

Oakleigh School

Newsletter



Spring 2017

Hello, and welcome back to school for the start of 2017. Thank you from all the staff for all your season's greetings, cards and gifts.

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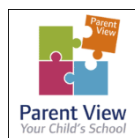
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Weather – We thought it would be useful to remind you of the procedures if school is closed or needs to close early due to snow / ice. The decisions to cancel transport are made by Transport, in liaison with others in the Local Authority. We then carry out a risk assessment, and make a decision as to whether school should be entirely closed, or open to those members of staff and pupils who can safely get to and from school. The decision to open also depends on having sufficient members of staff who can get in, to ensure the children's safety. If Transport is cancelled, you will receive a text message from us, and it is Transport you need to contact regarding any transport issues – 020 8359 5110. If school is closed, you will also receive a text message from us – please ensure we have your most up to date mobile phone number. We will also put a message on the office voicemail (extension 0) to let you know the situation from the school's point of view. Information will also be posted on both the school and Barnet websites.

Parent View, is an online questionnaire which parents and carers can use to give views about the school at any time of the school year. We'd really like you to complete the short questionnaire at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/new-voice-for-parents>, you simply need an email address and a password to register. Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to choose answers to 12 short questions about the school, such as if your child is happy here, the quality of teaching, if s/he is well looked after etc., and whether you would recommend the school to other parents/carers.



Staff

Jenny Gridley is currently taking flexible retirement, which means she has reduced the number of days she

is working. Ruth Harding continues to be Acting Headteacher Mandy left last term to further her role in the Local Authority as advisory teacher for children with multi-sensory impairments and visual impairments. This will continue to involve her in coming into Oakleigh in that capacity, so we will still benefit from her guidance and support. Katalin left as she moved to Portsmouth. Leah, Amy, Cindy and Geraldine also left. We have appointed new members of staff, and would like to welcome them to Oakleigh. Jessica the Speech and Language Therapist is on maternity leave, following the birth of her son Toby, and we have a new Speech and Language Therapist, Kate.

Governing Body There are three current parent/carers on the Governing Body - Rose Charles, Margaret Owen and Sameerah Siddiqu. Lindsey Kitchener has been re-elected as staff Governor. For more information about our Governing Body, see [Oakleigh School Governing Body](#)

Our **School Blog** is kept up to date with key events, and it seems to makes sense to refer you to that rather than repeat them in the newsletter each term. For reports, photos and videos from events please visit <http://www.oakleighschool.co.uk/teaching-and-learning/global-education-blog>. If your child is involved in a special event either in school or on a school trip, it is worth keeping an eye on the blog soon after to see the write up. This includes any holiday activities such as theatre trips and family play dates which we run (Oops Playscheme is a separate organisation and is not covered by our School Blog). Remember to regularly have a look at our **Website** – www.oakleighschool.co.uk – it is frequently updated by Pete, including with community notices and useful information / links, including activities and services, toys and equipment and grant giving organisations – see the Links tab –



<http://www.oakleighschool.co.uk/links>.

Please do contact us if you have any suggestions for the website, many of the new links are from families letting us know useful information for other families.

All of our end of term events went very well, with the children enjoying their parties, dinner, Nativity assembly and church visit. We were very fortunate to once again be selected as one of the schools to whom London Underground's Northern Line donated £10 per child to purchase Seasonal gifts.

New Minibus

Our new minibus, part funded by The Lord Taverners and part by our PSA fundraising, is due to arrive soon. We have been fundraising for several years for this, and are so excited that it has come to fruition, and that we will have a brand new minibus for educational visits. We will continue to use the old minibus, as currently there are times when we have to hire additional transport for educational visits, off site swims and inclusion with mainstream schools.



For **Black History Month last term**, we took our inspiration from the Paralympic and Olympic Games in Rio. We showed how much we enjoy using our bodies to "Be the best we can be!".

These photos are taken from the display in the front corridor of the school.

