

Oakley Lower School



14th December 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Just a few days left of this term and so much excitement! We thank you for the support you have given us with our concerts, parties, fete and entertainment. I hope that you and your families will continue to enjoy the festive season.

It has been good to see so many parents and families in school this term and we are keen to find more ways to involve you and help us to improve the school.

We are always keen to hear the views of parents; there is a comments and suggestions form at the end of this newsletter and I would like to encourage parents to give their views about the School through Parent View (www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk). The Ofsted site requires your email address and a password to complete the questionnaire. We appreciate it is a very busy time of year but we would be grateful if you are able to take the time to support us in this.

Shoebox Appeal

Many thanks to all those who kindly donated a shoebox this year. I am sure that they will make a real difference to the children who receive them around the world.

Remembrance Sunday

Brooke B and Natalie W attended the Remembrance Sunday service at Lincroft this year. Thanks go to both of them who read a poem beautifully and were a credit to the school.

Children In Need

You have been extremely generous in supporting the Children in Need activities when £518.55 was collected across the school. The children enjoyed a range of activities throughout the day, the results of which were on sale at the end of the day. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this day such a success.

Christmas Concerts and collections for charity

Thank you to staff and children who worked so hard to practise our concerts and then participated with such enthusiasm. As you will have noticed, we had the main performances over 4 days to accommodate everyone more comfortably and approximately 600 people attended.

We thank you for your contributions to the collections at our concerts where we raised £346.66 which will be share between two charities: Cancer Research and Hounds for Heroes.

PTA

Father Christmas visited our school this term and we were delighted with the presents that he brought for the children. Many thanks to the PTA who organised the Christmas Fete and have helped us to give the children many of the traditional treats such as presents for classes, the visit from the Arena Theatre Group and resources for our Christmas Craft Day.

Visit to Oakley Rural Day Care Centre

This year, Miss Hulatt took Mrs Lambert's class to sing Christmas carols to those people who attend Oakley Rural Day Care Centre.

Awards

Handwriting awards were presented to:

Foundation Stage – Samuel W

Year 2 – Freddie H

Year 4 – Holly A

Churchman Award for Neatness – Sophia J

Year 1 – Amy C

Year 3 – Jack V

Endeavour – Milly D

Values Ambassadors

Courage was our value in November and Kyle C of Maple class was awarded the title of Values Ambassador.

Compassion is our value for December and Demi S of Acorns class was awarded the title of Values Ambassador.

School Meals

Please note that next term school meals will be increased to **£1.95** per day. This works out at £9.75 for a week and £54.60 for the first half term to 10th February; please make cheques payable to Caterlink. Please make sure that meals are paid in advance and money is brought into school in an envelope with the child's full name. Dinner money is taken straight to the kitchen so please ensure that it is sent into school in a separate envelope and not mixed with other money.

Free School Meals

If you feel you qualify for free school meals but have not previously claimed for them, then please do not hesitate to ask for a form; we will be pleased to help you if you need assistance. Please be assured that there is complete anonymity for you and your child.

You may not be aware that the school receives additional funding for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals and this can be used for additional teaching resources.

School Closure in Inclement Weather

I would like to remind you about our emergency procedures. In severe weather conditions a decision may be made to close the school. If the decision is taken to close then a text message would be sent out and Bedford Borough Council would be informed; information regarding school closures will appear on Bedford Borough website in the section Education and Learning under 'Emergency School Closures'. The media would also be informed; Three Counties Radio will broadcast school closures on 85.5FM and 1161AM, alternatively you can access their website at www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties.

Dates for Spring Term

Wednesday 4th January	Children return to school after Christmas
Thursday 26 th January	Year 4 pupils to attend Captain Safety Roadshow
Monday 13th February –17th February	Half Term
Thursday 22 nd March	Year 4 to attend Arts Day at Lincroft Middle School
Friday 30 th March	School closes for Easter Holidays

On behalf of the staff may I thank you for your cards and good wishes and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Lovett
Headteacher

Comments / Suggestions:



NEWSLETTER



Oakley Lower School
Parent Teachers Association

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am really pleased to be able to tell you that the recent Christmas Fete and raffle raised a grand total of

*****£1495!*****

Thank you for all of your donations, help and participation in the event. All of this money will go towards projects and things needed by the school to help the children be the best they can and enjoy their time at Oakley Lower.

In the New Year we will be able to let you know exactly how this money will be spent. However, you may like to know that money you have previously helped us raise has already been spent on Christmas gifts for the children, the Arena Theatre Christmas production which the children will see on the last day of term and the craft materials that the children enjoyed using used earlier this week. They made some fabulous things!

You are all members of the PTA as you have a child at the school, but we would urge you to also join us on the committee. We are really pleased to have some new members following the AGM but we still need more. If you have previously thought about joining but didn't get round to it or were put off please give us another go. Our New Years' resolution is to have more fun, less red tape and of course to raise loads more cash for the school! You do not need to attend every meeting, nor attend every event, but if we have a large committee it will be easier to get people involved in the capacity that they feel confident with.

We want to involve more parents so if you have any ideas about events that you would like to attend or if you have an opinion on where the money should be spent please let us know. We cannot promise we will be able to undertake all of them but any ideas are welcome.

We are serious about making the Committee more appealing so with that aim in mind we will be holding a Special General Meeting on Tuesday 17th January to review our constitution. You are all invited to the Bedford Arms, Oakley at 7:30pm - please let me know if you intend to come – just in case there are so many of us we have to move venue – that would be lovely!

If you really don't want to be on the committee but are willing to be contacted when we organise events please whizz your details to me or pass them to the school. Then we will let you know when, where and what - before the event and you can decide if you are available to help. This hopefully will speed things up when we need your assistance. Thank you so much for your efforts to date and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Have a merry and restful holiday!

Emma

On behalf of PTA.

emma.sarney@gmail.com