

Newsletter



Issue 1 – weeks 1 & 2

www.oakwoodschool.org.uk

7 September 2018

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to all of you at the start of the year, especially to our new families.

Children who have joined us in the Nursery are Olivia, Abraham, Zachary, Andres and Hannah. In Reception we have Peyton, and Isabella has started in Year 1. In Year 3 we have Jason, in Year 4 we have Bryn and Valentina in Year 6.

We also welcome two new members of staff, Mr Aaron Murphy (Deputy Head Academic) and Mrs Chloe Clarke (Year 2 teacher).

It promises to be another exciting and action-packed year and we want to make sure that you are kept up to date with all our plans. To that end please ensure you read our fortnightly newsletter and make a note of any important dates in particular.

The start of a new academic year also gives me the opportunity to offer some timely reminders:

Information Evening

This year's Information Evening is on **Wednesday 12 September at 7pm**. As this is a Key Parent Function all parents (from Nursery to Year 6) are expected to attend, at least one parent from each family.

Fun Day

We will be hosting our annual Fun Day in the playground next **Saturday 15 September** from 11am – 2pm. I am extremely grateful to the Class Couples who will be organising the day, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the event.

Punctuality

A reminder that the school gates close at 8.45am each morning and that registration takes place promptly at 8.50am. This is to ensure a 'punchy' start to the day and to make the best possible use of time. I hope you will all support me in making punctuality a priority again this year.

Finally, if you have any questions or comments about any aspects of school life do not hesitate to approach the class teachers or email me on headmaster@oakwoodschool.org.uk.

Ciro Candia
Headmaster

First few days back (more at the end of this newsletter)



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The newsletter, which is produced every two weeks, is only distributed by email. Please let Mrs Clarke or Mrs Askew know about any problems relating to the receipt of any electronic communication by contacting them on either liz.clarke@oakwoodschool.org.uk, carrie.askew@oakwoodschool.org.uk or in person. Newsletter copies will also be displayed on the outside and downstairs noticeboards as well as on the website.

CONSENT FORM

Under the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 we have made amendments to our consent forms. There are now two forms to complete, a 'General Consent Form' which covers permission for school visits and trips, receiving medical treatment and the sharing of information to the wider school community. There is a separate form which explains the usage of photographs both internal, external, media and school events. Please ensure that you read these carefully, complete and sign them, returning them to school by **Wednesday 12 September**.

With this in mind, PACT will be producing a new set of photographs for marketing purposes. Their photographer, Simon Jarrett, will be visiting Oakwood on **Wednesday 19 September** to take a variety of general photos of children whilst engaged in active learning. These will update our current set of marketing photographs and help to implement any GDPR considerations so completing and returning your consent form by the date provided is essential. Please contact the school office should you have any queries.

CONTACT

For all parents whose contact details have changed during the school holidays, please let us have the new information as soon as possible. On this note we cannot stress the importance of having up to date contact numbers, email addresses and emergency details.

SECURITY

Please could we remind parents not to allow their children to open the front door (this includes pressing the exit button) for whatever reason. Please also remember for the safety of all the school community that if you are entering or leaving by the front door that it is closed behind you. Thank you for your co-operation.

HOT LUNCHES (LUNCHMUNCH4KIDZ)

If you haven't already signed up for hot lunches in school and you would like more information, please email admin@lunchmunch4kidz.co.uk. Menus are available on the school website.

Please note that if your child normally has a hot lunch, and the class is away on a school trip requiring a packed lunch that day, parents must inform LunchMunch4kidz that lunch is not needed. Please ensure they have at least one week's notice otherwise the charge for the hot lunch may still be made.

UNIFORM

Class teachers will be checking school uniform over the next week. A reminder to parents that all children should have the correct uniform (including PE items) and all items should be labeled with their child's name.

Please refer to the Parents' Handbook for information regarding other aspects of school uniform (ie. hair, jewellery etc.)

ABSENCE

If a child is unable to attend school due to illness, please phone or email the school on the first day of absence only (liz.clarke@oakwoodschool.org.uk or carrie.askew@oakwoodschool.org.uk), preferably also copying in the class teacher. If a child is absent and the school does not receive any information by 9.15am, we will make contact with parents in order to determine the reason for the absence. From the second day onwards, no further call is necessary as we will assume that they are still unwell. If emailing teachers directly, please copy in the school office as above. Children should not return to school for at least 24 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea (or 48 hours for children in the Nursery & Reception). If you need to inform us about an appointment during the day, a note or email to the class teacher in advance would be preferable. For more information regarding absence, please refer to the Parents' Handbook on the website.

