



Oakwood Junior School November 2009

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

Website: www.oakwoodjuniorschool.co.uk

Tel: 01332 571231

Fax: 01332 571163



Dear Parents / Carers

Our first $\frac{1}{2}$ term in school was very busy and everyone was ready for the week's break. Just before we broke up a lot of the children and staff were suffering from sore throats, headaches etc and on one particular day we had nearly 70 children absent from school, so I'm hoping that the germs have subdued over the week's break and we can look forward to a healthier $\frac{1}{2}$ term.



When we returned on Monday we found out that, yet again, our allotment area had been targeted by a group of vandals. Plants had been pulled up, trees uprooted, the shed broken into and the garden tools thrown into the pond.

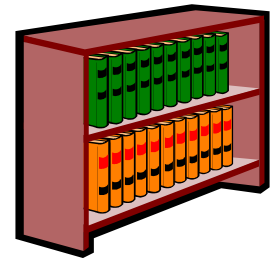
The chicken coop was tipped up and damaged – but fortunately the chickens were on their holidays at Mrs H's. We all feel very disheartened when meaningless acts of anti social behaviour like this happen. We try so hard in school to create an environment that enhances the children's learning and when things like this happens it makes us very upset, but we carry on trying and we've done our best to put things right. It's such a shame.

I would ask parents to cooperate with us because it's our school in our community, so if you see anything suspicious carrying on please inform the police – anonymously if you wish. We really do need to work together to try our best to stop this.

Parents' Evening

The parents evening in October was particularly well supported and the feedback we had from you was very positive. 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.

At the parents evening a number of parents' said that they would consider being a parent governor. We are eager to fill this vacancy as soon as possible, so if you are still interested please contact Mrs Russell our Clerk to Governors by phone or school email by Monday 16th November.



Fund Raising

We raised nearly £1800 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.



Staffing

Mrs Civval will be starting her maternity leave and we have appointed Miss Hudson to take over in January until she returns to school. Miss Winslow will also be starting her maternity leave at the end of this term – Miss Hurt will continue to take Miss Winslow's class in her absence. Poor Gill (our cook) managed to break her foot whilst on holiday so she'll be out of action for at least 6 weeks.

Super Learning Day

We all enjoyed our super learning day which took place just before we broke up. Having breakfast in school and having the opportunity to work with different children and different teachers is always popular. The learning that took place was focused on the theme of maths and art. The quality of the work was excellent and we have two displays that showcase the best of the work that was done during the day – so we all felt very proud of ourselves.



Parent's Forum



The forum is a group of parents, carers or grandparents who meet every half term, on an informal basis to discuss various topics related to different aspects of your child's education in our school.

In the past this group was really useful in helping to change the way we do things in our school relating to subjects such as homework, school reports and parents evenings. I find the ideas you have really help us work more closely together for the benefit of all the children in our school.

If you are interested in the parent's forum, please fill in the slip at the end of the newsletter with your contact details and I'll be in touch with details of the first meeting which will take place in an afternoon from 2.15 > 3.15 pm. The exact day is yet to be decided.

The meetings are friendly - biscuits will be provided! Your contribution will be valued, so do come along.

Bicycle Markings

PCSO Khan will be coming into school to provide security markings for your child's bicycle. If you would like to take up this free service, please send your child with their bikes, postcode and house number on the following days:



| DATE | Year Group | Time |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Wednesday 18 th November | 6 | 3.00 till 4.00 pm |
| Thursday 19 th November | 5 | 3.00 till 4.00 pm |
| Friday 20 th November | 3 & 4 | 3.00 till 4.00 pm |

Access to school

You are probably aware that we have restricted the access to the school by locking the gates. The main access (apart from the start and end of the school day) will be through the pedestrian gate on Holbrook Road. The other gates around school apart from this one will be opened at 8.30 am and closed at 9.15 in the morning and at the end of the day they will be opened at 3.10 pm and locked at 3.45. I'm sorry if this causes any inconvenience but I hope you understand the health and safety aspects that has made me come to this decision. We really don't want people cutting through our grounds during school time.



Dates for your diary

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 11.11.09 Special books to go home | 01.12.09 Year 3 Ballet performance in Birmingham | 04.01.10 Return to School |
| 13.11.09 Mrs Hodgkinson's class assembly | 03.12.09 Year 4 Snow Queen performance at Derby Theatre | |
| 16.11.09 Anti-bullying week | 16.12.09 Year 6 Winter festival performance 9.30 | |
| 18.11.09 School nurse drop in 8.30 at the Children's Centre | 16.12.09 Year 5 Winter festival performance 2.30 | |
| 20.11.09 Mrs Fray & Mrs Noon's class assembly | 17.12.09 Year 4 Winter festival performance 9.30 | |
| 23.11.09 School closure - Inset day | 17.12.09 Year 3 Winter festival performance 2.30 | |
| 27.11.09 Lower school achievement assembly | 18.12.09 Church service 10.30 | |
| | 18.12.09 Break up from School | |

Kind regards

Nancy Elks

Parents Forum

I am interested in joining the parents' forum. Please contact me with further details.

Name _____ Telephone number _____

Parent / Carer of _____ Class _____

The afternoon(s), which is most convenient for me _____

Signed _____