

# Newsletter



Issue 2 – weeks 3 & 4

[www.oakwoodschool.org.uk](http://www.oakwoodschool.org.uk)

21 September 2018

Dear Parents

Thank you for attending the Information Evening last Wednesday. This is an important event in the school calendar and your support was greatly appreciated. As you know, the key parent functions help to foster a common approach to a range of educational issues.

Miss Gardner's presentation focused on the three "pillars" of our distinctive ethos: Partnership with Parents, Character Development and Catholic Faith & Values and pointed out – with reference to the last Inspection Report – that these underpin the children's achievement in all areas of the curriculum.

The Character Development lessons, in conjunction with personal tutorials for the Juniors, seek to inspire each child to be the best that they can be, aiming high in everything they do and developing strategies for dealing with anything which presents more of a challenge. The first virtue to be explored by Years 1-6 this academic year is Courtesy. Teaching will begin in October and we will be seeking your help in appointing a Character Star from each class each week – look out for emails from Miss Gardner. Parents of Junior children will have the opportunity to meet with their child's Tutor each term.

Miss Gardner also explained that the parents who founded our school took their inspiration from the life and teaching of St Josemaria, who is therefore an important Saint for our School. Opus Dei, the organisation he founded on 2 October 1928 (their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary is now approaching!) provides our Chaplain, Fr George, who is at the service of the whole Oakwood Community. He is in school on Tuesdays and Fridays, so don't hesitate to speak to him if you wish. I would like to reiterate that anyone who would like to know more about the activities available at the nearest Centres of Opus Dei (Kelston in Wandsworth and Hillcrest in Purley) is most welcome to get in touch with them – you don't need a personal invitation.

Thank you to those families who came along and made our Family Fun Day such a huge success on Saturday. A special thank you to the Class & Associate Couples and all the volunteers who worked hard behind the scenes to co-ordinate the event.

On Wednesday, I had my first tea of the year with last week's merit badge winners. This is a wonderful occasion to celebrate the achievements of pupils from across the school. It is always a real pleasure to hear everyone talk

so enthusiastically about school life. The biscuits were enjoyed by all!

Finally, I will be hosting a coffee morning for parents on **Thursday 4 October at 8.50am** where I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible. This is an ideal opportunity to chat informally about any aspects of school life.

Ciro Candia – Headmaster



## UNIFORM – SCHOOL LOGO

Some time ago our school logo on uniform items changed. However a few children are still wearing cardigans and jumpers with the old logo. This may be the result of using an item that belonged to an older sibling or a former pupil.



*Cardigan with correct logo*

As long as it is in good condition, children may continue wearing items with the older logo. However this will be phased out by September 2019. Should you have purchased an older item via our second hand sale in June, then please let Mrs Clarke in the school office know and we will try and replace this from the used stock we still have.

Teachers will be carrying out uniform checks over the next week, so please make sure your child is wearing the correct items and that everything is labelled. Note that blazers, caps & berets for Years 1 - 6 are regulation items and are not optional.

## APPOINTMENTS FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS

Further to the email sent on 10 September regarding secondary school transfer, Year 6 parents should email Mrs Askew at [carrie.askew@oakwoodschool.org.uk](mailto:carrie.askew@oakwoodschool.org.uk) ASAP to make an appointment with Mr Candia.

## DEPUTY HEAD'S CORNER

Welcome back to all children and families of Oakwood as we begin a new school year. The children have all made a very good start to the Autumn term and are getting used to their new class routines and expectations.

At last week's Information Evening Mrs Rhodes (our SENCO) provided a great introduction to BASE assessments and InCAS and how these will be used this school year. We hope that you found the information provided very helpful. The children in Years 1 - 6 have now finished their InCAS assessments, which provide a very useful starting point for their teachers in regards to English, maths and reasoning. Reception children have also completed their BASE assessments. You will be provided with the results from both InCAS and BASE in the coming weeks.

Another point covered by me at the Information Evening was our curriculum maps. The maps present to you, as parents, each area of the curriculum and what will be covered in class in that particular area. These are now available to view on our school website. There will be three curriculum maps per school year; one for each term. The curriculum maps are an important document that we hope will enable you to support your child's learning at home.

Mrs Teague and I began our 11+ Club on Tuesday this week. Thank you to all parents for registering your children and thank you to each child who attended the club for making such an enthusiastic start.

