

Oaklands Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to inform you that next Wednesday 12th February we will be having a very special assembly with Lee Spencer, 'The Rowing Marine', who holds three Guinness World Records. As you may be aware, last year we tracked his world breaking solo row across the Atlantic and we recorded two videos for him to cheer him on and to congratulate him on his amazing achievement.

After serving in the Royal Marines for 24 years, Lee lost his right leg after being hit by an engine block as he was helping a motorist who had crashed into the central reservation of the M3 in Surrey in 2014. He subsequently received the 'Pride of Britain' award. Less than two years later, he and 3 other injured veterans rowed across the Atlantic and became the world's first physically disabled crew of four to row any ocean – at the time they were known as 'Four men, three legs and one boat'.

Following this, last year Lee became the world's first physically disabled person to row from mainland Europe to mainland South America solo and unsupported. Lee broke the able bodied record by an astonishing 36 days and also broke the record for the longest solo and unsupported ocean row by a physically disabled person.

Lee's next challenge is an Amazonian kayaking trip with [Forces of Nature](#) traversing the South American continent from Nauto (Peru) through the Amazon basin in Brazil to the Atlantic coast.

Lee is coming in to thank the children for their videos and to talk to us about his two key messages which really resonate with our Oaklands' Mindset:

- 'Dare to dream and if you don't fail, you're not dreaming big enough'
- No one should be 'defined by disability' (physical or mental)

We will be having a whole school assembly at approximately 13:30 on Wednesday 12th and we would love you to join us for what will no doubt be an inspiring occasion. We will also be handing over a cheque to him for some fundraising that we have done for his charities, especially as Lee is visiting us totally free of charge.

If you wish to find out more about this remarkable man, please visit his website:

<https://leespencer.co.uk/>

Kind regards

Mr. S. Lee