

# OAKLANDS SCHOOL NEWS BULLETIN



October 2011 Issue Number 65



## Message from the Headmistress

We are fast approaching half-term. How time flies! The new pupils have settled in very well and becoming quite familiar with their new routines and the school generally.

The Read Write Inc Information evening to parents of pupils in Transition was well attended. Parents were introduced to the phonics scheme used here at Oaklands and how it really helps develop both reading and writing skills.

I have received extremely positive feedback from the Maths Information evening for Years 1 and 2. The evening focused on numeracy and how the four rules of number are taught in KS1. I have several spare copies of the booklets handed out, so if you were unable to attend and your child is in Year 1 or Year 2, please collect one from the School Office or ask your child's class teacher for further information.

Education is very much a team effort with the school, parents and carers and children working in partnership together to ensure the children are supported and extended in their learning. Thank you for attending our information evenings and I trust you have found them valuable.

**Cheryl Macnair**

## OPA

Oaklands Parents' Association now have a new committee and I am pleased to announce the following: Kate Russell and Charlotte Williams have agreed to be joint Chair, Jo Tresadern takes over as Treasurer and Natalie Newman continues in her role as Secretary. Thank you very much for volunteering your talents, time and skills in order to benefit the children of Oaklands School. The uniform sale held on Friday 7 October raised £461.00. Thank you to those who helped, sorted and sold!

Next events:

**Firework Night** on Sunday 13 November

**'Ladies Night Out'** on Friday 9 December at Moor's.

See posters, leaflets or members of the OPA for further details.

## Harvest

Thank you very much for your generosity in donating gifts for our Harvest Festival. Tony Miller from the Whitechapel Mission spoke to

the children in an assembly on Monday 26 September detailing the work carried out for the homeless in London. He was an excellent speaker and the children were really interested. I think it has been the best Harvest for some time. Our actual Harvest Festival Assemblies were taken by Andrea, Fiona and 'Fudge'. These assemblies are always very interactive and thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

## Merit Badges

Merit badges are awarded to children in years Transition to Year 6 on a weekly basis. They are not only given for academic achievement but also sports, music, kindness and respect for others. The children are given a certificate which they keep at home. The red merit badge is worn for the rest of the week and then returned to class teachers to be recycled the following week.

## Year 3 World Challenge Camp

The boys and girls in year 3 took part in an overnight camping trip at the beginning of term

with year 3 children from Normanhurst. They had to set up their own tents, help out with preparing their own food and work together in groups.

The two days were filled with fun activities ranging from treasure hunts to a blind - folded 'follower the leader'. We were lucky enough to have great weather and really enjoyed our time getting to know each other better.



### Years 3 and 4 Gilwell Park Activity Day

Years 3 and 4 participated in a day of outdoor pursuits activities at Gilwell Park, Chingford on Friday 7 October. Despite the chilly weather all the boys and girls enjoyed negotiating the revolving climbing wall, solving the team building challenges, balancing on the low ropes and scoring baskets playing aeroball.



### Year 2 Great Fire of London

*On Wednesday 5 October we had a Great Fire of London workshop. We were Chandlers, Bakers, Weavers, Tailors, Barbers, Surgeons and Leather Makers. We worked in the Apothecary. We dressed up in 1666 clothes. In the afternoon we had to dig for evidence. I enjoyed every single bit. Katie 2C aged 6*



### Twittering

If you are a follower of social networking, I am sure you will be pleased to know that you can now follow Oaklands on Twitter. In a new venture for us, as of last week, we began to 'Tweet' as part of our drive to share school news with as many of the parents and friends of the school as possible.

If you go to the school website you will find a Twitter link on the home page, from which you can read our latest updates. Alternatively follow us at [www.twitter.com/oaklandssch](http://www.twitter.com/oaklandssch).

### Art Competition



Oaklands has recently entered pupils' work into two Art Competitions with brilliant results. In the 'Sightsavers' Junior Painter of the Year competition Beth now in Year 3 was chosen as "Highly commended for infants" and her work is being exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

Success too in the Independent Schools' Association Art competition for London North where Charlotte in Year 2 won second prize for "Monet's Lillies". Congratulations to you both.

### Drama Workshops at Coopersale Hall School, Epping during October half term



Two qualified teachers who previously worked at Normanhurst School, Chingford, are running drama workshops for current pupils at Oaklands School (and their siblings) during the October half term. The minimum age for these is 5/6 years (Year 1 children). The sessions promise to be fun and lively.

**Forthcoming events**

Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 October

Transition – Year 6 Parent/Teacher evening  
Individual appointments will be sent home with pupils

Thursday 20 October

EFCT walks for LK and Garden Room

Monday 7 November

Year 6 to the British Museum

*Separate letter to follow*

No Cross Country Club

No Dance Club

Sunday 13 November

OPA Firework Night

Friday 18 November

9.00am in the School Hall

'Owls Class Assembly' to parents

*Further information to follow*

Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 November

2.00pm Year 3 and 4 Play in the School hall to parents

*Further information to follow*

Friday 25 November

9.00am in the School Hall

'Robins Class Assembly' to parents

*Further information to follow*

Tuesday 29 November

Year 5 visit to Victoria & Albert Museum

*Separate letter to follow*

10.45am LK Concert to parents in the Studio

*Further information to follow*

3.45pm Year 3 & 4 Dance Club Choreographic

Evening, parents welcome

*Further information to follow*

Friday 2 December

9.00am in the School Hall

'Woodpeckers Class Assembly' to parents

*Further information to follow*