



Headmistress's Message

We are already into the second half of the Autumn Term with Christmas preparations well underway! Lower Kindergarten are busy practising for their concert; children in Garden Room are singing in preparation for their Nativity Play and Transition are planning their play "The Christmas Present"! I'm sure that the parents of these children are looking forward to their performances as much as I am. Year 6 are working extremely hard in the lead up to their entrance exams in January 2013 but managed to find time to visit the British Museum to discover more about the Aztecs. Year 1 took part in a very successful 'Toys Workshop' and the Foundation Stage (LK,GR,TR) have been celebrating 'Diwali' with the help and support from some of our parents. Thank you very much to our parents for sharing your expertise with the children.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff and all the children for showing their respect on Monday 12 November. Mrs Smith led our 'Remembrance Day Assembly' this year which was followed at 11am with our 2 minute silence.

Please remember to check your e-mails as we are beginning to send more information electronically e.g. important dates, reminders and notification of special events.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the numerous Christmas events this term. All the children are working hard to perform well and I am sure we will not be disappointed!

Cheryl Macnair

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Firework Night

Firework Night was superb! Thank you to the OPA for organising a fun and successful evening. Families were very complimentary and the actual fireworks were fantastic.



Oaklands School Choir Trip to the Royal Albert Hall

On Tuesday 6 November, Oaklands School Choir joined with 1500 other pupils to perform in the Royal Albert Hall. The concert was in aid of the Barnardo's Charity and an audience of over 5,000 came to watch.

It was a busy morning of rehearsing, with a picnic lunch in Hyde Park, followed by another rehearsal in the afternoon. We were very proud to have two soloists chosen from Oaklands, Ava and Isabelle. They both sang confidently and appeared to show no nerves! An amazing feat in front of such a huge audience! The concert was enthusiastically performed and received by all. Thank you to all the parents and friends who came along and supported the choir. Well done everyone!



Year 3 Camp - Thursday 11 and Friday 12 October 2012

All the children in Year 3 spent two days enjoying a variety of team building activities on the school field.

The two Class Adventure leaders arrived early at 7.30am to prepare all the equipment so that they were ready to teach the children how to erect the tents they would be sleeping in overnight.

Despite the rain on the Thursday afternoon and evening, the children slept extremely well. Luckily the sun shone on Friday. The children completed many problem solving activities in pairs and groups, played games, prepared meals and learnt the basics of camping outdoors.

Diwali Assembly - Garden Room

Mr Sheth came to tell us the Diwali story. Children in 'Hedgehog Group' showed pictures of Diwali celebrations and we made firework pictures. Some of the children wore Indian costumes.



Year 6 Trip to British Museum

We went to the British Museum by train to learn more about Aztecs. We spent some time investigating artefacts in the Mexico room. Later we pretended we were Spanish conquistadors and had to find evidence about the Aztecs so we could tell King Charles whether or not to invade and make the Aztec world part of the Spanish Empire. That was followed by a good ten minutes in the gift shop before returning to Loughton Station. An excellent day for everyone.

Fundraising

We are very grateful to all parents and teachers who donated to St Mungo's and wore their woolly hats for the day. We raised a total of £268.40 for London's homeless.



Whitechapel Mission

On Tuesday 30 October I joined 7 volunteers from Loughton Methodist Church to go to the mission to cook and serve breakfast for the homeless. We prepared, cooked and served breakfast to over 200 homeless people. It was really good to see Oaklands' Harvest Gifts being opened and cooked! The people we served were very grateful and some would not have eaten since breakfast the day before. I found the experience very rewarding.

Mrs Donoghue



Diwali Week in Transition

On Wednesday 14 November the Transition classes took part in an afternoon of Diwali activities. The children had the opportunity to try traditional Indian food, paint rangoli patterns, dress up in traditional Indian clothing, listen to traditional music and make up dances, have mehndi patterns on their hands and make Diwa lamps.

The children enjoyed themselves immensely and here are some of their comments:

"I enjoyed tasting the different food because it's not like the food I have at home"

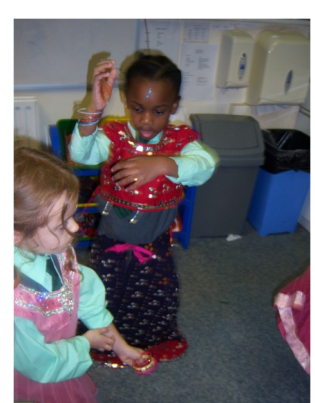
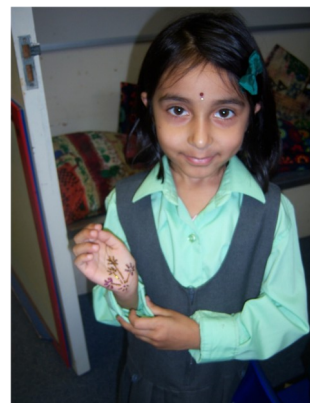
"I loved dressing up"

"The clothes were beautiful"

"I liked the mehndi pattern on my hand"

"I got to dress up like a princess".

