

Oakleigh School Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Hello to new families and welcome back to existing families!

We hope you had a good Summer break, enjoying the lovely weather. The staff would like to thank you for your cards, presents and good wishes that you gave at the end of the Summer Term.

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Pupils

We have several new pupils who have joined this year, and would like to welcome them and their families to Oakleigh.

Staff

Claire M has gone on Maternity Leave having had a baby boy last week, and the post of Family Support Worker is being covered by Sophie P. For more details about the Family Support Team, see later in this newsletter. Teresa has got a teaching post working with young adults. Irina is moving out of London. Charlotte has got a new role in another school.

We have employed several new members of staff, including teachers, LSAs and MTSs – welcome to them all.

Our physiotherapists are Mino and Anita. Our Speech and Language therapists are Puja Fulman, Brittany Marriott and Gillian Hart, and Our Occupational Therapists are Sharon Byrne and Lucille Morris.

Governing Body

Jane Nicklin has been appointed as an Associate Governor.

Tapestry

Hopefully you have your own log in for Tapestry, the online Learning Journal we use for sharing photos and videos of your children's achievements. You can download the Tapestry app on your mobile phone or PC. If you have not already signed up, please ask your class teacher for a form. If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.



Parent View, is the 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. For more information about the questions, please see this on our website –

www.oakleighschool.co.uk/families/parent-view

Please note that if you have completed this in the past, your responses are archived after a year, so we would please ask all parents/carers to log on and complete the survey for this school year.

Hydrotherapy Pool / Therapy Suite fundraising project

As you may know, our big fundraising drive is to build a new hydrotherapy pool. We hope to also be able to develop our therapy rooms. We are working with Barnet in terms of design and funding. We have already received donations from a range of people, including Finchley Quakers, some neighbours, and Ethan (the brother of a boy in school), who ran a homemade lemonade and cookie stall at the East Finchley Festival to raise funds for the project. If you have any fundraising ideas / useful contacts, please contact Alison Rees via the school office.



Our **School Blog** is kept up to date with reports and photos of key events - please visit the <https://oakleighschool.co.uk/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 [Useful links](#) tab. 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.

Grants

We received two DDA grants this term. One was to complete our air conditioning in all classes, and the other was to do work on our allotment site down the road from school to make it more accessible. We also received funding for the children to take part in Bamboozle theatre productions, which are planned for next school year.



Clubs and sports events

Last term, we had lunchtime clubs for Dance, and there will be a Dance assembly in the next couple of weeks for the children to share what they have learnt. Our **After School Clubs** continue to be very successful, with a range of activities being offered, including swimming, Little Group and Communication activities. Some classes will be involved in out of school sports events with other schools.

Our Sports Mornings and Afternoons were hugely enjoyable, and having worked on the skills in previous weeks, made a big difference to the children's levels of engagement and achievement. It was lovely to have families join us.



School Travel Plan (STP)

We are very proud to announce that we have been recredited with the Gold level for our plan, which will last for 3 years. Having these awards enables us to examine the opportunities we provide for the children, and provides access to applying for certain grants. Being a Gold accredited school sometimes also enables us to apply for special grants. It also is a way for us to measure how the staff are travelling to/from school, and to assess how we use different forms of transport, and to provide more opportunities for the children to explore the local community.

Walking Bears

Our Walking Bears project introduces road safety and encourages children to think about how they travel around Oakleigh school. This is aimed at the younger children.



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. The older children are our JTAs, and will be involved in a range of activities to promote safe walking in the community.



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 sticker and certificate for regularly achieving these targets.



Equalities

Our Equalities targets this year are:

1. To develop understanding of the different religions represented in the school community through our new monthly RE celebrations and specifically of Islam through a whole staff INSET at the local mosque.
2. To develop class staff knowledge of the families of their children through having a display in each class of children and their families.

The Family Focus theme this term is for all classes to post a video of their class team saying Hello in English and home languages onto each child's Tapestry page and to invite families to reciprocate.

