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**Eco-Schools**  
Award 2007



# Oakwood Junior School September 2008

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Dear Parent/Carers

We've had a really busy start to our school year - there's a lot for us to do and to remember (that's the adults in school as well as the children). The children seem to have settled back into the school routine very quickly even after the long summer break. I'm pleased with how smart and well turned out the children look in their new school uniform, I know it's an expensive time for parents, but a big thank you for supporting our school uniform policy.

Over the summer holidays we had quite a lot of building work taking place. The good news is that the kitchen project is more or less on schedule and Jill (our cook) and the kitchen team will be back cooking meals on the premises within the next few weeks. The replacement window schedule in the ICT room is well underway now, although setting up all the computers will take a little longer than I'd hoped. However the outcome in the long term will be worth the inconvenience that we're experiencing now.

The chickens have returned from their holidays (many thanks to Harry's mum for looking after them so well) and they look very healthy and are laying 3 eggs a day!



## Staffing

Over the holiday Mrs Fray gave birth to a little girl. They are both doing really well and we're hoping to see them both soon. Mrs Major will be starting her maternity leave in January and Mrs Enright will be taking over her class when she returns from her maternity leave. Our two new teachers (Miss Baldi and Miss Brown) have both settled well and Mrs Williams is also joining our team for 3 days a week.

We are very fortunate in having a great, hardworking and talented team of adults in our school who work extremely hard to give your child the best education we can so that they become successful learners. In order to do this home and school need to work together, so if you have any concerns or worries related to your child in school do please get in touch with either your child's class teacher or myself. We are very keen to work in close partnership with yourselves and a number of initiatives have been planned which I'll tell you about nearer the time.

## Sponsored Walk

On 26<sup>th</sup> September we'll be holding our annual sponsored walk event. It will take place during the afternoon, providing the weather is suitable - surely it will have stopped raining by then! The money we raise will go towards equipping our new library. Although the building project is running a bit behind schedule we're hoping that by half term it will be a really excellent resource for our children, which I hope you will support. The children will be given more information nearer the time with a covering letter and sponsor forms. If you would like to take part, do come and join us - the more the merrier.



## Healthy Tuck Shop

Just to let you know that our healthy tuck shop has started up. Children will be able to buy bottled water at 25p each and a variety of fruit and raisins, ranging in price between 10p and 20p. Please do not send your child with any more than 50p per day for the tuck shop.

## Homework

After talking to the parent on the parent's forum group last term we're changing the way that we're giving homework. Each child will be given a 'Challenge Booklet' which will consist of a variety of different learning activities, including numeracy and literacy work as well as a range of other types of work. The idea is for your child to complete this work over a period of half term and then return it to school once it is complete. At the back of each booklet is a sheet which asks you and your child to fill in with any useful feedback for your child's teacher. We do encourage parents to help and encourage their child with the homework and by doing the activities this way we hope that you'll find quality time together. The idea is to do a small section of work at a time, so please don't feel that the whole booklet has to be completed at a weekend! Remember each booklet will have enough work for a half term. In addition to this Year 6's will be getting extra numeracy homework on a Wednesday or Thursday on a weekly basis and everyone will also have spellings and reading practice as homework as well. Any queries related to homework, do get in touch with your child's class teacher.

### Curriculum

Every year we have areas of the curriculum that the staff in school will be focussing on. This year we have 3 main priorities which involve developing speaking & listening across school, ensuring our higher achievers are challenged and encouraging children to read more for pleasure, especially some of the boys. In order for you to do this effectively working with you as parents in a number of different ways continues to be a high priority.

At the moment we're finalising leaflets that will shortly be sent out to parents that will outline aspects of work that your child will be covering this term as well as information about the schools website which we hope will be useful for you. On the leaflet we've also let you know when your child will be having PE and Games. Everyone will have 2 physical activity lessons a week and it's really important that children have their kit in school, otherwise they will not be able to take part in the lesson. If this happens we will be getting in touch so that we can help with any problems that could be causing this.

Just a reminder regarding PE kit for indoor PE the children will be expected to wear black shorts and a plain white T-shirt. It's usual for the children to work bare footed for dance and PE unless you get in touch with us if this is a problem. For outdoor games black shorts or black track suit bottoms with trainers or plimsolls are needed. Wearing black shoes in school, rather than trainers is also part of school uniform.

Kind regards

Nancy Elks  
Headteacher

### Dates for the Diary

17/09/08	Drop in Session at Children's Centre 8.30 This is an opportunity for you to have a confidential discussion with Elaine Wroble (School Nurse) related to any health issues related to your child. No appointment necessary.
02/10/08	Drop in Session at Children's Centre 2.30 - School Nurse
19/09/08	Curriculum booklets to be sent home to parents outlining what will be taught over the term
22/09/08	Parent's forum meeting 2pm - This is an opportunity for a group of parents to meet with me to discuss and give suggestions about any matters about school. I find these meetings very useful for getting feedback from you. They are informal and friendly - so do come along if you're interested.
26/09/08	Sponsored Walk - afternoon
10/10/08	Mrs Hodgkinson's class assembly
16/10/08	Upper School Achievement Assembly
17/10/08	Special books to go home Miss Lawrence's class assembly
23/10/08	Parents open evening
24/10/08	Break up
03/11/08	Return

### Term dates

### Bank Holidays

#### Autumn 2008

Wednesday 3 September to Friday 24 October

Monday 3 November to Friday 19 December

25 and 26 December

#### Spring 2009

Monday 5 January to Friday 13 February

Monday 23 February to Friday 3 April

January 1

April 10 & 13

#### Summer 2009

Monday 20 April to Friday 22 May

Monday 1 June to Wednesday 22 July

4 May, 25 May

### INSET Days

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

**SAT's Week Year 6 pupils is Week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May  
Could all Year 6 parents ensure that holidays are not booked during this crucial week.**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June