

Message from Mrs Painter

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. As we embark on this new term, I am excited to share some of the wonderful activities and initiatives we have planned for our students.

Firstly, we are thrilled to introduce the **Stay Safe initiative workshops** for our Key Stage 2 children last week. These workshops are designed to equip our children with essential safety skills and knowledge, ensuring they feel confident and secure in various situations. Thank you also to the parents who attended the evening workshop too. More information on this is below.

In addition, our Year 5 students will be starting their **swimming sessions** this term. Swimming is not only a vital life skill but also a fantastic way for our children to stay active and healthy. We look forward to seeing their progress and enthusiasm in the pool.

We also have some exciting **launch events** planned across various year groups to kick off their new topics for this term. These events are designed to engage and inspire our children, sparking their curiosity and love for learning.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's make this term a memorable and successful one for all our children.

Stay Safe Initiative



This week, as part of our ongoing commitment to the well-being and safety of our children, we were delighted to introduce Richard Pomfrett from the Stay Safe Initiative, who ran workshops for Key Stage 2 children aimed at empowering our children with essential life skills and knowledge to navigate the challenges of today's world. All sessions were specifically tailored to ensure that it was age-appropriate, engaging, and informative.

When questioning the children about their online lives, Richard found:

All KS2 year groups mentioned using the following Apps:

WhatsApp (13+) TikTok (13+) SnapChat (13+),

Instagram (13+) Discord (13+)

Many Yr5-6 pupils said they also have public accounts with others unsure about whether their account was public or private.. This presents obvious risk, as it opens them up to anyone making a direct connection. Please could we encourage all parents to have open discussions with your children about using social media and emphasising the importance of maintaining private social media accounts. This approach is not only safer but also contributes to a more positive online experience. Something else worth highlighting, is that

From the sessions with the children, Richard has asked us to share the following:

Action Steps for Parents:

I urge all parents to take the time to fully understand what their children are doing online and the functions available on the apps and games they use:

- Can they chat with others?
- Can they connect with people they don't know?
- What kind of content can they be exposed to?
- What are the age ratings of the games and apps they use?
- What settings are available to limit risk and encourage a more positive environment?

Action Steps for Parents & Children Together:

Sit down with your children and explore privacy settings in the games and apps their children use.

Parents to ask children to show them how they BLOCK & REPORT people in the games they play (lots of children can say you should, but not all know how to).

If they use social media, determining if their accounts are private or public (as I said above, some children were not sure).

By understanding these aspects, parents can make informed decisions and provide the necessary support for their children's online activities. Knowledge is the key to fostering meaningful conversations and sharing ideas on how to ensure online safety at home.

Thank you also to the 24 parents who joined the information session for parents. Information related to this is below. If you would like to provide Richard with feedback then please do via this form: <https://forms.gle/5E3fqvdUeX7TTiuQ9>

Parenting in The Digital World

Please find links below with additional help, advice and resources.

Parenting in the Digital World - Resource pack.

https://thestaysafeinitiative.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Parents_Online_Safety_Advice_Sheet.pdf

Parenting in the Digital World - Getting help Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXfjT_CTYuI

If we all (school / parents / carers) work together, we can create a safer online environment for our children. Richard is happy for parents and the community to reach out to him should you have any further questions.

Children's Mental Health Week



On the week of Monday 3rd February, we will be recognising Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.' Many of the resources developed for schools to use during this week refer to the film Inside Out 2. Therefore, if you have not seen it and you are looking for a family film to watch over the next few weeks, this could be a good one to choose.

Stationery Donations

Many thanks for all the donations that were made towards our plea for stationery. We are so grateful for all the lovely items we received 😊

Staffing News

I am writing to inform you that Mrs Smith, who has been a teaching assistant at Red Oaks Primary for many years, left Red Oaks Primary School this week.

Mrs Smith has been an invaluable member of our school community, providing exceptional support to both students and staff. Her dedication, kindness, and enthusiasm have greatly contributed to the positive learning environment at Red Oaks. She has touched the lives of many children, helping them to grow and succeed in their educational journey.

We are incredibly grateful for all the hard work and commitment Mrs Smith has shown during her time with us. Her presence will be deeply missed by everyone at the school.

I am delighted to have welcomed Miss Manning back from maternity leave. She will be teaching in Willow class on Thursdays and Fridays going forward. Also returning from maternity leave has been Mrs Tomaszek. She is now working 3 days a week, 2 days in Year 1 and the third in Reception.

Attendance

Why is it important that my child is on time each day?

When children are late to school, they may initially feel unsettled and they might miss important information and activities.

Schools are required to record late arrivals. If pupils arrive after the start of the school day but when the register is still open, it will be recorded as a late mark. If pupils arrive after the register closes (which government guidelines state must be within 20 minutes of the register opening), then their morning mark will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, unless evidence can be provided that there are exceptional circumstances that led to the late arrival.

How does occasional absence affect my child?

Missing occasional days from school may seem unimportant at the time; however, this can have a significant impact on your child in the long term:

% of attendance in a school year	Number of days absent	Weeks missed
98%	4	Less than 1 week
95%	9.5	Nearly 2 weeks
90%	19	Nearly 4 weeks
85%	28.5	Nearly 6 weeks

A pupil with 85% attendance is missing nearly half a term of learning time each school year.

