



Oakhill Primary Half-Termly Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term all children across the schools have taken, or will be participating in, statutory and school based assessments. It is a very busy time for the children and for staff. This half term KS1 (Year 2) and KS2 (Year 6) SATs have been taken and in the coming weeks Reception Profiles will be completed and the Year 1 Phonics Check takes place. We feel incredibly proud of the children at our schools for the calm and considered way they have approached the assessment tests this term. They have demonstrated positivity and a desire to apply the knowledge and skills that they have learned. The children's commitment to learning, willingness to always try their best and resilience in the face of challenge confirms for us that they are well on the road to being successful, confident and highly educated members of the community. We hope that this half term break offers a chance to rest and enjoy the warmer weather and we look forward to welcoming all families back on 5th June for the last half term of the school year. Have a wonderful holiday.

Liz Brandon, Lisa McIntyre and Prue Barnes-Kemp
Head of School, Head of Federation and Executive Head Teacher



Farewells and Hellos

This term we welcomed Mr Thomas Couldridge and Miss Laura Houghton to the staff team, we are very pleased to have them on the team. They are both experienced teachers. Also in the last week our parent governor election has taken place. Thank you to all the families who voted, there were a great number of votes and we congratulate and welcome Lindsay Price (Jackson) to the governing board as our new parent governor.

Summer 1 Events

Trips and Visits

This half term we have, again, been busy getting out and about and welcomed visitors to Oakhill to consolidate pupils' learning and bring the curriculum to life. Year 5 have been to the Ragged School museum where they experienced what it would have been like to go to school in Victorian times. The thing that stood out most to them was the discipline and physical punishments.

Year 1 visited the Tower of London and met a knight who told them all about how to become a knight; you have to be pure of heart as well as brave and kind. We had a visit from two beautiful Police horses; Judge and Penny who were extremely patient and allowed children from across the school to stroke them. The Police Officers with them were great with the children, answering all their questions and talking about their job.

Curriculum

This half term all classes from Years 1 to year 6 took part in Shakespeare Week. Each phase learnt about a play by Shakespeare and next half term they will all participate in workshops led by the Freshwater Theatre Company on their class' play. Years 1 and 2 learnt about Midsummer Night's Dream, Years 3 and 4 Romeo and Juliet and Years 5 and 6 Hamlet.

Next half term will see our first ever whole school topic. All classes will be focusing their learning on 'London Through the Ages'. Each year group will take one period in London's history or an aspect of London life to learn about and then present in a school performance in July. Each class will also be running a stall linked to their learning at the summer fair on July 7th. Year 1- The Queen, Year 2 Modern London, Year 5 WWII, Year 3 Victorian London, Year 4 Shakespearian London and Year 6 will be predicting what they think London will be like in the future.

Spelling Bee

We held our second Spelling Bee this week and the winners from each class were announced in assembly. Well done to Adam year 1, Ameila & Erin year 2, Floe year 3, Rayan and Isis year 4TC, Harry, Emily & Milo year 4DM, Amelia year 5 Louie year 6. New words for next half term will be on the Home Learning Information Sheet for families sent out after the half term break by email. They will also be posted on the school website when they have been sent out. It is really clear that the children have been practising at home and have been very keen to take part. Well done to everyone who participated.

Roles of responsibility

We have now appointed three prefects from Year 6. Congratulations to Elouise, Sarayah and Oliver who were successful in their applications and interviews.

Learning Workshops

This term, for our learning workshops and coffee mornings, we have focussed on our school behaviour system, 'Platinum Pride' and the ways in which it is similar and different to the previous Traffic Light System. Thank you to the families who came to these events, we have moved them to a Thursday following feedback that Fridays were not a good day for people and will always give you as much notice as possible of dates.

Cup of kindness

This term's assembly theme has been 'Kindness'. We have explored how kindness makes others feel and how a random act of kindness can make someone's day. Also we have talked about how it spreads; one act of kindness inspires others to be kind and soon enough everyone feels better. We have looked at what we can do to be kind and the children have suggested using polite manners, asking someone to play and taking turns fairly. We have also introduced the 'Cup of Kindness' where one child a week is nominated by their peers to receive the cup. The children in their class then share reasons why that person deserves the cup and this is written on a certificate for them to keep. This week the cup goes to Jacob in Year 3; congratulations, your friends said that you cheer them on and help them and you always play good games with them.





