

Oakleigh School Newsletter



Summer 2017

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✚ News

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 retiring at the end of August, and we are delighted to announce that Ruth Harding has been appointed as the new Head from September. Until then, they will be co-Heads, to enable a smooth transfer. We will be celebrating the career and retirement of Jenny in the latter part of the Summer term. We will be sending letters out giving parents, families and other professionals the arrangements.

Sandra Down has been appointed Deputy Head, this is a new post, and will provide exciting development opportunities for the future.

Maria has gone on Maternity Leave having had a son in April, and Sharon will be teaching Green Class during this time. Rachel is back from her secondment to the Local Authority.

Helena left for a job in Hertfordshire as a Family Support Worker and Biljana has moved to Germany.

We have 2 new NHS therapists this term, namely Claire (SLT) and Ruby (OT) and would like to welcome to Oakleigh.

Pupils

We would like to welcome Mihaela and Ahmed, who joined us last term.



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.

New Minibus

We are now the very proud owners of a new minibus! We have been fundraising for this for several years, and with the help of The Lord Taverners and Waitrose, this has now come to fruition. For more information, see this link on The Lord Taverners website - [Lord Taverners article](#). We had a wonderful morning with special guests from both Waitrose and The Lord Taverners when we had the official handing over of the minibus, and we are really grateful to them for all their support. The minibus is already being used and enjoyed by the children and staff, and is helping to provide new opportunities for our children to access the local community.



Music and Drama events

Bamboozle Theatre Company came with their performance of The Tempest. Adults and children alike loved the performance. the props were highly visual and interactive. The musical performances of the company were totally engaging and all of the children were able to take part in the story telling. Bamboozle also came into school and put on a multi-sensory play called The Friendly Giant. The play started by singing a hello song to each child and then we were taken on an adventure down to the lake and under the water. We met and danced with the friendly giant and it was finished by a goodbye song. The show included creative props, beautiful singing and music which all the children enjoyed.



British Museum

This term several classes are visiting the British Museum where they will take part in

workshops around COLOUR IN THE ANCIENT WORLD. Look out for art work and photos appearing in the corridor at school over the next few weeks.

Special visitor to our Easter assembly – Father Gregory from All Saints Church came to lead our lovely Easter assembly. Sophie, our Music Therapist, accompanied the staff choir on the keyboard.

Tapestry

We have begun to use an online learning journey programme called Tapestry – each parent/carer has their own log in, so that you can look at photos / videos of your child's progress, make comments and upload your own photos / videos. We will be showing parents/carers how it works at a workshop during the Summer Show Afternoon on 4th July.



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.



Clubs and sports events

Last term, we had lunchtime clubs for Football, Dance and the Girls Club. Our After School Clubs continue to be very successful, with a range being offered, including rebound therapy twice a week, Soft Play, Sensory Play, Music and Communication. Tottenham Hotspurs continue to provide coaching for all pupils, either in clubs or special coaching sessions during PE lessons. We had a lovely **dance** demonstration by the Spring term dance club children.



Once again, this year, as part of our Olympic Legacy funding, most classes have 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>



Fairtrade Fortnight

Children took part in activities based on this year's theme of Fairtrade Breaks with some parents visiting classes to take part in a Fairtrade Fortnight Bake-Off!

Equalities

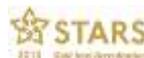
Our targets for 2016-17 are:

1. Sharing and understanding good practice around the school - class staff swapping roles across departments so that we can experience what it is like

working with different groups of children and in different teams.

2. To develop closer links between families and class teams through a curriculum focus each term and rolling out Tapestry'.

Please see the [Equalities](#) section of our website for more details about how we promote equalities and community cohesion.



School Travel Plan (STP)

We have recently reviewed our School Travel Plan, and are very proud to be reapplying for the Gold level of accreditation from TfL. 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 enables us to apply for special grants, and we were recently successful in getting a £5000 grant towards the cost of synthetic grass in the big playground. 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.

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 hi-vis 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.



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 local area or school grounds. Your child should have recently received a certificate and sticker for regularly achieving these targets.

World Book Day

This year marked the 20th anniversary of World Book Day, and to celebrate we asked all staff and children to dress in a single colour for the day. Purple, Orange and Rainbow classes had a magnificent party to celebrate the event, with lots of different activities set up in the hall for all of the children to enjoy. We also had two days of storytelling. One day we had a special telling of "I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!" All of the children visited Bronze class in three sessions, and were able to share listening to this favourite story, with all of their peers. On the second day, there was a spectacular storytelling of "George's Marvellous Medicine". The hall was decorated and the children came in three sessions to watch a special performance of this story, complete with costumes and different fun filled props. These two story telling sessions were so successful that during the Summer



Term this will be repeated with the story of The Rainbow Fish.

Community Languages Week – 4th July 2017

Our annual celebration of languages spoken at Oakleigh will take place over the week when we have the Summer Show Afternoon. The theme this year will tie in with the bring-a-dish lunch and the launch of Tapestry on that day, with families recording greetings in their home languages (see below).

