



Oakwood Junior School March 2009

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

Website: www.oakwoodjuniorschool.co.uk

Tel: 01332 571231

Fax: 01332 571163



Dear Parent/Carer

I'm always pleased when February finishes and March arrives. The lighter mornings and evenings are welcome and the very worst of the weather is behind us. The bulbs in the allotment area are coming through and its good to see the children playing on the field at lunchtime now that the grass conditions are better.

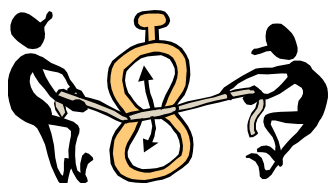


This half term the children will be learning about different countries, various trips and activities have been organised around this and a leaflet outlining what your child will be covering has been sent out to you. Our parent's evenings have been arranged for Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April. This will be an appointment system and a good opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with your child's teacher and support staff. I'll send another letter to you nearer the time outlining the details.

You might also be interested to know that prior to the parent's evening we'll be having an open morning on Wednesday 25th March from 9.00 to 10.00 so that you can observe a numeracy lesson. This will be an opportunity to work alongside your child and experience a lesson. When we've done this in the past parent's have found this really interesting as it gives them an insight to how the teaching of numeracy has changed. Coffee will be served at 10.00 and this will give you an opportunity to ask any questions and a crèche will be provided. If you are interested in coming along there will be a reply slip on my next letter. Hope you are able to make it!

Arriving at school on time

I'm becoming increasingly concerned about the number of children who are arriving at school late in the morning. We have been monitoring this and we will be in touch if this is happening on a regular basis. Sometimes the problem is not getting up late, but dawdling to school, calling for friends and going on the infant's playground delivering younger brothers and sisters. Arriving at school on time is really important as lessons invariably start at 9.00 and your child will be missing out on valuable learning time.



On the one hand we have children arriving late but we also have a number of children who arrive at school well before 8.30. From a health and safety point of view, I discourage this as there is no supervision of the children at this time. Again, we will be getting in touch if this persists.

Parent's workshops

Last $\frac{1}{2}$ term we ran 2 workshops for parents whose children are high achievers in writing - one for years 3 & 4 and the other for years 5 & 6. These were really successful and very well attended. The feedback we received was very positive and so we have decided to run another series of workshops for high achievers in numeracy on Thursday 12th March for upper school and Thursday 19th March for lower school. Letters will be sent out to you with further details. We always enjoy putting on workshops; if you have any ideas of workshop lessons that parents would find interesting, please get in touch.

Clubs

As usual we have a wide cross section of after school clubs that your child is able to participate in, although full at the moment, we are taking names for later in the year, if you would like to come into the office and speak with Mrs Russell if your child is interested in joining any of the clubs which include:

Days	Club	Responsible	Club	Responsible	Club	Responsible
Tuesday	Lower School Art Club	Mrs McDonnell	Photography	Val Dalling	Street Dancing	Upbeat
Wednesday	Whole School Craft Club	Mr Hill	Break Dancing	Upbeat		
Thursday	Upper school Art Club	Mrs Mc Donnell				
Friday	Tae Kwando	Mr Hamilton				

We always have a good response from the children for these clubs and I know that they really enjoy the activities that are offered.



Spy Dog

Andy Cope the author of the Spy Dog series has a new book called Rocket Rider, priced at £4.99 that will be published this week. We will be ordering some books, which you will be able to purchase from school. Andy visited school a while ago with his dog and spoke to the children about the books he has written. Since then they have been the most popular books in our library. If you would like a copy, please bring the money to the office.

Boulton Children's Centre News

The children's centre has started Adult numeracy sessions on Wednesday's from 9.30 to 11.30. This started on Wednesday 4th March but there are still places available if you are interested in joining. Also they will be starting Adult yoga from Monday 16th March. The classes start from 9.30 to 11.30. These classes are free and crèche places are available if needed. Finally during the half term holiday they will be offering creative sessions.



For more information or to book places please call Liz or Laura on 574902.

News in brief

- The cycle to school day last Friday went really well. Over 120 children came to school on their bikes. Well done everyone!
- Red nose day takes place on Friday 13th March. The school council have suggested that we have non-uniform day. A £1 contribution would be welcomed and if your child would like to dye their hair an extra 20p will need to be donated.
- We're busy saving Sainsbury's vouchers. This year we can choose either PE equipment or gardening things; so if you have any, we'd really put them to good use. The collection box is in the office. Thank you
- A quick reminder that our INSET day is on Friday 6th March.

Kind regards

Nancy Elks
Head

Dates this term

- 6.3 INSET Day - Tae Kwando club is cancelled
- 12.3 Parents numeracy workshop - Upper school
Year 6 Shakespeare for Kids performance at The Assembly Rooms, Derby 9.30 to 1.00
- 13.3 Red Nose day
Miss Brown's class assembly
- 19.3 Parents numeracy workshop - Lower school
- 25.3 Parents open morning 9.00 - 10.00 Coffee afterwards
- 26.3 Celebration of Dance (Year 4) assembly room 9.30 - 12.30
- 27.3 Miss Dean's class assembly
Special books to go out
- 31.3 Year 4 Birmingham Botanical Gardens visit Year 4
Parents evening
- 1.4 Year 4 Birmingham Botanical Gardens visit Year 4
Parents evening
- 2.4 Year 3 visit to Hindu Temple
- 3.4 Break up
- 18.4 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.