Drama and music events

One class went to see The Snowman, another went to We're Going on a Bearhunt, and another went to a special Oily Carte performance, all at the Arts Depot in North Finchley, which were apparently all wonderful. This term, we have already had a wonderful concert of Percussive Relaxation Sounds from Music in Hospitals.



British Museum

We are really pleased that our links with the British Museum are continuing, and this term they are creating multi-sensory workshops for us to tie in with our topic theme of Colours. You will receive details if your child is involved in a visit to the museum.



Family events

We have a lovely *Family Room*, and you are welcome to use it at any time, it is stocked with refreshments. Please let the school office know if you need anything. The *Workshops* have been going really well so far this term – see the Dates section for those still coming up before July.

Family Support Team

You may know already that we have a team of six professionals, who all work closely together with the aim of empowering you to help you achieve the best outcome for your family and to work in partnership with you to achieve the best for your child. The team consists of a Drama/Movement Therapist, Music Therapist, Child Psychotherapist, Early Intervention Co-ordinator, and 3 Family Support Workers. If you would like to find out more about this team, please contact your child's class teacher, who can then refer you on to the relevant person.

Clubs and sports events

Last term, we had lunchtime clubs for Football, Cycling and Dance. We had a dance assembly performed by

the dance club children. The Spurs and cycling coaches also worked with some of the children on skills during PE lessons. Once again, this year, as part of our Olympic Legacy funding, we hope that each class has been, or will be, involved in an out of school sports event with other schools. We post photos and reports of each one on our blog, so if your child has been to an event, remember to log on to read all about it –

<http://www.oakleighschool.co.uk/teaching-and-learning/global-education-blog>

The school **photographer** came in last term; hopefully you were happy with your child's photo.

Our **After School Clubs** continue to be very successful, with a range of activities being offered.

Dexter, our Pets as Therapy Dog

Dexter, our Cocker-Poo PAT dog, continues to visit each week with his owner Andrea. The children respond really positively to him and his sociable personality! PAT dogs provide fantastic sensory experiences for our children, as well as the opportunity to learn to interact with animals in a safe and controlled environment



School Travel Plan

In the last term, we have hosted people from both Barnet and Transport for London (TfL) to showcase how we adapt this London wide scheme for children within Oakleigh, and through these links we are now asked for input into the creation of resources and activities to ensure they are inclusive and accessible to all. Having Gold accreditation enables us to apply for various grants, for example we were successful in getting a grant for £5000 towards the cost of the sunken trampoline in the Infant playground last term. Here are some examples of the various things which we do which are part of our School Travel Plan.

Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs)

This is part of Transport for London's STARS – (Sustainable Travel: Active Responsible Safe) Scheme, and we are very proud to have adapted it to work within our context. Each term two classes wear the special hivi jackets in order to promote the type of play and physical activity they like to do at playtime, with the aim being that members of staff encourage other children to join with these activities.

Educational Visits

The children all seemed to enjoy their seasonal educational visits. Some classes have been accessing places in the community via public transport, although of course bus restrictions on the number of wheelchair users who can travel at one time does impact on what we can provide in terms of using public transport.

Road Safety Week

Children took part in a range of activities during Road Safety Week, including walks in the local area and role

play in the playground using traffic cones and lighting up traffic lights.

Be Bright Be Seen Day



Last term, we held our first annual 'BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN' day. The purpose was to promote awareness of how important it is to be visible when out and about now the days are getting shorter. The day was a great success, with children and staff all getting involved, sporting bright colours and beaming smiles.

Walk Once a Week Scheme (WOW)

Your child's class is part of this National scheme, which encourages active travel by children and adults.



For our school, we have chosen to set targets related to things specific to each class, such as not using the minibus to get to their local inclusion mainstream school, the allotments or the park, or possibly walking regularly around the school grounds. Your child may receive a badge for regularly achieving these targets.

Coming up...

Bingo Evening – Saturday 4th February, 7.30pm

A fun packed fundraising evening at Oakleigh School! £10 for 10 games, bar and nibbles available. Tickets available on the door.



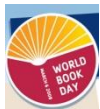
Music and Drama

Some classes will be taking part in a **Bamboozle** Theatre Company show at Oakleigh later this month.



