



Oaklands Junior School

Learning to think - Thinking to learn

Summer 2 NEWSLETTER

Reports

Mrs West would just like to congratulate teaching staff on their very well-written, comprehensive reports that contained a good balance of academic achievement and personal information, showing how well they know their pupils; as well as giving advice and guidance for the future – she does read all 250! Mrs West also includes a Headteacher comment for pupils in Year 6 as these pupils are leaving us to continue their journey on to secondary school. We wish them all the very best in their future lives and hope that they will visit us in the future to catch up with staff and also to let us know how they are doing.

Thank you to all our parents who have returned report slips; it has been good to read so many positive comments - these are read by your child's teaching team and also by Mrs. West. Your views are important to us, so thank you!

School Improvement Officer End of year report:

Overall Effectiveness – Summer term

Oaklands Junior School is a good school with some developing practices which should lead it to being an Outstanding School at the next inspection. All core judgements on the work of the school are good, and outcomes for pupils at the end of Year 6 this summer have generally strengthened and are all above the national equivalents.

STEM Fair Awards

Well done to Freya J and Kiera B, who received a special award from the

Year 6 Play and Presentations

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils and staff for all their hard work in putting on our production of "An Inspector Calls" which was a great success. The comic timing was brilliant, the dancing and singing was fantastic.

As is tradition at the end of the Y6 play, the following awards were made:

Waller Trophy: Ben M

Teale Trophy: Emily W

Sportsmanship Trophy:
Millie D and Paddy M

Hutton Trophy: Zack W

Huge congratulations to you all, these awards are discussed intensely by staff debating reasons for different pupils deserving these awards; sometimes it is very difficult when there are several names put forward!

The evening then continued with a slideshow of photos from the pupils' time over the years at Oaklands Juniors. Parents, pupils and staff all then had the opportunity to socialise and celebrate Year 6's time at Oaklands Junior School.

During this play, our Y6 pupils collected £130 for Debra. Many thanks to all who contributed to this local charity, chosen by the children.

Thinking Schools

Latest News

Attached with this newsletter is a PDF of the Quick Guide for Parents booklet that outlines Thinking Schools at Oaklands. Paper copies are also available from the school office.

Early next year, we intend to set up a parent group to help spread the Thinking Schools message. If you are interested in helping support this initiative by attending some sessions please let Mr Holland know either via the school email or in person.

Important Dates 2017

September

Monday 4th INSET

Tuesday 5th Pupils Return

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd
Year 6 visit Osmington Bay

October

Half Term

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th

Monday 30th October INSET
Tuesday 31st Pupils Return

**Tuesday 19th December
Term Ends 2.15pm**

What has been happening in Years 3 & 4?

Year 3

It has been a fantastic term in Year 3. The highlight was the visit to Butser Ancient Farm where the children learnt about life in the Bronze and Iron Age. When they arrived they all sat in a smoky roundhouse and were told some facts about how the house was built. They then started a rotation of four activities which involved copper jewellery making, chalk carving, archaeology and wattling. The children really enjoyed themselves and it was a lovely way to finish the history topic. Thank you again to the parents who kindly helped out on the trip.

Our English topic has involved plays and dialogues, with writing and performing a shadow puppet play – the puppets were made out of black card and straws. The children learnt how to write a play script and also discovered how shadows are formed, coinciding with our science topic on light and shadows. One of our enquiry questions was, “Are shadows always black?” The children were able to discover the answer whilst using cellophane to create colour in their puppets. We were treated to an afternoon of entertainment watching their finished performances.

Since February half term we have been enjoying Berkshire Maestros sessions with Mr Bowen every Wednesday. Year 3 have been learning how to play tunes on the glockenspiel, and we have practised drumming and singing. This culminated in a wonderful workshop, demonstrating their skills in a performance for the parents.

We have really enjoyed teaching the children this year. We are very impressed with how much our Year 3s have grown in confidence. They have worked very hard and we wish them all the best for Year 4.

Year 4

This half-term has gone incredibly quickly and it is hard to believe that it is already the end of another academic year. Despite it being close to the summer holidays, the children have continued to work really hard, even during the recent hot weather, for which they should be congratulated.

Both staff and children enjoyed sharing the recent work produced from this half-term’s homework grid. The quality of work was excellent and there were some fantastic nature collages (including a Yoda made from leaves and twigs!).

Our topic this half-term has been a study of modern Rome. The children have been using Google Earth to walk as a tourist around the city and see some of the major attractions. They then described what it would be like to be there and visit them. During the Year 4 assembly, the children put in a plea to Mrs West to visit Rome – we are still awaiting her response!

On the request of the children in Year 4, we have recently focussed on the children producing a book. The stories that they have written were based on a genre of their own choice. This ranged from adventure and science-fiction to romance and horror! These have been a very interesting end of year read for the teachers.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the people that have volunteered this year. Your help and assistance has been greatly appreciated and it has made a real difference to the children and their learning.

What has been happening in Years 5 & 6?

