

22nd October 2021

Headteacher's Monthly Newsletter

Twitter: @OutwoodPriSch

www.outwood.stockport.sch.uk

General information:

Wrap around care bookings

Please book your place by Thursday 28th October to secure a place for the first week back after the break. This is unless you have a block booking. Our breakfast and after school clubs are filling up fast. Please make sure that if you require a place that you have booked in advance on ParentPay.

School Individual Photographs 10th November

The school photographer will be in school to take individual portraits. Please make sure that the children look smart in full school uniform. If it is a PE day they can bring their PE kit in to change into.

Parents Evenings

Bookings for parents evening appointments will go live on Tuesday 2nd November. These will be booked through School Spider as previously. We will be holding our Parents' Evenings via Zoom during the week of the 8th November.

School Lunches

For those children that have a packed lunch now that the days are getting colder you may wish for your children to have a hot school meal. If you do so you can arrange this with the school office. We are very flexible, children can have a mix of school lunches and packed lunches. Our new winter menu is on the school website. We offer Halal and vegetarian options too.



What a term!

It has been fantastic to return to some kind of normal this term. We have taken children to sporting events, returned to whole school assemblies, welcomed the Mayor and taken children to Heald Green's memorial to learn about WW2 veterans amongst many other exciting learning opportunities. Next term we are relaunching the school choir with the hope of singing at Heald Green's Christmas light switch on, St Catherine's Church and taking part in the Young Voices events at the AO Area.

Please see our Twitter page and the class pages on the school website to see exactly what has been happening this term.

The Mayor joins our assembly!



Last Friday we welcomed Stockport's Mayor Adrian Nottingham and Cllr Carole McCann to the school. They joined our celebration assembly and Mr Mayor set a very special challenge for our Year 6 children. He gave every child a £2 coin and challenged them to use it to make more money for his chosen charity which is Sector 3, supporting mental health. The children have some great ideas

Covid-19 Guidance

Please see that attached letter explaining our latest Covid-19 measures.

Outwood's achievements

Please look at our Twitter feed and class pages of our school website to see photographs of exciting events that are taking place at Outwood. You'll find us at <https://twitter.com/Outwoodprisich> or @OutwoodPriSch

Attendance & Punctuality



It is so important that our children are in school as much as possible. Especially, due to all of the lost learning as a result of the pandemic. If your child is ill please call the school office by 9am that day to let us know the cause.

We do not sanction any parents/carers taking their children on holiday during term time. The Government has issued new, strict guidance on this recently, which makes it clear that any families taking term time holidays should be issued with a fine. Please can you ensure that you always book any holidays during the school holidays only.

Also please ensure that all children arrive to school on time. Not only are late arrivals losing valuable learning time but also this disrupts the learning of the rest of the class too. We understand that there may be rare occasions where this cannot be helped and in these cases please inform the school office.

Break The Rules Day!

Today our PTA Break The Rules Day was a huge success, we raised £200. All of the money raised will go towards purchasing new books for the school library. A priority of the school is to ensure that our children have high quality and exciting books to read. Thank you for all who took part.

Food Vouchers – October half term

Further to the information provided in the last newsletter regarding how schools can support low income families (<https://live-iag-static-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/pdf/Coronavirus/Guidance+for+schools+-+Food+Support+for+Families.pdf>), the council are pleased to announce that families of school-age children who are eligible for income-based Free School Meals and those in early years with equivalent eligibility, will receive vouchers to the value of £15 per child to cover October half term. The vouchers are to help with the cost of food and essential utilities and other essential living costs.

About the Vouchers

Families do not need to do anything to apply and will automatically receive a voucher for any child for who they have claimed income-based free schools meals. Vouchers will only be sent to families who had a claim on or before 12th October 2021.

We ask that schools continue to encourage all eligible families to apply for income-based Free School Meals to ensure that they can benefit from any future support linked to this means testing.