Regular absences can result in poorer outcomes over time. Research shows that pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school (which is between half and one day per week on average) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.

This also applies to being late. Late arrivals also add up over time - being 10 minutes late each day adds up to two weeks of lost learning time over the whole school year.

A copy of the school's attendance policy can be found here:

<https://www.redoaks.org/documents/policies/Attendance.pdf>

Registration Form	Present R/C: Marks		
Pine	90.3%	Willow	98.6%
Forest	92.0%	Maple	98.7%
Cherry	93.9%	Pear	98.7%
Chestnut	94.1%	Palm	98.7%
Orange am	94.3%	Beech	99.3%
Birch	96.0%	Orange pm	100.0%
Apple	96.3%		
Oak	97.0%		
Lime	97.1%		
Ash	97.2%		
Hazel	98.1%		

PE Kits

We have noticed more and more children coming into school in a variety of different PE Kits. Please could we remind you that children must not wear branded PE Kits, including football kits, and that any hoodies worn should be plain and have not branding/writing on them. The image from our website shows the acceptable PE uniform here are Red Oaks.



Pupil Premium

What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is additional funding provided to schools to help raise the attainment of pupils from low-income families, looked-after children, and those from families with a history of service in the armed forces. This funding is intended to help these pupils overcome the barriers they may face and ensure they receive a high-quality education that enables them to thrive.

How does the Pupil Premium benefit Red Oaks Primary School?

At Red Oaks, we use the Pupil Premium funding to provide a range of targeted interventions and support for our disadvantaged pupils. This includes:

- Quality First Teaching and a range of interventions boost academic progress
- Funding for educational visits and extracurricular activities to broaden pupils' experiences
- Providing support to address social and emotional needs
- Investing in staff training to ensure all our teachers are equipped to meet the needs of our diverse pupil population

Red Oaks Primary school is committed to providing the best possible education for all our children. We have high aspirations and expectations for them all. This includes making appropriate provision for those who may be at a disadvantage. It is our aim that all children are given every opportunity to realise their potential.

Why should you apply for the Pupil Premium?

If your child is eligible for the Pupil Premium, we strongly encourage you to apply. Not only will this provide valuable additional funding to support your child's education, but it will also help our school continue to offer the high-quality, well-rounded education.

To apply for the Pupil Premium, please visit our website or speak to the school office. We are here to support you and your child.

Together, we can ensure that every pupil at Red Oaks Primary School has the opportunity to **Aspire, Achieve, and Grow** into confident, caring, and responsible individuals.

KS2 Spelling Workshop 5th March 9-9:30

9:00-9:15am in the Hall with Ms Duffin

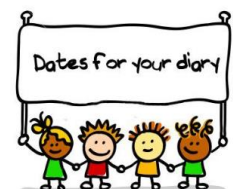
9:15-9:30 in class with teachers for an example spelling session

Upcoming Dates

28th January 2025 - Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Meeting at 3.00pm

5th February - KS2 SATs meeting in Year 6

14th February - End of Term - finish at 3.00pm





AGES 4-12



FEBRUARY 2025

HALF TERM

BROOK FIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
17th February - 21st February 2025



Book Online



MAKE NEW FRIENDS FUN ACTIVITIES

To book a place at our holiday club where lots of fun and laughter awaits, please visit our website to secure your place.

www.swindonmultisports.co.uk



1-1 Instrumental music lessons at school, online or at home.

Swindon Music Co-operative - providing 1-1 instrumental lessons in schools across Swindon and Wiltshire since 1998.



Our aim is to develop each pupil's musical potential according to their individual needs and aspirations. Quality of teaching is monitored through regular observations of all our teachers.

For more information or to apply please scan the QR code below



Application form



More information

Swindon Music Co-operative, Astoria House, 165/166 Victoria Road, Swindon, SN1 3BU
01793 781973 • info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk • swindonmusiccoop.co.uk



Write a piece of historical fiction (this could be a story, a poem, a diary entry, a speech) about ANY historical era.

Your characters could be about real people in history or completely made up! However, your entry should reflect the historical period and be accurate to the attitudes, technology and current events of the time. Your entry should not only be exciting, but also teach the reader about the historical period.

Here are some historical time periods that children have written about before:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Egypt • Ancient Rome • Vikings • Saxons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tudors • Victorians • World War 2 • The Stone Age
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Your entry should be at least one side of A4 and no longer than 3 pages.

There will be a prize for each year group and all entries will receive:

- House points
- A certificate

The deadline for entries will be **Friday 25th April 2025.**

Please hand your entries in to Mrs Morgan in Year 3

Bristol Autism Support

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

SWINDON COFFEE MORNING

Support for Parents and Carers of Autistic Children - No Diagnosis Required

Our drop in group for parents and carers of autistic children (no diagnosis required). Come along and meet our Peer Educators and others who are there to listen, support, share experiences and offer signposting if needed.

No need to book, just turn up!

Goddard Arms, Old Town
Swindon, SN1 3EG

Located in the semi-private area to the right as you walk in the main front door.

Wednesday
29th January
10:30-12:30