Fairtrade Week – 20 – 24 February. The theme this year is Fairtrade Breaks, and we will be sending information home nearer the time about the activities we will be organising this year. We are thinking that it would be lovely if parents/carers could come into school to share a Fairtrade snack, for example a cake made from Fairtrade ingredients, with their child's class. Details to follow.

World Book Day. 22 March 2017



We will be sending home your £1 Book Token in advance of World Book Day. You can exchange this for books in local bookshops. This year marks 20 years of World Book Day, and to celebrate, we will be having a day of activities on 22 March. This will involve stories in classes, everyone dressing up in a colour and a story event in the hall for all the children. Flier to follow with more details.

Parent / Carer workshops

So far, the monthly parent/carers workshops are going very well, with good attendance and very positive feedback. If you reply that you are able to come, please do attend, as the leader will be expecting a certain number of people. It could also be the case that if we are short of space, people not turning up could be that someone who wanted to attend is denied



the opportunity. If you have any ideas of other workshops, please let Alison Rees know.

Siblings Drama Day We hope to hold a day for Primary aged siblings of children at Oakleigh during the February half term – details to follow.

Pamper Evening – March 2017

We are having a Pamper Evening in March – in the past these have been really successful events, with a range of therapies on offer. Date and further details to follow!



Donations and Fundraising for ourselves and other causes

The **Christmas Jumper Day** for Save the Children raised over £120 – see the blog for the staff photo! <http://www.oakleighschool.co.uk/teaching-and-learning/global-education-blog/christmas-jumper-day-2016>



We won the 1st prize in the **Tesco Bags of Help competition**, which was a massive £12,000. This has been used to install artificial grass in the Infant playground, enabling year round play for the younger children. Thank you to all of you who voted for us in local stores, or spread the word amongst friends and family! We are clearly a very well connected school, having won both this prize and the £10,000 in the Aviva competition for sensory equipment last year!

Please vote for Oakleigh online in the [Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund competition!](#) We have entered a competition with the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund to win £300, which we will use towards buying an outdoor music stand for the KS2 children. Until the end of February 2017, they are seeking to award a total of 70 donations of £300. Five donations will be awarded each week, 4 by a panel of judges and 1 through the People's Choice award to the organisation with the most weekly votes. Votes are reset each Monday, so please try to vote each week (but not more often or we will be disqualified!).

Easyfundraising Thank you to all of you who have signed up at easyfundraising.org.uk. So far we have raised over **£1500** for the school! If you haven't yet, please register as a supporter here:

[Oakleigh School Easyfundraising page](#)

if you shop or book holidays online through easyfundraising we will receive a percentage of each sale. It doesn't cost you more and their comparison site will often save you money too. <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>

The **Autumn Fun Party** was very successful, with lots of families attending, and raising over £230 for the school!

Santa's grotto at Oakleigh raised over £100!



We're still collecting!


Please continue to send in any vouchers/tokens etc (during promotional periods), including those from Nestle, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsbury's etc.. We are able to use these tokens to get lots of great equipment, including books, computer and sports equipment. Look out for Oakleigh School in various branches of Waitrose, as we are sometimes selected as one of the charities in their Green Token Scheme. This particular scheme has raised over £1000 over the last couple of years.



Recycling

As part of the Shoe Friends scheme, we are still collecting unwanted shoes, which will be sent to Africa and sold to people who need them. The money raised will go towards building schools in Africa. PLEASE send in ALL unwanted shoes, remembering to either tie the laces together or putting an elastic band around each pair. For each sack collected, the school gets a donation.



 We are part of a scheme with Infotone, whereby we recycle **new and old printer cartridges**. Although we don't receive much for these, recycling for cash not only helps our school raise funds but also benefits the environment too! So please send them in!

PSA

*The PSA AGM is on **28th February, at 10.30am**. Please do come along to hear about what the PSA did over the last year, and plans for the year ahead.*

The PSA do a fantastic job in both organising events for families, and also raising much-needed funds for the school, for example they fund the running of the minibus which we use each day to take the children out on educational visits or to swimming at community pools. They also funded the Autumn fun party, the end of term Christmas parties for the children, and holiday family outings.



