



Oakwood Junior School March 2010

e-mail: admin@oakwoodj.derby.sch.uk

Tel: 01332 571231

Website: www.oakwoodjuniorschool.co.uk

Fax: 01332 571163



Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm always pleased when February finishes and March arrives. The lighter mornings and evenings are welcome and hopefully the worst of the weather is behind us. The bulbs in the allotment areas are coming through and the frogs in the wild life pond are fat with spawn, so spring is certainly just around the corner. A quick baby update - Mrs Cival has had a baby girl who she's called Caitlin and Miss Winslow gave birth to a little boy called Rory. They are all doing fine.

This week the children have been doing their assessments and the results of these will be discussed with you on our parent's evening (another letter will be sent to you shortly, with times and organisation etc), so it's a busy time for the teachers and the children.



The children have really enjoyed their history topic from last half term and they will be starting their environment project. We have also started our new handwriting scheme throughout school which is certainly having a real impact on the children's presentation. We have further information on our website and we'll be having a workshop session on Tuesday 23rd March from 2.00 till 3.00 when you'll be warmly invited to join your child in class and see for yourself the work we're doing. As part of this initiative we'll also be holding a handwriting competition in school to encourage the children further

Gardening & Allotment update



We are currently taking part in two competitions. We have been shortlisted as one of about a hundred schools across England to take part in a vegetable growing initiative and if we are successful we'll be represented at the Chelsea Flower Show. We've been supplied with a crate, compost and some celery seeds. Celery has got to be one of the most difficult vegetable to grow - but we've started the seeding off and we're keeping our fingers crossed. If you have any secret tips about successful growing celery I'd be pleased if you could get in touch!

Mr Hill has also entered us in a potato growing competition - the potatoes are being encouraged to shoot as I'm writing. Someone was saying that chicken poo could be our secret weapon but I'm not so sure!

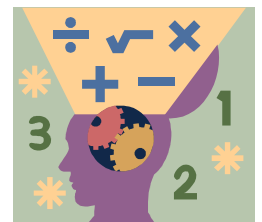
In the wild life garden the eco troopers have been building an insect mansion - so now you know what the pile of old pallets with random tiles, straw and plant pots. Insects round here are very lucky!

Give us your views

We have sent out questionnaires to year 3 and year 6 parents in a genuine attempt to get your views about how we do things in school and ways in which we can get even better. I'm hoping we'll get a good response. Once I've collected all the results I will be asking for feedback/ideas from the Parents forum group. I'll be in touch with a date and time towards Easter.

Maths Homework

One of our priorities this year has focussed on improving further standards in numeracy. We've run workshops for parents and we now want to focus on the homework. All children will be sent work to be done at home every Wednesday and teachers will expect this to be handed back in on the following Monday, as the children will be going through this work with their teachers during the lesson. The work that will be set will suit your child's ability and children who consistently hand in their homework on time will be awarded lottery tickets, however, if the work arrives in late or is incomplete for 3 consecutive weeks then we'll be getting in touch. We would like you to let us know how your child found the task so either get in touch with your child's teacher or write us a quick note.



News in brief

- Just to let you know we're collecting Sainsbury's vouchers and Flora tokens. Any contributions gratefully received.



- We are taking part in a cycle race, which is a nationwide competition organised in school by our Cycle Crew. The purpose is to encourage the children to cycle to school and the cycle crew calculate how many miles we've travelled.

- Clubs this half term include:

Club	When	Responsible
Cookery	Thursdays	Mrs Warcup
Art	Tuesday & Thursday	Mrs McDonnell
Craft	Wednesday	Mr Hill

- The dance group who have practised their routines in the dance clubs performed at the Assembly Rooms just after $\frac{1}{2}$ term. They did us all proud - their performances were well received and they were true ambassadors for our school. I feel very proud of their achievements.
- We've recently spent a large amount of money improving the number and variety of books in our library. Children are encouraged to borrow these and to take the books home on a regular basis. With our very efficient library system we are aware that a number of these have not been returned. If book are not returned after a length of time we will be getting in touch and asking for a contribution towards a replacement.

Dates this term

Week Beginning March 1 st	Assessment week Parent's questionnaire to go out to year 3 and year 6 parents
03.03.10	Numeracy homework given out and then every following Wednesday
05.03.10	Lower school assembly.
08.03.10	Children's well being week
10.03.10	Drop in session with Elaine our school nurse at 8.30 onwards at the Children's centre.
11.03.10	Fruit & Juice morning
12.03.10	Miss Dean's Class Assembly Closing date for parent questionnaire.
15.03.10	Inset Day. School closed for children.
23.03.10	Open afternoon workshop for parents 2.00 till 3.00.
24.03.10	School nurse drop in 3.00 onwards at the Children's Centre Miss Hudson's Class Assembly
30.03.10	Parent's Evening 3.30 till 6.00 Appointment system
31.03.10	Parent's Evening 3.30 till 6.00 Appointment system
01.04.10	Break up
19.04.10	Return
21.04.10	School Photographs



Please remember that year 6 SAT's begin Monday 10th May for the entire week. It is vital that your child is in school for this week so please avoid booking appointments any time during this week. Thank you

Yours sincerely

Nancy Elks
Head Teacher