodge and were fantastic ambassadors for our schools. Two members of Oak were also voted to be involved in a Pupil Parliament project, allowing them the opportunity to debate with other schools, learn about government and how parliament works as well make decisions for our Pupil Parliament.

We all had fun when TriKidz came in to complete a triathlon.

School building updates

I hope you all like the new mural in the main entrance. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Owen for sourcing the truly magnificent artist, Gill Smith, to represent our school.

The school roof is finally completed! Hopefully we will have no more leaks now. All scaffolding should be down before we return to school in November.

The EYFS playground has had a makeover and the children can now enjoy driving around the road track on their bikes and go karts, as well as an activity area, a new mud kitchen and digging pit!

Your feedback

Your feedback is really important to us, as it means that we look at our practice and address any issues. One of the comments has been around more clubs before and after school. We have a free PE club which will run on Wednesdays after school. This will be football based (as we want a great Ormskirk West End Football team to compete in upcoming competitions!) In conjunction, On Tuesday mornings we will run another free PE club, from 8:00 until 8:40. Further information will be sent out separately to book a place. We also tried to provide a Science club, through Wacky Jacky, but the uptake was low and was therefore cancelled. We also have The Creation Station Art Club after school on Thursdays.

After your feedback on parent's evening, we have also decided for events that we run in school, we will give you two -weeks' notice, allowing you to prepare adequately for any clothing / changes to routine required.

I will continue to update you on news and information that is going on in our wonderful school. I'd like to finish by saying thank you for continuing to support myself and all of the staff.

Enjoy the half term, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to start the new half term...with the much anticipated Nativity performance to look forward to!

Mrs. Currie & the West End Team.