

Newsletter



Issue 6

www.oakwoodschool.org.uk

30 November 2018

Dear Parents

Thank you for your support and good wishes during our recent inspection. We hope to receive the official report in January. As soon as we do so you will receive a full copy.

It's hard to believe, but this Sunday marks the beginning of the season of Advent. Given the pressure, at this time of year, on acquiring material things I thought it would be worthwhile reflecting briefly on how we might prepare for Christmas as a family, so that our efforts become more service orientated. After all, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, families have a unique opportunity to enjoy devotions and customs that will help them to truly embrace this special season.

Some practical ideas can be as simple as lighting a candle on an advent wreath and spending a few moments as a family in quiet prayer. Devotions might also include reciting the rosary or reading parts of the New Testament. For Catholics, Advent is also a time to participate in the sacrament of Penance. Most parishes offer a family Penance service during the season of Advent. Fr George is also available on Tuesdays and Fridays (before and after Mass) for anyone who would like to go to Confession. Many other wonderful traditions are prevalent during the season of Advent: the Advent Wreath and the Advent Calendar (which have been issued as a school) to name but a few.



Regardless of the manner in which we choose to observe Advent as a family, the important point is that our children see us making a real effort to prepare for Christmas. In this way advent will become a special time of growth and happiness for all.

Finally, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at all our Christmas events that take place over the next few weeks. More details about these can be found further on in this newsletter

Ciro Candia
Headmaster

A MESSAGE FROM PHIL LEONARD – Oakwood School Governor

As many of you will be aware, Oakwood, yet again, has been ranked in the Sunday Times Top 100 Preparatory Schools in the country.

This marks our 6th consecutive year in this table and I am tremendously proud with our consistency in maintaining high standards and outcomes.

I would like to congratulate Mr Candia, all of the staff and the children for this tremendous achievement.

PUNCTUALITY CUP

Well done to **Year 5** who had the perfect punctuality score and are the winners of the punctuality cup. Statistics below are based on 10 school days from the 15 November.

Reception – 9.50	Year 4 – 9.06
Year 1 – 9.60	Year 5 – 10
Year 2 – 9.89	Year 6 – 9.06
Year 3 – 9.64	



MERIT BADGE WINNERS FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS



Year 1 – Katherine Kennefick & Isabella Sadler
Year 2 – Nina Sivakumar &
Santiago Griffiths Vilarrubias
Year 3 – Olivia Bong & Sebastian Hashemi
Year 4 – Deen Hossain & Hélène Cérèze
Year 5 – Jacob Leonard & Monica Schofield
Year 6 – Carlos Torre & Tess Ciccardini

CONGRATULATIONS!

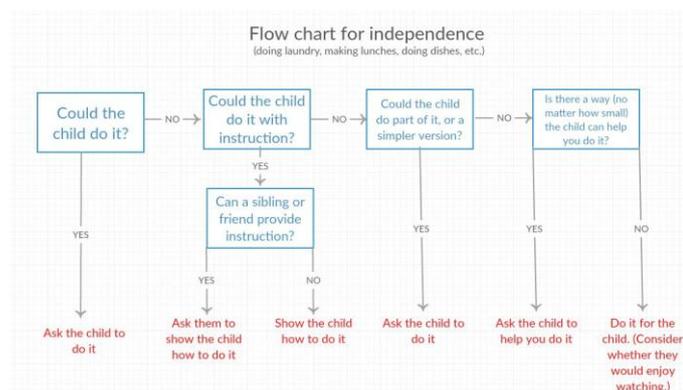
DEPUTY HEAD'S CORNER

An important part of our partnership with parents is in helping you to form your children's characters so that they grow into the fine young men and women that God means them to be. A big part of this is the school's character development programme. With its overarching half-termly virtue and the weekly targets, it is meant to support you at home in your task of developing these virtues in your children. With that in mind please do remember to note down the weekly targets so that you can give opportunities for your child to practise that virtue at home. I know some parents make charts so that their child can stamp on it when they have tried at that target. Other parents may have different ways of doing it but it is essential that these targets are lived at home if the child is going to develop the virtue.

The targets for 'Courtesy' have often needed input from you as they are things that can mainly be seen at home i.e. 'I know how to behave towards my parents'. With these we often ask for emails to class teachers to let us know if your child has been particularly good at that target. Sadly, whilst we get more emails in the infants in the juniors, most weeks, we have received none. I know that you are all busy but it really does encourage the children to have their efforts recognised. Although there are not many opportunities in the coming months to send emails regarding the targets, I would urge you to take these when they come and to make the weekly target something living in your home. A virtue is only acquired when a person is given many opportunities to practise it.

