

Newsletter



Issue 10

www.oakwoodschool.org.uk

8 March 2019

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Dear Parents

Welcome back from the half-term break.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the winners of the Verse Speaking Competition which took place just before the holiday. Aside from the competition itself, the Junior classes recited their own choral poems with amazing confidence and professionalism. The overall standard was exceptionally high, so well done to everyone involved. The individual class winners were: Year 3 (Amelia Toop), Year 4 (Frederick Balcombe), Year 5 (Jaime Millan) and Year 6 (Ayla Fada). The overall winner was Ayla. Special congratulations to her as her name will be engraved on the Poetry Cup.

Next Wednesday the season of Lent begins. The children will mark this important season with Years 1 - 6 attending Mass and receiving ashes at St John the Baptist on **Ash Wednesday, 6 March at 10am**.

As you know, the Church sets out three penitential practices during this season, that are at the heart of the biblical and Christian tradition – prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

In relation to prayer, often the pressures of materialism, a sense of self-sufficiency and an over attachment to technology can make it difficult for our young people to foster an interior life. Encouraging children to say their morning and evening prayers is an excellent way of building up that spiritual life.

The children will be participating in various sporting activities for their sponsored challenge this year. Sponsor forms were sent home just before the half-term holiday so please ask the children to try and get as many sponsors as they can. During the season of Lent it is customary to raise money for good causes. So, in terms of Almsgiving the charity we are raising money for is called The Lily Pad Appeal. This is a charity which falls under the umbrella of The Chartwell Cancer Trust. The appeal is to raise money for a new integrated paediatric ward in Croydon University Hospital which will care for children (and their families) who are dealing with cancer. It would be wonderful for Oakwood children to be of service to the community and support the invaluable work of this trust by raising as much money as possible.

Then there is fasting, which is so often understood as merely giving things up. However in tutorials and class lessons we will be encouraging pupils to think of fasting in terms of little sacrifices that can be offered for others. Ultimately, the aim of prayer, almsgiving and fasting is to become a little less attached to 'things' in order to grow spiritually.

Finally, I will be having my usual 'Coffee with The Head' on **Thursday 7 March at 8.50am** so please join me for an informal chat about school life. I look forward to catching up with some of you then.

Ciro Candia
Headmaster

CAPS AND BERETS

There are a number of children who are not wearing their cap/beret to and from school. Please be reminded that this is part of the regulatory school uniform and these items must be worn from Year 1 upwards.

SPRING TERM PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

A reminder that the Parents Evening Booking System (PEBS) is still open for parents to make their appointments for this term's Parent/Teacher & Tutor meetings. There are still a number of parents who have not booked their slots. Please refer to the email from Mrs Clarke for full details and instructions on how to use the system. Free childminding will be available on Wed 12 March and Tues 19 March (but NOT Tues 26 March). Please note that the **booking system closes on Friday 8 March at 9am**.

MERIT BADGE WINNERS FOR WEEK ENDING 8 FEBRUARY



Year 1 - Ishaan Aparajith
Year 2 – Santiago Thompson
Year 3 – Ptolemy Danielson
Year 4 – Aidan Tsang
Year 5 – Ashley Bissoondoyal
Year 6 – Amelia Schofield

CONGRATULATIONS!

SAVE THE DATES

SATURDAY 2 MARCH

Open Day 10am – 1pm

MONDAY 4 MARCH

World Book Day

TUESDAY 5 MARCH

Spring bulb competition judging

Croydon netball tournament (preliminary round) at Royal Russell – 1.15pm

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

Ash Wednesday (10am Mass at St John the Baptist, Purley for Years 1-6)

Sponsored event activities start

THURSDAY 7 MARCH

Coffee with the Head – 8.50am

Year 6 re-scheduled TfL talk – 9am

FRIDAY 8 MARCH

U9 netball tournament at Royal Russell (1-3.30pm)

Lenten charity cake sale – 3.45pm

MONDAY 11 MARCH

DT cooking week

U11 gymnastic tournament at Seaton House – 4pm (selected pupils)

