



OAKLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year. I hope you all had a good summer break. It was lovely to see so many of you join the children for the ribbon cutting ceremony on the first day back to celebrate our Golden Jubilee.

We are delighted to welcome all of our new children and parents to Oaklands Junior School. I was so pleased to see so many parents at our Parent Forums last week. I hope you found them informative.

We also welcome Mrs Bland as a class teacher and Mr Grimmett as a class teaching assistant in year 5.

PREMISES

This summer we installed new cloakrooms in Years 3 and 4 to help tidy the corridors and increase health and safety when moving around the school.

STUDENT SCHOOL COUNCIL

All the pupils have had the opportunity to stand as a candidate to represent their class on the School Council. The elections have now been held and the children have voted for their councillors.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Service will take place in school on Wednesday 9th October at 2.15pm. and will be conducted by Rev Andrew Marsden from St. Sebastians. You are very welcome to attend, but seating will, as usual, be limited. We hope to finish the service by 3.00pm in order for parents to collect children from the Infant School. I appreciate the difficulties involved in making arrangements to have toddlers looked after during the daytime, but please bear in mind that young children can spoil the occasion for our pupils and parents if they are noisy.

This year our Harvest will be going to the Crowthorne foodbank see <http://www.wokinghamvineyard.org/>. They have asked if we could provide:

- Canned vegetables especially pulses and beans (but not baked beans)
- Canned meat and fish
- Canned and dried fruit
- Long life milk and fruit juices

- Rice and pasta
- Jam and spreads
- Sugar, Tea and Coffee
- Biscuits / Sweets

All food should be in date by at least 4 months

The foodbank is located in Crowthorne High Street, next to Edwards Electrical shop and is open on Mondays and Fridays from 12.00 -2.00pm. There are also collection points at the Co-op in Crowthorne and at the local churches.

We would also appreciate seasonal fruits, vegetables, flowers and foliage to decorate the hall. Gifts should be sent in on the morning of the service only please, and the children will be asked to bring them straight to the hall when they arrive at school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

I am delighted to see what a great effort parents are still making to send their children in the correct school uniform.

With the exception of PE bags, all items of schoolwear with the school logo on them are no longer available from the PTA, but need to be ordered from M&S via their website www.mandsyourschooluniform.com or by telephoning 0844-5447972

- If you are placing an order under £35, there is a delivery charge. To get round this, you can do a joint order with other parents, or you can order extra items and take advantage of the free returns (or sell any unwanted items on to other parents).
- There is still some remaining stock of rucksacks and larger sizes of sweaters & cardigans. Please contact Claire Hall on oaklandsuniform@googlemail.com to confirm prices.

Would you also please ensure that your child has an apron or old large shirt for art and craft to protect their uniform?

Please ensure that your child is wearing sensible shoes. The ballet pump style of shoe which is popular with some girls is not really suitable for school as they offer little support and don't protect them in the playground. You are very welcome to use me as back up if your girls are being difficult about this!

Do ensure that children have their hair tied back and off their faces for school. This applies to boys as well as girls. Also shaved patterns etc are not appropriate for school; please ensure that these are kept for the beginning of the summer holidays so they have time to grow out before the new term starts.

Children regularly manage to lose items of clothing etc. and I know that this is extremely annoying for parents, especially if they are new. We do our best to reunite children with their belongings but it helps enormously if everything is labelled clearly. There are lost property boxes in each year band.

CAR PARKING

This subject is one that crops up regularly but unfortunately we still have a few parents who disregard our parking rules despite the fact that they are made for safety reasons. We understand that parents are often in a hurry but in the interests of the **safety of all children**, please do not park on the yellow zigzags outside schools when dropping or picking up your children. The yellow zigzags are there for a specific reason. It creates a clear area to enable children to cross the road when entering and leaving the school.

Please consider the following points of information:

- The zigzag lines and the areas opposite the zigzags need to be kept clear.
- **The zigzag areas are not a drop-off zone**
- Children who walk to school are too small to see around parked cars.
- Parking is a community matter, not just a school or police matter.
- Do not park across resident's driveways blocking access.

Please be considerate to our neighbours, pedestrians and other drivers. Just this week a neighbour in Grange Avenue complained to the school about cars being parked across her driveway!

HEADLICE

Please check your child's hair at least once a week. Friday night is a good time to do this as any outbreak can be treated during the weekend. Please also ensure that long hair is fastened back whilst in school as an added deterrent. Frequent combing with a fine-toothed comb also helps.

HEALTHY EATING

Some new parents may not be aware of our healthy eating policy regarding break-time snacks. The children are not allowed to eat anything other than fresh fruit or vegetable items at break time so please do not send them with pre-packed items such as fruit bars, cereal bars, crisps or sweets etc. This also helps us to avoid litter. At lunchtime, crisps are allowed in lunchboxes as part of a packed lunch but again please avoid sweets. **Please note that anything containing nuts should not be brought to school.** We have an increasing number of children who suffer from nut allergies and we have to be very careful to ensure that they are not in any contact with any nuts.

