

Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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3rd April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As always towards the end of term, I am writing to update you on some of the many activities that have been taking place this term as well as making you aware of anything significant that might be arising next term.

With the exception of some of our Governors who are also parents and who do a sterling job of communicating in the playground, as a rule Governors are not highly visible to parents. However, this doesn't mean that we are all not actively working with the school leaders, formulating plans and strategies for improvement and of course ensuring robust financial management. We also endeavour to come into school whenever possible to meet with the staff and see the school in action.

We would like to be able to engage better with parents and were present at Parents' Evenings so I hope that those of you who wished to talk to us, did in fact manage to do so on those occasions. We are having a Governors' Day on **June 11th** when Governors will be in school all day, so this provides another opportunity for you to meet with us and we would welcome your feedback on what we do well or what we could do even better. Probably the best time for parents would be after drop-off in the morning or before afternoon pick-up, so please do join us in the school library for a coffee and a chat at any time from 8.40am or 3.00pm, where we will be available for at least 15 minutes, but of course if you would like longer, you will be able to make contact with us to arrange a time to meet.

Last week saw another successful Year 4 residential trip to Ufton Court and the children certainly seemed to have a wonderful time. As always, I should like to extend our special thanks to the Year 4 staff for all their efforts, which did go way beyond the call of duty. It was greatly appreciated that other staff also attended from other year groups, which helped make this such a successful experience. One of our governors also attended as a visitor on two days, which enabled her to witness first hand the amazing activities provided.

We always need to be mindful of the maintenance of the school's buildings and the Year 5 classrooms will be painted over Easter and the carpet tiles replaced in the Year 4 classrooms. The school is also investigating having a proper track for the Daily Mile, which is such a brilliant focus for the children, and this should hopefully be completed in the summer holidays. The sound element of the Hall AV upgrade has also been completed and was in use for the Year 5 play, which those of you who attended might have noticed.

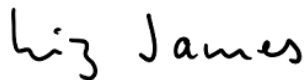
We continue to work closely with the Corvus Trust, who have been providing support in a number of areas, such as school improvement for all the primary schools and pupil support. I hope that you found the letter from the CEO earlier this term informative and further letters will follow in due course. Staff also had an INSET day with our cluster schools on neuroscience and how to make a happy school, so they never get complacent!

Many thanks to all of you who responded to our Parent Questionnaire, which I'm delighted to say has produced far more responses than last year and so will enable us to better gauge the feelings of parents in a large number of areas. However, if you have a particular subject that you would like to discuss, please do come along on June 11th rather than relying on an anonymous questionnaire.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, I should like to thank Mrs West, her Senior Leadership team and all the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, for all their hard work this term. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff who collaborate so well and have such a "can-do" attitude.

A very Happy Easter to you all.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz James". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Liz James
Chair of Governors