



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Eco-Schools
Award 2007



Oakwood Junior School November 2008

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Dear Parent/Carers

Before the mad rush of Christmas starts I thought it would be a good opportunity for some catch up. One of my first jobs after half term is to order our Christmas tree from the local garden centre so that it can be delivered at the beginning of December. That's always a reminder that Christmas is just around the corner, but the speed at which it arrives always comes as a surprise! The first half term of our school year was particularly busy but it was very rewarding in many ways.

Parent's Evening

The parent's evening in October was particularly well supported and the feedback we had from you was very positive. I was especially pleased to have the Secondary Schools (Noel Baker and Merrill College) represented and the librarian from Alvaston had a number of parents interested in enrolling their child. All in all it was a useful and informative evening. I enjoyed talking to a number of you. Working closely with you is at the heart of what we do and is the key to your child becoming a successful learner. Just to remind you that we will be having a formal parents' evening in the Spring Term with an individual appointment time with your child's teacher as I know parents value this time. If there are any issues in the meantime, that you are concerned about, please get in touch.

Fund raising

We raised £1200 from our sponsored walk which was a magnificent effort by everyone - so a huge thank you for your support. The money will go towards buying some new books for our library to encourage reading for pleasure and to help children research topics that they will be covering in class. We've bought an ICT based librarian programme that will help us to record the books we have. It's been a huge task trying to catalogue all the existing books we have in school, once this has been done we need to then introduce the thumb scanning system so that we can keep track of all the books that are borrowed by the children. This is an easy system to set up and run and avoids all the complications of a card system. Once this is in place we'll be up and running and look forward to a number of different projects we have in mind for both children and parents - so watch this space! If you have any spare time and you would like to either help in the library or help with readers your help would be really appreciated. Do get in touch with me if you are interested.



Clubs

A wide range of clubs have been offered this half term ranging from gardening and Tae Kwondo to cheerleading and High School Musical. Because of the dark nights some clubs will stop until the Spring Term.

We are hoping to start a drumming club just for adults after Christmas. We will be offering a taster session on December 9th at 2.30 > 3.20pm. Places will be limited, so if you are interested fill in the slip at the end of the newsletter or pop into the office and let Pearl know. Our workshop sessions in the past have been really popular - so if you've never tried drumming, do come along.



Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly just before half term celebrated the talents the children have related to the arts. We found out about the clubs and organisations they attended out of school, these included dance, drama and art. It was a really good opportunity to give recognition to the many and varied activities that children do that we might not necessarily be aware of. We will be having a follow up to this in the Spring Term with a focus on sport. So, if your child excels in an activity out of school that you are particularly proud of, do let your child's class teacher know.

Behaviour Policy

We have recently updated our behaviour policy and I thought you might be interested in having a copy. The policy is based on children understanding the importance of making 'right choices' and knowing that if they make wrong choices that there are clear, consistent consequences, one of which will be contacting you. I am proud of the high standards of behaviour of nearly all the children in our school, but we also recognise that some children will need more help and support with behaviour so that it doesn't present a barrier to them becoming successful learners. If you have any queries related to our policy, do get in touch.



Welly appeal

The weather may be wet, the ground may be muddy but our enthusiastic band of gardeners and chicken bosses work in all weathers. However muddiness is starting to be a bit of a problem, so if you have any wellies at home that your child has grown out of could you recycle them our way please. We can keep them handy in the garden shed, then our carpets in school will be cleaner and you won't have to moan about the state of your child's muddy shoes! Thank you.

Just a couple of quick reminders.

- The school nurse has two drop in sessions booked at the Children's Centre on 19th November at 8.30 and 3rd December at 2.30pm. This is your opportunity to have an informal chat about any health concerns you may have about your child.
- I've had to change the school closure day that was planned for the 6th March to the 16th March instead. I'm really sorry to have to do this but the circumstances for this were outside our control.

Kind regards

Nancy Elks
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

19/11/08	School Nurse drop in 8.30 at the Children's Centre
20/11/08	Year 5 trip to Sea Life Centre
21/11/08	Lower School Achievement Assembly
28/11/08	Mrs Langford's class assembly
3/12/08	School Nurse drop in 2.30 at the Children's Centre
8/12/08	Winter Festival work to start Homework challenge books to be returned to school
9/12/08	Drumming taster session for parents at 2.30pm
12/12/08	Learning Mentors parent's afternoon (by invitation)
16/12/08	School Christmas dinner
17/12/08	Winter Festival Year 6 Performance at 9.15 Year 3 Performance at 2.30
18/12/08	Winter Festival Year 4 Performance at 9.15 Year 5 Performance at 2.30 Year 3 Pantomime at Derby Assembly Rooms 1 > 5pm (children to be collected from school only)
19/12/08	Church service 10.30a.m. (all invited)
05/01/09	Return to school



Child's Name _____ Class _____

I am interested in attending the parents drumming taster session on Tuesday 9th December at 2.30pm. Please contact me on the following number to confirm that I have a place.

Parent's Name _____ Telephone Number _____