SAVE THE DATES

MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

Most clubs & extra-curricular activities begin
Assessment week (Reception – Year 6)

WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Swimming starts for registered Year 1 & 2 children
Information Evening – 7pm

THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER

Suzuki violin demonstration for parents (Nursery, Reception & Year 1) – 8.50am

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

Family Fun Day (11am – 2pm)

TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

I + club begins for registered Year 5 & 6 children

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Photography morning for PACT marketing purposes

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Ladies meditation – 8.50am

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Talk & Tour Day – 9am

MONDAY 1 OCTOBER

Enrichment week

THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER

Coffee with the Head – 8.50am

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER

Open Day (10am – 1pm)

MONDAY 8 OCTOBER

Fire Safety & Prevention week

WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER

World Mental Health Day

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER

Coffee morning for parents – 8.30am

MONDAY 15 OCTOBER

Book Week

THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER

Phonics workshop for Early Years & Infant parents – 7pm

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER

Ladies meditation – 8.50am

School closes for half-term – 3.45pm



SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website provides a wealth of information for parents - so please make good use of it! You can view the Parents Handbook, important diary dates, term dates, curriculum and other educational information, uniform list, key policies and much more. The address is www.oakwoodschool.org.uk.

ASSESSMENTS

Pupils from Reception upwards have started a range of assessments known as BASE and InCAS (Interactive Computerised Assessment System). These will be completed over the few weeks and results will be issued to parents in due course.

SNACKS

In the interest of healthy eating, snacks should either be fresh fruit, a plain biscuit or cereal bar.



NUT POLICY

Some children in our school have a **severe food allergy** to nuts, and any exposure to nuts may cause them to have a **life-threatening allergic reaction** that may require emergency medical treatment.

Please could all parents consider the needs of other children by only sending in the following items to be consumed at break and lunchtime: fruit, fresh vegetables, plain digestives/hobnobs/rich tea biscuits or cereal bars which do not contain nuts. We would also ask that children do not bring in any sandwiches with nut-based spreads for lunch. This will help to ensure a safe environment for all children at Oakwood. Your co-operation is appreciated.

AD HOC PAYMENTS

Parents are reminded that any payments for external clubs, music lessons and other extra-curricular activities may only be made by cheque (or BACS if made available by the teacher concerned). No 'cash envelopes' may be left in the school office to be passed onto others. Wherever possible, amounts for incidental school purchases will be included on pupil accounts.

EARLY BIRDS & AFTER SCHOOL

There is availability should you want to register your child/ren in our Early Birds Club starting at 8am. The After School Club that runs until 5pm is available Monday – Friday. An Extended After School Club is also available until 5.30pm from Monday – Thursday on request. Please enquire in the school office if you would like to register for any of these facilities. Ad-hoc sessions may also be provided for both clubs, however we will need at least 24 hours notice and providing places are available.

AFTER SCHOOL COLLECTION

If you have arranged with another Oakwood parent to collect your child from school or any of the after school clubs, as they are known to the school you do not need to inform us. However, we would ask that if you have a child in Nursery or Reception please ensure that any person picking up your child has the password that you have provided (a separate letter will be issued to Early Years parents).

LATE COLLECTION

Parents are asked to collect their children promptly at the end of the day or after a school club. A reminder that a late collection fee will be made for children having to make use of this service, which will be included on pupil accounts. Further details can be found in the Parents Handbook.

CLUBS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Once again a wide variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities will be offered this year. Please see the attached list for the clubs on offer this term. Also attached are details about 'Love Theatre Arts' and Mrs Lloyd's Speech & Drama class.

PREP FOR JUNIORS

The supervised Prep for Years 3-6 will run from Monday to Thursday from 3.45 – 4.45pm starting on **Monday 10 September** (this is free of charge). Pupils need to be registered by the Friday for the following week's attendance. This must be done every week either by parents (or children in Years 5 & 6) by signing the register outside the Year 6 classroom. Please note that for logistical reasons and so that prep can be planned for effectively, any requests by phone or email cannot be accepted.

11+ CLUB

Any parents whose children are in Year 5 & 6 can register for the 11+ club that is run weekly in school. Please email Mr Murphy directly on aaron.murphy@oakwoodschool.org.uk. This club begins on **Tuesday 18 September**.

