



OAKLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2013

Dear Parents,

The countdown to Christmas has begun! Year 3 have just completed their play performances and I am sure that all those who attended will agree that they were magnificent. The choir and musicians have begun preparations for the Church Service and the school looks very festive after all the hard work on Decoration Day. Many thanks to all of you who joined us for that event, we had over 50 helpers on the day and we couldn't do so much in one day without you. My apologies if you are still picking glitter out of your clothing!

We have tried to cover as many events as possible, but please be on the look out for separate letters covering individual events.

As the days are rushing far too quickly towards the end of term and my retirement I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, as parents, for your support and friendship over the years. With some of you it has been a long relationship as your families have grown up and dare I mention I have even taught one or two of you and am now seeing your own children in school.

I count myself as lucky and privileged to have been the headteacher of Oaklands Junior School, working with the very best team of professionals.

So I would like to wish you all a really Happy Christmas and my very best wishes for the future.

SITE ISSUES

In line with the ban on smoking in public places, the Oaklands schools have successfully operated a no-smoking policy since 2009. As well as the obvious health benefits, it is also about giving children the right messages regarding smoking. With this in mind and advice from WBC, both governing bodies feel very strongly that being seen to smoke is not helpful in this instance, and as such ask that all parents and visitors to the site do not 'smoke' e-cigarettes or anything similar. The schools' no-smoking policy will be reviewed to reflect this. Thank you for your co-operation.

We will be carrying out major repairs to the school field in the spring term. This project is totally dependent on weather conditions but we are hoping we will have a lovely new field for Sports Day 2014. Sport is very important to the school and I know the staff will find

ways of continuing to offer the wide range of sporting activities during this period. We will keep you posted as and when we have any news to report.

In my last letter I asked if you would ensure that your children (including toddlers) do not 'scoot' on school premises. I would also ask that, for safety, when parking scooters and bikes you go around the back of the terrapin building and do not walk across the back of the little car park at the side of the terrapin.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to those of you who completed the questionnaire online or returned a paper copy via the school post box. Although this allows for anonymity and is extremely useful in helping us to address and plan whole school and year group teaching it does not allow us to address individual issues. My door is always open if you have a problem you wish to discuss and the class teachers are happy to make time for you after school, meetings and training etc permitting.

THE LIFE WEBSITE

Although the website is up and running and we trust, very informative the staff and pupils have been very frustrated by the new 'LIFE' learning platform from Uniservity. The fact that we have not yet been able to provide logins for parents is also a concern. We have had a number of discussions with the service provider and WBC expressing our dissatisfaction with the service. We are still pursuing a number of issues and will advise you of progress.

THE LIFE BUS

Once again the children enjoyed the experience of the Life Bus which is a PSHE resource that has visited our school for the past few years. I hope you took the opportunity to pop into the bus to see what the children will be doing in it. We ask for voluntary contributions for trips and visits as we do not have the funds for these additional activities. This year we only received contributions amounting to 65% of the total required.

I appreciate times are hard for all of us but unfortunately the school cannot afford to increase its contribution towards such events and we will have to consider very carefully whether we offer this again.

If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal then the cost of such activities is covered by Pupil Premium, which the school receives from Wokingham Borough Council. If you think you are entitled to this please contact the school office.

SPORT

Football League: Oaklands v St Michael's, Thursday 14th November 2013.

The A team's successful run finally came to an end at St Michael's Sandhurst. Despite taking the lead and having plenty of possession the boys could not hold onto it and soon found themselves level and then behind. Attack after attack fizzled out and in spite of some good goal keeping, we were just not able to crack their defences and lost the game 2 – 1.

The B team found themselves 2 – 0 down at half time but instead of being disheartened they rallied round in the second half and soon pulled one goal back. Five minutes later they got a deserved equaliser and then went on to score another goal eventually winning the game 3 – 2. It was a fabulous result and their first victory of the season.

Sportshall Athletics: Monday 18th November 2013

Both year 3/4 and 5/6 teams qualified for the Wokingham schools event held at Bulmershe sports centre. Years 3 and 4 went on first to compete against three other schools at various running relays, throwing and jumping events. In a closely fought competition in which they showed real determination finishing third overall but only 4 points off second and 12 points off first. It was a great effort and well done to all. They fully deserved their bronze medals.

The year 5 and 6 team were up against six other schools which included some giants of athletics in the shape of St Pauls, Aldryngton and Earley St Peters. With a stunning display of speed, skill and strength, we dominated most of the events and came out on top in first place with gold medals all round. As a reward the team can now look forward to the Berkshire Games competition in April and who knows, maybe a national competition if they are successful there!

Congratulations to all competitors in what promises to be a very good season for us in athletics.

Bearwood College Cross Country, Thursday 21st November 2013

After the success of Monday's indoor athletics it was now time to turn our attention to outdoor running again and the feel good factor certainly remained with us. The children turned in a magnificent performance on a difficult course to record one of our best ever results.

