

NEWSLETTER



March/April 2023

Old Park has done it again! Your generosity and kindness is phenomenal. The children have raised well over £1000 in support of the children's cancer charity Clic Sargent. Old Park raise money for this cause in memory of a past pupil, Rahul, who sadly passed away from cancer when he was in Y3. He would have been 23 this month and the school has continued his legacy by once again dancing our way to a huge total. A huge thank you to Mrs Pearce and Mrs Johnson for leading the way along with our brilliant sports ambassadors.

Well done everyone.

King's Coronation Design and make a crown

This year we are asking the children to participate in designing and making their own crown for the King's Coronation. Crown designs will be displayed around school from Tuesday the 2nd May.

We look forward to seeing your amazing designs around the school.

This year there will be a Disco for the children to celebrate the King's Coronation.

Wednesday 17th May: Non-uniform Coronation Discos

EYFS 1.45pm - 3pm (in school)
Year 1, 2 & 3: 3.45pm - 5.00pm
Year 4, 5 & 6: 5.15pm - 6.30pm

Tickets for the EYFS disco will be chargeable and will include some party food and drink.

Tickets for the other discos will be for entry only and children can bring their own spending money to the event to buy snacks and drinks. Further details will follow.

If anyone is keen to support the school in arranging fundraising events then please contact the school office.

We would like to wish Mrs Moore all the best in her new career at Lower Farm. We would also like to welcome Mrs Westwood into the Old Park Admin Team.

HELLO
GOODBYE

Our value in focus: **Ambition**

Talk to your child about what this value means, they should all be able to explain.

We want our children to have big goals and we hope that they remain **optimistic** in pursuit of their goals and that they show the resilience to **persevere** and achieve them.

At Old Park one of our roles is to allow children to understand that the world is full of opportunities and we want them to aim high. Ask them about their ambitions.

March

Monday 27th	Dance Festival - Wood Green Academy. 10 pupils from Yr 5 & 6
Tuesday 28th	Y3 Easter Egg Hunt (parents invited) 9am Y4 Easter Egg Hunt (parents invited) 1.50pm
Wednesday 29th	Y5 Easter Egg Hunt (parents invited) 9am 6M Easter Egg Hunt (parents invited) 1.50pm
Thursday 30th	6W Easter Egg Hunt (parents invited) 1.50pm
Friday 31st	House Attendance Winner - Non-Uniform Day (for the winning house only - Eagles) School closes after today

April

Monday 17th April	School reopens
Wednesday 19th	Girls Football Tournament parents will be contacted with details. Gospel Oak Academy
Thursday 27th	Year 3 visit to Botanical Gardens
Friday 28th	Year 5 History Experience Day

Live Annual Calendar

Please find attached the link to access the live annual calendar for 22/23, this link is also available on the school website. This is a live document so please check it regularly. Within this document you will find the term dates for this year.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IxaPPPmojUjeI07jGEBw4M67DMXXGzCA1eWyN0CGZB8/edit#>



**Annual Calendar Update
Sports Day for Nursery,
Reception, Years 1 & 2 has
changed to Thursday 15th June
2023.**



www.worlddownsyndromeday.org

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO HELPED RAISE £143.50
FOR LOTS OF SOCKS, THANK
YOU**

How safe are your children online?

Incidents and conflicts occur in school due to a lack of monitoring and understanding of children's digital usage outside of school. Please be aware of what your child is doing online, check their phones and other internet enabled devices to ensure they stay safe and that they use apps, social media and other online formats safely.

Previous issues that we have seen have been around tictok (children posting and sharing inappropriate videos, posting images of others without permission) and on WhatsApp (children creating groups where the message threads can quickly get out of hand and cause great upset). These platforms have age recommendations for a reason. Primary age children do not have the maturity to manage them safely and appropriately.

For help and support:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Reception Children Over 5'S

Please let us know if your child still requires milk after their 5th birthday. It has to be ordered and costs 24p per day - payable by Arbor.



IF ANY PARENT WISHES TO BUY A WATER BOTTLE THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE £1.65 (CASH ONLY)



BIRTHDAYS

Please do not send your child into school with sweets or chocolates for birthdays. Natasha's law is in place to protect children and ensures any food provided by or via the school has to be agreed in advance by parents.

If you wish to send in something to mark a birthday celebration you can send in non-food items or wrap a book for the class reading area.



SCHOOL LUNCHES - SCHOOL GRID

There is a price increase for pupil meals, this will rise to £2.55 starting from the 1st April 2023.

From 1/4/2023, due to the unpaid debts, Dolce are reducing the number of meals taken by pupils without payment from 5 meals to 3 meals. So please ensure you stay up to date with payments or you will be asked to bring your child a packed lunch.

There are lot of uneaten meals due to parents booking but also sending in a packed lunch. We do not want to waste food so please unbook the meal if it is not wanted.
Thank you

National School Funding - For your information

As you may be aware, lack of school funding is causing difficulties in schools across the country, it is impacting the provision that that schools are able to deliver. This is impacting and will continue to impact on staffing and resources in schools nationally unless there is change.

Below are links to various website that share the challenges facing schools. If you google school funding you will find many more articles that share information about the situation.

<https://www.naht.org.uk/Our-Priorities/Funding>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/aug/02/schools-in-england-face-funding-crisis-as-costs-soar-study-warns>

<https://schoolcuts.org.uk/story/funding-crisis-explained/>

If you feel strongly about these issues you can contact your local MP.