TUESDAY 12 MARCH

Talk & Tour Day (9-10am)

St John's Leatherhead Choral Evensong (Year 5 & 6)

**** NO 11+ ****

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

U11 girls football vs St Davids – 3.15pm

Parent/Teacher meetings - All teachers, some tutors & Mrs Rhodes for SENCO reviews (4.15-8pm)

**** NO PREP ****

THURSDAY 14 MARCH

Year 4 – 6 Digital Resilience Session

FRIDAY 15 MARCH

Year 1 class assembly – 3.10pm

TUESDAY 19 MARCH

Parent/Teacher meetings - All teachers & tutors (4.15-8pm) **** NO PREP OR 11+ ****

THURSDAY 21 MARCH

Year 5 & 6 trip to Dulwich Picture Gallery



SAVE THE DATES CONT:

FRIDAY 22 MARCH

Ladies meditation – 8.50am

Croydon netball tournament (finals) at Croydon High (4-6pm)

TUESDAY 26 MARCH

Tutor meetings – Mr Woolmer & Miss Blanco only (4-7.30pm)

FRIDAY 29 MARCH

Croydon League netball finals at Croydon High (from 4pm)

TUESDAY 2 APRIL

Lower Junior matinee production – 1.45pm

WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL

Lower Junior production – 7pm

THURSDAY 4 APRIL

Easter Bonnet competition (TBC)

FRIDAY 5 APRIL

School closes for the Easter holidays – 3.45pm

Easter Holidays

Monday 8 – Tuesday 23 April inc.

OPEN DAYS

Our Open Day is tomorrow, **Saturday 2 March between 10am -1pm**. There will also be a Talk & Tour Day on **Tuesday 12 March at 9am**. A reminder that if any of your relatives or friends are looking for school places then please do encourage them to contact us to come and have a look at the school. The Year 6 school captains & ambassadors will be invited to attend so that they can help to show prospective parents around.

30 HOUR NURSERY FUNDING

From **September 2019** we will be accepting the government extended 15 hours to those parents (if eligible) taking up a full time Nursery place. Please see the attached letter from PACT finance together with FAQs relating to this.

NEW INFORMATION SYSTEM - iSAMS

As you may be aware, like other schools, we use a management information system (MIS) to feed vital information to teachers and parents. We have been busy behind the scenes implementing a new system (iSAMS) which goes 'live' next week. There will be a few changes to the format in which you view our email communications, but other than this there is unlikely to be any impact for parents and pupils. Eventually there will be an enhancement for parents through an online 'Parent Portal' but more detailed information will be sent when this has been finalised.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Fortitude is inner strength. It helps us to:

- bear unpleasant / uncomfortable situations without complaint
- keep going when something is difficult
- face our fears
- wait, patiently

In short, it is key to succeeding in many areas of life including learning and relationships. At our inspection in November 2016 the ISI Inspectors noted:

“Pupils are extremely positive in their attitudes to learning. They apply teaching about perseverance, resilience and personal responsibility to their work.”

Today’s children often grow up in very comfortable circumstances and "discomfort" may be virtually unknown to them. Consequently, when situations are not to their liking they complain - or simply opt out. Sometimes parents try to shield their children from disappointment - consequently, when it comes, the child is unprepared and crumbles.

Our lesson topics and targets for Fortitude are:

w/c	
04 Mar	Introduction, definition, importance Target: I don't give up when something is hard.
11 Mar	Staying cheerful when I can't have what I want or things go wrong or I'm uncomfortable; dealing with disappointment. Target: I manage to stay cheerful when things go wrong.
18 Mar	Doing the right thing, not what's easiest: peer pressure Target: I try to do the <u>right</u> thing - even if I'm the only one.
25 Mar	Tolerance & patience with myself and others; making use of mistakes. Target: Mistakes don't make <u>me</u> give up!

