



Oaklands Junior School

Learning to think - Thinking to learn

NEWS UPDATE 7th February 2020

Eagle House 'Spell it!' challenge

This week, four Year 4 children (Edward T, Charlotte D, Nadeen M & Ayaan H) took part in the annual spelling challenge at Eagle House. In a very competitive field of 36 teams, I am delighted to say that both teams held their own against a lot of private schools. In fact, one of the teams came in the top 10 and were only one of 2 state schools to do so. Well done and thank you Mrs Smith who gave up some of her own time to take the teams there. *Mr Lee*

School Dinners

Being part of the Corvus Learning Trust enabled us to change our catering contractors, something we have looked at doing several times in the past but been unable to do so on our own. If the increase in the number of meals being taken by pupils and staff is anything to go by this is proving to be a very positive change. Cucina are a very customer focused company. Not only have they improved the standard of food being served, whilst facing a number of challenges in a new school, they are extremely cheerful and flexible, preparing last minute packed lunches for school trips being a good example of this.

School dinner debt has also decreased, although we do find ourselves chasing a few parents every week. Instructions on how to set up alerts on the online payment system were sent out a while ago. If you are having problems with this please contact the school office for assistance.

WASMA Concert

Oaklands Junior School greatly enjoys musical activities and has joined WASMA (Wokingham Area Schools Music Association) for the first time this year to take part in their concert at The Hexagon in Reading on Sunday 29th March. This is a huge event with over 800 children taking part.

Our choir consists of children from years 5 to 6, who set a high standard to inspire the younger children. Our choir has performed at local events this year, including the Christmas Carol Concert. The children have enjoyed all the WASMA rehearsals and have been practicing the songs both in school and at home. We are very excited to take to the stage and cannot wait to make our debut.

Coronavirus

If parents have any concerns about the Coronavirus they are advised to check the website below for the latest information and advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



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OAKLANDS PTA

So our first event – the School Disco – is done! We could not have pulled it off without the support of both the parent and teacher volunteers on the night, so **THANK YOU!** In the interests of full transparency, our total income from ticket and tuck shop sales was £1444.15 and we spent £480.37 on Disco Dave and tuck shop provisions, giving us a fantastic **£963.78** profit!

We've launched a LOTTERY! This replaces the 100 Club and the two school raffles that the PTA usually run each year. Play the lottery, support our school - it's that simple! Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week. There will be a draw every Saturday night when a 6 digit winning combination will be picked. Match all 6 and win £25,000! **Someone from our supporters list will win a prize every week!** Please see separate poster for details of how to buy tickets.

We hope you've seen the two revamped PTA noticeboards at school, if not, please check them out if you're passing. We hope to give them a lick of paint when the weather improves too. The Infant and Junior staff rooms now also have PTA notice boards, so the staff can keep up to date.

Upcoming events:

PTA Meeting: 11th February, 8pm. Join our conference call from the comfort of your sofa – log in details available on www.oaklandspta.org.uk.

Quiz Night: Friday 6th March. Buy tickets online here: www.pta-events.co.uk/oaklands

Oaklands Got Talent: Update from auditions coming soon! The final will take place on Saturday 14th March from 4pm – 7pm.

Kathryn Pierce (Chair), **Annabel Parker** (Treasurer) and **Gemma Grundy** (Secretary)

Facebook: **Oaklands PTA (os parents)** Website: www.oaklandspta.org.uk

Email: oaklandschoolspta@gmail.com

Mental Health Matters

From our Educational Psychotherapist which we hope you will find useful.

Some more wise words from Philippa Perry's recent book 'The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read (and Your Children Will be Glad That You Did)':

"In our great need of wanting our children to be happy, sometimes we push them away when they are angry or sad. But *for good mental health, children need to have their feelings accepted* and to learn acceptable ways of expressing *all* their feelings - and the same is true for us adults. So, it is important to accept our own feelings rather than denying them, and essential to accept our children with whatever they may be feeling too. By helping a child put their feelings into words (or pictures), we help them to process them as well as to find acceptable ways for them to communicate what they feel." (Page 82)