

# Oakwood Junior School January 2010

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Dear Parents / Carers

I hope that you had a really good Christmas break and you're managing to keep warm in this very cold weather. The weather seems to be the only thing we're hearing about and it has led to a few problems at school, but we seem to be coping even though it's unsettling and our start to the New Year isn't as smooth and straight forward as I would have hoped.

The Winter Festival performances were really well attended by parents and I know from the feedback you gave me that you were very impressed with the quality of the work and the children's presentations. The children and staff worked very hard to achieve such high standards and it makes it all worthwhile when you support and appreciate all the effort that's put in. It seems that our performances improve year on year and that makes me very proud of our children's and staff's achievements.

The New Year is a time of looking forward. We're welcoming Miss Dee and Miss Hudson to our staff. Miss Winslow has started her maternity leave and Mrs Civval will leave us to start hers at the end of this month.

The curriculum this half term will have a historical theme. The year 3's will be studying the Victorians, the Year 4's the Tudors (a visit to school by Henry VIII is expected) and the Year 5's will be learning about ancient Egyptians which is a fascinating topic. The Year 6 children will be focussing on Shakespeare and studying Macbeth. They will be going to see a performance of the play in Sheffield and I know they will enjoy their visit. Curriculum booklets outlining what the children will be covering in more detail will be sent to you shortly.



## School Priorities this term

Our main priority this term is to ensure that children who are not making as much progress as they should in numeracy and writing are given extra support by their teacher focussing on areas that they need more help with. This will be done through setting targets and working on these during lesson time. If your child is in one of these focus groups you will be informed and invited to join a parent's workshop where you will have a chance to learn more about what we're doing in school and what support you can then give at home.

We will also be introducing a new handwriting scheme this half term and improving spelling will also be a priority.

To support our school priorities we will be running a number of different workshops and holding meetings so that you will have an opportunity to ask questions and help at home if necessary. Working together in this way where school and home supports each other is central to our school.

Other events to look forward to are a money week that we're planning (w/c 03/02/10) and a L2L workshop. We're also having a photographic project in school and a workshop for Year 5 and Year 6 related to joining gangs.

Further information will be sent out to you nearer the time. I've included all the dates at the end of the letter.

## Text Messaging

We have recently introduced a text messaging service in school as this is an efficient and cost effective way of contacting you. We'll be using this for reminders about meetings, assemblies, performances, clubs information and so on. We're trialling it at the moment, so any feedback would be valued. For this to be an effective means of communication please can you ensure that we have up to date mobile contact numbers.



### School Nurse Drop Ins

Elaine, our school nurse has given me the following dates for her drop in sessions at the Children's Centre on Holbrook Road. This is an opportunity to chat to her about any concerns relating to your child's health.

13 <sup>th</sup> January	8.30am	27 <sup>th</sup> January	3.00pm
10 <sup>th</sup> February	8.30am	24 <sup>th</sup> February	3.00pm
10 <sup>th</sup> March	8.30am	24 <sup>th</sup> March	3.00pm



### Dates this Term

19 <sup>th</sup> January	Lower School Parent's Workshop
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 trip to see Macbeth
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Upper School Parent's Workshop
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Mrs Langford's class assembly
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	INSET day - School will be closed to the children
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 music workshop in school followed by concert at Derby Assembly Rooms
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Mrs Riley's Class assembly
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Special Books to go out to parents
	Upper School Achievement Assembly
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Money Week
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 4 Tudor Day
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent's L2L Workshop (evening event - more details later)
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Mrs Hodgkinson's Class assembly
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Assessment week
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Lower school Achievement assembly
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Miss Dean's Class Assembly
15 <sup>th</sup> March	INSET day - School will be closed for children
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Miss Hudson's Class Assembly
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent's evening (individual appointment) 3.30 > 6.00pm
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Parent's evening (individual appointment) 3.30 > 6.00pm
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Break up for Easter
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to school

**Reminder: Please remember that Year 6 SAT's week begins May 10<sup>th</sup> until Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>. It is vital that your child is in school for this week. Please avoid holiday bookings or appointments during this week. New Local Authority regulations mean that parents will be fined if their child is not in school during that week.**

Kind regards

Nancy Elks  
Headteacher

