

Parent Communication Letter – Friday 12 September 2025

Academy News

Uniform

The children have come back looking very smart this week – thank you for your support with keeping our standards high.

Lockdown Drill

We have had a few parents asking about the Lockdown drills that we do in the Academy. Please note, all Ormiston Academies carry out Lockdown procedures. We have done so for around 10 years now. They are done so that staff and pupils know exactly what to do if there was to be an emergency. Schools can go into a lockdown for a number of reasons:

- A partial lockdown would take place if there was to be an incident externally that did not directly affect the children in the building. This is where all external doors are locked but children carry on as normal. This could be due to an external gas leak, a stray dog in the playground etc.
- A full lockdown would occur if an intruder or a major accident occurred, or if children were at risk from a student or adult within the academy. I am sure that you can appreciate that the chances of these happening are extremely small, however we have to be prepared. In this case, depending upon the event, doors would be closed, curtains drawn and (in the case of an intruder or internal threat) we would encourage the children to sit under the tables. The children generally see it as a game. We do not go into detail with them as to why we do this.

Please can I absolutely reassure you all that despite some rumours on social media, this is part of our normal yearly safeguarding checks and apart from the youngest children who have only just started school, the children are used to it. I hope that this reassures everyone.

Carpark

Could we politely request that anyone waiting in the carpark avoids leaning on staff cars please.

Bikes and Scooters

Thank you for supporting us with no bikes and scooters being used on Academy grounds.

School Money

A polite reminder to ensure any dinner arrears and Nursery fees are paid up to date on School Money.

Jeans for Genes

On Friday 19 September, we will be supporting Jeans for Genes Day. Children may come to school wearing jeans along with their normal uniform for a suggested donation of 50p if you are able.

The Hub

A reminder that we will be opening up the Hub after school, Monday to Thursdays, to allow parents / carers to use this space whilst waiting for their children to finish Afterschool Clubs. Please note that there will be no access to the rest of the Academy.

Academy Staff INSET Days 2025/26

The Academy will be closed on the following dates for Staff INSET Days:

- Friday 17 October 2025
- Friday 5 December 2025
- Monday 5 January 2026
- Monday 23 February 2026
- Monday 13 April 2026
- Monday 20 July 2026

Diary Dates

- Friday 19 September: Jeans for Genes Day.
- Tuesday 23 September: YR / Y6 National Child Measurement Screening.
- Friday 10 October: J G Plummers Dental Screening.
- Monday 13 October: Harvest Festival Assembly (timings to be confirmed).
- Friday 17 October: Academy Closed for Staff Training Day.
- Tuesday 21 October: Individual and Sibling Photographs.
- Friday 24 October: Class Photographs.
- Friday 24 October: Academy Closes for Half Term.
- Monday 3 November: Academy Opens for Autumn Term 2.

Weekly Winners

Each week, teachers select a pupil who has particularly impressed them with their attitude to learning, behaviour, effort etc. This week's stars are:

- Adventurers: The Whole Class!
- Explorers: The Whole Class!
- Searchers: Teddy
- Seekers: Ronnie
- Pioneers: Manve
- Investigators: Charlotte
- Wayfarers: Isabel
- Navigators: Conor
- Creators: Imogen
- Pathfinders: Chloe
- Voyagers: Orson
- Venturers: Eli
- Crusaders: Cody
- Discoverers: Dillon

This week's Best Dressed Class is Crusaders!

Attendance

All children whose attendance is 98% or above for the Autumn Term will be entered into a draw to win a special prize.

The winning classes for the collective highest attendance this week are:

Early Years and Key Stage 1: Investigators

Key Stage 2: Voyagers

A big well done to both classes!

We are always striving to improve our attendance figures. Children who are in school are safe and accessing education to help them thrive. They are socialising with peers and learning how to be positive members of their community.

Our year-to-date attendance target is 96%, the whole school's attendance is 96% this week.

Wherever possible, please ensure your child is attending every day to avoid missing valuable learning opportunities.