Summer 1 Events

Ducklings

For the last two weeks we have watched six ducklings hatch, grow and learn to swim. This experience is wonderful for the children, Thank you to Miss Tanswell who filmed them hatching so that it could be shared with the whole school in assembly. Each class has had the opportunity to visit the ducklings, to handle them and watch them interact with each other. Thank you to the parents of Nursery and Reception classes who organised cake sales to fund this project. The children said; "They've hatched! They pecked so much they've come out." (Toby) "They are a bit wet still because they're first born and maybe they are wet inside the egg." (Lalika) "The little ducks have opened their mouth. I hear them. They will be bigger and they will be walking" (Nijus)

Neal Zetter

Today Neal Zetter, a successful local poet visited Oakhill and inspired children to create their own verse. He presented assemblies to KS1 and KS2 then spent the rest of the day leading workshops with each year group. The children have been learning some of his performance poetry over the last few weeks and were keen to share their favourite poems with Neal. Lewis performed a poem brilliantly to Neal, he said that Lewis should be a poet himself! The children said, "The words just flow out of his mouth" (Joe Y4) "I like his books" (Erin Y2) Lucian and Zarah both said that he was really funny. Thank you again to FOSA for funding this fantastic experience for the children.

Important Notices

Term Dates

The second part of the summer term starts on **Monday 5th June** and ends for the summer break on **Wednesday 19th July** at 3:25pm. School will be closed on **Thursday 8th June** for the general election polling day and **Monday 26th June and Friday 14th July** for staff training. The new school year in September starts on **Monday 4th September** (Friday 1st September is a staff training day).

Pupil Voice

Following feedback in parent surveys, we have asked pupils to share their ideas and opinions about home learning. We discussed with focus groups the tasks which they find most and least effective in helping them practise and consolidate their classroom learning. This was a really useful process. It is clear that the workbooks used by Years 5 and 6 are popular and that a variation in writing tasks will be the next step forward for home learning. It was good to know that the children like completing the home learning projects because families can be involved in them. We will be reviewing further how we use Bug Club and Mathletics as some glitches have come to our attention. Thanks to all who shared their views.

School Website

The school website is the best place to find power point presentations from any workshops or meetings that you may have been unable to attend. Learning Projects and curriculum information are updated half termly. Curriculum information and home learning projects for the next half term will be available by the end of the first week back after the half term break.

Things you won't want to miss!

Summer performance

Looking ahead to later in the school year, we will be presenting a school performance linked to the topic of 'London Through the Ages.' Staff have participated in drama and performance workshops led by Laura-Beth from LAMDA which were great fun and developed our skills in linking drama to learning across the curriculum. We have scheduled two performances for **Thursday 13th July at 9:30am and 2:30pm**. Tickets will be distributed nearer the time in the same way that they are given for the Christmas performances. All children will take part in both performances.

Nurse Drop-ins

Nurse drop-ins are a great opportunity to meet with our local NHS school nurse to discuss any issues or concerns you may have regarding your child. The session is free and parents and carers are able to drop in. The nurse will be in next term on **Tuesday 20th June & 4th July** between 9:00 & 10:00am.



Attendance

I am really pleased to announce that we have had three classes in a row with 100% attendance this half term. Well done to Year 1, Year 5 and Year 4DM. At the end of the summer term we will again be awarding Bronze and Silver certificated plus our first Gold certificates for 100% attendance all year.

Reminder: Please do not keep your child at home for minor coughs/colds; we will always contact you if your child becomes unwell or is not managing the day at school.

Uniform

I have not received any thoughts on the P.E. kit from families following the last two half termly newsletters. At the beginning of next term we will formally consult families about any changes that we might make for September. In the meantime, please be reminded that children should be wearing their blue P.E. kit on their P.E. days with grey tracksuit bottoms. For Summer 2 term P.E. for all classes will remain on the same day as the Summer 1 term with the exception of Y6 who will now have P.E. on Friday and Year 3 who will have PE on Wednesdays. Reception class will continue to have P.E. on Tuesdays.

Sandals- children can wear sandals in the warmer weather, these should be white or black and must have a strap around the heel rather than 'flip flop' style footwear to ensure that children playing outside can run and climb safely.



The latest craze!

Fidget spinners and lego cards are very popular at the moment. The spinners are not allowed in class rooms although children are playing with them sensibly at playtimes. The lego cards are causing problems and arguments so please keep them at home. Thank you for your support.



Sports News

This term Year 1 have taken part in tri golf and gymnastics. Year 3 took part in tennis and representatives from all KS2 classes took part in Quad kids. The children in Year 1 committed to after school gymnastics sessions in order to prepare for the gymnastics competition by learning routines and represented Oakhill at the borough competition. Mr Barnard received a special certificate for his efforts on the day guiding the children through the routines by performing them himself!

Tri golf is a 'mini' version of golf for primary schools. Children use plastic clubs and rubber balls to play a variety of games which are aimed at developing the skills needed for playing golf. This is not a sport which is commonly played in schools and it was a great opportunity for the children to experience a different sport. Next half term there is a similar competition for year 6.

