



Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The second half of the Autumn Term has been incredibly busy with children preparing for important entrance exams. We wish them good luck for the January exams.

There have been a number of plays, concerts and our Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Loughton. All the children have worked hard and performed exceptionally well in front of their various audiences displaying a great deal of confidence. You can read about these events in this newsletter.

James and his kitchen staff cooked a delicious Christmas meal this week and the pupils were served by the staff. The OPA have very generously funded the various Christmas parties and presents from Father Christmas. Thank you to everyone for making Christmas at Oaklands such a fun and festive occasion.

Happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

The Spring Term starts on Tuesday 7 January 2014.

Cheryl Macrae

Quiz: Spot the teachers in this edition!



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Orion Harriers Cross Country Race

On Saturday 9 November 2013, ten children from KS2 participated in the Orion Harriers Cross Country race on Chingford Plain.

Over 250 children ran in both the girls and boys races.

Despite the cold and muddy conditions, all the Oaklands runners performed extremely well to complete the course. A special well done to Alexandra (Year 5) who finished 26th position, and to Natasha (Year 5) who finished close behind her in 31st place.

In the boys race, Jack (Year 5) and Theo (Year 4) finished within the top 150 runners.

Congratulations to all the team; Lindsey (Year 3), Theo, Daniele and Georgia (Year 4), Jack, Alexandra, Natasha and Maddie (Year 5) and Kiera (Year 6).



Remembrance Day

On Monday 11 November, 'Red Team' led our 'Remembrance Day' assembly with excellent facts and thought-provoking poems. This was followed by a two minute silence held on the playground.

Thank you to all the children, who were extremely respectful and thought about all those who had given their lives for us. Thank you for supporting the 'British Legion Poppy Appeal.'

Maintenance Team Movember

This year our Group Maintenance and Oaklands Maintenance staff supported the charity event 'Movember' to raise money and awareness for Prostate Cancer. Most of the children noticed that the caretakers grew moustaches for the whole month of November.

They raised an amazing £400.00 for the charity! Thank you to everyone who sponsored them and well done to the Maintenance Team for taking part.



Oak-tree Fireworks Night

The Fireworks Night this year was opened up to include all three of the Oak-Tree schools, so we were joined by families from Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst.

There were lots of activities for everybody to enjoy, including, for the children, arts & crafts, lucky dips, glow sticks, face painting, glow in the dark nails and tattoos, and a pumpkin carving competition.

The parents could enjoy a glass of mulled wine or beer, and of course there was a hot dog for everybody.

The fireworks display was amazing, and we also had a 'glow in the dark' juggler for the first time - which the children really enjoyed.

This was the most profitable Fireworks Night to date, with the OPA raising nearly £3,000. Some of this money was used to pay for the children's Christmas parties and gifts from Santa.

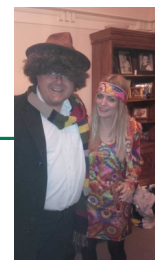
The OPA would like to thank all the parents who helped with the organisation and volunteered their time on the night, it was much appreciated.



Children In Need - Pyjama Day

On Friday 15 November the whole of Oaklands school took part in a pyjama day in order to raise money for BBC's Children In Need.

The children and staff all wore their pyjamas to school for the day and we raised a total of £295.30. A big thank you to everyone for supporting the event.



Year 4 Play - The Lemonade Kid

Year 4 gave an excellent performance of The Lemonade Kid. Congratulations to all those who took part in this lively production, and to those responsible for the folksy costumes, wonderful singing, dancing and drama.

Putting on a show is all about team work and the children learn many skills by taking part—as well as thoroughly enjoying it of course.



Transition play - The Smallest Angel

Transition children performed 'The Smallest Angel'. The story was based around a group of angels trying to find the perfect place for Jesus to be born. The angels visited several countries and the children performed songs and dances from Spain, Scotland, Hawaii and Native America. Eventually the Smallest Angel found a stable in Bethlehem where the Nativity scene unfolded.

All children enjoyed the performance and worked extremely hard to learn their lines.

The Transition Team would like to thank all parents who provided costumes and supported their children to learn their lines.

