



Executive Headteacher: **Miss D Luck**

23rd January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope the holiday was fun and that your children felt rested for the new term ahead. That slightly shorter first term for the students always helps them get back into the routines following a busy time and we all look forward to doing our very best to be an even better school in 2024.

We welcome some new Learning Support Assistants to our school and they will introduce themselves to you over the coming term as is appropriate.

➤ ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school is crucial for students to make progress academically and to ensure they are confident and enjoy the many opportunities that are offered in school. This includes developing a love of learning, reading, trips and securing life-long friendships. We recognise the strong links between attendance and attainment and therefore request that absence is avoided, except in exceptional circumstances.

There is lots of support available for parents and carers where there is an attendance concern and if you wish to discuss this support in more detail, please contact Sam Pitt – s500spitt@forest-oak.solihull.sch.uk.

Every day matters and if you need support in getting your child to school, please contact us via Emma Byrne – s500ebyrne@forest-oak.solihull.sch.uk.

School opens at 8.30 a.m. and registration is at 8.40 a.m.; please ensure students are in school promptly. We are working hard to ensure students attend every day and are on time for school and this will be a focus for 2024.

➤ WARMTH IN SCHOOL

We take the wellbeing of everyone extremely seriously and, as you know, I never close unless I have no other options. Sadly, on 15th January the school was too cold to operate fully. We are extremely positive that the issues have been resolved and I am grateful for your prompt support in helping us to get the children home.

➤ TERM DATES

- **Spring Term 2024**
Term Starts: Monday 8 January 2024
Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024
Term Ends: Friday 22 March 2024
- **Summer Term 2024**
Term Starts: Monday 8 April 2024
(May Day: Monday 6 May 2024)
Half Term: Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
Term Ends: Monday 22 July 2024

INSET DAY (Pupils not in school)

Monday 8 April 2024

Monday 22 July 2024 (please note this has changed from Monday 8 January 2024)

'Working together... releasing potential'





➤ **OAKWOOD CENTRE VISIT DATES**

Year 9 parents/carers are invited to visit the Oakwood Centre on Wednesday, 6th March 2024 for a look around our wonderful Year 10 and 11 provision and to ask any questions you may have. The visit will last 30 minutes and there are three time slots available; 9.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. Please email school with your preferred time slot and we will endeavour to meet your preference. Email: office@forest-oak.solihull.sch.uk

➤ **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK: 5TH-11TH FEB 2024**
'YOUR VOICE MATTERS'

Watch a clip here to find out more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Hqrla0Ki7g>

This theme links to our ethos at Forest Oak and Merstone. In all we do here we give pupils a voice e.g., staff-pupil relationships, check ins, RP circles, SMILE approach, Mental Health First Aiders, Junior Leadership Team, School Council, Subject Ambassadors, pupil surveys etc.; another chance to raise awareness and hear pupil's wants, needs, views & opinions!

Pupils will have chance to take part in activities in assemblies and PSHE lessons to encourage them to talk and listen about what matters to them. The Forest Oak and Merstone choir will be performing positive songs to other pupils.

Friday 9th February will be 'Express yourself' themed non-uniform!

Own clothes, bright colours, anything that pupils are comfortable in and love to wear. We will be sending a on dojo with a link to the Just Giving page. We suggest a donation £1; this goes to 'Place to Be', a charity which supports young people's mental health.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or mental health, please talk to their class teacher or contact Issy Jerrard in school. We are here to listen to pupils and parents.

I hope you have been finding the monthly newsletter helpful in keeping abreast of all the wonderful activities and events happening across the school.

As always, we are here to offer support as needed and are always happy to make appointments to talk any positive or issues through.

Yours sincerely

MISS D LUCK
EXECUTIVE HEAD
Kindness, Patience, Compassion