Once again, the council will adopt a digital-first approach. Therefore where the council holds an email address for the family, an electronic voucher will be provided. Where the council does not hold a valid email address, the parent will be sent Aldi vouchers via the post.

The council are working on vouchers to be sent out on, or before 22nd October.

Further information about the vouchers will be updated online at www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals/holiday-support-voucher. Included on the webpage will be a query form should parents have any issues with accessing or redeeming the vouchers.

Communication to parents

All eligible parents will receive their vouchers direct (alongside information on how to redeem and intended purpose). Additional communication will also be posted on the council website as well as social media channels.

If you wish to put any communications out to parents, please can you use the following text:

- Stockport Council are pleased to announce that families of school-age children who are eligible for income-based Free School Meals and those in early years with equivalent eligibility, will receive vouchers to the value of £15 per child to cover October half term. The vouchers are to help with the cost of food and essential utilities and other essential living costs.
- Families do not need to do anything to apply and will automatically receive a voucher for any child for who they have claimed income-based free schools meals. Vouchers will only be sent to families who had a claim on or before 12th October 2021.
- Families will either receive an electronic voucher via the Post Office, or an Aldi supermarket voucher.
- Vouchers will be sent out on, or before 22nd October
- Other local sources of support include:
- **Local Pantry scheme** – The Local Pantry scheme by Stockport Homes helps people access affordable food from 5 locations across the borough. Members pay a small weekly fee of £3.50, and in return they can collect a pre-packaged food bag of 10 items that includes a mixture of non-perishable items alongside fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled and frozen items. Family memberships are also available for families of 3 or more. This costs £6.50 per week and give the option of at least 20 items. Over October half term, the Pantry are able to offer a bonus food items in addition to the usual 20 item limit to existing and new Pantry members who are signed up

with a family membership. To take advantage of the offer, sign up for a family membership before Friday 22 October. For more information and to sign up, visit www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk.

- **Advice and Support** – additional support and advice can be found at: www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/money-advice-and-support-coronavirus
- **Health Start Vouchers** – Families who have a child under the age of 4 or are pregnant, you may also be eligible for further support through the NHS Healthy Start Scheme. More information can be found at www.healthystart.nhs.uk. You can also ask a midwife or health visitor for help or phone the Healthy Start helpline on 0345 607 6823.
- **Foodbanks** – Stockport's foodbanks are also able to offer additional support families. Please consider referring any families you identify that may benefit from additional support. To request a food bank referral, contact Stockport Citizens Advice on 0808 278 7803.



Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware Covid-19 case rates in Stockport remain high. Despite everyone's best efforts, currently we have very high case rates in our secondary schools and they are rising in our primary schools.

Like you, we at school are very keen to minimise any disruption to your child's education.

Having considered our local situation carefully with our public health team I would like to ask for your support in respect of two issues. The first refers to **face coverings**. It would be very helpful you would wear face coverings if you need to come onto our school site, particularly as you drop off and collect your children.

The second request is to increase the use of **lateral flow tests**. People who live with someone who currently has COVID-19 have the highest risk of catching and passing on the virus. Should anyone in your house get COVID-19, It would assist us in reducing infection rates in school, if you could test everyone else in the household, including any child who is in Year 3 or above, daily for 10 days. If the test is positive, we would ask you to keep whoever has tested positive away from school (self-isolate) and book a PCR test.

Please be assured that requests are in addition to all the existing measures that are in place in our school. Our public health colleagues have also asked that I take this opportunity to remind you to continue with regular testing, regular handwashing, social distancing and meeting outdoors or in well-ventilated spaces whenever possible, and of course to consider carefully the offer of a vaccine.

Whilst I recognise that this is a largely unwelcome message, I would really appreciate your support. I will keep these measures under review, but it is likely that I will need to ask you to continue following these recommendations until the end of the Autumn Term.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Have a lovely half term break,

JV Maude
Headteacher