

# OAKLANDS SCHOOL NEWS BULLETIN



November 2011 Issue Number 66



## Message from the Headmistress

We are now well into the second half of the Autumn Term and the pupils are all working hard in the build up to Christmas. I thought it would be appropriate to choose a word as my theme for this newsletter; "GENEROUS". According to Chambers 20<sup>th</sup> Century Dictionary generous means "of a noble nature: liberal: bountiful: ample". I am finding myself surrounded by 'generosity'. Thank you to all the parents who have been very generous with their time and money organising and supporting the many fund raising activities both for the school (Fireworks Display) and our charities (Dr Barnardo's, Chigwell Riding Trust & Children In Need). The Oaklands staff also give generously of their time and patience in supporting not only the pupils and their parents/carers but each other. Lastly I would like to say a big thank you to all pupils, parents and staff for generously supporting me in my first term as Headmistress of Oaklands School.

**Cheryl Macnair**

## Owl Assembly

Instead of a Transition Play involving all three classes, we have decided that each class should put on an assembly to which their parents would be invited. On Friday, 'Owl Class' acted out the story of 'The Owl Babies'. They made owl masks and pictures of Owls. A great assembly! Afterwards the parents were invited to the 'Art Room' for coffee and pastries. Well done to Mrs Dutnall and Mrs Leggett and all the children in 'Owl' Class. We look forward to assemblies from Robin and Woodpecker classes.

## "Boys Noise"



Mrs Rathbone has launched a new singing group for boys in Year 2 and 3. 'Boys Noise' meets on Wednesday at 1.00pm in the Studio. It is proving to be quite popular so if you are a boy in Year 2 or 3, do come along and join in.

## Charity Work

Our charity work is in full flow. On Monday Deborah and Eleanor Hall from Chigwell Riding Trust came to talk about their work with children and young adults who have disabilities. On Friday we held a non-uniform day to support this worthy charity. The children in Year 1 – 6 gave a donation to Chigwell Riding Trust. Pupils in the Foundation Stage (LK,GR & Transition) raised money for 'Children in Need'. Many of them came to school in their pyjamas and the cake sale added to the fund raising. We raised

£534.49 for Children in Need and £153.95 for Chigwell Riding Trust. Thank you so much to all of you for giving so generously. Don't forget Barnardo's Badge Assembly (Transition – Year 6) on Monday 28 November.



## Netball

### Forest School Tournament

Katia, Elizabeth, Georgina and Millie in Year 6 joined with seven pupils from Normanhurst School to participate in the Forest School Under 11 Netball Tournament on Friday 14 October 2011. They played 8 matches in total, winning 4 and losing 4. They finished 17<sup>th</sup> out of 25 schools. This was an

excellent performance by everyone as they had not played together competively as a team before. They all enjoyed the experience and learnt a great deal about match play as well as improving their Netball skills.

#### ISA Tournament

On Friday 18 November Katia, Elizabeth, Georgina, Mille and Emily again joined five Normanurst girls to play six matches at the Independent Schools Association Under 11 Netball Tournament. Despite losing 5 games and drawing one, they all participated enthusiastically. The girls are looking forward to the next tournament in February 2012, organized by Bancroft's School.

#### **British Museum**

On Monday 7 November Year 6 went to the British Museum and had a terrific time.

*We arrived at the museum in the morning and made our way to the Aztec room. We got lost while trying to get there but we made it in the end. In the afternoon a lady took us back to the Aztec room and we pretended we were Spanish explorers, advising King Charles of Spain whether he should take over the Aztecs. It was a really exciting day and we all enjoyed it. We hope that Year 6 can go next year too.* Elizabeth & Emily Year 6

#### **Choir**

The Choir will be singing to residents of Carlton House Retirement Home on Friday 9 December at 2.00pm and also outside Sainsbury's on Tuesday 13 December at 2.00pm when they will be raising money for Chigwell Riding Trust.

#### **Year 1 Hedgehog visit**

Last Monday Year 1 were delighted to be introduced to 'Linda' the Pigmy Hedgehog. It belongs to Isabella in Year 6. It was lovely for them to see a hedgehog close up and hear all about them as they have been learning facts about hedgehogs in class this term.



#### **Disclaimer**

From time to time we are asked to distribute materials to various classes that advertise third party services or products. Although we don't normally agree to such requests, occasionally there is a particular service that we feel may be of benefit to you or your child. Please bear in mind that should this be the case we are not adding our endorsement or recommendation and are merely passing on details that may be of interest.

#### **OPA News**

##### Firework Display

The OPA sincerely thank all the staff and parents that attended the recent Fireworks night at the school. Always a very popular fixture in the school calendar, this year's event certainly did not disappoint. The current committee were delighted that so many Mums and Dads gave their time and pitched in. A fun night was had by all, raising £1335 for the OPA. Particular thanks go to John the Caretaker for generously giving his time to help. Well done to all those children who entered the "Pumpkin Competition". It was hard to pick the winners but the final result was:

1<sup>st</sup> Ella (2C)

2<sup>nd</sup> Lindsey (1T)

3<sup>rd</sup> Harriet (Woodpeckers)

##### Christmas Party for Year 2 – Year 5

Please note that the OPA Christmas Party for Year 2 – Year 5 will be on Friday 9 December from 4.30pm – 6.30pm (and not on Sunday 11 December as previously advertised). Invites are being sent out so please reply asap.

##### Mum's Christmas Night Out

The Mum's Christmas Night Out is all set for Friday 9 December, with 81 tickets sold so far. If you have yet to buy yours, please speak to your class rep ASAP! It is sure to be a good night, with live entertainment and a disco!

##### Christmas Cards

The OPA are pleased to report that 3372 Christmas cards were ordered by parents, raising over £350 for the OPA. The children produced some super artwork; thanks to all those that ordered cards. Of the handful of late cards that have come in, the order had to go off promptly but we are speaking with the company and will do our best to get them printed in time.

##### Nearly New Uniform Sale

October's clothing sale proved a great success, raising over £400; we hope to hold another early in the New Year.

Have a super Christmas! The OPA

