

Headlines

25th January 2019



Dear Parents,

The cold wind doth blow ...

Just to remind you that our Snow Policy is on the website which deals with what will happen if we have snow or other extreme weather. In short I will make the decision to close the school site:

- if it is unsafe for staff or children to journey to school or be in school
- if there is an issue with heat, lunches or water
- if we are advised by police or other agencies to close

If this occurs during the school day parents will be contacted and will be expected to pick their children up as soon as possible. If this occurs overnight, a text will be sent as early as possible and there will be a message on the website.

<http://ongar-place.surrey.sch.uk.gridhosted.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Snow-Policy-Dec-16-TG.pdf>

School Review

Last year I invited a colleague I inspect with, Mrs Hannam, to visit Ongar and review all aspects of the school. Last week she returned for a follow up visit to see the progress we had made and where we are now:

- She saw that the children's behaviour was good throughout the school and that children were motivated and engaged in lessons.
- She visited every class and found our teachers had good subject knowledge and were able to question children well. She could also see good progression in the knowledge and skills being taught in English and Art.
- She could see that in Reception children were independent and keen to learn. Mrs Brill and Mrs Mount support the children well and reading and writing are well taught.
- She saw that our curriculum looked exciting and was broad and balanced with good progression.
- She talked to some of our governors and saw they provided strong support for the school and that they were well informed.
- She could see that our teaching assistants worked hard and helped children to learn and to be included in all school activities.

Of course she also had some points for improvement (there's no point in doing these things if you don't find out how to get better!).

She thinks our challenge in maths is now good but our children need to do more reasoning in maths lessons, so teachers will be planning in lots of opportunities. She also thinks the children need to be more enthusiastic about reading – we agree, so we are going to look at changing the library round, ordering in some more books and doing more reading as a whole class.

It was lovely to see our school through someone else's eyes and hear all her positive comments. I felt very proud! Thank you to all the staff, governors and children.

At parents evening (February 26th and 28th) I will again be issuing a questionnaire to give all parents an opportunity to give their opinion about our school.

Dates

25/01/19	Year 4 Cake sale - after school
30/01/19	Yr 5/6 Inter-school Athletics
01/02/19	PTFA Quiz night
13/02/19-15/02/19	Y6 High Ashurst
13/02/19	Y5 Class Assembly 9am
18/02/19-22/02/19	Spring Half Term

Sport at Ongar

On Friday 18th January Ongar Place took part in the annual ERPSSA Dodgeball competition held at Cleves. The competition ran all afternoon and involved 11 local schools. Although Dodgeball is popular at Ongar the players had not played together as a team before.

The scoring system for dodgeball means that it is very beneficial to 'wipe-out' your opponents. Ongar managed to win 5 games, lose 4 and draw 1. They were only 'wiped-out' in one game but could only manage one wipe-out of their own.

Therefore, despite winning more games than they lost the team ended up in eighth place. St Cuthbert's, who won the tournament, had 6 wipe-outs and seem to win the tournament nearly every year- perhaps Ongar need to develop some of their 'ruthless but fair' approach!

The team was Maddie, Thomas, Kamran K, Lucy, Oliver, Matthew and Joe.

PTFA News

Quiz night 1st February

Year 1 Trip

The Year 1 class went to Wisley on Wednesday. They had a fantastic day and learnt lots about plants that will help them in the classroom. Thank you to Mrs Marwick for organising it so beautifully and to all the staff and parents who supported the children.

Have a good weekend, Mrs Good

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