



# Oaklands Junior School

*Learning to think – Thinking to learn*

## Spring 1

Will the rain ever cease? We have certainly managed to keep the floods from our classroom doors but on one or two occasions we have had to resort to diverting parents to walk down the drive as some paths became impassable! Thank you for your co-operation and patience.

### Field

Our field is very well used for sports and has needed a makeover for a long time, as it has become very uneven. We plan to have the whole field resurfaced very soon, with work beginning at the end of March, weather permitting. We may need a back-up plan for a sports day venue, if the field is not ready in time, but we will keep you posted and the weather is going to be a deciding factor of when this work can begin.

### Exciting News!

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Schuster who is expecting her first baby in July. Mrs. Schuster is planning to teach 6S right up to SATs and well into June!

### LIFE

Our new learning platform has experienced some problems which has delayed our issue of usernames and log-ins to parents. The provider, Uniservity, is working hard to fix the problem.

### Sports Reports

Please see latest news on our website.

<http://www.oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk>

## NEWSLETTER

### 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee Mural

Our mural, designed by the children, is in the process of being printed on to tiles ready for installation on the Y6 outside wall. We are going to need some dry weather for this to be installed but we will also need to avoid any cold snap, as this could damage the tiles!

### Sponsorship

Do you know of any company who would be kind enough to sponsor our 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee Mural? We have done very well so far (our children have been brilliant raising money through their ingenious ideas for fundraising events). We just need that final amount to complete our project. In return we could advertise on our website, in newsletters and through a plaque “sponsored by ...” If you know of any local business who would be willing to sponsor our mural, please let us know. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

### Foreign Coins

We finally sent our hoard to the post office and we would like to THANK YOU for all your contributions from holidays abroad. In total we raised £192 towards our mural. WOW!

### Class Assemblies at 9.00am

To minimise congestion in reception at busy times, please enter the hall via the playground. We have enjoyed 3 brilliant assemblies this term from 4W, 5H & 6S. WELL DONE

## 2014

### Thinking Schools Latest News

We are using a new **THINKING TOOL**. Ask your children how they use the following **THINKING MAPS: circle, bubble, double bubble, tree, brace, flow, multi-flow, bridge** (but remember they may not have used them all yet)!

Examples available at:  
[http://www.lifestreamcenter.net/DrB/Lessons/thinking\\_maps.htm](http://www.lifestreamcenter.net/DrB/Lessons/thinking_maps.htm)

### Important Dates

#### Half term

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February

#### 3P Class Assembly

27<sup>th</sup> February

#### Textiles Collection

28<sup>th</sup> February

#### World Book Day

6<sup>th</sup> March

#### 3H Class Assembly

6<sup>th</sup> March

#### 6J Class Assembly

12<sup>th</sup> March

#### Wear a Hat Day

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March

#### Parents' Evenings

31st Mar 3.30-8.00pm

1<sup>st</sup> Apr 3.30-6.00pm

#### Easter Holiday

7<sup>th</sup> Apr – 21<sup>st</sup> Apr

**INSET day 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr**

# What has been happening in Years 3 & 4?

## Year 3

After the excitement of Christmas it was lovely to see the children ready for learning! We have covered a wide range of topics this half term and all the children have proved to be wonderful thinkers.

We have been using a book called "Where the Wild Things Are" as a stimulus for writing. They have written some wonderful descriptions and finished by writing their own adventure stories.

Our geography topic of world climate has particularly focussed on the polar region. All have been fascinated by how animals and humans can live in this harsh environment.

As a follow up, we planned and built shelters that had to be waterproof, wind proof and strong. We all had great fun putting the designs to the test. Thank you for all the donations of materials that made this project such a great learning experience.

In science we have been investigating the properties of magnets. The children planned and carried out their own experiment on magnetic forces. We definitely have a new generation of scientists in Year 3.

Despite the monsoon season we have managed to participate in outdoor basketball. Cold but great fun was the feedback from the children. We have also started to learn about dance. Currently the year group is practising country dancing which is proving to be great fun.

In maths we have covered a wide range of topics including fractions, money and problem solving.

Thank you to all our wonderful parent helpers. Year 3 would not be the same without you!

### **The Year 3 Team**

Mr Hill, Mrs Penstone, Mrs Burrell and Mrs Hanks

## Year 4

It has been a very busy half term with everyone getting ready for the Year 4 production, "Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine".

The children have learnt their lines and song lyrics brilliantly. They have also enthusiastically embraced the experience of 'time travel'!

Since we came back from Christmas, Year 4 have been reading 'The Iron Man' (which 4W used as a basis for their fantastic class assembly). The book has really captured the children's imaginations and they have produced poems, stories, wanted posters and 'junk models' (some of which are almost as tall as the children themselves)!

Next half term, we will be switching the focus on to the Tudors and preparing the children for our trip to Ufton Court. A member of staff from Ufton Court will be coming to visit each class very soon, so that the children can have an opportunity to ask questions; which usually includes is the house is haunted?

If, as a parent or carer, you would like to discuss the residential trip with us, please put a note in the home/school diary and we can then organise an appointment.

Group reading will start again on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Finally, thank you as ever for all your support with reading, homework, costumes and supplying of packaging for the Iron Man models – look out for them around the school soon!

### **The Year 4 Team**

Mrs Alexander, Mrs Burrows, Mr Lee, Mrs Smith and Mrs Yeatman.