Year 3 and 4 girls	1st	Year 5 and 6 girls	1st
Year 3 and 4 boys	2nd	Year 5 and 6 boys	8th

Overall school position	2nd
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There were some fabulous individual efforts with plenty of children coming in the top ten in races with over 200 runners. There was an exceptional performance from the year 5 and 6 girls who had 4 runners in the first ten.

Wokingham Schools Gym Competition, Tuesday 3rd December 2013

Oaklands took both a year 3 / 4 and 5 / 6 team to the competition. Both teams were up against six other schools so competition was fierce. The teams competed on the floor, vault and also completed a body management routine. I am pleased to announce that their hard work in training paid off and both teams received gold medals and they now progress through to the Berkshire Games next year. I would like to give a special mention to Freya, who although not competing came to support the team and Lauren and Daisy who helped me train the teams two mornings a week. Great results all round.

Team: Maya, Monica, Emma, Katie, Lucy, Elise, Amy and Eve
Miss Bland

Woodford Park Cross Country, Thursday 5th December 2013

On a very cold afternoon we made our way over to Woodley to run in the re-scheduled cross country event. Largely run over flat park land this is a great spectator event as you get the chance to see the runners at several points along the route and for the runners there is also the added delight of the teletubby hill to overcome! As a school we recorded our lowest points total of the season so far, but as always some fantastic individual results.

Year 3 and 4 girls	2nd	Year 5 and 6 girls	1st
Year 3 and 4 boys	1st	Year 5 and 6 boys	5th

Overall school position	2nd
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Netball: Oaklands v All Saints and away to St Pauls

The Year 5/6 netball team has made an excellent start to the league this year. In their most recent matches they beat All Saints 15 – 0 but then narrowly lost to St Pauls in a very fast-paced match, losing by the one goal 3 - 2. The standard of netball was excellent and the team have played very well together, adapting to the different positions they have to play with the rotations of High 5s.

Mrs Schuster

CLOTHES COLLECTION, WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2013

Many thanks to everybody who contributed to the collection of 533kg of waste textiles. This added another 21,000 points to our total which we can use towards new sports equipment. We will probably arrange another collection around Easter time.

POPPY APPEAL

The whole school stood in silence at 11a.m on the 11th November 2013 to show their respect to all those who had lost their lives or sustained an injury whilst serving their country. Year 6 pupils sold poppies and collected £75.08 for the Royal British Legion.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you for your kind donations we raised an amazing £488.07 for this very worthy charity. The children and staff looked wonderful in their pyjamas, our giant Pudsy Bear was covered in all your loose change and a mountain of cakes were supplied, bought and eaten.

‘MOVEMBER’ AT OAKLANDS

Although the facial hair grown by our male staff members was beginning to grow on me it is nice to see their smooth faces after the ‘shave off’. Thank you for joining us on the playground to bear witness to the event and donating so generously! Just over £230 was raised for this very worthwhile cause.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you for supporting our Book Fair, which has been one of the best we have ever had. I hope that you managed to find a good Christmas present or two. The commission we receive from these Fairs help us to keep the library well stocked and also helps with providing text books in class.

MORRISON VOUCHERS

My thanks to all who sent in Morrisons vouchers. I have placed an order for a fleece, a film tunnel, a groundsheet and plant ties. These should arrive in the spring. Unfortunately, we didn’t quite collect enough for another wooden composter.

M.Moores

PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

We had a lovely day last Saturday with lots of people trying to win prizes and buying Christmas presents. The PTA and helpers worked hard all day and our thanks to all of you who came along and supported this event.

SCHOOL DINNERS

Please note that it is the school's responsibility to recover outstanding money for school meals. Cater Link will therefore be invoicing the school, which will be liable for any and all outstanding debts at the end of each term. I would appreciate your help in settling any debts as quickly as possible, if it is left to the last minute it can create confusion as to what is owed to the school and what is owed to Cater Link. Any cheques outstanding at **the end of term** should therefore be made payable to Oaklands Junior School. If you pay online but have a debt **at the end of term** then please pay the school the outstanding amount, the debt **CANNOT be paid online.**

END OF TERM SING-A-LONG

As usual you are very welcome to join us singing our favourite Christmas carols and songs on the last day of term. We will begin at approx. 1.40p.m. and will finish at 2.10p.m. in order to get the children ready to go home.

END OF TERM FINISHING TIME

I would like to remind you that term finishes at **2.15p.m.** on **Friday 20th December.** School re-opens for the children on **Wednesday 8th January 2014.**

Yours sincerely,



Miss S. Charnley
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Friday 13 th	Year 5 Trip to the Victorian School Room at Reading Museum
Monday 16 th	2.00pm Parent Farewell Afternoon Tea with Miss Charnley
Wednesday 18 th	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19 th	Christmas Church Service in the morning, 9.30am at St. Johns Church
Thursday 19 th	The 'Flying Pizza' Company perform the Hobbit to the school pm
Friday 20 th	2.15pm End of Term

JANUARY 2014

Tuesday 7 th	INSET DAY
Wednesday 8 th	Pupils return to school

Please note SATs week for Year 6 is Monday 12th May to Friday 16th May 2014