Year 5

A major push in Year 5, this term, has been to complete our "Make a Difference" project. Following the Sponsored Walk, children thought about other ways of raising awareness for our causes to stop the poaching of rhino horns and elephant tusks. This included writing to local and national politicians and a cake sale. We have raised over £1,000 for our chosen charities, Helping Rhinos and iWorry. Sarah Kilou of the Go Givers Foundation, was very impressed with the children's commitment, articulation and passion when she visited to present Year 5 with their certificate at our Year 5 Assembly. The Guinness World Records are still processing the application, but we should meet the criteria for 'The Largest Sponsored Walk for Children ever held'. Final confirmation should be received next term.

In history we have completed our local history topic which culminated in a lovely day out at Wellington College. Our guide, Mr Potter, gave a fascinating talk and tour on the history of the College. Following a picnic lunch outside in the gardens, a stroll down the High Street allowed us to compare past and present buildings and land use.

In PSHE we have covered personal hygiene and puberty. In Art and DT the children have been making some wonderful moving toys with cam mechanisms and masks with mod roc. Both classes have completed their swimming at the Carnival Pool.

As we end the year, we can see that the children have matured and are ready to move on. Good luck to all the children next year and to Amie who is moving abroad.

A big thank you for the help received from parents throughout the year. Your help and support is greatly appreciated and the Year 5 team wish you a happy and restful summer.

Year 6

It has been a typically busy last half term in Year 6. The main focus has been the production 'An Inspector Calls'. The children put a lot of effort into learning lines and adding expression for effect. Without being able to rely on the usual outlandish costumes and sets, the children really had to bring the script to life. The final performance last Wednesday was highly emotional and showed Year 6 at their best, working as a team to produce outstanding entertainment.

The children have also taken part in induction days for their new schools. The experience appears to have been overwhelmingly positive for everyone and the children seem genuinely excited about moving on to senior school.

While all this has been going on, we have still found time to use the classic cartoon series Mr Benn as a basis for creative writing. The children had great fun watching episodes and were wonderfully creative when it came to devising new costumes and adventures for our hero.

In addition, the Luna Park projects have been wonderful in the variety of their choice of content, marketing approaches and some creative book-keeping! The children worked in teams, with specific roles for each child, before presenting their ideas in an Apprentice-style scenario. There was plenty of learning, both academic and social, throughout the project.

It only remains for us to thank the children for their hard work this year and for their contribution to Oaklands Junior School. They have been a wonderful year group as both role models within school and ambassadors outside of school. They have been a credit to Oaklands Juniors and will be greatly missed.

Further News

Welding Work – Shout Out

Thank you so much to Darrin and Kristina Brownhill, (Citroen Classics) who answered our call for help, took three of our broken dining tables away and carried out the welding work required. We now have a fully equipped dining room, with tables that now move easily on new wheels! Thank you!

Y6 BBQ

Despite a very wet evening last Friday, it was wonderful to see our Y6s enjoying their team games and celebrating success with their team mates, laughing out loud all the way through their events and even at the end when prizes were awarded to teams. A final whole Y6 group photo was taken before they left and it was amazing to see how they still had so much energy!

Thank you to the whole of the Y6 team but especially to 'The Griffiths Family' who are a huge part of this event with 2x Mrs Griffiths, and 2x Mr Griffiths, organising setting up the games and the BBQ. They are a great team and we couldn't do this without them. Also a special thank you to our PTA who support us in this event by providing the funds for the food and drinks for this event, along with sweets and a key ring for every pupil, which contained a photo of both year groups, as a special thank you to our pupils. THANK YOU very much to our PTA.

Finally, many Y6 parents volunteered to help at this event and their enthusiasm was not dampened by the weather. We couldn't have run all these team events without them. THANK YOU for all your support!

The Hub Challenge

Yesterday our current Year 4 children joined their new classmates for September, together with their new teacher and Teaching Assistants, for "The Hub Challenge" – a half day of team building and problem solving activities designed to encourage communication and working together. Great fun was had by all and a lot of thinking was done! Each session finished with a round-up of what the children had learned:

"Somethings were harder than I expected", Toby, "Don't rush in, listen to others", Patrick, "My idea could make the difference", Harry "Don't just talk – listen!", Sewar" A great experience with my new class", Oliver

Refurbishments over the Summer Break

Our IT Suite will be completely refurbished with new flooring and benching. A complete class set of new PCs has been purchased and assuming that there are no delays, these will be installed before the children are ready to use them in the new term. Thank you to our old ASC and the PTA for the welcome funding that has allowed us to upgrade our technology.

The hall floor, following an insurance claim for the damage caused by flood earlier in the year, is going to be machine sanded, the badminton court remarked and several layers of polyurethane seal applied.

Redecoration of a number of central areas around the school will happen this holiday, thanks to one of our governors, who works at HP; she put us forward for a team to help with this project some time ago and we have been successful.

Our pond, which has lasted us for many years, is now at the point when a new liner needs to be fitted. You may have seen how the level of water has dropped drastically in recent months, with the liner just crumbling away. This is a huge job but thanks to a band of very willing parents, this should hopefully be rectified over the summer months. We are very grateful for all the support we receive, in so many different ways, from our many parents. A lot of what we do, we couldn't do without you! THANK YOU.

We hope you ALL Enjoy a relaxing Summer Holiday