



December 2012 Issue 78

## Headmistress's Message

What a very busy second half of term! Christmas seems to come earlier and earlier. The children have had a great time just recently with pantos and parties; I hasten to say that they have also found time to work hard! The Carol Service was a truly lovely occasion with our pupils in Years 1 to 6 taking part. The younger children have also performed to their parents in the form of a concert by Lower Kindergarten, the Garden Room Nativity Play and 'The Christmas Present' by Transition. The children really excel and perform with great confidence. Thank you to all the staff for another successful term!

The end of term assembly was great fun with a lovely atmosphere - some of our younger pupils found it quite surprising that the staff really enjoyed playing the percussion instruments. Mrs Rathbone's arrangement of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' was a particular success!

I would like to end by thanking you, the parents and children, for all your good wishes and for the lovely gifts I received. I am really touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity. Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful New Year. I hope you all enjoy the Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you back at school on Tuesday 8 January 2013.

**Cheryl Macnair**

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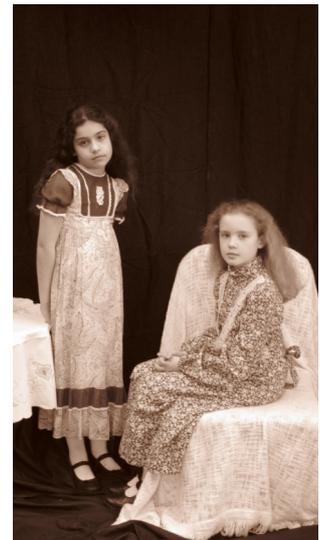
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**May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a  
Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



### Year 5 and The Victorians

The Year 5s have been studying the Victorians this term. On Friday they got dressed in Victorian style clothes and posed for some photos. They managed to keep straight faces and Mrs Poulton and Mrs Booth thought they looked lovely! The girls really enjoyed the activity and are looking forward to receiving the printed copies!



### Year 4's Visit to The Globe Theatre

On Friday 23 November Ms Zaidi and Mrs Norris accompanied Year 4 to the Globe Theatre on the South Bank.

This was a thrilling experience for the children as they actually stood on that world famous stage and uttered, "We are such stuff as dreams are made of". We then went to a rehearsal studio with one of the actors for an hour long workshop on "The Tempest". All the children threw themselves into the exercises with energy and real enthusiasm. After the picnic lunch we walked across the Millenium Bridge in brilliant sunshine and looked at various landmarks - St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tate Modern, the City of London School, the Gherkin, and watched boats on the Thames, discussing the river's fast moving tide. On the way home in the coach the children reckoned it had been "the best trip ever" - we agreed! The memory of the day will stay with the children for a very long time.

## Concerts and Plays

Every child has taken part in either a concert, play or the Carol Service. They have all performed with great confidence and given pleasure to staff and families. Well done to all the pupils.

### Lower Kindergarten Concert

Parents of children in Lower Kindergarten were invited to a concert in the studio. Refreshments were available beforehand and Mrs Rathbone, our music specialist spoke about the importance of music in a child's development; listening skills and coordination play a large part in the children's learning as well as an appreciation of music and rhythm. Our youngest children dressed up as Christmas trees, snowmen and Father/Mother Christmas. As well as looking fantastic, they sang and played instruments. Well done Lower Kindergarten! Your teachers and parents were extremely pleased with your performance.



### Garden Room

The Garden Room Nativity play was as enchanting as always, despite the late arrival of the 'Angel Gabriel' who flew in at the very last minute! The children looked great and spoke and sung beautifully.



### Transition

"The Christmas Present" was performed brilliantly by the Transition classes. This performance did not pass without all incident either! The poor old donkey got stuck in the Christmas present box! Well done, Transition. A lovely production!

### Carol Service

The Carol Service on Wednesday 5 December at St. Mary's Church, Loughton was once again enjoyed by many KS1 and KS2 parents. The service was a lovely mixture of traditional and modern carols, instrumental pieces, poetry and dance organised around the narration of the nativity story. Congratulations to all the children who sang, played instruments and read so beautifully. Thank you for your generous donations at the end of the service: £197.86 was raised for the Millgrove Family Centre.

### Carol Singing at Carlton House

Oaklands Choir entertained the residents of Carlton House with carols. The children sang beautifully. Thank you Mrs Rathbone for organising the visit.

### Fun and Festivities

#### Year 1 and 2

Years 1 and 2 have been very busy in the run up to Christmas. They have been making cards, calendars and Christmas decorations, all of which help develop their cutting and assembling skills in a fun and festive way!

#### Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

After Christmas lunch the classes in KS2 joined together in the hall for an afternoon of quizzes and activities. It was great to see the different age groups working well together. A real team event!

