

Oakley Lower School

End of Term Newsletter

(Please remember that this newsletter can be found at www.oakleylowerschool.co.uk)

Friday 22nd July 2011

Farewell

We were treated to an entertaining performance by Year 4 at the Leavers' Service this morning. We are sad to see the children go but are confident that they are ready to move on to the next stage of their school career and wish them every success. I would like to thank Mrs Balsom, Miss Bloodworth and Miss Gamper, who have worked so hard to help them produce such a lovely service and a fitting end to their time at Oakley Lower School.

We will be very sorry to say goodbye to several members of staff this term.

We wish Mrs Foley well as she now moves on from her temporary role working with us as a Learning Support Assistant.

Miss Bloodworth joined our school as a newly qualified teacher four years ago and has worked in both Key Stage 1 and 2. The children have particularly enjoyed her Street Dancing lessons and we wish her well as she moves to a new post in the south of the county.

Miss Gamper joined us three years ago as a newly qualified teacher in Key Stage 2. She quickly became a valued member of staff and has played a significant role in helping to develop our Eco Council, promoting Global Awareness and raising our enthusiasm for singing; we wish Miss Gamper well as she moves to a new post in Hertfordshire.

We wish Miss Burraway well as she leaves to start her maternity leave and look forward to meeting the new addition to her family.

We will be sorry to say goodbye to Antony our Kitchen Manager who is being transferred by Caterlink to a new school in September.

Staff Appointments

Mrs Rachael Lambert has been appointed as Acting Assistant Headteacher and will teach Year 4. Miss Malloy has been appointed to teach Year 1 and Mr Protheroe will be joining us to teach Year 3.

We look forward to them joining and contributing to our team in September and hope that they will be very happy at Oakley Lower School.

Events This Term

Harrold, Odell Country Park

Key Stage 1 children enjoyed a fun day out at Harrold Odell Country Park in June. Here they tried their hand at pond dipping, went on a scavenger hunt, learnt the craft of willow weaving and found out lots of interesting information about bugs and minibeasts.

Sing Up Celebration Concert

Last week our Year 4 children were involved in a concert at Bedford Corn Exchange where they showed off the skills and songs they had learned over the last few terms. They gave a wonderful performance and proved themselves to be a real credit to the school. 36 of our Year 4 children helped to make a choir of 215 Lower School pupils who sang to an audience of 454 people.

We were very pleased to receive an e-mail from Mrs Cox, Bedfordshire Music Service which said,

"Congratulations to all you super stars for your wonderful performance at The Corn Exchange! You sang beautifully and produced a fabulous sound. You achieved a vocal quality way beyond your years and I do hope you will keep developing your vocal skills- you have lovely voices".

Kempston, Activity Day

Once again our Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful day out at the Kempston Activity Centre. They were involved in several fun and team-building activities such as crate stacking, wall climbing, archery and canoeing. Everyone had a wonderful and memorable day.

Sports Day

An enormous amount of time and effort goes into planning and preparing for this event and I would like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Mead for planning this and to all the staff who worked so hard to make this a success. Thanks also go to Lincroft Middle School for allowing us to use their school field and for supplying us with Year 8 pupils to assist us. We are very grateful to the many volunteers who helped us on the day to make the morning run smoothly. Well done to all the children who took part and demonstrated great sportsmanship and team work.

School Bags

We would like to thank parents who have ensured that children who need a bag to bring to school have brought one that can easily be folded and stored in their drawers. We have found that this has made more room in the cloakroom and it has been much easier and safer for children to access their pegs.

We are no longer stocking rucksacks as part of our school uniform and request that parents do not purchase rucksacks or similar bags. We still have some "bags for life" and if you wish to purchase one from school they are £1.

Book Bags

We are sending home book bags so that they can be washed during the holidays. It would be helpful if you could re-label these. All children should have a school book bag; if you need to replace them they can be purchased at the school office for **£3.85**. We ask that you do not purchase alternative bags or files as the school book bags are selected specifically to transport the required books and fit well into drawers and book bag boxes. We have had a number of books damaged by leaky drinks and squashed fruit so we would appreciate it if you could help children to understand that book bags are for books.

Extra Curricular Activities and Volunteers

This year the children have had many opportunities to be involved in a wide range of activities outside school; these have included athletics, golf, cricket, street dance, country dancing, gardening, singing club and many of these have taken place after school and at weekends. The children have also enjoyed schools trips to Wimpole Farm, Harrold Country Park, Lifepath in Elstow and have visited the local churches. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of staff who have given up their time to organise the events and to the many parents and grandparents who have volunteered to help at them. We value the contribution that these many volunteers make to the life of the school; without their support we would not be able to provide the opportunities that we do.

School Kitchen Garden Project

Last month Miss Mead and Miss Gamper put in an application to Caterlink School Garden Kitchen Project to apply for one of their three packages to create a 'kitchen garden'. We have found that our application was successful and we have been approved to receive £2000 of equipment and materials next academic year and £500 the year after. This money will allow us to take a polytunnel, raised bed kits, composter, garden tools and seeds and plants. This will enable us to be sustainable over several years and enable children to be involved in the project.

