

18th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ian Bland

Poetry

Writing and performing high quality poetry is a real and valuable skill. This week we invited a professional children's poet Ian Bland into school. This was a fantastic opportunity for children and teachers alike and was a spectacular day of inspiration, creativity and fun! Some fantastic poems have been written across school this week, Ian Bland was truly inspiring (and really funny!). Well done to all those chosen to share their poems in assembly on Monday your enthusiasm for poetry was amazing. Please read Ayat Khalid's poem on school stories a terrifically tremendous effort!

Food Vouchers to cover the Easter Holiday 2022

You may have read in the local media that Oldham Council has been allocated £2.4m of funding to support vulnerable residents through its Household Support Fund. Some of this funding will be used to cover food voucher support for children eligible for means tested Free School Meals over the Easter holiday.

We want to ensure that those eligible for free school meals on the grounds of low income receive a food voucher to cover the Easter School Holiday at a rate of £30 per eligible child.

The most effective way of ensuring vulnerable families receive the vouchers that can be used in the Oldham supermarket of their choice is via a third-party online hub – known as WONDE.

WONDE is a data integration company already used by many schools in Oldham who offer a free school meal voucher system. This voucher system has a live link to your school's data therefore automatically recognises the students who are eligible for Free School Meals. The system should be quick and easy to use and produces the vouchers that can be used in most Oldham supermarkets.

If your child is entitled to income based free school meals, please look out for an email and/or text confirming that your voucher has been issued.

For more information go to: <https://help.evouchers.com/hc/en-gb> this includes a step by step guide of how to access the vouchers (once your school has issued them to you).

If you have any questions, please contact the school in the first instance.

For any families that are really struggling for food and provisions over the school holiday, please visit the Oldham Council website www.oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp which lists financial support and benefits that are available for residents.

50 Things event week 4th-8th April 2022

To support families with young children, Oldham are having a 50 Things event. We are promoting activities and events with families commencing on the 4th April. Please go to this website for more ideas.

<https://oldham.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!welcome>



ATTENDANCE

Well done to classes 8 and 11 for achieving over 96% attendance in the last week. Attendance overall this week has improved from last week so well done everyone.

Attendance - Extended Leave

Taking holidays/extended leave in term time will affect a child's education as much as any other absence. The Headteacher and Governors expect attendance in school to be 100% (or as close to), unless there are exceptional or avoidable reasons for absence.



If an absence is not authorised, such as Extended leave, this will meet the criteria for a Penalty Notice fine to be issued from the Local Authority.

Parents and carers must be reminded that:

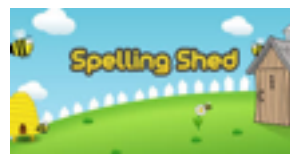
- Any request for leave of absence must be made to the Headteacher of your child's school in advance
- National studies have shown that there is a strong link between school attendance and attainment at school
- Poor attendance can seriously disrupt learning and is strongly discouraged especially at the start and end of the academic year and during assessment periods
- Any absence can have a real impact on the basic literacy and numeracy skills of some children
- Keeping children away from school for no good reason is a criminal offence

We thank all our families and celebrate with our children those that do have 100% attendance and those who are improving attendance. We work together to ensure the best achievement and attainment is possible for your child/ren.

Spelling Shed Winners

LOOK at the top spellers from each class this week, they will be awarded with 5 dojo points each!

Well done if you have been practising lots at home!



Year 3

Class 1 - Ashton Norvell 187 correct answers

Class 2 - Miller Graven 156

Class 3 - Aubrey Prague 33

Please make sure your name is correctly shown and nick names are not ticked on your account.

Year 4

Class 4 - Hareem Albas 208

Class 5 - Brett Morriss 149

Class 6 - Aleena Ali 299

Year 5

Class 8 - Mohammed M 78

Class 9 - Khadija Y 24

Year 6

Class 10 - Blake Kodama 9

Class 12 - A1K1 295

Remember the Spelling Bee is coming soon.

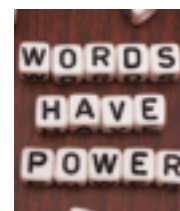


TT Rockstars - CELEBRATIONS!

The most accurate Class	Class 1
The most active class	Class 6 with 94% of players
The most improved children	Amaan Z Class 4 Zaheera M Class 4 Ehsan A Class 4

Word Aware

This week's word is '**Spectacular**'. Please encourage your child to use this word when out and about and complete the activities, which Miss Varley will share on Class Dojo.



COVID UPDATE

Following the recent changes in guidance announced by the government on 21st February, we would like to clarify what you need to do if your child becomes ill.

From 24th February 2022, the legal requirement for people with COVID-19 to isolate ended. However, the Public Health and Government advice remains the same: if anyone has the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 you are still advised to take a test.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

We therefore remind you not to send your child into school if they have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or if they have tested positive. If we feel your child has any of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19, in order to protect the other pupils and staff, we will ask you to collect them. If your child tests positive they are advised to stay at home for at least five full days, and return when they have two negative LFD tests on consecutive days.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our school safe.



COVID Test results - REMINDER

A reminder to parents to send any results to us directly regarding COVID test results.
This email is covid@alexandrapark.oldham.sch.uk

We thank all parents for the immediate responses we have had. You have certainly worked with staff to support the safety of children and staff with high levels of communication.