The Transition teachers would like to say a massive thank you to all the parents who contributed to the afternoon to make this event possible. Miss Topping would also like to thank Mrs Dev Pyne and Mrs Athreya for giving up their own time to come into school and support the activities.



Year 1 Toys Workshop

On Wednesday Year 1 enjoyed a day of exploring old toys, being archaeologists and making different toys in their toy's workshop which was run by History off the Page. Everyone had a fantastic day.

Alfie "I liked playing with the old toys". Evie "My favourite bit was making the ships".



Lantern Competition

Well done to all those children who entered the lantern competition! All entries were fantastic and it was hard to decide the winning lanterns. However, a decision was made and the results are as follows:-

1st Place Claudia 2A

2nd Place Valerie GR

3rd Place Beiant Lower Kindergarten



Young Writers' 'Poetry Detectives' Competition 2012

We have been very successful this term with our entries for the competition and are delighted that so many pupils from Years 4, 5 & 6 will be published in an Anthology to be printed in January 2013. The best poem in the book will be awarded £1000, two second prizes of £500 will be given, and four of £250. Winners will be chosen and notified by post once all the books in the series have been published.

The Beach

By Beth

Children laughing at puppet shows,
Barbeques burning, sausages turning,
The ice cream van playing twanging tunes,
Kids eating, adults sleeping.

Some children laugh as they fill a moat,
As other children float their boat.
Waves are dancing like Mexican waves,
Dogs are swimming; they are so brave.

Children laugh as they jump off the pier,
While Dad surfs on a Cornish beach,
The smell of fish fills the air,
Scrummy ice cream, yummy yummy!
Do we have to go?

NO!!

The Beach

By Florence

The wind is howling
While rain is pouring,
The waves are lashing
While lightning's flashing.
Palm trees sway and touch the ground.

The wind is howling
While thunder's roaring.
Cats hide in cracks in rocks
While crabs are wearing seaweed frocks.
Boats are smashed - cannot be found.

The wind is howling,
The waves are wild,
Screams are coming from every child.
The beach is deserted now,
Everyone's gone.
Only the moon is left, alone.



Children in Need

Thank you very much for all your generous donations. The children loved coming to school in pyjamas or non-uniform clothes. Foundation Stage Assembly was taken by Miss Webster and some of the Lower Kindergarten children. Cakes and goodies were sold at lunchtime and at the end of the school day. Thank you very much Mrs Russell and your team for all your efforts - cake making and other treats on sale.

We managed to raise the grand sum of £719.42.

One-way System

Please could I remind you all that we operate an unofficial one-way system when driving to school. Please remember to drive up Warren Hill, along Nursery Road and then down Albion Hill. This does enable us to keep the traffic flowing and avoid congestion outside the main school gate. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

OPA

If Xmas cards are not returned by Tuesday 20 November orders can be submitted on line @ www.fat-chilli.com.

Forthcoming Events

Friday 23 November	8.40 - 3.30 pm	Year 4 Trip to Globe Theatre
Monday 26 November	9.30am	Trans Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 27 November	3.45pm	Choreographic Evening (Yrs 3/4 Dance Club)
Wednesday 28 November	10.45 - 11.00am	Lower Kindergarten Xmas Concert
Wednesday 28 November	2.00pm	Trans Christmas Play
Thursday 29 November	2.00pm	Trans Christmas Play
Friday 30 November	9.15am	Early Years Panto in School Hall
Monday 3 December	3.30pm	Lower Kindergarten Tea Party (new parents joining in January 2013)
Tuesday 4 December	9.00am - 3.30pm	Rehearsal for Carol Service (Yr 1 - Yr 6)
Wednesday 5 December		Dr Barnardo's Create a Bauble Assembly (Trans - Yr 6)
Wednesday 5 December	2.00 - 3.15pm	Carol Service - St Mary's Church (Yr 1 - Yr 6)
Wednesday 5 December	9.30am	Garden Room Dress Rehearsal
Thursday 6 December		Whole School Christmas Lunch
Friday 7 December	10.30am	Garden Room Nativity
Friday 7 December	2.00pm	Choir to Carlton House Retirement Home
Friday 7 December	4.15 - 6.15pm	OPA Christmas Party (Years 2 - 5) in School Hall
Monday 10 December	3.30pm	Lower Kindergarten

