

Spring Newsletter - 6th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

- Thank you for joining in with our Chocolate Bonanza and thank you to the PTA for organising this event to help raise funds for school. The children who won a golden ticket were thrilled! We are aware that there are lots of events coming up so if you feel that you need any support in being able to join in with these events due to cost, please come and see me. There will definitely be ways that we can help.
- We know there are some scary things in the news lately so Mrs Haden Bedford found this article which could help with some of those conversations if your children do have worries.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/articles/talking-children-about-scary-world-events>

- On Friday we are holding a school council event here at Oldswinford. We have 10 other schools joining us (primary and secondary) with a speaker lined up linked to Climate Change and what we can do to help. I will be meeting with our Junior Leadership Team next week before the event and they will also be representing our school on Friday. We are very excited to be hosting this event.

Some interesting facts to share:

Findings from our parent questionnaire: There were 139 responses but not all questions were completed for each response.

- 99% of responses shared that children are happy at OCEPS or they weren't sure.
- 99% of responses shared that children feel safe at school or they weren't sure.
- 3% of responses shared that OCEPS doesn't make sure its pupils are well behaved. 83% said OCEPS did make sure it's pupils are well behaved and 13% were neutral or didn't know.
- 6% of responses shared that when their child had experienced bullying it hadn't been dealt with quickly and effectively.
- 2% of responses linked to SEN shared that they don't feel their child gets the support they need.
- 9% of responses shared that communication could be better. 77% agreed or strongly agreed that OCEPs communicated well. 15% were neutral or didn't know.
- 6% of responses shared that when concerns had been raised they hadn't been dealt with properly.

- 97% of responses shared that OCEPS has the child's best interests at heart or they weren't sure. 87% agreed or strongly agreed.
- 4% of responses shared that they don't think their child gets the right support to enable them to learn well. 89% agreed or strongly agreed that their child did get the right support and 7% were neutral or didn't know.
- 96% of responses shared that they would recommend the school to another parent.

We were delighted to see such a positive response to the parent questionnaire. Thank you to all parents who took the time to share their views and feedback. Thank you to the parents who left their names, I will be in touch with them next week.

While these results are very encouraging, we know that there is always more we can do to improve. Your feedback helps us reflect on what is working well and where we can continue to develop.

We may not always be able to implement every suggestion, but we are committed to listening carefully and, wherever possible, finding solutions or compromises that support both our pupils and families. Working together with parents is incredibly important to us and we value the ongoing dialogue that helps our school community grow stronger.

We will carefully review all of the comments shared and will communicate with parents about any actions or next steps we may take as a result of the feedback. Thank you so much for your help.

Things to remember:

- 16th March: Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- 16th March - 27th March: Year 5 Swimming
- 17th and 19th March: Parents' Evening. Appointments opened on Arbor at 6pm Monday, 2nd March.
- 20th March: Red Nose Day
- 27th March: Break up for Easter

Message from the PTA:

Paper Windmill Decorating Competition!

Following the huge success of last year's Easter egg decorating competition, we're so excited to invite the children to take part in our brand-new Paper Windmill Decorating Competition — helping us create a beautiful school display while supporting our PTA!

Children will be bringing home a paper windmill template on **Friday 6th March (Year 6 will bring theirs home Monday 9th March)**.

Decorate it, colour it in, and get as creative as you like! Think flowers, favourite football team colours, or a fun Spring/Easter theme — the possibilities are endless! (Please ensure the pinwheel can still be folded). The PTA will then assemble the pinwheels and create a lovely display in school for everyone to admire.

Please write your child's name and class on the back of the pinwheel (in the middle) and return it to your child's class with a chocolate Easter egg by Monday 16th March. **Please only donate an egg if you can.**

Mrs Game will choose her favourite windmills, and the winners will enjoy a special Hot Chocolate with her to celebrate (date tbc). **All children who return a pinwheel will be entered into this, and donating an Easter egg is completely optional.**

The PTA will then assemble the pinwheels and create a lovely display in school for everyone to admire.

We'll also be creating Easter Egg hampers for each class, which will be raffled off! Raffle tickets will be available to buy from the PTA w/c **16th March** (dates & times tbc).

Winners will be drawn w/c **23rd March** — just in time for the Easter holidays!

All money raised from the Easter Egg hampers raffle will go towards supporting our children. Thank you for your continued support!

OCEPS PTA

Have a lovely weekend,

Ellie Game

Collective Worship



This week we explored the Hindu festival of Holi. Holi is the festival of colours, celebrating the arrival of spring. It celebrates togetherness, joy and equality. Everyone takes part – young, old, rich, poor. Colour symbolises difference and when the colours mix, the celebration becomes more joyful and beautiful, not less.

We learnt that when different people come together, something brighter and stronger is created. We then explored how we can do this at school and how, in the Bible, Paul explains that the Church is like a body: every part is different, yet every part is needed. A diversity of talents, personality and ability helps the community function. We explored how their different strengths contribute to a stronger class and school, and why everyone's contribution matters equally.

Additional Information

We have received this report from a Community Safety Officer in Dudley who has asked us to share the following:

We are aware of potential posts and chatter circulating on platforms such as TikTok and Snapchat that may have divided schools within the region into "red" and "blue" categories, referencing a "Schools War" for pupils that could be in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

West Midlands Police are aware of the current social media trend relating to 'School Wars' and are working alongside community safety and other key partners around the borough.

The posts on social media vary, but the theme is a call to organise 'fights' between schools, sometimes giving a location/date and separating schools in to 'sides'.

Whilst the origin is not clear, the reach of this is nationwide and not isolated to the region. The social media posts are likely causing unnecessary fear to students, parents/carers, and the wider community.

We ask that if it is age appropriate, parents/carers have open conversations about the risks of being involved in these social media led events, along with critical thinking in relation to social media posts and information shared online.

How you can help:

- *Speak with your child or young person about staying away from any gatherings linked to this trend and the potential risks involved.*
- *Continue to uphold vigilance with regard to your child or young person's mobile phone use.*
- *Encourage your child to report any information or concerns to any staff member, or appropriate adult.*

- *West Midlands Police encourage anyone who has information about any pre-planned fights to contact them by calling 101. Always call 999 in an emergency*

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