



Oakwood Junior School January 2009

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Dear Parent/Carers

I hope that you had a really good Christmas break and managed to avoid the flu and sickness bug that seems to be doing the rounds. Now that the decorations are back in the loft and the last of the Christmas tree needles have almost been hoovered up we're looking forward to the interesting things that will be happening during the Spring Term. This half term has a historical theme. The Year 3 children will be studying the Victorians, the Year 4's the Tudors (and we are expecting a visit from King Henry VIII and Queen Catherine), Year 5's will be learning all about the Egyptians which is a really fascinating topic. The Year 6 children are studying Macbeth and I know they enjoy the witches' scene and all the gory bits. Curriculum booklets will be sent to you outlining in more detail the work that will be covered. Throughout our topics we'll be concentrating on improving our children's writing skills, especially our high achieving children.

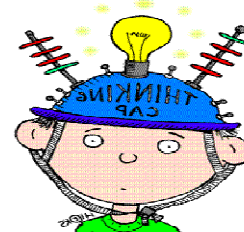
Good news - Mrs Major gave birth to a baby girl on New Years Eve. Both mum and baby are doing well. Mrs Enright returned from her maternity leave and is taking over from Mrs Major.

School priorities this term

Our major priority this year is to ensure that our more able children are given enough stretch and challenge in numeracy and writing. Teachers are planning into their lessons further activities for this group and extension homework may be given. We have introduced a new maths scheme into school, aspects of which will really help the able children to rise to the challenge of more demanding work. In order for you to understand what we are doing in school and ways in which you can support your child at home, we'll be organising some parent workshops which you will be invited to. Your child's teacher will be getting in touch and we do hope that you'll be able to attend. If you can't manage the date, don't forget that grandparents are welcome too.

L2L

Our L2L initiative (where children learn about how to become successful learners through things like taking a learning risk, developing self confidence, managing distractions etc.) is going from strength to strength. A significant number of our children have their first learning badge, that is proudly displayed on their school sweatshirts and now we have an increasing number who have their 2nd and even 3rd badge. The badge recognises the progress your child has made with their learning and I know that you as well as everyone in school is very proud of their achievements.



School Kit

Even though the weather is a bit on the chilly side, the children will still be taking part in outdoor games. Could you please ensure that they have a pair of jogging bottoms to wear together with either pumps or trainers for outdoors. Whilst writing about footwear just a reminder that we do expect children to wear black shoes in school. Looking smart is important and we actively discourage children from wearing trainers or unsuitable footwear for indoors. Thank you for your cooperation and support in this matter.

OJS school website

If you haven't done already log onto www.oakwoodjuniorschool.co.uk

Our website has seen a huge change over the last few weeks; Mrs Bull, our ICT Teaching Assistant, has been working really hard. You will find a new 'Learning Zone' which has links to topics that are being covered in school this term.

There are also Parent Information booklets that you can take a look at.

All our newsletters go on so you will always know what's happening in school.

There's even an office section where you can find free school meals and leave of absence forms which can be e-mailed back to the school office. Take a look and let us know what you think by either e-mail or letting staff know next time you're in school.

Data Protection Act

We need to inform parents where data related to your child is held, the reason for holding the data and the people to whom the data will be passed to. The fair processing notice will be available for you to refer to on the school website or if you wish to see a copy and you don't have access to the internet you can pop into the school office to read the information.

Mr Hill's next project

Mr Hill's next project will be focussed on giving our pond in the courtyard a really good spring clean which will entail emptying the pond, sorting out the filters and replanting. We have one problem with this project which concerns two massive fish (I think they're Koi Carp) who have grown too big for the pond and need a new home. They must be at least 45cm long and I know some people really like them (I'm not so keen myself), so if you can offer one or both a good home can you get in touch with myself or Mr Hill.

Talking of fish, we now have a very posh fish tank installed outside the library. It's lovely - the tropical fish in there are very lucky to have such a good home.



School Dinner event

On Tuesday 27th January for one week the school meals service is having a special promotion whereby meals for that week will focus on food from different countries including a Mediterranean, British, Caribbean and American theme. This is to encourage more children to stay school dinners and to give them an opportunity to sample new dishes. The cost is £1.70 per meal. So if you would like your child to stay for a meal, please pay the money on the day.

Tae-Kwon-Do

Our very popular and successful Tae-Kwon-Do club that runs every Friday after school has a few vacancies for some new beginners. If you are interested you will need to bring your child to register their details and payment at the start of the lesson on Friday 16th January. If you require further information please contact Karan Russell in the school office.

Kind regards

Nancy Elks
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

14/01/09	Challenge homework books to be sent home. There will be numeracy & literacy activities for your child to complete over the next half term.
16/01/09	School gardeners to visit local allotments.
19/01/09	Parents forum meeting 2pm
21/01/09	School Nurse at Children's Centre for drop in session 8.30am
23/01/09	Class 7's assembly
26/01/09	School INSET day
27/01/09	Mrs Langford and 2 School Councillors visit Mayors parlour to collect Health Promoting School's award
05/02/09	Year 4 Tudor Day
06/02/09	Special Books to go home Class 2's assembly
09/02/09	Homework Challenge books to be returned this week
13/02/09	Upper School Achievement assembly to celebrate children's achievements in sporting activities outside school Break Up
23/02/09	Return to school
06/03/09	School INSET day - visit to the ballet in Birmingham (more details later)
12/03/09	Year 6 Shakespeare for Kids theatre visit
13/03/09	Class 5's assembly
20/03/09	Lower School Achievement assembly
26/03/09	Group of Year 4 children to take part in Celebration of Dance at the Assembly Rooms
27/03/09	Class 8's assembly Special Books to go home
31/03/09	Year 4 trip to Botanical Gardens (Birmingham) Parent's Evening / individual appointments
01/04/09	Year 4 trip to Botanical Gardens (Birmingham) Parent's Evening / individual appointments
03/04/09	Break Up
20/04/09	Return to school

Reminder - please remember that the Year 6 SAT's week begins Monday 11th May until Friday 15th May. It is vital that your child is in school for this week. Please avoid holiday bookings or appointments any time during this week.