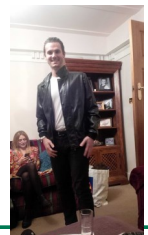


Blue Team Assembly

On Wednesday 27 November, the Blue Team delivered their assembly on the celebration of the Jewish Festival Hanukkah.

All the children dressed in blue coloured clothes to represent their house and spoke beautifully throughout the assembly.

A huge well done to the whole of Key Stage 2 Blue Team.



EYFS Pantomime Aladdin

The Early Years had lots of fun watching this Pantomime of Aladdin on Friday 29 November.

There was lots of laughter as the children enjoyed Abanaza's naughty tricks, Jasmine's beautiful singing and Aladdin's friend the Elephant was a firm favourite.



Carol Service

On Wednesday 4 December, the children from Years 1-6 walked down to St Mary's Church, Loughton to take part in their annual Carol Service. Traditional bible passages were fluently read by pupils from Years 2 – 6, while the Year 6 girls illustrated the ancient story with poise and effect.

Parents were charmed with delightful carols and songs, notably Year 1, who sang about The Noisy Stable, complete with animal noises! The orchestra also performed and gallantly played all five verses while the congregation sang We Three Kings of Orient Are.

Sadly, Year 6 were unable to perform their final tableaux dance, due to insurmountable technical problems with the church's CD player. This was a shame since the girls were looking forward to performing, however, with a maturity worthy of professionals, they moved seamlessly on to the next item and the Carol Service ended with a rousing rendition of O Come All Ye Faithful.

A collection for Mill Grove Family Centre was taken at the end of the service.



KS1 Pantomime—Rumpelstiltskin

‘Bangers and Mash’ came in to visit KS1 on Thursday 5 December and we watched a performance of ‘Rumpelstiltskin’.

The children loved the story of a miller who tells a King that his daughter can spin straw in to gold. There was a lot of singing and the children enjoyed getting involved in the performance.



Lower Kindergarten Christmas Concert

The children all took part in a Christmas singing concert to their parents.

The children have learnt lots of nursery rhymes and some Christmas songs too which they all performed extremely well.

This is a fantastic opportunity to build the children’s self-confidence and all the Lower Kindergarten staff are very proud of the children. Well done!



Garden Room Nativity

The Garden Room performed two wonderful performances of 'The Nativity'.

Parents were surprised and amazed at all the songs that the children had learnt. All the children looked took part and wore beautiful costumes and outfits. The children learnt about the true meaning of Christmas, before Santa arrived with his Reindeers. One parent commented "I had tears of happiness 50% of the time and the other 50% were tears of laughter".

The Garden Room staff were proud of all the children's achievements. To get every child to perform on stage in front of a large audience is no easy task!



Year 4 and 6 Cake Sale

On Friday 6 December, Years 4 and 6 kindly organised a cake sale to raise money for two charities, CRISIS and Cancer Research.

A lot of baking was brought into school to provide yummy cakes to sell from flapjacks to colourful cupcakes.

They did a fantastic job of transforming the hall into a huge cake shop and worked really hard to sell all the lovely cakes to children from Year 1 up to Year 6.

In total £267.06 was raised. Well done to Year 4 and 6 for all their hard work, and thank to everyone who supported the sale and bought a cake or two!



Christmas Post Box

Our Year 6 students were given the task of creating the Christmas post boxes for each class in the school. All the girls came up with different ideas and we had some very creative post boxes produced.

The school children have been posting their Christmas cards to one another into their class post boxes, the cards are then sorted and given out at the end of each week.



Christmas Parties

Years 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed a Christmas party with Mr Happy on Friday 6 December. Lots of dancing, singing and games were enjoyed by all the children.

Year 1 and 2 had their Tidimix party on Monday 9 December, where they also played lots of games and took part in dancing competitions.

Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room and Transition all had their Christmas parties on Thursday 12 December, and Year 6 enjoyed an afternoon tea at 'Belgique'.



Father Christmas Visit

The children were lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas during their parties, and he had an early Christmas present for all the children to enjoy!



