



Oaklands Junior School

Learning to think - Thinking to learn

Summer NEWSLETTER 2018

End of Year Reports

Now that our pupil reports have been sent home, I hope that you will see how very well our staff know your children. Teachers have put a lot of time and effort into ensuring these are a true reflection of your child's time in their current year group with not only results achieved and effort noted but also more personal quotes. There will always be some areas for improvement to work on for the following year and all the help and support you give is appreciated, as we are very much a team, working with you and your child to ensure they achieve their full potential.

You may not be aware but Mrs West reads each and every report before they are printed. Sometimes events happen after the reports have been written, so please forgive us if we leave something off a report that perhaps happened in the final week or two! Mrs West also reads all the comments that are returned from reports – so thank you for your recognition of all that we do in school to help your child succeed.

In school over the last few weeks, there have been many meetings and handovers to ensure that your child's new teaching team are ready to receive their new classes, having gained important information from your child's current teaching team. Our Y2 infant teachers have also similarly met with our Y3 team. Our more vulnerable children have had extra opportunities to visit their new classes or new school, in preparation for a smooth transition.

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 "Mystery at Magpie Manor"

As is tradition at the end of the Y6 play, congratulations were given to the following award winners:

Waller Trophy: Hrisi K

Teale Trophy: Maddie N

Sportsmanship Trophy:
Oliver F & Erin A

Hutton Trophy: Nathan R

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 their time at Oaklands Junior School.

During this play, pupils collected £100 for their named charity, The Motor Neurone Disease Association. Many thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

We would like to wish all our Y6s the very best for the future in their move on to their respective secondary schools.

Stop Press: The Mayor of Barkham, John Keiser, visited our assembly on Thursday to present a plaque to our retiring chair of governors, John McLaren, in recognition of his long service to the school.

Also Dr Phillip Lee visited our Art Exhibition with parents on Friday afternoon and he was truly impressed by our children's artwork.

Thinking Schools

Latest News We have only just this week heard that we have accreditation as a Thinking School. **We are the first school in Wokingham to achieve this award.** A huge amount of work went into this and we would like to thank Mr Holland as our Thinking Schools' Leader and also all the staff and children who have worked towards this. We marked this occasion in a very special Arts Week when Thinking Families created their own designs on paving slabs, as well as Oaklands Rocks!

Important Dates 2018

September

INSET DAY – Monday 3rd
START OF TERM – Tuesday 4th
YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO
OSMINGTON BAY – 17th – 21st

October

INSET DAY – 19th October
HALF-TERM - 22nd – 26th

December

END OF TERM – Wednesday 19th
(2.15pm)

What has been happening in Years 3 & 4?

Year 3

Year 3 have had a fun-filled and busy summer term.

Our history topic of The Stone Age, has proved to be very popular with the children, who researched life in the Stone Age using a website, role-play in the woods to imagine that they were a family of hunter-gatherers and made cave paintings using natural materials. Our trip to Butser Farm enabled the children's learning to come to life, as they were able to explore roundhouses, participate in an archaeological dig and have a go at wattling. They also enjoyed chalk carving and using copper to make jewellery.

In English, we have been learning about plays and dialogues. In groups of three, the children wrote scripts for shadow puppet shows, which they performed at the end of the week. We were very impressed with the quality and humour in their writing. The children also did themselves proud during the end of year talks. They spoke clearly and confidently, which highlighted the progress that they have made this year.

Since February half term, we have been lucky enough to receive percussion lessons from Berkshire Maestros. They have been using glockenspiels and percussion pads to perform different songs and have learnt how to read some music. At the end of the year, the children performed a brilliant version of 'We Will Rock You', which demonstrated their musical achievements. Their teacher, Dae commented on the enthusiasm on the great behaviour of the Year 3s, which made us feel very proud.

Well done to all of Year 3 for an excellent first year at the Juniors. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and wish you all the best for Year 4. Thank you again to the fantastic parents who have helped us throughout the year - we couldn't have done it without you all.

We hope you have a wonderful summer.

Year 3 Team

Year 4

A significant part of our summer term has been focused around our work on 'The Wind in the Willows'.

In English, the children have been writing fantastic pieces of work about Mole venturing into 'The Wild Wood' and 'The Battle for Toad Hall'. We have been exceedingly impressed with the quality of writing that they have produced and hope you enjoy reading their stories when the children bring their English books home at the end of the year.

In Art, we have been continuing the theme, by using watercolours to paint beautiful riverbank scenes. Furthermore, this week, as part of Arts Week, the children visited the Crowthorne Flower Festival to get some inspiration for their Andy Goldsworthy themed sculptures.

Mrs West would like to add that she was very impressed with the creativity on Wednesday morning when she covered 4L; children used natural materials to create their amazing artwork, using leaves from the woodland. She also enjoyed Thursday afternoon when she had the opportunity to spend time with Y4 as they were sharing homework and peer marking. Really impressive work!

In other areas of the curriculum, the children have also been learning about the digestive system, writing poems, learning how to bowl in cricket, doing a virtual tour of Rome, creating multimedia presentations, amongst a host of other things!