***Thank you to all the children and Year 4 team for a fantastic performance in "Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine". WELL DONE!***

***Mrs West***

# What has been happening in Years 5 & 6?

## Year 5

### The Aztecs

We have been learning about the war faring Aztecs. We've done many lessons including where they lived, why they sacrificed people to their many gods (if we gave you all the gods' names we would be here forever!) and a lot more besides.

Miss Bland has taught us loads of fascinating facts but here are some of our favourites:

Do you think their neighbours liked them? As the Aztecs had a bad reputation every time they settled somewhere, other tribes just kicked them out. Their gods knew this would keep happening so they told them to go travelling until they found an eagle perched on a cactus with a snake in its' beak. After loads of travelling they decided to rest near a lake (Lake Texcoco). The next day like a miracle a priest saw what the gods told them to look for, then it grew into a huge island. So this is how they found their everlasting home, also known as Tenochtitlan.

Nowadays you might think that it was horrible to sacrifice people but they were scared that if they didn't sacrifice people, the gods would get angry and stop doing their duty. That would mean the end of the world!

You would never believe this! You've probably heard that the Aztecs were blood thirsty people but actually in wars, their main aim was to injure then capture the enemy and sacrifice them.

Unfortunately the famous Aztec reign ended in 1521 after a Spanish invasion led by Hernan Cortes. The Spanish were equipped with modern weapons such as cannons and swords; to make matters worse they also infected the population with the deadly disease small pox. After this Spain took control of the remaining Aztecs and made them convert to Christianity, stopping their war faring, sacrificing ways!

By William McG and Matthew D in 5B

## Year 6

### It's all Greek to me!

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014 Year 6 had a Greek day. There was food, entertainment and they all dressed up like Greeks. There was food like pita bread, yoghurt, cheese, biscuits and some interesting pancakes with honey. Most of Year 6 said they enjoyed the food and tried all the different things.

All of the lessons were based on the Greeks and we even enjoyed a philosophical discussion as part of our P4C lessons.

By Matthew W, Holly P and Christopher Y

### Trip to REME

At the start of the day we sat in their conservatory watching a movie that showed what to do in air raids. After that we were split into groups. My first activity was learning about rationing. We saw how much civilians got in comparison to soldiers in one week. It turns out that soldiers got a lot more food.

Our second activity was to put in order the day of a nurse. We got to dress up in costumes and we saw some identification cards.

After a break, the officer's trunk was a good activity where we had to guess who it belonged to. We did this by using the evidence inside.

The last activity was when we pretended to have an air raid and we all acted out our parts.

By Keziah S in 6J

### VE Day Celebrations

Last Friday Year 6 enjoyed a great VE day celebrating the end of the war. The children brought in some unusual foods using rations and enjoyed demonstrating their 1940s dance moves in the morning. They all looked great in costume which made it a great end to this topic.

By Mrs Jones

# Further News

## Dance Competition

The founders of the dance competition were Matthew N, Amelia S and Amelie H. It involved a lot of sweat, tears and a lot of hard work. Dancers entered from every year group and we were very proud of what they did; the dancers were amazing and very committed. We raised £14.50 for the school which will go towards our school mural. In the end some very talented Year 3's won. Well done to Kristina and Emma G, Archie S, Alex McG and Dané G.

## Big Schools Birdwatch Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

It was an overcast, grey damp day when about 25 children, Mrs Draffin, Mrs Smith and Ms Moores spent an hour at lunchtime recording the birds seen in the school grounds. The children remained enthusiastic throughout, many having a great deal of knowledge and experience, whilst others came for their first bird watch. We spotted eight different types of birds. Top of the list was the woodpigeon and second the magpie. Our results have been submitted to the RSPB. Thank you to everyone for doing this job so well.

## Marie Curie Mini Pots of care Daffodil Shows

The Marie Curie mini pots of care, given free to the school, included pots, labels, soil and bulbs which Years 3 and 5 planted and cared for as part of their science work during outdoor learning. The Y3 and Y5 flower shows were magnificent. Once again there was an opportunity for parents and children to buy the daffodils planted by the children. Thank you to the Y3 children who cared for their daffodils at home and remembered to bring them in for the show. Many thanks also to the support given by the many parents who came to the flower shows. The amount raised so far is just over £90.

## Wear a Hat Day – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Please support research into brain tumours by wearing a hat on this day and donating money to this cause. We are inviting children to wear a real or home-made hat and to bring a voluntary contribution of £1 or more into school. School uniform will be worn as normal and it will be voluntary to join in by wearing a hat and donating money. Please see website for details of this charity:

<http://www.braintumourresearch.org>

***Thank you to our PTA for organising such fun events – our recent disco was a great success!***

PTA Nearly New Uniform Sale

PTA Quiz

PTA Easter Egg Bingo

(Infant & Junior playground)

(Juniors)

(Infants)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 1.00-4.30pm

### Parking

Many concerns have been raised about illegal parking on yellow lines or pavements at the corner of junctions. This must stop. It is a real concern for the safety of all our children who suffer reduced visibility when crossing the roads or cannot be seen by oncoming traffic.

Reminders were sent home and placed on offending cars. The police recently responded by patrolling the area and issuing tickets.

**Please park safely for the safety of ALL our children.**

### Photography

May we remind you that whilst it is perfectly OK for you to take photos of your children at events in and out of school, publicising these photos on social networking sites is not permitted, as some of our parents have signed to say they would **not** like photos of their children published. Please respect their wishes and remember that these photos are for your own personal use, particularly when they include pictures of other children.

*Have a lovely relaxing half-term holiday!*