



Oaklands Junior School

Learning to think - Thinking to learn

Summer

NEWSLETTER

2019

End of Year Reports

It is lovely to read all the comments you have sent into school which clearly show that the vast majority of you appreciate 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.

I do not write on every child's report but I do enjoy reading them all thoroughly, including the children's own comments. As I read Y6 reports I add a few personal comments of my own, to recognise their achievement whilst at Oaklands and to wish them well on their journey to secondary school.

I hope you agree that this year we have been more consistent with effort grades across the school with B being the expectation of Good throughout the school. An effort grade of A will be exceptional effort in going over and beyond expectations, not just in written work and presentation but also in being proactive in the classroom setting by volunteering, asking and answering questions without being prompted, as an example. Someone who really does go that extra mile!

New this year has been notification of your child's class teacher, before the children have had their transition morning. We hope that you have found this useful. If your child was in Y4 this year, we hope that you have appreciated the new class list, as children are mixed at the end of Y4 in readiness for their move into upper school.

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 "Shakespeare Rocks". I am in awe of the young, talented people we have had the pleasure to know in Y6. They were professional in their performance and I will always remember their great sense of humour which showed itself in the perfect timing of the delivery of their humour, as well as exceptional acting. Singing was also a favourite of mine, including solos, along with Archie on the drums – wonderful! I will miss you all and hope you will come back to visit often.

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

Waller Trophy: Iva M

Teale Trophy: Joel D

Sportsmanship Trophy:

Betsy H & Roddy T

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.

Pupils collected just over £150 for their named local charity, Sebastians Action Trust. Many thanks to all who contributed to help terminally ill children.

Wishing all our Y6s the very best for their move on to their respective secondary schools.

Mrs West, Headteacher

Thinking Schools Latest News

On Monday this week, we had a 'Thinking Families' environment morning – Mr Lee has written all about it on the back page of this newsletter!

We are planning to actually take this further by buying our own litter-picking equipment as this was such a success with our children supporting our local environment and there were many good comments from our community about the good work they were doing!

Important Dates

September

INSET DAY – Tues 3rd
START OF TERM – Wed 4th

Parent Forums:
Y3/Y4 – Tues 10th
Y5/Y6 – Wed 11th

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP
TO OSMINGTON BAY
23rd – 27th

October

INSET DAY – 25th October
HALF-TERM – 28th - 1st Nov

December

END OF TERM
Friday 20th (1.30 pm)

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.

This term, we have been lucky enough to receive Samba drum workshops from Inspire Works. They have learnt to play different Brazilian percussion instruments to put together a piece of Samba music. At the end of the year, the children shared this with their parents which, I am sure you will agree, was very successful and showed off their musical achievements. Their teacher, Russell, commented on the enthusiasm and 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

It is hard to believe that another year has already come to an end! We have all thoroughly enjoyed this year and will be sad to see the children leave us.

During the Summer Term, in English, we have focussed on writing letters and reading *Wind in the Willows*. The children wrote very persuasive letters to our Chair of Governors, Liz James, trying to persuade her to change the school to adopt a four-day-week! Sadly (?!), they did not succeed, however, she was very impressed with their arguments!

The children have loved reading *Wind in the Willows* and have produced some amazing pieces of writing, in which they have written in different roles about key scenes in the book – we hope you enjoy reading them when their books come home.

Mrs Smith has continued to educate the children about the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings, which has helped to build on and consolidate the children's learning from Ufton Court.

In Geography, the children have learnt about modern Rome and compared it to both Crowthorne and Ufton Nervet, finding both similarities as well as the obvious differences.

This term, we have also had a visit from a Rabbi, which helped the children to learn even more about Judaism.

In Science, the children were fascinated when learning about the 'journey of food' – especially the excretion of it! As you no doubt heard, the children investigated how 'poo' is made and got to have 'hands on' experience about how water is absorbed when waste is in the intestines! The children's faces during the lessons were truly priceless!

As the year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that have volunteered and helped out during the year, whether it be regularly working with children or helping out on special occasions – your help and assistance is invaluable.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to hearing all about them upon our return in September.

The 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 stories, "Journey to the River Sea" and "Wonder", using it as a stimulus for very thoughtful discussions and creative writing focussing on settings and narrative structure.