The school hall looked amazing! Every child at Oaklands made a Christmas decoration and the children and staff enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch. Thank you to Jim and his team!



## Pantos

For the first time here at Oaklands the children in Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room and Transition were able to enjoy a pantomime “Dick Whittington”. They joined in with the usual refrain “behind you” and were quite fascinated by the performance. Year 1 and Year 2 were treated to “Aladdin” and KS2 pupils visited the Millfield Theatre to see “Mother Goose”. Everyone really enjoyed all the performances .....oh yes, they did!

## Parties

Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room, Transition and Year 1 had a wonderful time with ‘Tidimix’ at their Christmas parties. They all joined in with the fun and games.



Years 2 to 5 enjoyed a ‘Jolly Joey’ party after school last Friday with dancing and competitions. Thank you very much to the OPA for organising all the parties and presents for the children. We appreciate all your support and help throughout the year.

Year 6 enjoyed an afternoon of creating an outfit from newspaper for the ‘Fashion Show’ and enjoyed a more traditional Christmas party.

### Visit to Father Christmas



Jake in Year 3 had the time of his life on Saturday 8 December when he starred as the Arsenal mascot in the match against West Bromwich Albion at The Emirates. During the pre-match build up, Jake was given a full kit by Arsenal and welcomed the players and manager off the team coach as it arrived. After a tour of the directors' box, Jake met the players again in the changing room and even had photographs taken with Arsenal heroes Thierry Henry and Theo Walcott before warming up with the team on the pitch. Jake's duties were completed when he led the team handshakes at the start of the match before watching the team win 2-0. What a fantastic day – well done Jake!



### Uniform

Please check your child's uniform over the holidays ensuring names are clearly marked and bring back anything which may belong to another child. Thank you.

## Retirements

As you will note from Matthew Hagger's recent letter we say "Goodbye and a Happy Retirement" to three members of staff; Ken Jones, Group Administrator and Bursar; Jim Miller, our Chef and last but by no means least our caretaker, John Horner. We would like to thank all of them for their commitment and dedication. They have played a very valuable role within the Oaklands School community. Thank you "Boys". Put your feet up and relax!

### Letter from John

6 December 2012

Dear Colleagues, Parents and especially the children it is with mixed emotions that I send this note, but I would like to thank you all for the kind words and gifts that you have given me.

I have been at Oaklands School for nine years and thoroughly enjoyed my time here. It has been one of the most rewarding times of my life and I will take with me some wonderful memories.

I will miss the support and friendships that we have shared. I will also miss the occasional tears, but especially the smiling faces of the children as they come into school.

Wishing everyone connected with Oaklands A Very Merry Christmas and all the best for the future.

Thanks again for everything.

Love John



**OPA**

The OPA held a uniform sale this term and raised an incredible £156.00.

**Charities**

Year 4 baked cakes for the Charity 'Crisis at Christmas' (for the homeless). Their cake sale raised £208.39. Thank you to everyone who helped.



The Choir raised £105.96 for 'Crisis at Christmas' singing carols outside Sainsbury's in Loughton. Thank you for all your support!

**Mini Pots of Care**

Hopefully you are remembering to look after your daffodil bulbs in an effort to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. I have been given some top tips for caring for the mini pots:

- Between now and January place your mini pot outdoors where the sunlight can get to it
- Water mini pots once a week so compost is moist
- Shelter mini pots from severe frost or snow so bulbs do not rot, in a garage or shed would be ideal
- At the end of January, bring mini pots indoors and get ready to watch daffodils bloom.



There will be a "mini pot" assembly in the New Year. Donations to the Marie Curie Cancer Care to the office please. Thank you.



Thank you to those pupils who joined in the Dr Barnardo's competition "Design a Bauble". Janet Meredith returned this week and drew out the lucky winner - Jack in Year 4. I think he was quite pleased to receive a cuddly bear! You helped raise a magnificent £412.75. Also thank you for your very kind donations of toys and gifts.

**Breakfast Club**

Earlier this term we said goodbye to Sharon Athanasiou who has been working and helping in Breakfast Club. She is being replaced by Diann Freeman, one of our lunchtime assistants. Diann has the advantage of knowing both the school and many of its pupils already. Breakfast Club continues to go from strength to strength and it is important to let Jackie Neil or the School Office know if you are not taking up your place at any time so it can be offered to someone else. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Forthcoming Events**

Tuesday 8 January		Term Starts
Monday 14 January		Clubs Start
Wednesday 16 January		Swimming Starts
Tuesday 22 January	3.15pm - 6pm	Forest Swimming Gala
Monday 11 February		Curriculum Week "Green Week"