The Prep facility for Juniors has proved to be very popular once again this year. It has been great to see the children who attend settling down and completing their homework with such diligence. Help from the supervising teacher is available if needed, but this is also an environment where they are encouraged to work with increasing independence; a vital skill to develop as they progress through the school. As you are aware, this is an optional club offered for those who want it. Of course, many of you value the opportunity to sit down with your child as they do their homework as this enables you to both help them and be involved in their schoolwork. Our hope is that with the Prep and After School Clubs alongside the wide range of extra-curricular activities both at lunchtime and after school, that we are now offering something to suit everybody.

Mr Aaron Murphy  
Deputy Head (Academic)



### MERIT BADGE WINNERS

Year 1 – Theodore Corbett  
Year 2 – Christopher Atkinson  
Year 3 – Samuel McKenzie  
Year 4 – Patrick Sherwood  
Year 5 – Stella Pellegrini-Perez  
Year 6 – George Bonnet



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## SAVE THE DATES

### FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Talk & Tour Day – 9am

### MONDAY 1 OCTOBER

Enrichment week – further information to follow

### TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER

Year 6 secondary school appointments with Mr Candia

### WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER

U11 netball vs Seaton House (home) – 2pm

Year 5 & 6 Croydon cross country at Lloyd Park – 3.30pm TBC

### THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER

Coffee with the Head – 8.50am

### SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER

Open Day (10am – 1pm)

### MONDAY 8 OCTOBER

Fire Safety & Prevention week

### TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER

Year 6 secondary school appointments with Mr Candia

### WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER

World Mental Health Day

### THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER

Cross country events at Lloyd Park  
(Years 1 & 2 at 10am and Years 3 & 4 at 2pm)

### FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER

Coffee morning for parents – 8.30am

### MONDAY 15 OCTOBER

Book week

### WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER

U11 netball vs Seaton House (away) – 2pm

U10 football tournament at The Cedars (10am - 3pm)

### THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER

U10 football vs Royal Russell (away) – 2pm

Phonics workshop for Early Years & Infant parents – 7pm

### FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER

Ladies meditation – 8.50am

School closes for half-term – 3.45pm



**CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW FOR MORE  
SCHOOL DATES**

<https://www.oakwoodschool.org.uk/events/>

## 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.

## FIRE SAFETY WEEK



As part of 'Fire Safety & Prevention Week' which begins on **Monday 8 October**, pupils will be learning how to keep safe in the home using a variety of resources. Please discuss with your child how you would get your family out of the house safely in the event of a fire!

## COFFEE MORNING FOR PARENTS

Our next coffee morning will be held on **Friday 12 October** from **8.30am** in the Art Room. All parents are welcome to come along.

## BOOK WEEK

A number of activities are planned for book week, so look out for the details that will be sent out by email or in the next newsletter. Volunteers are needed for the book sales after school. Please contact Mrs Clarke at [liz.clarke@oakwoodschool.org.uk](mailto:liz.clarke@oakwoodschool.org.uk) if you can help.

## PHONICS WORKSHOP – EARLY YEARS & KSI

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2 teachers will be hosting a Phonics workshop with our SENCO on **Thursday 18 October** at **7pm** for parents with children in those year groups. They will discuss how we develop and apply phonics from Nursery to Year 2 and how you can support with reading and writing at home.

## LADIES MEDITATION

Ladies meditation with Fr. George is at Oakwood is on **Friday 19 October** at **8.50am**. All mums, grannies and aunties are welcome come along.

## NEWS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PRESS COVERAGE

We would like to share our recent news and press coverage with you, as our PACT schools have been represented in the local papers and also on digital news channels. These can all be viewed on our website <http://www.oakwoodschool.org.uk/press-coverage/>. Our school news is shared via the school newsletters and also on the homepage of the website. We also share news through our Twitter and Facebook channels. If you 'Like' and 'Follow' these channels you will be able to keep updated as news is posted. Please note that these sites will not be used to communicate school information to parents. The usual parent communication channels will remain the same.

## PREP FOR JUNIORS

A reminder that, if you have a child in Years 3 – 6, they can attend Prep after school from Monday to Thursday. Please put their name down on the registration list that is located outside the Year 6 classroom. Registration should be made by 9am on the Friday for the following week.