During this term, all of the children did brilliantly in the Year 4 assembly: showcasing their fantastic work and explaining what they have been learning. We were impressed with how well they all did.

As the year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to wish the children the best of luck in Year 5 and to thank all of the many helpers who have come in this year – it makes such a difference, so thank you!

Year 4 Team

What has been happening in Years 5 & 6?

Year 5

Year 5 have had another busy term. In English the children have been engrossed in the story 'The Boy in the Girl's Bathroom', using it as a stimulus for very thoughtful discussions and writing. We have also enjoyed Shakespeare's "The Tempest", with some excellent creative work.

A major focus in Geography has been Rivers. After making their own small-scale rivers earlier in the term, Year 5 had a successful trip to the River Pang at Rushall Farm. This field trip allowed us to experience the river practically - from spotting river features, including erosion and deposition, to making measurements of the river depth and flow in the river. We were able to compare the different creatures of the pond and river. The children enjoyed the experience of wearing waders to get close (sometimes closer than expected!) to the river. An assembly written and performed by the children showed their enthusiasm and knowledge.

Our local history topic culminated in a lovely day out at Wellington College and St John's Church. Our guide, Mr Potter, and Wellington Archivist, Mrs Jones, gave a fascinating talk and tour with lots of detail about the history of the College. Following a picnic lunch in the gardens, Mr Pope gave an informative talk on the history and symbols in St John's Church.

In Art and DT the children have been making some wonderful moving toys with cam mechanisms and Mayan 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.

A big thank you for the help received from parents throughout the year. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

The Year 5 team wish you a happy and restful summer.

Year 6

It has been a typically busy final term in Year 6. The first half-term was dominated by preparation for the SATs, although we still managed to fit in Police Week and a trip to Legoland.

The focus recently has been the production 'Mystery at Magpie Manor'. The children put a lot of effort into learning lines and adding expression for effect. The final performance last Wednesday was highly emotional and showed Year 6 at their best, with notable individual performances, to produce an entertaining evening.

Mrs West would like to congratulate the whole of Y6 (& staff) for such an amazing performance! You certainly did us proud and we will remember this for a long time to come. Your class assembly was truly amazing too.

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 adventures for our hero.

In addition, the Fairground Ride projects have been wonderful in the variety of their choice of design, construction and aesthetics! The children chose with whom to collaborate and, as a result, they have produced some interesting solutions to the design brief.

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 memorable year group and have been an important component of Oaklands Juniors. We will miss you!

Good luck from the Y6 Team.

Further News

New Meal Price from September 2018

Please note that the price of a school dinner will increase to £2.05 from September 2018.

Pond

We have been very fortunate to receive donations of plants for our pond area - a neighbour kindly donated a large pink water lily. If anyone else has a large water lily and would like us to take some of it away, we can arrange collection from you. The more pond surface we can cover with water-based plants, the less algae there will be. Water lilies are heavy feeders and will also help clean up the water. Please contact the school office if you are able to help with this request.

School Clubs

Due to the new GDPR regulations we can no longer send out flyers for outside clubs to all our parents. If you are interested in enrolling your child please visit our website where you will find all the club information and enrolment forms for the Autumn Term.

Summer Improvements in School

During the summer holidays, the whole of Y3, both classrooms and workspaces, will be redecorated and new carpet will also be fitted. This is a rolling programme which is set to see all classrooms redecorated over the course of the next few years. You may have noticed that we have already begun with the re-decoration of the corridors and new carpet fitted.

Improvements will also be made to Y5, with combining the two workspaces into one (as in Y3). Y5 will then have the option of working in two separate workspaces (with a concertina door) or having one larger one. Work on this has also been booked for the summer holidays.

In addition, we will finally have our Outdoor Gym installed between the adventure play area and the pond. We have our School Council to thank for this idea and the whole school voted on the type of equipment that they would like, so our children will be looking forward to using this new equipment when we return in the autumn.

A class set of i-pads will be new to school next year and we have our PTA to thank for their fundraising towards this, which will enable us to have these on subscription for the next 3 years.

We could not do this without your support at the many events throughout the year, so, whether you are an active member of the PTA, or you help in your own way by attending these events – THANK YOU. We couldn't do this without you.

Crowthorne Carnival & Crowthorne Flower Festival

Well done to all the PTA members involved in both of these events. Our Oaklands 'Titanic' float looked spectacular and we were awarded Third prize! The 'Titanic' flower arrangement at the church was equally amazing. The organisation involved in both was phenomenal and our children certainly enjoyed being a part of both events. THANK YOU to our PTA for all your hard work!

RBFRS – Wildfire Information

Due to the current dry, hot weather we are experiencing, we are at a heightened risk of wildfires. To help keep young people and their families as safe as possible during the summer holidays we would like to remind you of the dangers associated with fire and the consequences of playing with matches and lighters.

Farewell to Mrs Bugg, Mrs Draffin, Mrs McLaren and of course our chair of governors, Mr McLaren. We would like to wish you all the best for the future and hope that you will visit us often.

We hope you ALL Enjoy a relaxing Summer Holiday