

# Newsletter – 21st March 2024

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Dear Parents

It was great to see so many of you at our Parent Involvement morning this week. Thanks to the FoTIS team for organising tea, coffee and biscuits and a special thank you to Mrs Henry, our maths coordinator, for organising such a fantastic event.

As this week is national deaf awareness week, I'd also like to say 'well done' to Miss Bozward who has recently been awarded a Level 1 award in British Sign Language.

## **OPAL**

Unbelievably, we are nearly at the end of our first term of OPAL! The children are loving the range of resources and loose parts on offer and playtimes have been transformed.

Thank you to everyone for donating items. It really has enhanced the provision we offer to children. Parent support has been overwhelmingly positive, and many parents and grandparents have caught Mrs Glen in the playground to say they have noticed changes in play behaviour at home. Our next parent 'stay and play' is planned for 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 so save the date!

Last week we introduced and welcomed our team of Year 2 OPAL play leaders. Their job will be to help us set up and organise the play space and help us to make sure that resources are being used respectfully and responsibly. Of course, they are still able to enjoy their playtimes too.

If you are having a Spring clean or a sort out over Easter we are on the lookout for the following:

- Old electrical items (toaster, kettle, microwave, grill, hoovers)
- Old electronics (phones, cameras)
- Planks of wood, cable drums and empty plastic barrels
- Pogo sticks and table top football games

We are also looking to furnish our Celtic roundhouse so it can be used as a comfortable, quiet seating area for those who want to read a book or colour instead of playing. If you have any unused plastic or rattan garden furniture, chairs and/or tables, we would be VERY interested!

## **Spring Spectacular Fair – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 3.00-4.30 pm**

Don't forget that on Friday, after school, FoTIS will be holding a Spring Fair. As well as stalls and games, there will be an ice-cream van, a hot dog stand, and a magician in the quad. Mrs Baud will be leading a 'sing and sign' session at 3.30pm. Please do come and join the fun.

### Phonics Check meeting for Year 1 parents - Wednesday 27th March, 9.00-9.30 am

In June, all Year 1 children in England have to take a 40 word phonics check. We would like to invite you to a brief information meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March to explain the process. An information sheet will be sent home after the meeting for those unable to attend.

### Diarrhoea and Vomiting – 48 hours

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting must stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours). Tummy bugs can spread very quickly around school.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Helping Hands vouchers

Families with children eligible for free school meals, early years' pupil premium or 2-year-old funded free education places will be entitled to a **£30** digital voucher to assist them during the Easter break. These were sent on 18<sup>th</sup> March. For children who are not eligible but whose families need urgent support with food, Buckinghamshire Council have the Helping Hand scheme operating. Please contact

[helpinghands@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:helpinghands@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Dates for the Diary	
March	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	FoTIS Spring Spectacular Fayre – 3.00pm-4.30pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Check meeting for Year 1 parents - 9.00-9.30 am
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term (finish at usual time)
April	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Start of term
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 trip to Woburn Safari Park, returning at <b>4.00 pm</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Bag2School, 9.00 am
May	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bank holiday, school closed
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	OPAL session for parents 9.00 -10.00 am – Reception 10.00 -11.00 am – Year 1 11 am-12 pm – Year 2
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 trip to Warwick Castle, returning at <b>4.10 pm</b>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Reception trip to Waddesdon Manor
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Whole school photograph 9.00 am <i>Please make sure children arrive in school on time to be included in the photograph.</i>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Farm visiting school (Nursery & Reception)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for half term holiday (finish at usual time)

<b>TERM DATES 2023-24</b>		
	<b>Open on morning of</b>	<b>Close at end of afternoon of</b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 15 April 2024	Friday 24 May 2024
	Tuesday 4 June 2024	Tuesday 23 July 2024
<b>Staff Training Days</b>	Thursday 4 January 2024 Friday 5 January 2024 Monday 3 June 2024	
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 6 May 2024 (school closed)	

<b>TERM DATES 2024-25</b>		
	<b>Open on morning of</b>	<b>Close at end of afternoon of</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Thursday 5 September 2024	Friday 25 October 2024
	Tuesday 5 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tuesday 7 January 2025	Friday 14 February 2025
	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 4 April 2025
<b>Summer Term</b>	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025
	Tuesday 3 June 2025	Wednesday 23 July 2025
<b>Staff Training Days</b>	Tuesday 3 September 2024 Wednesday 4 September 2024 Monday 4 November 2024 Monday 6 January 2025 Monday 2 June 2025	
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 5 May 2025 (school closed)	