Christingle Assembly

On Wednesday 11 December the KS2 Christingle assembly was led by Chloe and Stephanie from the Loughton Methodist Church.

All the children had the opportunity to make the traditional Christingle candle holder and learnt what each part represented.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the assembly, Lailah from Year 3 told Chloe and Stephanie 'This is the best assembly ever!'.



Parent Reminders:

Children who are unwell

I would just like to remind you that if children are unwell, they should not be sent into school. If your child has a temperature, sickness or diarrhoea, please allow 48 hours to elapse before returning to school. If your child has just started a course of antibiotics, please keep him/her at home for 24 hours in case he/she suffers an allergic reaction to the medication. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parking

On Friday 6 December 2013 there was an incident reported whereby a large vehicle narrowly missed a parent as it was being parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside the main school gate. I strongly urge you to drive and park cars in line with the legal parking restrictions and guidelines and also Oaklands School Policy.

Unfortunately we have no parking facilities and we rely very much on the courtesy and consideration you show to our neighbours by leaving driveways clear and obeying the highway rules. Many parents park in neighbouring roads e.g. Spring Grove, The Crescent, Algers Road and Andy, our lollipop man will see you safely across the High Road. We do operate an unofficial one-way system whereby cars go up Warren Hill, along Nursery Road and drive down Albion Hill. This does enable us to keep the traffic flowing and avoid congestion outside the main School gate.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent Portal

The parent portal is now up and running! With just one or two minor teething problems, parents are now able to view their child's reports, class booklets, term dates, class timetables all at the click of a button or two. Thank you to those who have amended their child's details, contact numbers etc. It is very important for us to keep our database up to date.

There will be more information on the Parent Portal in the New Year.

Staff News**It's a boy!**

Many Congratulations to Mrs Poulton who gave birth to a little boy, Daniel, on 18 October 2013. Both mother and baby are well and it was lovely to see them both at the School Carol Service.

Engagement!

Congratulations to Miss Webster on her engagement.

Swimming Coach

Angela Rowe, who has taught swimming to our children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) for many years is retiring in December 2013. I would like to thank her for all her hard work in teaching and encouraging our children to develop and practise their swimming techniques, and the numerous in-house swimming galas she has helped to organise and run. Sarah Stringer is the new swimming coach from January 2014 and we look forward to welcoming her to the Oaklands School Teaching Team.

French Teacher

Madame Dillon leaves at the end of this term after teaching French to Transition to Year 6 pupils for 8 years. We thank her for her fun and interactive French teaching and send all good wishes to her for the future.

Madame Bashuron will be taking the classes in the New Year.

Office Staff

We also say goodbye to Faye in the School Office who leaves us at the end of this term. We thank Faye for her friendly efficiency and welcome Michelle Cook who started on Monday 9 December. Good luck Faye!

Lunchtime Assistant

Rosemarie Wilson, one of our lunchtime assistants is leaving to go to Trinity School. We thank her for all her help and wish her good luck in her new job. We welcome her replacement Deborah Slade, who starts work in January 2014.

Forthcoming Events Spring Term

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 7 January	8.30am	First day of Spring Term
Wednesday 8 January		KS2 Swimming starts
Friday 10 January	9.00am	Year 5 Trip to the Ragged School Museum
Friday 17 January	8.20am	Year 4 visit to the Globe Theatre
Wednesday 5 February	1.30-4.30pm	Year 6 Forest School Science Competition
Tuesday 11 February	All day	ISA Cross Country at Rushmoor School
Wednesday 12 February	3.30pm onwards	Lower Kindergarten + Garden Room Parents Evening tbc
Monday 17 - Friday 21 February		Half Term
Tuesday 25 February	3.30pm onwards	Transition - Year 6 Parents Evening
Wednesday 26 February	3.30pm onwards	Transition - Year 6 Parents Evening
Thursday 6 March		World Book Day
Monday 10 March	10.00-11.00am	KS2 National Prep Schools General Knowledge Quiz
Thursday 13 March	9.15am	Open Morning
Thursday 27 March		Oaktree Festival
Monday 31 March - April 22		Easter Holiday

