



Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome back after the half term holiday. I hope you all had a lovely break and the children are feeling refreshed ready for the second half of the term. As I sit here writing this message, the pupils in Key Stage 2 are busy practising songs for the Carol Service.... Christmas comes very early these days!

Open Morning was busy with prospective families visiting the School. Once again, our Year 5 and 6 pupils were guides and fantastic ambassadors for the School. They are very proud of Oaklands and can be relied upon to give a true picture of the day to day life here.

Parents' evenings were held in the last week of the half term. The children have settled well, and are making good progress with their learning. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that we really value your comments regarding the homework set for your child. Please feel free to write a constructive comment either at the bottom of the piece of homework, in the homework or reading diary as to how well your child completed the work; whether it was completed quickly and accurately or whether he/she had any difficulties.

Matthew Hagger and I are holding various coffee mornings this term for parents of children in Years 2, 1, Transition and Garden Room. They are held in the Studio on Tuesday mornings from 8.45am to 9.30am. Please look out for your invitations!

I am out on Tuesday 12 November and Wednesday 13 November inspecting another school. It is always such a privilege to visit and become familiar with other school settings. I shall be back at Oaklands on Thursday 14 November.

Hymn Practice was lovely this morning with beautiful singing and I am looking forward to seeing you at the various Christmas concerts and plays taking place this term. We have many treats in store....

Cheryl Hagger

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Year 1 Trip - Mountfitchet Castle

On Thursday 10 October all of Year 1 took a trip to visit the reconstructed Motte and Bailey Castle at Mountfitchet. The children were all very excited and learnt lots of new things. Throughout the day different groups visited the grand hall, the bailey, fed the animals and also found some dinosaurs. The children were able to see the different features and weapons found in a castle.



Years 2 'Fire of London workshop

History Off The Page spent the day with us on 17th October. We used practical activities and drama to find out what it was like living through the Great Fire. The children investigated and found out about specific jobs in 1666 such as ink making, chandlers, leather workers, bakers, weaving and working in an apothecary. The children also became archaeologists and examined evidence from the fire. The children had great fun and particularly enjoyed coming to school in their Stuart costumes!



Year 3 and Year 4 Gilwell Park

On Wednesday 9 October 2013, Years 3 and 4 spent the day at Gilwell Park participating in outdoor pursuit activities.

They had great fun negotiating the revolving climbing wall and persevered to improve their score with their bow and arrows in the archery session. The orienteering activity proved the most strenuous, as the clues they had to locate were spread out in various spots within Gilwell Park.

All the children had a fantastic time and are looking forward to their next day of outdoor pursuits.



School Council

The new School Council met for the first time this year on Friday 4 October 2013.

Alexandra in Year 5 was appointed as the Chairperson and Keira in Year 5 was appointed as the Secretary.

A number of proposals were presented by the class representatives, which included a fish tank, use of the vegetable garden and another water fountain.

These and many others have been discussed with Mrs Macnair. Alexandra and Keira are due to give feedback to the school during assembly on Wednesday 13 November 2013.

KS2 WOW Assembly

The KS2 'WOW' Assembly held on Monday 7 October 2013 celebrated a diversity of work by a number of children in Years 3 to 6.

From Year 3 Marianna shared her Viking shield, Candace read out some of her Viking menu and Ciara was congratulated for her improved score in a recent timetables test.

From Year 4 Elliot and Charlie read out their Monster Poems.

Millie and Jack in Year 5 had also been busy writing poems called 'The Magic Box.' All the poems were full of descriptive adjectives. Amelia had also completed some tricky long division sums.

From Year 6, Ava read out her detective story, Kiera showed her Science research work about animal adaptations and Zoe showed her maths work.

All these children were congratulated for their effort and achievement.

Tag Rugby

An exciting new club, Tag Rugby, has started at Oaklands on a Thursday after school. We have been learning lots of new skills and have great fun.

If you would like to come, Mr Colley would be delighted to welcome more players from Year 2 upwards.

Autumn Term, Thursdays after school 3.30 - 4.15pm.



Dressing up clothes: a request from Garden Room

If you have any unwanted dressing up clothes at home, please could you donate them to the Garden Room.

Donations to be given to one of the Garden Room Staff.

Thank you very much.

Copped Hall Cross Country Competition



170 Runners from local schools and clubs took part in the Copped Hall Cross Country Race on Sunday 6 October this year. There were some fantastic performances from the Oaklands team, with Alexandra coming in 10th place in the girls race and Charlie and Natasha tied 13th place. It was a great team effort. Well done!

The Oak-Tree Group of Schools join together for Fireworks Night Sunday 10 November

Exciting times as Oaklands School and Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst Schools celebrate Fireworks Night together for the first time.

Fireworks Display Sunday 10 November 4.30pm to 7pm

This is always a really popular event with Oaklands families and we are keeping our fingers crossed for nice weather! There will be a fireworks display, food and drinks, glow in the dark items, lucky dips, and much more.



Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 10 November	5pm to 7pm	OPA Fireworks Display
Monday 11 November	11am	Whole School Two Minute Silence
Friday 15 November		'Pyjama Day' in aid of 'Children in Need'
Monday 18 November	9.15am	Year 4 Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 19 November	8.45am	Coffee morning Y1 Parents
Wednesday 20 November	2pm	Year 4 Play
Tuesday 26 November	8.45am	Coffee morning Transition Parents
	9.20am	Transition Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 27 November	2pm	Transition Play
Thursday 28 November	2pm	Transition Play
Friday 29 November	9.15am	Pantomime for Early Years
Tuesday 3 December	8.45am	Coffee morning GR Parents
Wednesday 4 December	10.30am	Lower Kindergarten Concert to Parents
	2pm	Y1-Y6 Carol Service at St Mary's Church
Thursday 5 December	10.30am	Garden Room Nativity Play with refreshments
	2pm	Y1+Y2 watching Christmas Production in School Hall
Friday 6 December	10.30am	Garden Room Nativity Play with refreshments
Friday 6 December	4.15pm– 6.15pm	Y3, Y4 + Y5 OPA Xmas Party
Monday 9 December		No Clubs this week
	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Y1 + Y2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 10 December	12.00pm - 4.30pm	Y3, Y4, Y5 + Y6 'Dick Whittington' Pantomime - Millfield Theatre
Wednesday 11 December		Whole School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 12 December		Lower Kindergarten and Garden Room Christmas party
Thursday 12 December	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Transition Christmas Party
Friday 13 December		End of Autumn Term - Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children'
	12.00pm	Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room and Transition - Finish
	12.10pm	Y1 Finish
	12.15pm	Y2 Finish
	12.30pm	Y3, Y4, Y5 + Y6 Finish

Spring Term starts on Tuesday 7 January 2014