

14th October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today in assembly Father Tom shared with the children the amazing work carried out by Oldham food bank. Please do support us in being a part of making a difference. Thank you!

DONATE FOOD

GIVE HELP AT ALEXANDRA PARK JR SCHOOL.

Oldham foodbank relies on the goodwill and support of the people of Oldham helping their fellow Oldhamers. We are collecting food, from the list below, to send to Oldham foodbank. Please send food into school from Friday 14th October - Friday 21st October.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in [The Trussell Trust](#) network is donated by the public - that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to give everyone referred to the foodbank a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

The shopping list shows the food items that would be greatly appreciated.

Thankyou for your support.

Urgently needed food items:

Tinned meat

Tinned potatoes

Sugar

Biscuits

Jam.

We've got plenty of:

Red kidney beans

Chick peas

Garden Peas

Hot dogs.

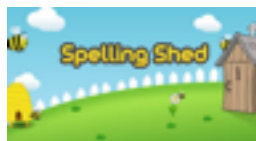
Let's get reading - BOOM Reader

"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books." - Roald Dahl



Well done to all the children and families who have logged onto Boom reader. We are pleased to announce the most home reading logs recorded on Boom reader this week.

Position	Name	Reads at home
First Place	Sahil Waqas Class 2	28 books this week
Second place	Marwah Khan Class 4	27 books this week
Third Place	Inaaya Noor Class 11 and Ayat Khan Class 4	13 books this week



Spelling Shed Winners

Place	Total points awarded for correct spellings	Child
1st	64,813,116	Inaya - Class 11
2nd	56,380,988	Hadi Mallick Class 11
3rd	51,820,600	Fatima Mallick Class 7

TT Rockstars - CELEBRATIONS!



The most accurate Class	Class 9
The most active class	Class 5
The most improved child	Faiha Javaid - Class 6
The most active child	Mustasim Muhammad - Class 1

ATTENDANCE

Well done to classes 5, 7, 8 and 12 for achieving over 96% attendance in the last week before the holidays.

RE: Food Vouchers to cover the October 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 October 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 October School Holiday at a rate of £15 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.

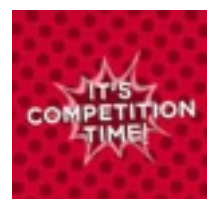
SEND Information

Please find attached the very first SAPSS newsletter for parents/carers of CYP with a Vision or Hearing Impairment. It contains details of upcoming events and groups as well as the link to the Oldham Connect webpage.

Big Bang Bonfire

Push The Button Competition

The Big Bang Bonfire – the biggest FREE firework event in the borough – returns on Thursday 3 November at Oldham Edge (5-8.30pm) and we are giving one lucky child the chance to turn on this year's fireworks.



All they must do to enter our 'Push the Button' competition, is enter their details here:

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/forms/form/1131/en/the_big_bang_-_push_the_button_competition

Entrants must be 12 years old or younger and live in the Oldham area. They must also be available between 5-8.30pm on Thursday 3 November.

The submission deadline for entries is midnight on Sunday 30 October and the winner (selected at random) will then be contacted shortly after.

For more information on the event please visit:

www.oldham.gov.uk/bigbangbonfire

A reminder to our families that we finish for October half term on Friday 21st October and return to school at 8.40am on Monday 31st October 2022.



SAPSS

Newsletter 1

Autumn term 2022

Welcome to our first Sensory and Physical Support Service (SAPSS) Newsletter!

We are planning on sending out one newsletter per term going forwards so we can ensure that families are aware of events and are kept up to date with team news. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see included in future newsletters.

Summer activity afternoon

It was fantastic to see so many families at our activity afternoon held at Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre in July this year. Families were able to engage in a variety of activities including craft activities, sensory story time and sensory play. The activity afternoon went so well that we are planning on repeating the event in June 2023. Details will follow next year.



Parent/carer survey

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who filled in our survey last term. It was lovely to read such positive comments about the SAPSS and these have been shared with all team members. The main suggestion for improvements was about increasing the number of events we put on. We are looking into ways we can do this and are also adding an events section to this newsletter going forwards so that families can see what is available and can book on to any available events.