It has been a busy and successful year and I very much appreciate the support, dedication and teamwork that has taken place between staff, governors, PTA and parents that has put the school in an even stronger position to improve further next year.

Sponsored Event

We enjoyed a very successful sponsored Oakley Lower School Triathlon in June, raising £904.30. We would like to thank the families that supported us and we plan to use the money raised to support our curriculum topics next year.

Open the Book Assemblies

This year we have continued to benefit from these special assemblies. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Roz Gray and the group of volunteers who have visited our school each fortnight. The group has become an important part of our school and has helped to bring Bible stories alive for our children. I know that some volunteers will be leaving this summer so if you would like to help please contact Mrs Gray.

Dinner Money

We have been informed by Caterlink of a promotion whereby children can receive 6 weeks worth of school lunches for the price of 5. I have attached a voucher to the back of this newsletter which will need to be included with your 5 week payment in order to receive the additional week free. For parents who wish to pay for the first half term this will be £62.90 (£53.65 after removing the cost of the free week if you take advantage of this promotion). **Cheques to be made payable to Caterlink please.** The price of a school meal remains £1.85 per day and we would ask that you always pay in advance for the dinners wherever possible. If you have any queries on dinner money please contact the kitchen direct on 825914.

School Uniform

It is important that we take pride in our appearance in all walks of life and it is always good to see the children dressed smartly in their school uniform. Please help us by ensuring that children are dressed in the correct school uniform and that all items of uniform are **clearly labelled**, then we won't need to have such a large lost property box!

At Oakley Lower School we strive to achieve high standards and this also applies to school uniform; I have attached a list of school uniform regulations and an order form at the end of this letter for your information. Please look carefully at the regulations and note that only knee length shorts are permitted for school. When purchasing uniform during the holidays it would be appreciated if parents could check colours that are permitted.

Awards

The following awards were made today, congratulations to everyone.

Handwriting Cup Yr R	Ryan Upstone
Handwriting Cup Yr 1	Meggie Beeden
Handwriting Cup Yr 2	Ryan Gaynor
Handwriting Cup Yr 3	Abbie Keir
Handwriting Cup Yr 4	Jordan Carr
Churchman Award for Neatness	Lucy Parkinson
Endeavour Award	Patrick Crizzle
Service to the school Award	Amy Bailey
Anne Clarke Essay Award	Gabrielle Morley
Music Award	Laura Burns
Arts Award	Mimi Martiello
Sporting achievement Award	Ben Baguley
Science Award	Toby Hanrahan
Drama Award	Jessica Glennie

Happy Summer Holiday

On a final note, we have received some very positive and constructive feedback that will help us to make plans for next year and I would like to thank you for taking the time to do this. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful summer break.

Please remember to come back on **Tuesday 6th September**. Happy Holiday!

Yours sincerely

Sarah E Lovett
Headteacher

Governor News

It has been a very busy and rewarding term for all of us. Notably: exciting mixed age events at school such as healthy schools week with it's Triathlon, which we know the children have really enjoyed; a visit by the youngest member of OLS's staff, baby Dymond, much to the delight of the children; some fantastic school trips such as Kempston outdoor centre and Wimpole farm; and wonderful music events such as the fiddle fiesta and sing up. We know how much the children enjoy and appreciate these events and so would like to thank all the staff for the hard work they put in to make them so successful.

We enjoyed the Year 4's performances at the leaver's service on the last day of term. They have all worked very hard this year and have grown in confidence. We are pleased to report that preliminary results show them to have achieved grades that are nationally expected during, or by the end of year 5 for writing and maths and grades nationally expected during the start of year 6 for reading.

Our congratulations to them all and we wish them all well at Lincroft.

Our thanks go to Miss Gamper and Miss Bloodworth for all their hard work during their time with us. We wish them both every success in their new posts.

Our best wishes go to Miss Burraway. We hope she has some time to put her feet up before the big day and we look forward to meeting the new baby next term.

The children enjoyed meeting their new teachers and classmates for next time during the transfer days and we look forward to welcoming Mrs Lambert, Mr Protheroe and Miss Molloy to the school in September.

We also appreciate the time and commitment all our parents give to the school. Through events such as: the school fair, last minute fundraisers for earthquake victims, volunteering at school and going on school trips to attending parents evenings and doing homework with your children, your contribution is invaluable in making OLS the successful school that it is.

We would like to thank Miss Mead for working so hard to organise another successful sports day. The children really enjoyed the morning's activities. It is another event where the children get to work in groups that are a complete mix of the year groups and we know from their feedback that these events are one of the things they have really enjoyed this year. We were also really pleased that there were more parents there to support and celebrate the children's achievements than we have had before.

Thanks to all the staff, Mrs Lovett, governors, parents and pupils for everything this year and I hope you all have a happy and restful summer holiday. See you in September.

Roz Gray
Chair of Governors

We value any feedback parents want to give on any issue so if there is anything you would like us to know please use the comments form below:

Comments:
