

Windmill Weekly (21)

Achievement through Creativity, Community and Challenge

Value for February - Happiness

24 February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

STRIKE ACTION THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

On Thursday 2nd March members of the NEU teaching union will be on strike . As on the previous strike the school will be partially closed. Please see the table below for which classes will be open and which will be closed.

Message from the NEU members

Thanks for overwhelming support of our strike action. It was heart-warming to talk to so many of you on the picket line and great to receive treats that helped to sustain us. A member of the press reported that having visited many picket lines over the years, ours was incredibly positive. In addition, thank you to all those parents who felt strongly enough to talk to the press on our behalf.

However, as you are probably aware our aims have not as yet been met, so for this reason we will be joining together for a second strike on Thursday. The teachers and TAs who will be striking are taking this step because they feel they must let the public know about their concern about the future of the profession. They are worried that they cannot provide the quality of education that children deserve. They do not believe that the government has a strategy to sort out the workforce crisis - a crisis which will only get worse if nothing is done to pay teachers and support staff properly for the essential work they do. They want to solve this dispute.

As a school, we have chosen to support those staff who are taking strike action by not covering their classes. This means that there will be a partial school closure. If your child's class is marked as closed your child will be unable to come to school on Thursday 2nd March

This is the plan for Thursday:-

Class	Open or Closed
Explorers	Open
Hedgehogs	Open
Penguins	Open
Cherry	Open
Ladybirds	Open
Strawberry	Open
Mandarin	Closed
Starfish	Open
Tigers	Closed
Sunflowers	Closed
Dandelions	Open
Daffodils	Closed
Geckos	Closed
Chameleons	Closed
Turtles	Open
Blue Jays	Open

Peacocks	Open
Kingfishers	Open
Lilac	Closed
Lavender	Open
Violet	Open

World Book Day - Moved to Friday 3rd March

Due to the strike action on 2nd March we have decided to move our World Book Day celebrations to Friday 3rd March. Children and staff are encouraged to come to school, dressed as a book character.

Identity Based Bullying

We have been focusing on Identity based bullying in PHSE lessons and in our school improvement priorities. Recent feedback from children showed that they are all very clear that racist language is completely unacceptable and they know that it will be taken very seriously if heard in school. However, the children didn't seem to be so clear that homophobic language is also completely unacceptable. In the assembly on Monday we talked about being proud of being who we are and our own identity. I made it clear that use of the word "gay" in a derogatory way or as an insult will be treated in the same way as racist language and behaviour is. We would request that you support this at home too.

Reports

We apologise if your child's report didn't arrive on the last day of term. We aren't really sure why many reports sent by a class teacher did arrive and others didn't when the correct email was being used and the same process was being used for all reports. We are looking into how we can resolve this issue for when we send out the reports in July.

Green Club (Gardening Club)

We are very keen to get the Gardening Club up and running again this year. It used to operate 3 lunchtimes a week and was run by parent / grandparent volunteers. I am very happy to support in getting it up and running again if any of you are able to volunteer some support. I do already have 2 parents who have offered to help. If you are able to help please email me or send an email to the office.



Key Dates

27 th February - 3 rd March	Book Week
3 rd March	World Book Day - dress as your favourite character
3 rd March	Family Quiz
17 th March	Comic Relief
22 nd March	Parent Interviews
28 th March	Year 4 Performance @2.00pm
29 th March	Year 4 Performance @6.00pm
31 st March	End of Term 4 - finish at 2.30pm
18 th April	Start of Term 5
9 th - 12 th May	SATs week
9 th - 12 th May	Year 5 Dorset trip
18 th May	Year 3 Performance at 2.00pm
18 th May	Class group photos

Family Quiz

It is almost time for the FAMILY QUIZ. Join us next Friday 3rd March for a 6.30pm start. Quizmasters Knapp will be putting you through your paces with trivia suitable for the whole family.

Please sign up using this link if you would like to join:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLBFRSpdtYSqG37eqCyZOsa114a9SpLO_UHu_1uDwSmOKICQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

The quiz will be held on Zoom and there is an optional £5 entry donation to the PTA.

Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7872154044?pwd=aUJLMHhXaFd2c3ZmRW04S3JaS2RSZz09>

Meeting ID: 787 215 4044

Passcode: 1234

If you would like to donate to the PTA:

Barclays Bank

sort code: 206521

account no: 00978604

reference: Quiz

We hope you can make it.

School Dinners / Packed Lunch

The cost of school dinners for term 4 (Mon 20 Feb - Fri 31 March) is £69.00. Please note that school meals must be ordered and paid for in advance. If you pay weekly, payments (£11.50) must be paid by Monday morning for the week ahead. Please use the School Gateway App to make lunch money payments.

Download the free app. Search School Gateway in your app store and download.

Apple iPhone users <http://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload>

Android phone users <http://schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload>

A reminder that pupils must have either school meals all term or packed lunches all term, we cannot cater for children having meals on odd days.

IMPORTANT - If your child would like to switch their meal preference, please email Christine in the school office on cmeeson@windmill.oxon.sch.uk on or before the first day of term. If we are unaware that your child has switched from packed lunch to school dinner, a dinner will not have been ordered for them and if your child switches from school dinner to packed lunch and you have not informed the office, you will be charged for the meal that has been prepared.

Yours faithfully



Lynn Knapp
Headteacher

Due to high popularity of our last event, we are hosting another 'Be a Cheerleader' and 'Be a Dancer' experience, ran by our very own Oxford Brookes Cheer and Dance club this easter holiday!

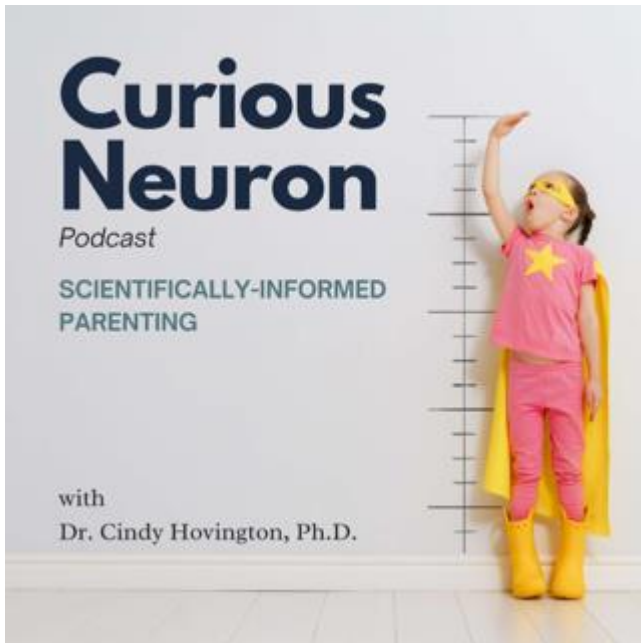
These are 2 day events on the 11th and 12th of April, held at Brookes Sport, Oxford Brookes University. The kids will get to experience a series of workshop activities and will end in a showcase for their parents.

Please see the link attached:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/557798780167>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/557802200397>

Super Science Saturday at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. It is on **Saturday 11th March, 12-4pm** and is drop-in. The event is free and is a great opportunity to meet scientists and learn more about nature and how all things on the planet are connected/dependent on each other to survive. There will be lots of games, activities and specimens to see and touch. It is recommended for ages 8+.



Hiya

I regularly listen to the most wonderfully helpful podcast on parenting and wanted to share with other parents. The girls have much more tools to help them emotionally because I have more tools thanks to Cindy. I'm such a better mummy and a calmer me and a lot of it is down to these podcasts. I don't know her and have no benefit from sharing this, except that she'll be able to carry on her great knowledge sharing if she has more followers 😊

Thanks
Evelene

Join our community:

Instagram: @curious_neuron

Website: www.curiousneuron.com

Podcast website: www.curiousneuron.com/curiousneuronpodcast

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAMkWjtcMFVrOmFPtyLk1ow>

Amazon Music: www.amazon.com/curiousneuron

Family Choir Club



building better wellbeing
through singing



engaging (and sneakily educational) music workshops
for parents, carers and children from 0-11

find the class for your family
at www.familychoirclub.co.uk