RE and Community links – we will be holding monthly RE celebrations on Thursday afternoons, to which families will be invited. This will be around key religious and community festivals. We also aim to further develop our links with different religious communities locally.

Community Languages Week

This year we celebrated Community Languages Week by asking families to record messages for Tapestry in their home languages.

Pets as Therapy Dogs



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. Due to various circumstances, we didn't have any PAT dog visits last term, but we are hopeful that we have two or three joining us this term, including the return of Dexter, the gorgeous Cockapoo, with his owner Andrea.

Family events

We have a lovely Family Room, and you are welcome to use it, it is stocked with refreshments. Please let the school office know if you need anything. Sometimes we hold meetings with parents/carers in this room, so it may not always be available.

We hope you found the **Celebration Afternoon** last term enjoyable. It was really well attended, and we look forward to repeating this type of event next year.

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.

The regular **Parent / Carer Workshops** have been generally very well attended, with very positive

feedback from the evaluation forms. If you do book in for a workshop, please do let us know in advance if you are unable to come, as the workshop leaders prepare for a certain number of people and they tend to wait to start in case people who are on the list arrive late. 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. Please see the Dates section of this newsletter for the workshops planned so far this school year.

The **Parent/Carer group** is very successful, with a wide range of parents attending the coffee mornings and holiday events. If you would like to talk to someone about coming along, please contact Richard B via the school office.

Donations, Fundraising, Grants and Publicity for ourselves and other causes

Oakleigh and Acorn Cookbook – as a fundraising initiative, we are putting together a cookbook of favourite family and staff recipes. You will be receiving a letter soon. Please return these *by half term* by email to Lorraine Lorraine.ferris@oakleigh.barnet.sch.uk.



Charitable Bookings is a free  app whereby the school receives a donation for each person who downloads it, and then for each restaurant or hotel booking made via the app. Please download it and search 'Oakleigh School PSA' when you register. So far, 34 people have signed up, but we could potentially raise a lot of money by people just downloading the app. Please pass this onto friends and family. There are also daily competitions on the app, for you to win some great prizes! <https://charitablebookings.com>

Easyfundraising.org.uk Thank  you to all of you who have signed up at easyfundraising.org.uk. So far we have raised over £1,850.00, with over 70 people having used the site to raise funds for Oakleigh. If you haven't yet, please register as a supporter here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/4CM3EB/> if you shop or book holidays online through [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) 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/>. It's really easy to use, just a couple of extra clicks of the mouse!

If you know of anyone who would like to make a donation to Oakleigh School, we are now registered with HMRC and are able to claim back Gift Aid. You can donate online via our website <https://www.oakleighschool.co.uk/families/parent-staff-association-psa>

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.

Recycling schemes

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 registered with a recycling organisation for genuine **used ink cartridges** and **old mobile phones**, with the school receiving a small donation.

<http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Home>. If you would like a bag for your cartridges/phones so you can send them to the Recycle4Charity directly, please let the school office know, or just send them into school. Please note that they only take *genuine* HP, Epson, Canon etc cartridges, ie NOT those which have been refilled / copy / compatible brands. We are a drop-off point for all types of **batteries**. They get collected by <http://www.erp-batteries.co.uk/>. We don't earn anything but at least they don't end up in landfill...

PSA

The PSA has an **email** address - psa@oakleigh.barnetmail.net and a **Facebook** page – Oakleigh School PSA Group <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1460250597344111>. This is a secure closed group, so please complete your child's name and class, and your request will be processed by the school office.



The **Summer Fun Day** was a huge success, with lots of different and fun activities for all the family, and lovely weather. Nearly £1,800 was raised for the school. The Summer Raffle raised over £950.

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 our minibuses which we use to take the children out on educational visits, to inclusion at local mainstream schools, to sports and arts events and to swimming at community pools.

The first **PSA meeting** of the new school year is on 1st October at 10am – *please come along!*

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

Coming up...

Our **Autumn Fun Party** will probably be held on 7th November, 4.30 - 6pm.

