



Oakleaves

Dear Parents and Friends of Oakfields,

As the spring half-term draws to a conclusion, we mark the occasion with the children's mid-term academic and pastoral reports. I have once again included a little bit of background information to each report, regarding assessment, to ably assist anyone who is still a little unsure of our current practice or indeed is a new family to Oakfields. However, as always, please do not hesitate to contact your class teachers directly with any questions that the mid-term report poses.



Meanwhile, this half term has been immensely rewarding for all of our children, from Kindergarten through to Year 6: Year 4's introduction to the green screen and the Young Film Club; Year 2 had a 'history off the page' day with Florence Nightingale; Reception tasted astronaut food and painted in the style of Jackson Pollock; Year 5 visited the British Museum to explore Ancient Greece; Kindergarten celebrated the Year of the Rooster and Chinese New Year; Year 2 competed at the Athletics Festival; our Year 6 Digital Leaders dazzled at the Bett Show; Year 1 painted and explored the work of Claude Monet; the whole school embraced Internet Safety Day; Year 3 became Romans for the whole day; we introduced our new extra-curricular timetable (Mandarin, Tennis and Chelsea football); and Oakfields' hosted their annual Six Nations Rugby Competition on a bright, crisp afternoon. Well done to all of our children!



Other successes include: on the netball court, Oakfields continues to reign supreme, with an 8-2 victory over James Oglethorpe on Thursday 9 February. This victory guaranteed our all-girl team (the only one in the borough) instant qualification through to the quarter-finals as leaders of their group. Well done girls!



The girls' successes continued onto the football field, this half term, captained by their inspirational captain, Amelia Horton. After having secured a 4-0 victory over Squirrels Heath School, earlier this week, the girls went on to compete the following day in an all-day tournament, where they further extended their outstanding 'footballing' reputation.

Over/....

Key Dates 2017

Please refer to Class newsletters for dates and times of activities relating specifically to your child's class.

February

27—1 March ESB Assessments

March

2 World Book Day (Dress-up) (Kindergarten—Year 6)

2 P.T.A. Meeting in Music Room

7 & 8 Parents Consultations

10 Infant Music Festival

11 Open Morning—Year 6 invited to assist.

21 6.30 p.m. start. Spring Musical Concert— Brentwood School—choir and orchestra

24 Comic Relief Day

29 P.T.A. Egg Hunt

31 Last Day of Term—usual finishing times!

July:

8 (Morning—time t.b.c.)

Prize Giving at Oakfields.

Please save the day in your diary!

Easter Holiday:

Mon 3 Apr—Mon 24 Apr inc

Start of Summer Term:

Tues 25 Apr—Fri 26 May inc

(Note: Mon 1 May is a Bank Holiday)

Mon 5 Jun— Fri 14 Jul inc

Term Cards for the academic year **2017/18** have been sent home with the children, but can also be obtained from the

Reception Desk and **Kindergarten.**

J & S BESPOKE SCHOOLWEAR

J & S offer a 'click and collect' service via their website: www.bespokeschoolwear.co.uk. Orders can then be collected from the school. They can also be found in the school library each Friday (term-time only) 3—4.30 p.m.



Friday saw a fabulous conclusion to the first half of this term, with 100% pass rate for Year 6 pupil applicants to TES Independent School of the Year—New Hall School—along with an academic scholar-

ship and a St. Cecilia music scholarship. Also 100% pass rate for Brentwood Independent School along with an Academic Scholarship and an Honorary Sports Scholarship. We now await results from Wycombe Abbey and Cheltenham Ladies' College.

During the second half of the term we look forward to our annual Orchestral Concert on 21 March, 2017, beautifully hosted by Brentwood School in their illustrious Wessex Auditorium. Likewise, Years 1- 6 now eagerly await the opportunity to showcase their performing talents in the English Speaking Board. Good luck to you all.

We also have an exciting curriculum change to announce for our Kindergarten and Reception classes. Upon their return to school on 20th February, they will receive sessions of Spanish weekly. Spanish will then continue for these year groups as they journey throughout Oakfields, rather than our current French offering, also with Madame Bernard. This decision was reached following lengthy discussions with many of the destination secondary schools for Oakfields' Year 6 children. We are also hopeful to introduce a Spanish club – similar to our Mandarin Club - for those year groups currently in Years 1-6, in order to offer brilliant basics to all children in readiness for secondary school. Whilst French is still compulsory for many secondary schools, the balance is expected to shift quite significantly towards Spanish and Mandarin over the coming five years, to meet the needs of our global community.