Independence

One of the key qualities that we want children to have is independence and I came across this flow chart which is very useful when thinking about what our children should be given responsibility for. It was developed by Daniel Willingham a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia. It is so easy as a parent to fall into the trap of doing everything for the child because it's quicker! Hopefully, this chart will prove useful in helping us to make our children more independent.



Mrs Ellen Teague - Deputy Head (Ethos)

SAVE THE DATES

MONDAY 3 DECEMBER

U9 netball vs Seaton House (away) – 2pm

Croydon League U11 netball vs Kenley Primary (at OW) – 3.30pm

TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER

****Last 11 + Club****

THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER

Year 3 & 4 trip to Gatton Park

Year 6 Speech & Drama pupils trip to the Unicorn Theatre

Early Years Nativity (Nursery & Reception) – 9am

****Last Prep****

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

NHS Flu vaccinations for registered children in Reception – Year 5

Christmas Fair (3-5pm)

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER

Early Years & Infant Christmas Party

U11 netball vs St Aidans (at OW) – 3.30pm

TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER

Reception trip to Godstone Farm

Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols for Juniors at St John the Baptist Church, Purley – 7pm

WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER

Last swimming lesson for Years 1 & 2

Junior Christmas lunch – 12.30pm

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER

Infant Nativity (Year 1 & 2) – 9am

FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER

Mass – 9am (please note earlier time)

Project Presentation Day

School closes – 3.45pm

**Christmas holidays
from Monday 17 December 2018**

SPRING TERM 2019

MONDAY 7 JANUARY

INSET day for staff only

TUESDAY 8 JANUARY

School opens for the Spring term – 8.30am



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Early Years Nativity - Thursday 6 December at 9am. Children in Nursery and Reception should arrive promptly at 8.30am and parents are invited to have refreshments in the hall before the performance.

Nursery children who don't normally attend on a Wednesday or Thursday morning session should come in at 8.30am on Wednesday 5 December for the dress rehearsal and Thursday 6 December for the performance. These children should be taken home at the end of each production.

Infant Nativity - Thursday 13 December at 9am. Children in Years 1 & 2 should arrive promptly at 8.30am and parents are invited to have refreshments in the hall before the performance.

In the last few years demand for DVD recordings of both these Nativities has been very low, but we do recognise that some of you look forward to purchasing these to give to friends and family etc. This year we have organised a more in-house approach to the recording and have arranged for Mr Kobus (one of our parents) to make the DVD. Stuart Absolon, our usual photographer, will take professional photographs. Both recordings and photographs will be taken at the dress rehearsals.

The photographs taken at the dress rehearsals will be on display at each performance and can be purchased directly through Stuart. The DVD for the Nativities will be available for parents to order at £5 each (to cover costs of materials and production). Order forms will be sent home with the children shortly as well as being available at the performance. Please hand your completed form into the school office but do not include any money as the amount will be added to your school bill. Orders for the Early Years Nativity must be handed in to the school office by 9am on Monday 10 December to guarantee arrival before break-up day. We are unable to supply the Infant DVD until after Christmas but please place your order by the end of day on Friday 14 December. All DVDs will be delivered to school. We would ask parents **not** to take their own photographs or make video recordings using any device. Not only does it affect professionals agreeing to film or photograph in school but it also is a big distraction for the children whilst performing. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols - Tuesday 11 December at 7pm.

As part of our Christmas celebrations, the Junior children (Years 3 - 6) will be performing in the 'Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols'. This service will take place at St John the Baptist Church, Dale Road, Purley. By holding it at our local parish church we can accommodate the whole school community so all parents and grandparents are welcome. However we advise that younger siblings do not attend as it is a fairly solemn

CHRISTMAS EVENTS cont:

evening and it finishes late for a school night. All Junior children should be in their places at church no later than 6.50pm, wearing their school uniform. More information has been emailed today.

Christmas Shopping Fair - Friday December 7 from 3 to 5pm

All families are invited to attend our Christmas Shopping Fair. There will be all sorts of Christmassy things going on as well as stalls and raffles. This a fundraising event and all proceeds will go towards the Christmas party & lunch for the children as well as new playground items.