SCHOOL TRIPS

School trips will be arranged for children in all classes throughout the academic year in order to support and enhance their studies in a variety of different subjects. Visitors are also periodically invited into school for specific curriculum-related workshops. Brief details will be provided in each newsletter and class teachers will send a separate email with more information for parents. Any costs, including transport and entrance fees, will be added to your child's school account each term, including charges for visitors into school if appropriate. Maximum annual amounts are £20 (Nursery) £40 (Reception), £60 (Infants) and £80 (Juniors).

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS & MUSIC TUITION by Mr Woolmer

Oakwood currently offers instrumental tuition in the following instruments, usually for pupils in Year 2 upwards (apart from Suzuki violin which is from Nursery): Piano, violin (conventional & Suzuki), flute (fife/recorder), guitar and singing (as well as external clarinet lessons.) Please see the attached form for further details and to register your child. Although lessons generally begin in Year 2, if you wish your child to have lessons earlier please do enquire with me. For those children who had lessons last year, these will continue as previously and no action is needed. Various instruments are also taught in Years 4-6 as part of the music curriculum. Year 4 & 5 have recorder and Year 6 have ukulele (both once a week). Further details can be found in the Parents Handbook, as charges for this are added to pupil accounts.

If you need any further information, please contact me on christopher.woolmer@oakwoodschool.org.uk.

SUZUKI VIOLIN DEMONSTRATION

Parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 who may be interested in starting Suzuki Violin lessons this term are invited, with their child, to an information session at 8.50am on **Thursday 13 September** in the school hall, with Mrs Helen Butterworth our violin teacher. The session will include a short demonstration by current pupils and time for questions from parents. Please let your child's class teacher know on the day if you will be attending.

OAKWOOD BAND

The Oakwood band needs new members! Mr Moore (our guitar teacher who also runs the band) is particularly keen to recruit singers and players of instruments (preferably at least Grade 2). Band practice is held weekly, full details including the day, time and start date will be confirmed once there are sufficient members. The school subsidises all costs, so no fee is payable by parents.

Please contact Mr Moore if you would like your child to be considered. His email address is andy@ajmooremusic.com. Please include the following information in your email: Name, Year Group, Instrument and Grade.

End of year summer concert with the Oakwood Band



MERIT BADGES AND CHARACTER STARS

Merit badges will be awarded from next week, and Tea with the Head will take place at breaktime each Wednesday for the winners. We will also be introducing our Character Star scheme again in October so please watch out for your child's name in our newsletters.

FAMILY FUN DAY

To get the year off to an exciting start, our Family Fun Day will be held on **Saturday 15 September** from **11am – 2pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to catch up on all the holiday news and for families to make new friends. We hope everyone connected with the school (parents, children, grandparents, friends, past pupils) will come and join in the fun even if it's raining!

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

During September, all children will be getting to know their teachers, welcoming new classmates and embedding classroom routines. They will explore their own special strengths, learn to appreciate the different talents of others and learn how to collaborate effectively in group tasks.

WEEKLY MASS IN SCHOOL

Parents are warmly invited to attend weekly Masses in school at 12 noon. Children in Years 4-6 attend on Tuesdays and Years 1-3 attend on Fridays.

LADIES MEDITATION

Approximately once a month on a Friday morning, Fr George gives meditations for ladies. The first one for this year will be held on **Friday 21 September at 8.50am** in the oratory. All mums, grannies and aunts are welcome!

SPORTS

A reminder that the junior children will be taken off-site to Warlingham Sports Club for some of their PE lessons and sports fixtures (Years 3 & 4 on Mondays and Years 5 & 6 on Wednesdays). The facilities there include large fields for rugby, cricket and rounders, an astro football pitch, netball, squash and tennis courts. Please ensure that children have their full kit for these lessons. Dates of sports fixtures will be advertised in advance in newsletters or the website. For any enquiries relating to PE or sports contact Mr Kurti on alberto.kurti@oakwoodschool.org.uk.

OPEN DAY & TALK AND TOUR

Our next Open Day will be held on **Saturday 6 October** between **10am and 1pm**. There will also be a Talk & Tour Day on **Friday 28 September at 9am**. If you have friends who might be interested in the school, please invite them to come along. Please note that prior registration is required for both events.

A FEW SNAP SHOTS OF THE FIRST DAYS BACK