## PUNCTUALITY CUP

Congratulations to **Year 2** who are the first winners of the punctuality cup this year. With a perfect score they have had no children registered late! Statistics below are based on 11 school days (5-19 September). Let's see if we can have at least one class with a perfect score every two weeks!

Reception – 10.77	Year 4 – 10.82
Year 1 – 10.94	Year 5 – 10.63
<b>Year 2 – 11.00</b>	Year 6 – 10.82
Year 3 – 10.71	

### **Top tips for getting your child to school on time:**

- Get to know your child's school timetable and work together so they have everything ready the night before eg uniform, books and PE kit
- Get your child into the habit of finishing their homework in the evening so as to avoid doing it in the morning at the breakfast table
- Make sure your child has a good bedtime routine so they get plenty of rest
- Invest in a good alarm clock – make setting it part of your child's bedtime routine
- Try to ensure your child has a good breakfast to set them up for the day
- Have a backup plan for getting your child to school in case something crops up – family or friends who are taking their children to school anyway
- Allow plenty of time for your journey

## THE LAURELS SCHOOL



The Laurels School in Clapham was delighted and proud to be featured in The Telegraph's article about the best independent schools in the UK, and was ranked as one of the best small independent schools in the country, based on their recent GCSE results. Mrs Linda Sanders, Headmistress said, "We are really delighted with this news, I would also like to mention one of our pupils who achieved an astonishing twelve 9s or A\* across the board. When we consider that the majority of the other listed schools are selective, we begin to see how significant that achievement is. Without doubt, these are the fruits of the unique education The Laurels provides: parents and school working closely together with openness and transparency in a culture based on virtue ethics and Christian values where each child is striving to be the best they can be."

## PACT SECONDARY SCHOOLS OPEN DAYS

The Laurels Open Day is on Saturday **13 October** between **10am-1pm**. The Cedars have an Open Day on Saturday **29 September** between **10am-12noon**.

## OAKWOOD BAND

The Oakwood band is still looking for a few more new members! We need at least 8 children in total, who can commit to practicing weekly, otherwise it is not be feasible to run. 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). 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](mailto:andy@ajmooremusic.com). If your child was a member of the band last year and would like to continue please let him know. Please include the following information in your email: Name, Year Group, Instrument and Grade.



*A few members of the Oakwood Band warming up for our Summer Concert July 2018*

## SPORTS

Please check the 'Save the Dates' column in the newsletter for any fixtures taking place this term. Letters will be sent home with children who have been selected to play in these matches, so please look out for these. Any parents who would like to go along and support their children are more than welcome.

For any enquiries relating to PE or sports contact Mr Kurti on [alberto.kurti@oakwoodschool.org.uk](mailto:alberto.kurti@oakwoodschool.org.uk).

## SPRING BULB COMPETITION by Mrs Easthope

Children from Reception to Year 6 have been invited to take part in the London Children's Flower Society Competition. Letters were sent home with children this week so please do not forget to return them if you would like enter. For the last few years we have received Gold & Silver Awards for the beautiful display of daffodils grown by the children each year. Our aim is to do the same this year.

## DIGITAL SAFETY

The latest edition of 'Digital Safety' is attached with this newsletter. It makes very interesting reading, this time focusing on Social Media. Previous versions can be found on our school website.



## EARLY YEARS NEWS

### Reception by Mrs Parker

The children have had a wonderful start to Reception and are now in the 'swing of things'. Our story last week was Funnybones and Mrs da Silva and the children put together some dark, dark houses in a dark, dark town for our class display.

We also have an autumn table which the children have been very enthusiastically contributing too. So far we've had seeds, berries, leaves and conkers. Do encourage them to keep bringing things in.



October is nearly upon us and all children are invited to bring in a set of Rosary beads for our daily Rosary. On Wednesday mornings we visit the Oratory, and Reception parents are invited to join us if they are free. Please do check with me or Mrs Symes first with regards to the times.

### Nursery by Mrs Lobo

The children have all settled into Nursery so well for the beginning of the year. We have already started and enjoying our topic 'all about me'. We have also been busy making fingerprint pictures and developing our letter sound knowledge and colour awareness.

### NURSERY AWARDS

Star

Andres Munoz-Garayoa-for settling so well in Nursery

Lunchtime

Christina Kennefick



## CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to Theo (Year 1) and Florence (Year 3) who were baptized at St John the Baptist Church last weekend. Children at the school starting a new faith journey in this way is very special and deserving of our prayers.