PACKED LUNCHES AND PICNICS

Year 4 looked at sustainable lunch boxes as part of one of their geography topics. Please may we encourage parents to maintain this good practice for packed lunches at school and for school trips? We encourage reduction in the amount of packaging that is not recyclable or reusable. We hope that the lunch box containers will be reused, wrappers will be recycled and the remainder of the contents, composted. The school composts fruit cores and peelings from break time but encourages children to take the remains of their lunch box or school trip picnic, home with them, when possible.

M. Moores

MARIE CURIE MINI POTS OF CARE

Once again Marie Curie Cancer Care will be providing daffodil bulbs which will be planted by year 3 and year 5 during outdoor learning. In year 3 children learn how plants grow well and year 5 look at life cycles so this is a lovely way to enhance these topics. Children will be allowed to take their daffodil bulb home and nurture it for a minimum of a £1 donation. Guidance will be given. Early in the Spring term we will have a flower show after school where you are invited to view the children's efforts. Daffodils can then be taken home again. The remaining daffodils will be sold and the money raised will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

M. Moores

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals the school is entitled to additional funding from the Local Authority to help pay the costs of school trips, visits and outside school activities etc. Families who receive benefits such as Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance and Child Tax Credit etc. are entitled to apply. Application Forms can be obtained from the school office and will be dealt with the utmost discretion.

MUSIC LESSONS

We regularly have peripatetic music teachers in school to teach guitar, keyboard, violin, brass, woodwind and recorder. If you are interested in your child taking instruction in any of these instruments, please contact the school office.

PARENT SUPPORT ADVISER

Many of you have already met Mrs Nikki Lenon our Parent Support Adviser (PSA). She is in school twice a week. If you would like to get in touch with her you can either ring the school or email her on:

nlenon@oaklands-jun.wokingham.sch.uk

PARENT HELPERS

We are always delighted when parents are able to come into school to help with a variety of activities such as group reading, assisting with art, cookery or technology, or helping in the library. Hopefully those of you who wish to help picked up one of our School Information forms for Parent Helpers at the Parent Forums held last week.

Parent helpers need to be police checked before working in school but this is not too onerous. If you do not have a certificate, a form explaining how to apply on line can be collected from the school office. If you were cleared by the Infant School or you have a relevant local clearance can you please bring your certificate to the office so that we can see it.

It would be very helpful as teachers settle the children first thing in the morning if parents would move well away from the class lines after the whistle has been blown. This allows the children to focus on their teachers as they walk quietly into school.

MEDICATION

Please remember to complete forms and bring into school any prescribed long term medication your child requires e.g. inhalers / epipens

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

We will be using data collected from the Kingswood trip paper work to update Year 6 details. However, at some point we will be asking Year 4 and 5 parents to check and return contact details. If you have changed any of your details please let the office know immediately.

SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS

Please continue to bring these into school.

ABSENCES

May I take this opportunity to remind you that unless there are exceptional circumstances leave of absence in term time will not be authorised.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please find diary dates and term dates attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.M. Charnley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Miss S. Charnley
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 19 th	School Council Elections
Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th	Year 6 on a residential visit to Kingswood
Saturday 28 th	Circus arranged by the PTA
Monday 30 th	The Start of Thinking Schools Week

OCTOBER

Tuesday 1 st	Dress up Day – come to school as an answer to a question
Tuesday 1 st	7.00pm Parents are invited to the Thinking Schools Launch
Tuesday 9 th	Harvest Festival at 2.15p.m
Friday 18 th	PTA Disco
Monday 21 st	Portrait Photos
Monday 21 st	Parents Evening 3.30pm until 8.00pm
Wednesday 23 rd	Parents Evening 3.30pm until 6.00pm

Half Term Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November

NOVEMBER

Monday 4 th	INSET DAY
Tuesday 5 th	Pupils return to school
Saturday 9 th	PTA Firework Display
Monday 11 th to Thursday 14 th	Life Education Mobile Classroom visits the school
Wednesday 27 th to Friday 29 th	Book Fair
Friday 29 th	Non-uniform day for PTA Christmas Fayre

DECEMBER

Wednesday 4 th	Decoration Day
Saturday 7 th	PTA Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 11 th	Year 3 Play at 1.45pm
Thursday 12 th	Year 3 Play 7.00pm
Monday 16 th	2.00pm Farewell Afternoon Tea with Miss Charnley
Thursday 19 th	Christmas Church Service in the morning
Thursday 19 th	The 'Flying Pizza' Company perform the Hobbit to the school pm
Friday 20 th	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

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

Autumn Term 2013

Half Term	28 th October to 1 st November
Staff Training Day	Monday 4th November 2013
End of Term	20 th December

Spring Term 2014

Staff Training Day	7 th January 2014
START OF PUPIL TERM	8th January 2014
Half Term	17 th February to 21 st February 2014
End of Term	4 th April 2014

Summer Term 2014

Staff Training Day	22 nd April 2014
START OF PUPIL TERM	23rd April 2014
Bank Holiday	5 th May 2014
Election – School Closed	22nd May 2014
Half Term	26 th May to 30 th May
End of Term	23 rd July 2014

**THESE DATES WILL BE SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES DUE TO
STAFF TRAINING DAYS**