Black History Month – details to follow



As part of our School Travel Plan  activities, after half term, we have **Road Safety Week, BEEP BEEP day, Car Free Day (for staff!) and Be Bright, Be Seen day.** Details to follow.

The **Photographer** will be coming to take photos of the children in time for you to order them for seasonal gifts on **1st and 2nd November.** The photographer will be taking photos of individual children, not class groups. The photos will be available for you to purchase. If you would like a family / sibling photo taken, please also tell Bijal before 1st November.



We hope to be offering **Communication Surgeries** for parents / carers of children in Reception and children new to the school. This is an opportunity for the parent / carer, class teacher and speech and language therapist to spend time focussing on the communication skills of that child. You will be contacted with details of your child's meeting.

Details of our annual festive celebrations will be sent out later in the term. These will include a visit to a local church for Carols, a visit to the Oakleigh Santa's Grotto, Christmas dinner and the school Nativity. Dates at the end of this newsletter.

We are planning some **Bamboozle** Theatre multi-sensory workshops for all the children over the year, to take place at school.



Requests and information



Medical information and requests

- The nurse will need a signed consent form and 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 by telephone or leave a note in their home book 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, if it has expired or if the seals have broken. If a child comes to school without Buccal Midazolam, you will be contacted to collect them. The escort will be unable to take children on the bus if the Buccal Midazolam does not fit the above criteria.**
- The school nursing team can help you with reassessing your child if they need a change to their incontinence pad size/nappies, 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. **All children over the age of four are entitled to free nappies, please contact the nursing team to request an assessment.**
- 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 diarrhoea.
- Parents are required to send all supplies for enteral feeds such as: Giving sets, syringes, adapters, extension sets and a spare Mickey/mini button.
- Please ensure that all equipment needed is fully charged.

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.

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.

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 member of the Leadership Team directly. Please also note that our members of staff are not permitted to communicate with families via social networking sites such as Facebook.

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 her. 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.

Community Notices:

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



Autumn Term 2018

PSA meeting – all welcome

1st October – 10am

Autumn Fun Party

7th November, 4.30 - 6pm (TBC)

Meet the professionals meeting for new parents / carers

20th September, 9.45 - 12.00

Bamboozle Theatre

12th December

Photographer

1st and 2nd November

End of term Seasonal events

17 December	Church visit
Date TBC	Santa's Grotto
19 December	Christmas Dinner
11 December	Nativity Assembly, 2.15pm

Classes will be arranging their own end of term parties, and will let you know the details.

School dates Autumn Term 2018:

22-26 Oct	Half term holiday
Mon 29 Oct	Children in
Fri 21 Dec	Term ends

School dates Spring Term 2019:

Mon 7 Jan	INSET Day – no children
Tues 8 Jan	Children in
18 - 22 Feb	Half term holiday
Mon 25 Feb	Children in
Fri 5 April	Term ends

Parent / Carer Workshops

During the school year, we will be offering the following workshops for parents / carers. Invitation fliers will be sent out in advance of each workshop. Please contact the school office for more information.

This is the information so far, we will let you know when other workshops are confirmed.

Toileting	Wednesday 10 th October 10am – 11am
Sensory Processing	Monday 29 th October 9am – 11am
Sleep	Thursday 6 th December 10am – 11am
PECS	Tuesday 4 th December 9am – 11am
Behaviour Drop-In (1 to 1 meetings)	Monday 10 th December / Tuesday 11 th / Wednesday 12 th December
Managing Family Life	Thursday 28 th February 10am-11:30am
BYCAS (Young Carers)	Thursday 14 th March 9:30am – 11am
Parent/carer Wellbeing	Thursday 16 th May 9:30am – 11am
Puberty	Thursday 13 th June 10am – 11:30am

Assemblies

You are welcome to join us for assemblies in the school hall. Please check which time your child's class will be going.

27 September	Sukkot
18 October	Black History Month
15 November	Diwali
11 December - 2.15pm	Christmas