Geography has been a major focus this term with the topics of the Rainforest and Rivers studied. The children studied features, plants and animals of the rainforest and looked at environmental issues surrounding this important but fragile eco-system. In the second half 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 to the river.

Our science topic of Changing Materials continued; children enjoyed designing and conducting experiments exploring reversible and irreversible changes. They were particularly interested in the effects of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda on a balloon.

Our local history topic culminated in a lovely day out at Wellington College. Our guide, Mr Potter, gave a fascinating talk and tour with lots of detail about the history of the College, including a picnic lunch in the gardens.

In Art, the children have studied the work of Henri Rousseau and linked with their rainforest work, have produced collages of animals camouflaged in their habitats. They have recently been designing and making some wonderful Mayan masks with mod roc.

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 the much anticipated Legoland trip to celebrate the end of SATs but also to put in the ground work for designing and building a fairground ride in DT. This day encompassed several design workshops, so it was not all about the rides, although of course they had to be experienced!

The focus recently has been the production 'Shakespeare Rocks'. The children put a lot of effort into learning lines and enjoyed all the rehearsals – with some even giving up lunchtimes to practice dancing and singing. The final performance was highly emotional (for the teachers and children) and showed their teamwork at its very best.

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 are definitely 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 they were asked to write their own version of the cartoon.

In addition, the slipper projects have been wonderful in the variety of their choice of design. The children were given a free brief to choose their own colours and aesthetics and have made carefully stitched slippers that display their own personal interests.

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 fantastic and dedicated year group that will be missed here at Oaklands Junior School.

Good luck from the Y6 Team.

Further News

Environment News & Thinking Families Morning

Recently, as a school, we have been trying to raise awareness amongst the children about the current 'climate crisis' and what they can do to help. Last week, CROW (Crowthorne Reduce Our Waste) came in to talk to the children about the impact of single use plastic and how small changes in everyone's behaviour can make a huge difference. With this in mind, we would encourage parents to turn their vehicle engines off when waiting for their children, in order to help reduce pollution – this would make a big difference to all of the children's health and wellbeing.

On Monday, we had a Thinking Families morning focussing on the environment and ways in which the children can help reduce our impact on it. All children had the opportunity to go litter picking around the area surrounding the school. They (and we) were genuinely shocked by the amount of rubbish that was picked up - you may have seen the large pile of rubbish in the playground on Monday. Quite a few people in our local community praised the children for doing this as we went round the local roads. As a result of this litter pick, we are looking at making this a regular exercise next year. Thank you to Crowthorne Parish Council for lending us the equipment for the litter pick.

As well as helping to clear up the neighbourhood, the children also entered a competition to create a design for on-street electric vehicle charge points. Finally, the children were shown how to make eco-bricks and we are going to continue making them next year, with the aim of building a shelter out of them on the field. If you would like to help us with this idea and want to make eco-bricks at home, please look at this link: <https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/news/news-archive/2019/what-is-an-ecobrick> Please put them in 2 litre standard shaped bottles so that they are the same as the ones we are making in school. Once full, please put a lid on them and give them to Oaklands' very own 'swampy', Mr Lee.

Holiday Works:

There will be lots happening during our summer break:

- Roof works will continue and may still be ongoing in the autumn term
- Y5 & Y6 classrooms will have new floors, and carpeting (some decorating will also happen)
- A new SENCo room will be created
- Y4 will then have 2 workspaces, in line with other year groups
- The Daily Mile track will be laid, ready for use in the autumn

Book Fair

Thank you for your support with our recent book fair. An amazing £934.16 worth of books was sold! This means that we have earned over £550 worth of commission, which is an amazing effort.

Mr Lee will be using this money to buy class books, adding some new books to the library and buying prizes for our termly 'Pride Award'.

There will be another book fair in the lead up to Christmas – see you there!

Farewell to Mr Hill. We wish him a very happy and healthy retirement but hope to still see him for the odd day of supply. Also good luck to Mr Harris in his new role as he moves to a new school.

Next term we will be Welcoming Miss Hanks to our Oaklands team, as she will be joining us to teach her own class in Y5. Also Mr Gunn will begin working in Y5 as a TA. Finally, we have a new TA joining us part-time in Y4, Mrs Garden. We hope that they will all enjoy working at Oaklands Juniors.

We hope you ALL Enjoy a relaxing Summer Holiday