UPDATE ON NEW APPROACH TO INVOLVING MORE FAMILIES - There are a small number of parents who are actively involved in the PSA, and they are in real need of more parents/carers to help out. Please see the attached letter explaining a new approach to involving parents/carers in the PSA. We think that having class reps and small groups of class-based families working together will help to create a sense of smaller communities and more involvement in whole school events.

Many thanks to all the members of the PSA for all they do for our school.

Please do support PSA events and activities, they are a lot of fun, and the success relies upon lots of people coming along!

✚ Requests and ongoing information

Photos and videos at special events in school

We really value you coming to support and share special activities such as assemblies, shows etc with your child, but would please request that you only take photos/video of your own child, as some children do not have permission for out of school use of their photos. Please also be extra cautious when placing photos/video on social media, and you may only do this for your own child.

Clothes and Voluntary Contributions

Please make sure that all your child's clothes are clearly labelled. We try very hard to not mix up clothes, but it is really helpful if they are named. It would be helpful if you could send in a pair of plimsols for your child to wear as an alternative to their outdoor shoes in case they get wet or muddy in the playground. We are grateful for any voluntary contributions for snacks, cookery, educational visits etc..

Snack Food

As we are part of the Schools' Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, we do offer healthy snack options to the children. The fruit and vegetables can be pureed to make smoothies / juices, cooked or eaten raw. If you would like us to provide a particular snack for your child, or would like to send something in, please speak to your child's class teacher. We are also able to offer milk as a drink option in school.



Medical information and requests

- The nurse will need a copy of prescription or recent clinic letter before she can give medication at school - if this is not provided, she cannot give the medication.
- Please inform us if your child has a dose of paracetamol / ibuprofen / buccal midazolam prior to coming into school, it is helpful for us to know just in case it is required in the morning at school.
- Please inform the Nursing team if there are any changes to medication, including emergency medication. This includes changes to the strength of medication as well as the dose. This is to ensure safe administration of medication.
- The nurse is unable to administer non-prescribed medication. All medication, including individual doses of Buccolam, must have a pharmacy label that states the child's name, date of birth and dose to be administered and must be in the Buccal Midazolam box. All

medication needs to have a signed consent form that you can request from the nurse.

- **For the safety of your child, children are unable to attend or remain at school with no Buccal Midazolam or if it has expired. If a child comes to school without Buccal Midazolam, you will be contacted to collect them.**
- The school family support worker can help you with reassessing your child if they need a change to their incontinence pad size, but you need to liaise directly with the suppliers for date changes and re-ordering. You need to leave a message on their number at least 14 days before your next delivery. This will activate your next delivery. They can be contacted on 020 8349 7469. If you live out of borough or have a non-Barnet GP you will need to contact that area's continence service for your deliveries.
- If your child bumps their head while at school, we will contact you immediately. A head injury advice sheet is sent home with all children who bump/hurt their head at school.
- While we encourage children to have full attendance at school, if your child is unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to come to school. Details of our Health Policy are in your child's home/school diary. Children should be kept off school for 48 hours from the last bout of sickness or diarrhea.

If you have any questions regarding any of the points above, please contact either the school nursing team, or a member of the Leadership Team.

Nuts

Please be aware that we do not have nuts in school for any of the children, so please be careful if you send in food

Home School Diaries

Please do tick the box next to the message so that we know that it has been read.



Talk-Time Postcards

Your child has a Talk-Time Postcard. These are for you and your child's class staff to simply talk and record up to 10 seconds so that your child can share their news. The cards are write-on/wipe-off (please only use the pen provided), plus there is a clear plastic pocket for you to insert your own pictures. Please do use these as often as you can, and remember to keep it in your child's bag so it is available for us to record messages for home. This is in addition to your child's home / school diary.