Upcoming events

Henshaws and SAPSS joint event, 09.10.22

Come and join us on Sunday 9th October at Summit Up Climbing in Oldham from 2.30pm-3.30pm to try out the climbing walls.

There are a limited number of spaces for this event so if you would like to join us then please book using <https://henshaws-cyp.square.site/>.

Oldham Coliseum, pantomime trip, VI trip, 02.12.22

Our annual pantomime trip to this year's panto, Robin Hood, at The Coliseum is on Friday 2nd December. Service tickets for this event are limited to 10. In the first instance, invitations to attend will be offered to those children and young people (aged 10 and over) whose level of vision impairment means they would benefit most from access to the touch tour. However, if any other families wish to access the audio described performance of Robin Hood on Friday 2nd December at 7.30pm then seats can be booked via contacting Oldham Coliseum Theatre's Box Office on 0161 624 2829 or by emailing boxoffice@coliseum.org.uk.

Ongoing events

Preschool group

Our preschool group runs every Monday during termtime only from 12.30 – 2.30pm. Come along to meet other parents and carers who also have a child with vision/hearing needs. There are lots of fun filled activities including arts and crafts, singing, free play and snack time. You are welcome to stay for the whole session or just pop in and spend as much time as you are able to.



Held at Stanley Road Children's Centre, Derby Street, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 7HX

Dates:

Monday 10th October

Monday 21st November

Monday 17th October

Monday 28th November

Monday 31st October

Monday 5th December

Monday 7th November

Monday 12th December

Monday 14th November

Parent/carer group for families of children with a hearing or vision impairment

Come along to meet other parents/carers who also have a child with a vision or hearing impairment. Clare (HI) and Jo (VI) will be there to talk about the support your child gets from the team and there will be opportunities to meet professionals from other agencies including POINT, Henshaws and the NDCS too. Feel free to stay for the whole session or just pop in for a coffee, and spend as much time as you are able.

It is held from once per half term from 10-11.30am in Meeting room 2 at Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL.

The dates for this term are: **Tuesday 11th October 2022 and Monday 28th November 2022**

VI youth group

VI youth group is held every Monday afternoon during termtime and is open for children and young people aged 8 and older with a vision impairment. The youth group is held at Mahdlo (www.mahdloyz.org) and is jointly supported by staff from our team, Mahdlo and Henshaws.

We enjoy a range of activities including cooking sessions, arts and crafts and sport related activities such as using the climbing wall. Here are some examples of some of the amazing creations made during two of our arts and crafts sessions:



Sign Language classes

For families of children and young people who use sign language, come along and learn too.

Beginners' level - held weekly during termtime from 11am-12pm every Monday in Meeting room 2 at Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL.

Advanced level - held weekly during termtime from 10.30am-11.30am every Tuesday online via Teams.

Please contact sapss@oldham.gov.uk for further information.

Sensory activity suggestion for autumn

As autumn is now upon us, it is the perfect time to enjoy a walk in the park collecting leaves and enjoying the rustling sounds made when running through them. Maybe you could collect some leaves to create leaf pictures like the one Mrs Korny has created below. If you do, then please email pictures of your creations over to joanne.jones@oldham.gov.uk for inclusion in the next newsletter. I'm sure you all have some fantastic ideas for leaf pictures that are even better than Mrs Korny's!



Oldham Connect

Please favourite and check out our webpage at <https://oldhamconnect.uk/Services/6336> which is kept up to date with service information, links to support available, links to charities and details of events.

Contact details

As always, please feel free to contact the team at any point via sapss@oldham.gov.uk or by contacting:

Joanne Jones, Team Manager for Vision Impairment Support, directly via email at joanne.jones@oldham.gov.uk or via telephone at 07790 543843 or

Clare Prior, Team Manager for Hearing Support, directly via email at clare.prior@oldham.gov.uk or via telephone at 07791 117318.