

Dear parents/carers,

A big welcome back to all of our families after the summer holidays. I would also like to welcome all our new families, particularly those new to nursery and reception. It has been really lovely to see all the children coming to school in their uniforms and looking so smart, they are a credit to you. We work very closely with parents/carers at Odessa and I look forward to seeing you all over the next few weeks at some of our events. We pride ourselves on our partnerships with parents and strive to offer as many events as possible over the year that give our school community opportunities to come together and support the children. Please see the list of important dates to remember in this newsletter.

Kind regards
Clare Barber



Queen Elizabeth

Naturally all families will be aware of the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth. She was the Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms from 6 February 1952 until her death in 2022. She was Queen Regnant of 32 sovereign states during her lifetime and 15 at the time of her death. Her reign of 70 years is historic and Odessa staff, families and children were fortunate enough to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee together. We held an assembly last Friday in honour of the Queen and observed a minutes silence. We will be closed on Monday 19th September for a national bank holiday in order to mark the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth

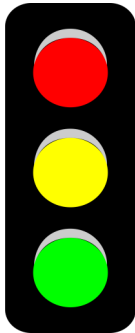


If you have any experiences or memories of Queen Elizabeth that you would like to share with us please email parents@odessa.newham.sch.uk - you may have seen her at an event or visited Buckingham Palace. We would love to share this with our school community



Attendance Matters

Let's see which class has the best percentage. The class with the highest receives certificates to celebrate.



Ms. Anwar class 3	91%
Mr Mineiro class 4	89%
Mr. Richards class 5	93%
Mrs. Codjoe class 6	85%



Well done to class 5!



Important Dates

Monday 19th September - Bank holiday in respect of HM Queen Elizabeth's funeral - **school closed**

Tuesday 20th September - 2.30pm Reception parent/carers school meal taster session in the hall

Wednesday 21st September - 2.45pm Year 1 parent/carers introduction to year 1 meeting in the hall

Thursday 22nd September - 2.45pm Year 2 parent/carers introduction to year 2 meeting in the hall

Tuesday 27th September - 2.45pm Reception parent/carers introduction to Reception meeting in the hall

Friday 30th September - Year 2 visiting Forest Gate Library - 9.30am

Friday 30th September - Year 1 visiting Forest Gate Library - 10.30am

Thursday 6th October - Macmillan coffee morning in the hall - parents/carers welcome to come after drop off. More details will be sent out nearer the date

Tuesday 18th October - Diwali assembly in the hall - 2.45pm

Friday 21st October - Finish for half term break



**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING**



On the 6th of October we will be holding a Macmillan coffee morning for parents and carers to raise money for Macmillan cancer support. To do this we will ask for a voluntary donation to purchase the food. We are also asking for donations of cakes or savoury snacks - these can be homemade or shop bought. If you are baking your own food to donate please write a list of ingredients. We will happily receive the foods the day before or on the morning of the 6/10/22.

Attendance/Punctuality

At Odessa we have high expectations for attendance and punctuality and want to work with our families to ensure that all children arrive on time. Being late or missing school has a negative impact on their learning, causing gaps in knowledge which can slow academic progression. Lateness and absence is VERY unsettling for the children. Please do your best to get your children to school on time as well as attend every day. If your child has a runny nose or a minor cold please send them to school and we will monitor how they are. **The gates open at 8.45am.** If you are running late please let the office know.

If you are running late when collecting your child you must also let us know. If you do not inform us and we can't reach you or your emergency contacts this becomes a serious safeguard concern and we have to **report it to social services**. Not being collected on time is very distressing for children and we need you to work with us to ensure this does not happen. The government expectation for attendance is over 96% - let's work together to achieve this. Thank you.

Nut Free School

Although we recognise that this cannot be guaranteed, Odessa aims to be a Nut-Free school. This serves to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts to which they are sensitive. The school aims to protect children who have allergies. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes. Our "Nut-Free Policy" means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Nutella spread
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Any food items that may contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts

We have a policy to not use nuts in any of our food prepared on site at our school. Our suppliers provide us with nut-free products. However, we cannot guarantee freedom from nut traces.



Please also see our Nut Free policy for further details.



Jewellery

We have noticed an increased amount of children coming to school wearing necklaces, rings and large earrings. Wearing such items can be a health and safety issue and if they are precious items they may also lose them at school. So, please do not let them wear these items. We do allow children to wear religious items and earrings if they are studs not hoops. Thank you for helping us to keep the children safe.



PE Kits

We are asking that children bring their PE kits on a Monday and take them home on Friday. This is to ensure they are always appropriately dressed for physical activity. If your child is in nursery this does not apply and if your children is in reception - they will not need a PE kit until after half term break.