

# OAKLANDS SCHOOL NEWS BULLETIN



September 2011 – Issue Number 64



## Message from the Headmistress

Welcome to the new academic year at Oaklands School. I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to the pupils and their families who are beginning their educational journey here at Oaklands. We start this journey together as I myself start my new role as Headmistress. It's lovely to see so many familiar faces and I trust you have all enjoyed the long summer break.

Much of my time this week has been spent greeting pupils and parents ensuring that the children are settling down in their new classes and adapting to new routines.

We have a new member of staff, Mrs Judith Dutnall, who is joining the Early Years department. Mrs Dutnall teaches 'Owl' class and will be developing her role as Foundation Stage Co-ordinator.

Please remember that Oaklands School has an 'open door' policy. I am usually available to see parents first thing in the morning or by appointment via the school office.

I look forward to getting to know new pupils and their families and developing the relationship I already have with many of you.

With best wishes for a successful Autumn Term.

**Cheryl Macnair**  
Headmistress

## Tea Time Club

A reminder that Tea Time Club hours have been extended to 6.00pm to cater for many of our working parents. As well as "drinks and nibbles" offered at approximately 3.20pm, sandwiches will also be available at about 4.15pm for those who have large appetites! Please remember to book your child in via Miss Moore or the school office as places are limited and Tea Time Club is very popular.



## Dressing up clothes

Should you be having a tidy up at home now the children are back at school or come across unwanted dressing up clothes please could you donate these to the school. The younger children really enjoy dressing up and using their imagination. All good practice to develop creative writing skills for the future!

### **Focuses for this academic year**

Each academic year Oaklands School chooses a particular area or skill to develop. This year much of the children's learning will centre on mathematics (especially numeracy) and speaking and listening skills.

### **OPA**

We are always grateful to the OPA for organising various exciting fund raising events. The money raised is much appreciated as the majority of it finances the numerous trips, outings and visiting speakers, Christmas parties and presents and the visit of the Easter Bunny.

The Chairman, Mirelle Zrinzo and the Treasurer Sophie Rughani-Gandhi are both stepping down from the committee this year and I would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment.

We shall be looking for new committee members and helpers for this year so please come along to the next OPA meeting and find out more. If you are interested in the post of either Chairman or Treasurer please call in to the school office or contact Mirelle, Sophie or myself.

On Tuesday 27 September at 7.30pm the OPA are hosting an evening for new parents in the school hall. The first part of the evening is particularly for parents who are new to Oaklands and will be followed by the more formal AGM at about 8.15pm. If you would like to know more about the OPA and meet the current committee, please come along.

### **What's my child doing?**

In response to requests from parents we will be sending home a "class newsletter" which will hopefully inform you of the topics and skills the children will be learning this term. This is a new venture and your feedback would be appreciated.

### **Drama Workshops**



Two qualified teachers who previously worked at Normanhurst School, Chingford are running drama workshops for current pupils (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 and the venue will be Coopersale Hall School, Epping. Leaflets and booking forms will be given to pupils in Year 1 – 6.

### **PE/Games**

The children in Years 3 – 6 have had an exciting time exploring the Peter May Sports Centre. Each week the pupils join with Normanhurst School for a PE/Games session. They all enjoyed their first visit and are looking forward to future sessions. The children looked very rosy cheeked and tired when they came back to school!!!

### **Car Parking**

Whilst we appreciate that Oaklands School does not have a designated car parking area, we do trust and rely on your consideration for our neighbours. We are only in the first few days of term and I have already had a neighbour in Spring Grove complain that a car has blocked her drive on two consecutive mornings. When dropping or collecting your child from school, please ensure that under no circumstances you block neighbours' driveways or on the corner of junctions obstructing views.

**Message from Pam Simmonds – Headmistress (January 2002 – July 2011)**

Dear Parents

I should like to say a big thank you to everyone who gave me individual cards and presents at the end of the summer term. I am sorry that I was not able to thank you all personally.

I was very touched by your kind words and lovely presents, which included books, beautiful plants and flowers, chocolates and beauty products. I am very grateful for your kindness.

Thank you all again for the generous gifts presented at Prize Giving. You will be pleased to know that the vines are flourishing and we shall be visiting France in October, where we will enjoy spending the generous gift of Euros you gave me.

It will seem strange not going back to school after forty years in the world of education but I am looking forward to having more time to pursue hobbies, develop my cooking skills and to visit places both locally and abroad.

I shall miss everyone at Oaklands, where I have spent nearly ten very happy years and I wish you all a very good new academic year.

Yours sincerely  
Pam Simmonds

**Year 2 have been using the Roamers in ICT to find treasure. They have learnt to read co-ordinates and turn angles.**



Lower Kindergarten and Garden Room  
Our first days....