On the staffing front, today, Oakfields said a fond farewell to Mrs Sophia Hunte-St. Rose, who will be heading off for a part-time position into pastures new. She has undoubtedly been a fabulous addition to our Oakfields' teaching team and we would all like to thank her for her teaching contributions and wish her continued success for what I am sure will be a highly successful future.

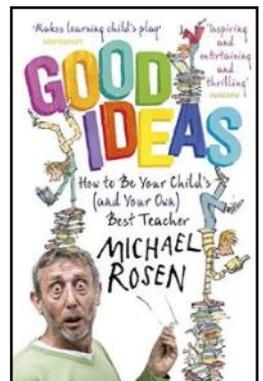
Similarly, Mrs Jennie Woods, who has been supporting Oakfields' children, for three days, in Kindergarten and occasionally Year 6, since September, leaves today, having decided that teaching is not at this moment in time a suitable career path for her, with a young family. We all wish her well in ventures new.

Finally, I would like to conclude with an extract from a fabulous book that Mr Johnstone recently shared with me, which some of you might recognise:

“The places we live in are stuffed full of scientific and technological biz. All the heating, lighting, freezing, water and building are science in action. At the same time, our homes are full of art and design: all the colours, shapes, pictures are art in action. And homes are among the most emotional places we will ever know as we fill them up with all our loves, losses, desires, fears, hopes, dangers, memories and feelings. Combine these three aspects of home – science, art and emotions – and we have a potent mix. This mix gives us a springboard for learning, the emotions often giving us the motivation for wanting to find out more or to make and do more. Our job as parents then is to tune in to moments when this can happen.”

Michael Rosen (Good Ideas –How to Be Your Child's (and Your Own) Best Teacher).

There are so many reasons for recommending this book to you, not least that it is immensely amusing and insightful. However, I would suggest that its contents – full of fabulous ideas - will equip any parent with the power and knowledge of how to spend quality time weekly with their children.



I will leave you now with some of the photographs taken at the different events that have been enjoyed by the children over the last 5 weeks, and take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful half term holiday.

Mrs Laura Ciftci, Headteacher





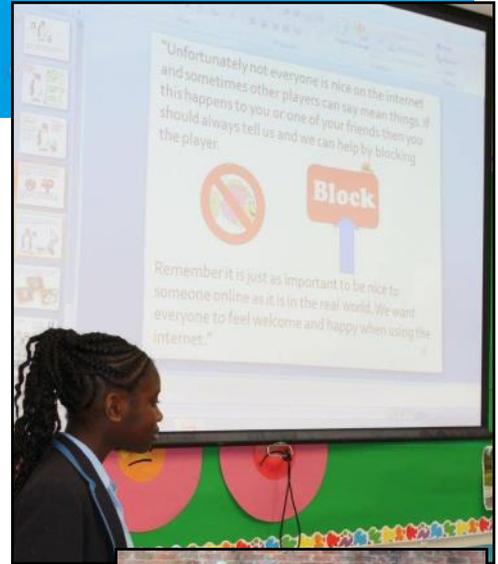


Safer Internet Day

7 Feb 2017

Think! Think! Think! before you Click! Click! Click! And **TELL SOMEONE....**

The Kindergarten children had a visit from our Year 6 Digital Leaders Lawrencina and Jessica on Tuesday of this week. They designed some colourful slides for Safer Internet Day, and after talking to them, they sang a song with them to help them remember.



Meanwhile, Reception had a visit from Alanna and Harry who read them the story **"Digiduck's Big Decision"** (Childnet), a story about being a good friend to others on the internet, and thinking carefully about your friends' feelings online. They then asked lots of questions; some used their mummies' mobiles,

some their daddies' laptop, and they all learnt how to stay safe on the internet. Thank you Digital Leaders, you did a super job and the children thoroughly enjoyed their day.



How lovely to see the new astro-turfed surface in the Courtyard being put to the test, with extra-curricular, early morning, tennis with Mr Woolcott (J.D. Tennis).



Reading Buddies
Drop in session

Mondays
3.30-4.30
(Term Time only)

Extra Reading Help for Children.
Informal After School Group

Volunteers at Upminster Library are available after school to listen to your child read.

Please ask staff for details

Upminster Library
Tel: 01708 434933
upminster.library@havering.gov.uk



#HaveringLibrary
@havering.library
www.havering.gov.uk/libraries




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