As always, the depth of learning and extent to which habits are formed will be determined not only by the quality of the lessons, but by the on-going reinforcement throughout the school day and, more importantly – at home.

The following are a few ideas for helping your children to develop this important virtue:

- Promote perseverance by encouraging your child to push through their discomfort. Adopt a family motto such as, “We are not quitters!”
- Create space and time in your family for working with difficult new skills and insist on regular practice. Children will need your diligent direction to help them follow through.
- Help your children see the big picture, the rewards that may be very far down the road and difficult for them to see. Give them the vision of what success will look like.
- Discourage fussiness

Jean Gardner – Director of Ethos

SCHOOL TRIPS & VISITORS

A representative from Transport for London (TfL) will be visiting the Year 6 children on **Thursday 7 March** to talk about staying safe on the roads and being responsible when using public transport. This is particularly to help them prepare for their transfer to secondary school in September.

On **Tuesday 12 March** Year 5 & 6 children will be taking part in the St John’s Choral Evensong. A letter was sent home earlier this week to parents regarding this event. Please remember to return the reply form to the school office by Wednesday 6 March.

On **Thursday 14 March** Years 4 – 6 will be taking part in a Digital Resilience Session. These interactive workshops will help pupils to develop the skills they need to challenge what they see online, identify reliable and unreliable sources of information and know what to do if they need help.

On **Thursday 21 March** Year 5 & 6 will be visiting the Dulwich Picture Gallery. This visit forms part of their art topic ‘Identity’ where they will look at work by George Bellows.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on **Monday 4 March** through a variety of activities, as outlined in Mrs Clarke’s email.

SPRING BULBS by Mrs Easthope

For those children who bought a daffodil bulb and are participating in this competition, please bring your bulbs in for the morning of judging day which is on **Tuesday 5 March**. Please take them directly to the Art Room.

LENTEN CHARITY CAKE SALE

On **Friday 8 March, at 3.45pm**, we will be holding a Cake Sale in the lower playground. Please support us by bringing cakes or cookies into school on Thursday 7 March or the morning of 8 March. All money raised will go towards this year’s Lenten charity, The Chartwell Cancer Trust for The Lily Pad Appeal.

OAKWOOD SCHOOL CAN COOK

by Mrs Easthope

As part of this term’s DT topic, the children from Nursery - Year 6 will take part in cooking lessons run during their Art timetable in the week beginning Monday 11 March. This will provide an opportunity to develop children’s understanding of the skills in working with food through a range of activities. The children will make a variety of dishes including fruit salad (Nursery) and bread & soup (Year 6). There will also be a selection of cakes, biscuits, pasta and rice dishes.

There will be a small charge between £4 & £6 (added to your bill) towards the food cost. The children may be asked to bring a plastic food container to take their food home, so please ensure you have one spare they can bring to school. All dietary requirements will be taken into consideration.

CLASS ASSEMBLY

The Year 1 class assembly takes place on **Friday 15 March** at **3.10pm**. All parents are welcome to attend.

LADIES MEDITATION

The next meditation with Fr George will be held on **Friday 22 March** at **8.50am**. The topic for this meditation will be 'Lent'. All mums, aunties & grannies are welcome.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH by Mrs Easthope

All children from Reception to Year 6 are invited to participate in the 'Artist of the Month' award with some of the artwork displayed around the school. The theme for March is to paint a picture of a cactus in the desert. All work should be handed directly to me.



SPORTS NEWS by Mr Kurti

Just before the half-term the netball teams secured a win against St Aidan's in the Croydon League table. Congratulations to Caroline Kennefick & Marin Singh who were awarded Player of the Match. The teams also played against Kenley Primary on Wednesday this week. Both teams won with Player of the Match being awarded to Fatima Martinez-Echevarria and Louise Mawer. Well done to all involved!

Please refer to the 'Save the Dates' section for all the forthcoming sports fixtures. A letter or email will be sent home with those children who have been selected to play in these matches. Please ensure that you read these so that you have all the necessary information regarding times, venue and PE kit requirements. If you have any queries please contact me directly on alberto.kurti@oakwoodschool.org.uk.