School Uniform

Smith's Schoolwear, located in both Enfield and Potters Bar, supply our school uniform. You can either go into the shop if you aren't sure of the size you need, or just order online, and they will deliver your order to school. We will then send it home to you.



www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk. Please note that this is a private company, and Oakleigh is not involved in any of the financial arrangements between you and them.

Swim pads

We have a supplier for pads for children who need to wear them in the hydrotherapy pool, or in public pools when they go swimming. If you would like to order one for use outside of school, please contact Alison Rees at the school. If your child needs a swimming pad, you will receive a letter requesting payment for it.



Rather than your child miss their hydrotherapy or swimming session, if we have a spare one which another child has grown out of, we will use it for your child. Please let us know if you would prefer us NOT to do so.

When you visit...

When you sign in, please remember to turn off your mobile phone.

We are really pleased when parents/carers want to visit, and are proud of our open-door policy, but please be aware that if you would like to speak to your child's teacher, it is best to phone first so that we can release them to talk to you with least disruption to lessons. Also, if you meet a child in the corridor, please be aware that some of them may be on specific social skills programmes, and need to keep focused on the task. Please be guided by the staff with the pupils.

Parking

The 1st car park at the end of our driveway belongs to the Medical Practice, and are for their staff only. Parking in our car park continues to be very limited. There are spaces for parents/carers to drop off their children but not to stay long term for meetings etc. We would like to encourage you to take your vehicles off site as quickly as possible. Please do NOT park in the place for disabled car users on the road as one of our neighbours is unable to get in his home when this is occupied.



Employing members of staff privately

We are aware that some families have private arrangements with members of school staff, in terms of employing them to look after children. We would just like to remind you that if there is a school issue, then you need to contact your child's class teacher or Head of Department directly.

Buses



This is a request on behalf of the bus escorts. It is really helpful if your child is ready when the bus comes to collect them in the mornings, as there are either other children waiting on the bus or other children waiting to be picked up. If you would like to set up a system whereby the escort contacts you when they are on the way to your house, please arrange this directly with the escort. Also, please remember that escorts are not allowed to leave the bus if children are on board, and drivers need to stay with the vehicle, so they need families to arrange for someone to bring the child to the bus or collect them from the bus. If a different person is going to be there to greet the child, please inform the escort in advance. Occasionally, if a child is unwell, the escort will contact you to change the route so that the pupil who is unwell can be dropped off earlier; it really helps the escorts if parents / carers are understanding in these unusual circumstances.

Speech and Language Therapy Home Visits

Our speech and language therapists are keen to do home visits during the school holidays, to support you in setting up programmes to use at home. If you would like one of them to contact you about this, please ask your child's class teacher to pass on your details to them or call them on 8361 1993.



Community Notices and useful information:

As stated earlier, we now have these as links on our website. There are many items which we have heard about, which we think may be interesting or useful to you. Some are from Barnet, some from the Government and others are voluntary organisations. For further details, please use the contact details provided, as they are not linked to the school in any way. <http://www.oakleighschool.co.uk/links>

Barnet Local Offer - Barnet's Local Offer gives children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families information about education, health and care services, leisure activities and support groups in their local area. See [Barnet Local Offer](#) for more details



Dates

Spring Term 2017



Events

Bingo Evening

Saturday 4th February, 7.30pm

Fairtrade Week

20 – 24 February

PSA AGM – ALL WELCOME!

28th February, 10.30am

Pamper Evening

March, 5.30-10.00pm – date to be confirmed

World Book Day

22 March

Siblings Drama Therapy Group – half term

Date to follow

Parent / Carer Workshops

For the rest of this year, we will be offering the following workshops for parents / carers. Invitation fliers will be sent out in advance of each workshop. They will mostly be on Wednesday or Thursday mornings, in the Big Therapy Room at Oakleigh School. Please contact the school office for more information.

25 January	Makaton
15 March	Toileting
26 April	Social Stories
6 June	Epilepsy
28 June	Multi-Sensory Impairment
July	Play and holiday ideas

School dates Spring Term 2017

13-17 February School holiday

3-17 April School Holiday

Tues 18 April Summer Term begins