



## Newsletter

Friday 4th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have hit the ground running for term 2 with a busy first week. Thank you to all the parents and carers that turned up to the Phonics Parent's evening. It was great to have all your input and questions. For those that couldn't attend, we will send the materials around to all Reception parents.

At Comper we have four values; **Love, Curiosity, Courage and Aspiration**. We are keen that the children should gain a better understanding of these values while they are with us. So, from now, each term we will be focusing on one of our key values in school. This term we will focus on **Courage**. We felt this was appropriate to help us cope with the dark nights if nothing else! We will be talking lots to the children about courage in their learning and reading some books where courage is central to the text. We have already seen courage in action as our Strawberry Class went off for their first Forest School session at the Kidneys this week. Some of them were definitely a little apprehensive at trying out something new and heading off site for the first time since starting in Reception. However, they all had a fantastic time out in the woods on a beautiful day. Thank you to Sarah Merry and all the staff that supported her for being so organised and helping these sessions to be such a success. It is Mango's turn to go next Tuesday, so please ensure the children have warm clothes and wellies. We can provide the necessary waterproof clothing.

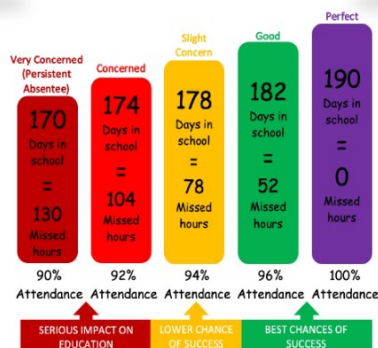


Thank you to the Nursery Parents that organised and baked for the Cake Sale today. There were a wonderful array of delicious cakes. Please do look out for the dates when we will be having a sale as these bring in an invaluable source of income for the school to put towards new resources. We are currently trying to save money to buy new books that are more up to date, reflect the diverse community we live in and send strong messages around the importance of equality. Books are expensive and we will need a considerable amount of money to carry out this project effectively, so please come and support us by buying and eating cake! **We really need a representative from Day care to be a point of contact for the PTA please. If you think you could help please let us know via the office email.**



## YOUR OPINION MATTERS

We really want to know what you think about Comper. We are always looking for ways to improve our school. If you have any feedback about how we could do things differently to make our school better, please do let us know. To help with this we have put a suggestions box in the lobby. Please feel free to pop in to the lobby at any time and put your suggestion in the box. We will be checking it regularly.



## Attendance Matters



**Attendance & Punctuality Matter—How close are you to 100%?**

**Our attendance for last term was: Nursery: 96% & Reception: 94%**

We want to get our regular attendance figures to at least 96% or above in all settings. We know that there is a lot of illness around at the moment and we totally support children staying at home when they are ill. However, please do remember that children who are persistently late or absent soon fall behind with their learning. Children who are absent from school frequently develop large gaps in their learning which will impact on their progress and their ability to meet age related learning expectations.

### Did you know?

When children attend school they:

- Can achieve their full potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves
- Learn how to be healthy
- Grow in confidence
- Keep up with work and homework
- Make new friends

A two-week holiday in term-time means the **highest** attendance your child can get is **94.7%**. This is 65 hours of missed school time.



We are all being hit by the rising cost of living and for some of us this will have a big impact, particularly when it comes to keeping warm. There is plenty of research that shows us that children under 6 who are effected by food insecurities and colder living conditions do not do as developmentally well as their peers who are not effected by these issues. There is help available to support you, if you are struggling with fuel bills and finances. Please follow the links below for further information and support.

‘Better housing, Better Health’ This service includes free, local advice and support on fuel bills. For more information visit <http://bhbh.org.uk> or phone 0800 107 0044 for more information.

[Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)

[Warm places, welfare schemes and council tax support agreed as council seeks to help local people this winter](#)

[Help with rising living costs | Oxfordshire County Council](#)



Don't forget that we have parent's evenings from week 2 for Reception and weeks 3 & 4 for Nursery. Please be sure to sign up outside your child's classroom. This is a really important opportunity for you to come in to school, meet your child's teacher or key worker and discuss how they are getting on. It is a chance for you to ask questions, celebrate your child's achievements so far and share any concerns that you may have too.

## OFFICE HOURS

Just reminder that our office will be under staffed over the next few weeks while we recruit for a new office administrator. We are interviewing on Tuesday 8th November. **As a result, we have taken the decision to temporarily close the office between 12.30pm-2.30pm everyday for term 2.** During these hours there will be someone available to answer the telephone, but please only call with really urgent issues during these hours. Please bear with us with any glitches as Phoebe and Nicole get to grips with a lot of extra and new work to them this term. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience.



Please see the links below that will support you with your child's oral hygiene. Please also take a look on our [website](#) at our 'Health and Wellbeing' page for lots of up to date information on oral health and staying healthy in body and mind more generally.

[Video to support best bedtime teeth cleaning](#) & [Supporting your child's first trip to the Dentist](#)



We want communication between staff and families to be easy and supportive so that you can feel really confident about your child's education and care. If you are contacting your child's teacher or keyworker, please be sure to email them **only in school hours between 8.40am and 5.30pm Monday –Friday**. They will probably only reply to you between the hours of 3.30pm-5.30pm when they are no longer with children and you may not receive a response on the same day. For urgent matters please email or call the office on: [office@comper.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@comper.oxon.sch.uk)

With very best wishes,

*Catherine King*

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