WARLINGHAM CROSS COUNTRY by Tess Ciccardini (Year 6)

On the hottest 25th of February ever recorded, Warlingham Park School hosted a well organised inter-school cross-country in which the best runners from 18 schools competed. The U9's were first to run. Samuel, Ayaan, Deen, Freddie, Francesca and Zoé ran like antelopes to represent Oakwood really well. Their team came 3rd out of 18 school teams so well done to them. The U11s split between girls and boys - Max, Cyprien, Piotr, Jaime, George, Carlos, Zachary, Louise, Stella, Caroline, Blake, Monica, Tariq, Saira, Yasmine, Ayla and myself fought like lions to make it to the finish line quickly.

I interviewed runner Zoé after the event and these were her words:

'The race was fun, enjoyable and my favourite part was the treats offered at the end, hot dogs, vegetarian hot dogs, hot chocolate and fruit juice'

Asked if she would run again

'I hope so! I advise all my friends to take part in the event, we have so much fun in the minibus, on the field, cheering on our friends'

LOWER JUNIOR PRODUCTION

The Year 3 & 4 production of 'Jonah - A Fishy Tail' will be performed on **Tuesday 2 April** at **1.45pm** and **Wednesday 3 April** at **7pm**. More details to follow but please put these in dates in your diary.

SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP

Years 4-6 had the most amazing day taking part in Fiona Penny's Shakespeare Workshop yesterday based on the A Midsummer Night's Dream. They entered into it with great enthusiasm and it was wonderful to see all the children engaged and sharing their ideas. Another challenging and enriching day enjoyed by all!



PUNCTUALITY STATISTICS

We will be resuming our statistics for the Punctuality Cup in our next newsletter. As you know Mr Candia monitors lateness and we would like to remind parents that registers are taken by 8.50am. It is advised that children arrive at least 10 minutes prior to registration to give plenty of time to put coats and bags away. Your support is greatly appreciated and it would be wonderful to see at least one class with a 100% perfect punctuality score this half-term.

SCREENAGERS

Our sister school, Oliver House, have arranged a screening of "Screenagers - Growing up in the digital age" to assist parents in educating their children to find strategies to navigate social media and use technology safely. The screening will take place at SFX College (entrance through Oliver House School prep building) in Clapham on **Thursday 2 May 2019**, at 7.30pm. All parents are welcome to this free event. Please RSVP if you are able to attend in order for them to have an idea of numbers for seating and for serving refreshments afterwards. Please see the flyer attached if you are interested in attending and to RSVP.

CHARACTER STARS FOR WEEK ENDING 8 FEBRUARY

Targets:

I try to look neat and tidy



Year 1 – Katherine Kennefick

Year 2 – James Thomas

Year 3 – Olivia Bong

Year 4 – Naomi Sauerborn

Year 5 – Marin Singh

Year 6 – Tess Ciccardini

CONGRATULATIONS CHILDREN

EARLY YEARS NEWS

Reception by Mrs Parker

Reception have been focusing on the story of 'Room on the Broom' over the last couple of weeks and it has been supporting a variety of literacy tasks from handwriting to rhyming. We have put together a colourful display in class which the children are very proud of.

This term's topic is food and as well as discussing likes and dislikes we'll be looking at food groups and having a blind taste test!



Nursery by Mrs Lobo

In the Nursery we have been busy learning about nursery rhymes. The children have enjoyed singing and learning new actions to the rhymes. We have been making woolly sheep, playing listen games, developing our letter formation, number matching and shape sorting skills.



EARLY YEARS AWARDS WEEK ENDING 15 FEBRUARY



Reception:

Rebecca Garcia for thinking hard during her tasks

Nursery:

Star

Mia Nadimi for her tidiness

Playtime

Maya Okamoto

WELL DONE CHILDREN!

CHINESE NEW YEAR PERFORMANCE