After School Provision

We will be offering After School Provision at Old Park Primary school after the Easter holidays.

The After School Provision will run from the end of the school day until 5.00pm or 5.30pm (limited places). Children will be provided with a light snack and take part in a range of activities.

Membership options are below:

Cost: £9.00 each day until 5.00pm

Cost: £10.50 each day until 5.30pm

If you think you will require a place for After School Provision, please contact afterschool@oldparkprimary.com

Please read the After School Provision Policy for our terms and conditions of membership on our website.

PE KITS & House Colour T-Shirts

CLIVE MARK
ESTABLISHED 1965

You can now order PE t-shirts via Clive Mark at the store in Walsall, they are not currently available on the website but you can order them in store and wait for confirmation of delivery from Clive Mark.

Contact Details & Address: 01922 622 556, Units 40-44 Saddlers Centre,
1 Park St, Walsall, WS1 1YS

DECATHLON

PE Tracksuits

Below is the link for you to order replacement tracksuits online::

https://www.decathlon.co.uk/p/kids-warm-zip-up-tracksuit-warmy/_/R-p-334795?mc=8652081&c=GREY_BLUE

Arbor

The school is using Arbor for all School visits, Parent Consultations, and some Payments (School Fund, Milk, Snack & Trips).

You will also have access to your child's pastoral information via the portal.

We have created a Parent Portal account for you. To finish creating your Parent Portal account you need to set a password. Your username is the email address we've sent this email to.

Please go to <https://login.arbor.sc> and click **Forgot your password?** to finish setting up your account.

How to access the Portal/Application

The Parent Portal is accessible to Parents on a laptop or computer.

The Arbor App is the mobile version of our Parent Portal for use on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

The Arbor App can be downloaded from either the Playstore on android phones or the Apple Store on iPhones.

If you have any queries, please contact school.office@oldparkprimary.com. The Arbor app also has the facility to message the school and you can use this method once you have set up your Arbor login.

Our preferred way of communicating with parents is via email, we ask that you check your emails regularly. If your child is on a trip we may email to confirm late returns etc.

Breakfast Care Provision

The School provides Breakfast Provision. If you are interested in applying for annual membership please contact: breakfast@oldparkprimary.com

Please be aware that there may be a waiting list.

Regular annual membership is from 7.45am/day

Early bird annual membership is from 7.30am/day

Parents are reminded that if children are absent either for sickness or holiday, payment for days missed will still need to be paid. If your child is poorly and unable to attend Breakfast Provision please email the above email address.

Payments are made through a Standing Order payable on 28th of each month for 11 months (not July 28th).

Please read our policy and terms and conditions before applying for annual membership. The policy can be found on the school website.

The School Office

The school office staff are available from 8.15am-4.30pm (Monday-Thursday) and 8.15am-4.00pm (Fridays). 0121 526 2669.

Any queries please call or email school.office@oldparkprimary.com or call 0121 526 2669. You can also message via Arbor.

If you telephone the school *before* 8.15am and after 4.30pm, you will hear the following message and options:-

Please leave a message or call back during our open hours or alternatively email school.office@oldparkprimary.com

Press 1 for the Patch Day Nursery and After School Club

Press 2 to report your child's absence (voicemail)

Press 3 to leave a message after the beep (voicemail)

YOU CAN ALSO SEND AN IN-APP MESSAGE VIA ARBOR TO REPORT AN ABSENCE

School Places

We have spaces available in years: 3 & 6 in school, if your child has a sibling or you have relatives interested in attending our school please email:
school.office@oldparkprimary.com

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is currently 93% which is well below the national average and well below Old Park's pre-covid attendance figures.

We fully understand that children can become unwell but we do ask that you please send your child in if you think they are able to cope with the school day, if you inform the school then we can arrange for them to stay indoors during breaks. Also please avoid taking holidays during term time.

We have 55 children who are yet to miss any time from school this year. We have 70 children who fall into the persistently absent category as set by the government.

Children who are referred to as persistently absent are children with attendance which falls below 90%. Across a year that would mean a child misses 4 weeks of school. If absence is persistent or holidays are taken you could be fined under section 444 of the 1996 education act.

Check your Arbor App to see your child's current attendance.

February Star Pupils



Class		Reason
Nursery AM	Elsa-Rose	For trying harder to listen to instructions and join in more with her teachers and friends
Nursery PM	Joel	For growing in so much confidence and always working very hard
Nursery 30	Wynter W	For making some great progress and showing lots more confidence in school
RB	Nova	For always trying hard
RR	Amelia	For excellent work in phonics
1G	Robyn	Robyn has shown so much perseverance and has shown a really mature attitude to her reading. We are so proud of the progress she is making, keep it up!
1JT	Cairo	For working really hard in phonics and impressing his teachers
2H	Jasmine	For working hard and always being helpful
2T	Inaiya	For working hard in English.
3P	Isaac	For preserving with swimming
3W	Evie	For showing enthusiasm in all her subjects.
4W	Michael	For outstanding attitude towards all his learning.
4S	Charlie C	For an excellent approach and attitude towards learning and supporting others in class
5C	Mahira	Mahira for always trying her best in Maths and showing perseverance when she finds it challenging.
5W	Darcy	For always coming into school with a smile on her face, demonstrating a fantastic attitude towards her work and being invaluable in the organisation of the classroom
6M	Lola	For outstanding progress with her times tables
6W	Eiden	For always actively participating in class discussions



Optimism

Love of learning

Diversity

Perseverance

Ambition

Responsibility

Kindness