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party - Monday 10 December

Children will have their lunch as normal on this day, and the Party will begin at 1.45pm. They will be given a small snack as well as a treat from the sack of a special visitor! The entertainment for the afternoon will be provided by Love Theatre Arts. Children who do not normally attend Nursery on a Monday are invited to come in at 1.30pm to join the party. They should be collected at 3.45pm for normal end of day collection time.

The Early Years & Infant children (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2) are allowed to come to school wearing their own 'party' clothes. However, as they will be going outdoors at playtime they do need to wear their school coat and school shoes.

Junior (Years 3-6) Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 12 December

No lunch is required on this day for Junior children (however please provide a morning snack for them). If, for whatever reason, your child will not be having the Christmas lunch please inform the school office as soon as possible. LunchMunch4Kidz are aware that no hot lunches are required for Junior children on this day.

Although the Junior children should wear their full school uniform, they are allowed to wear a Christmas item that they can put on for the lunch. This can be a 'Jolly' Christmas jumper that can easily be put on over their uniform, hats and hair accessories. No jewellery or make up please.

An amount of £5 per child (Nursery – Year 6) will be added to parents' bills for the lunch or party. The cost for these events will be subsidised by monies raised through the Christmas Fair and second hand uniform sales.

In return for the privilege of wearing their own clothes or Christmas item, all children are asked to bring in £1 each (on the day). This will be donated to The Passage. Their aim is to provide homeless people support to transform their own lives.

SCHOOL TRIPS AND VISITORS

For those parents whose children normally have hot lunches provided by LunchMunch4Kidz, please remember to inform them if your child has a trip and no lunch is needed on a particular day.

Year 3 & 4 will be visiting Gatton Park on **Thursday 6 December** as part of geography, maths and science.

Mrs Lloyd will be taking her Year 6 Speech & Drama pupils to the Unicorn Theatre on **Thursday 6 December**. They will watch a production of 'Grimm's Fairy Tales'.

On **Tuesday 11 December** the children in Reception will be visiting Godstone Farm where they will meet a special person!

PROJECT DAY by Mr Murphy

Well done to all of the children who have signed up for projects. Children can speak to me on Mondays at lunch time or on Thursdays before morning registration with any questions or would like to simply share the exciting/challenging things that they are doing.

Remember that projects are open to children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 and can be based on any subject (Maths, English, PE etc.) or a topic within that subject. The projects are an independent endeavour and not to be completed with a partner or group. Parental support and guidance is okay. There will be a project exhibition on **Friday 14 December** at **9am**. Good luck!

ARTIST OF THE MONTH by Mrs Easthope

Thank you to all those children who have been submitting their 'Artist of the Month' entries this term. Well done to all those awarded with the title! The theme for December is to use collage to make a Christmas tree. Please remember to hand in your 'Artist of the Month' to me directly.



CHRISTMAS POST BOX

From Monday our famous red post box will be in the school lobby where children are more than welcome to post Christmas cards marked for friends, their teachers or other members of staff. Please can we ask that children do not post gifts or sweet treats in the box. No stamp is required and the last date for posting is Thursday 13 December!

DIGITAL PARENTING

The latest edition of the Digital Parenting brochure published by Vodafone will be sent home with the children next week. There are usually very interesting articles within the brochure so we would encourage parents to read this.

CHARACTER STARS

*Targets – I know how to behave when I'm given a lift
I know how to behave when I'm a guest*

Year 1 – Isabella Gyimah & Ralph Taylor
Year 2 – Christopher Atkinson & Eliana Butron
Year 3 – Francesca Baladasan & Sofia Slon
Year 4 – Shivani Anpalakan & Francesca Schofield
Year 5 – Louise Mawer & Piotr Todryk
Year 6 – Olohirere Eboime & Lucia Nucette Fabelo



WELL DONE!

CLUBS FOR THE LAST 2 WEEKS OF TERM

Whilst some clubs will run during the last week of term, a few will finish before then. Please note the following:

Early Birds & After School Club - Will continue to run up until the end of term **Friday 14 December**.

11+ Club - Will finish next week on **Tuesday 4 December**. Mr Murphy will email information to parents in Year 4 & 5 regarding arrangements for the Spring term. Year 6 children can no longer attend the 11+ club but they can sign up for Prep if required.

Prep - Will finish on **Thursday 6 December**. For any parents wishing to make use of the After School Club please see Mrs Clarke in the school office. Please note there is a cost of £7.25 per session.