Our Year 3 tennis team were a credit to Oakhill. Their sportsmanship and team spirit on the day were commented on by those organising the event. They just missed out on the semifinals by a couple of points and demonstrated some really good skills. Again, there is a Year 6 competition coming up next half term.

Quad kids is a competition for KS2 pupils who take part in four aspects of track and field athletics. These four activities are standing long jump, throwing, a sprint and a longer run. The pupils taking part yesterday did so in very difficult conditions, the hot weather made the activities more challenging but they did a great job. Particular congratulations to Isabella in Year 3 who came first in her 400m run. The children were given brand new tracksuits which have been purchased for the school by FOSA and were very excited to have them but it was too hot to use them! Thank you to FOSA, the tracksuits are high quality and look great.

FOSA

FOSA are working really hard behind the scenes to prepare the summer fair which takes place after school on Friday 7th July. If you are able to help with setting up, running a stall or clearing away they will still be very pleased to hear from you, please let them know by putting a note into the FOSA post box located outside the office.

Funds are currently being collected to purchase raised beds so that children can grow their own vegetables for cooking sessions and for new children's furniture throughout the school which will transform the classrooms.



Summer 2 2017

Monday 5th June - Friday 9th June - Year 5 Cycle Training

Thursday 8th June 2017 - Polling Day - School Closed

Tuesday 13th June 2017 - 3.45 Year 5 SATs Information Meeting for Parents

Wednesday 14th June 2017 - Class Photos

Thursday 15th June 2017 - 9.00 Year 1 & 2 Learning Workshop

3.00 Year 1 Class Assembly

Friday 16th June 2017 - 3.30 FOSA Fathers Day Event

Tuesday 20th June 2017 - Year 3 Vestry House Trip, 9.00 School Nurse

Thursday 22nd June 2017 - Year 5&6 Learning Workshop , Year 5 class assembly at 3pm, Year 2 Value Games Pool & Track TBC

Friday 23rd June 2017 - Year 5 Value Games Peter May TBC

Monday 26th June 2017 - INSET School Closed

Wednesday 28th June 2017 - EYFS Sports Day

Thursday 29th June 2017- Year 1 & 2 Learning Workshop, KS1 Sports

Day & Year 3 class assembly 3pm,

Friday 30th June 2017 - KS2 Sports Day

Monday 3rd- Wednesday 5th July 2017- Year 6 residential trip to York

Thursday 6th July 2017- Year 2 class assembly 3pm

Friday 7th July 2017 - FOSA Summer Fete

Tuesday 11th July 2017 - Parents Evening

Thursday 13th July 2017 - Parents Evening

Friday 14th July 2017 - INSET Day - School Closed

Monday 17th July 2017 - Reception Sports Day, Highams Park Induction Day

**Wednesday 19th July 2017- Year 6 leavers assembly, last day of term
School finishes at 3:25pm**

Autumn 1 2017

Friday 1st September - School closed to children for staff training

Monday 4th September- first day of term, Reception class transition morning, Nursery home visits- Nursery closed to children.

Thursday 7th September- Nursery open to children

Star of the Week

Year 1 - Evie for consistently being a good friend.

Year 2 - Harry for working hard on his reading and writing, especially for his story last week.

Year 3 - Sophie for always working hard and being a good role model.

Year 4DM - Ethan for being a resilient learner by continuing to work even though he is struggling to write.

Year 4TC - Harry for always working hard across the entire curriculum.

Year 5 - Ruby for working well with the year 2's when teaching them how to use Google slides.

Year 6 - Harry for taking a risk and reading his piece of work confidently with expression.

Attendance

Week: 34 - 22nd May - 26th May 27th 2017

Highest: Year 4TC - 98.8%

Gold Awards

Chloe Year 1
Harry Year 1

Term Dates 2017-18

Autumn Term		
1 st September	INSET	School Closed
4 th September - 20 th October	Autumn Term 1	
23 rd - 27 th October	Half Term Break	School Closed
30 th October - 20 th December	Autumn Term 2	
21 st December - 2 nd January	Christmas Break	School Closed

Spring Term		
3 rd January - 9 th January	Spring Term 1	
12 th February - 16 th February	Half Term Break	School Closed
19 th February - 29 th March	Spring Term 2	
30 th March - 13 th April	Easter Break	School Closed

Summer Term		
16 th April - 25 th May	Summer Term 1	
7 th May	Bank Holiday	School Closed
28 th May - 1 st June	Half Term Break	School Closed
4 th June - 20 th July	Summer Term 2	