Love Theatre Arts – Will finish on **Thursday 13 December**. Please find attached a booking form for the Spring term should you wish your child to continue (or join).

Art Club – Will finish on **Monday 10 December**

Football & multi sports - Will finish **week ending 14 December**

GRANDPARENTS TEA by Mrs Teague

Last Thursday afternoon, we welcomed the grandparents of Oakwood to the annual tea in their honour. We had a good turn out and the parents provided some truly delicious cakes. Before they indulged in tea and cake the grandparents were entertained by Reception and Year 6. The Reception children delighted us with two songs and accompanying actions which were very professionally carried off, whilst the Year 6 children took the Remembrance Day anniversary as their theme and added a talent show at the end. The grandparents seemed to really enjoy themselves as did the children who gave out cakes and chatted to the visitors. A good time was had by all.

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

by Marin, Stella & Jacob (Year 5 JTA's)

We have settled into our new role well and got off to a great start. So far we have covered Road Safety Week by giving a talk at the assemblies this week. We talked about crossing the road using a few safety tips, we did a short role play and answered questions from some of the other children. We are so happy to be given this opportunity of the role of a JTA. Please look out for competitions and other events that we plan for next year.

SPORTS

After a few Croydon League matches being cancelled due to bad weather, the girls finally got to play on Monday afternoon this week. Well done to Imani Frimpong who was awarded Player of the Match for her defense. There are a few netball matches arranged for the last few weeks of the term so please look out for letters sent home with children who have been selected to play. Parents are more than welcome to come along and support the girls.

Well done to the U9 boys who, on Monday, won their football match 7-4 against Warlingham Park. Player of the Match was awarded to Henry Tredger. Well done!

The boys played football against Collingwood on Wednesday which resulted in a loss for both teams. Player of the Match was awarded to Isaac Williams and Samuel Munoz-Garayoa in their respective teams.

If you have any queries regarding PE or Sports, please email Mr Kurti at alberto.kurti@oakwoodschool.org.uk.

MR KURTI'S HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

Mr Kurti will be running a sports camp at Oakwood for the first three days of the Christmas holiday (Monday 17 – Wednesday 19 December). If you would like to book a place for your child please find the booking form attached with this newsletter. For more information about the camp please contact Mr Kurti directly using the contact details on the form.

SEVERE WEATHER

Please ensure that you are aware of our Severe Weather protocol which is on the school website (www.oakwoodschool.org.uk) under the 'Parents area'.



KNIGHTS GARDEN CENTRE

Our thanks to Knights Garden Centre for supplying our Christmas tree this year which will stand, fully decorated, in our school lobby. They have a number of events over the Christmas period at the Chelsham & Woldingham store including a Santa's grotto; there is also a 10% discount voucher for real Christmas trees! Please collect this from the school office (first come first served!).

EARLY YEARS NEWS

Reception by Mrs Parker

Well done to the children who performed their songs at the annual Grandparents Tea. Despite being two children down, they sang with a smile on their faces and with gusto. It was their biggest audience to date. Mrs Symes and I have been so proud of them during our Nativity rehearsals. The journey started with shy, barely audible lines being delivered and now those same lines are being acted out and accompanied by wonderful singing and dancing. I'm sure they'll do you proud next week.

Nursery by Mrs Lobo

We have been busy practicing for our Nativity! The children have also been making handprint calendars, Christmas cards and Christmas decorations. We have been discussing Advent and the birth of Jesus on Christmas day.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our Nativity next week!

EARLY YEARS AWARDS



Star Reception

Olivia Mouskis - for being a kind friend in the playground area

Sofia Griffiths Vilarrubias - for saying her line so well in the Nativity rehearsals

Nursery

Zachary Dalumo & Abraham Gyimah - for being more independent

Nursery Lunchtime

Manish Manivannan & Philippa Tredger

Well done!

SCHOOL OFFICE HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

During the Christmas holidays, Mrs Clarke will be in school from Monday 17 December – Wednesday 19 December and will return on Wednesday 3 January. If you have any enquiries during this time please contact us by phone or email. Should the phone go to voicemail, leave a short message and we will return your call as soon as we can.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST NATIVITY

St John the Baptist Church, Dale Road, Purley are looking for children to take part in their Children's Christmas Eve Mass that takes place on the **24 December at 5pm**. If you would like your child (school age) to take part please find the attached details giving more information.