MOON Partnership

As part of an ongoing strategy towards a school led school improvement system every Barnet school is part of a formal school partnership with a number of other schools. Within these partnerships schools will work together and share best practice. Oakleigh is part of a partnership with the three other special schools, Mapledown, Oak Lodge & Northway. Collectively this is known as the MOON Partnership. We are planning to arrange some reciprocal visits to each other's schools in order to observe practice in the other settings in order to inform our own practice.

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 2 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.

At the end of this newsletter you will see the workshops which are planned for the rest of this term. We are working on ideas for workshops for next school year, if you have any ideas of other workshops, please let Alison Rees know.

The Siblings' Activity Day during the school holiday was a great success. 7 children aged between 6 and 10 took part. The children created an adventure story

together which highlighted the value of friendship and community. The story was told using lots of musical instruments which the children played themselves.



Here are some quotes from the children who attended:

"I liked playing the different games", "Making the music", "I liked everything!"

In the school holiday there was also a **Family Play Date**, which involved 18 families coming to Chickenshed Theatre to see *Tales from the Shed*.



The sun was shining and families took the time to meet and talk to each other before and after the show. The show itself was the usual energetic mix of puppetry, music and drama. Some quotes from the feedback included *'I was very happy with everything. The support from staff was really good, helpful and made me as a mum of two really comfortable and relaxed.'* *'It provides a fun environment where my child can have the freedom to engage with the performance'*, *'Having exclusive use made the event much more manageable for us with all 3 children – more enjoyable as we didn't worry about them running around.'*

The **Parent / Carer Coffee Morning** in March was attended by 14 parents/carers, including 3 men and 11 women. People took the opportunity to share stories about their experiences and their



children's home life. 10 parents attended the 1st coffee morning of this term, in May. The workshop theme was communication and creative self-expression. We found out about each other's creative hobbies and also about activities that they take part in with their children. We also talked about ways in which different children



communicate within the family, use of home languages for example. Two mothers both brought their new babies to the group, and two parents who live near each other swapped numbers.

+ Donations, Fundraising and Publicity for ourselves and other causes

We held a fundraising **Bingo** evening, and which raised over £1100! The **Indulgence** evening was a big success, with everyone feeling pampered and relaxed, as well as raising about £600 for the school. See the school blog for more details.

We have received a donation of £500 from a friend of a member of staff, and £250 from CMS Cameron McKenna LLP



Easyfundraising.org.uk

Thank you to all of you who have signed up at easyfundraising.org.uk. So far we have raised over

£1,600.00, with nearly 60 people having used the site to raise funds for Oakleigh (*we raised about £100 just last term!*) 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 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. Please contact the school office for more details and to get the relevant form.

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 Eastern Europe and Africa and sold to people who need them. The money raised will go towards building school. 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 received £4.00 for the 20 kilos we collected last term).



We are part of a scheme with **Infotone**, whereby we recycle **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! The **battery** recycling has gone well and 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...



The children at Sacred Heart School once again donated Easter Eggs for each of our pupils. Thank you too to the family of Lynn Bhanja (our previous Deputy Head) for their donation of snack food for the children.

PSA

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 next PSA meeting is on **9th May, 10.30 am** – please do come along. They will be discussing the Summer Fun Day, and all new people welcome!



Please see the following message from parents on the PSA committee – “We have lots of ideas for fun events to help raise money, but, to be honest, we need your help! You can help in lots of ways:

- attending PSA meetings and offering ideas and opinions (you don't have to come to all meetings - but they aren't all that often, and they are kind of fun!)
- coming to events – and bringing your friends and family too
- helping on the day of an event – setting up / packing away / helping with a stall or activity
- selling raffle tickets or event tickets
- baking cakes to sell at events
- donating goods for stalls / raffle prizes

Please think about how you might be able to help us (and therefore your child) and let us know by sending the attached form back.” Please see the attached letter and return the reply form to the school office.

Our **Summer Fun Day is on Saturday June 17th 12.00 – 3.00pm**. As well as being a fundraising event, this is a lovely afternoon of fun in a safe and familiar setting for your children, so please do come along. There are lots of free or minimal cost activities for all children to enjoy! As this is Jenny Gridley's last Summer Fayre, we hope there will be a great turnout of families to mark the occasion!

On **Wednesday 14th June**, we are asking as many parents as possible to come in at 10am to help prepare for the Summer Fun Day, for example sticking tickets on tombola prizes, folding raffle tickets etc. This is not only a great help to those involved in organising the fayre, but also a good opportunity to meet other parents and have a chat.

The **Summer Raffle** will be drawn on 10th July – please do sell as many tickets as you can to friends and family.



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

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

Coming up... Siblings' Activity Day

We look forward to seeing familiar faces and new siblings for days taking place at Oakleigh in the Summer holiday – date to be confirmed. For more details contact Jessica Ellinor or Richard Barton at the school.

PE and Sports

Our Sports Day is on 23rd June. See below for class times.

Summer Show Afternoon – 4th July, 12.15-3.15pm Summer Show, Family Bring-a-dish lunch and Tapestry Workshop

This will be on 4th July, and will be an afternoon full of a range of activities. We really hope that all parents/carers will be able to attend. We will share a family lunch as part of our *Community Languages Week*, and ask parents/carers to bring in a dish from their culture. There will be the Summer Show (movie) showcase of the achievements of each class this year. Parents/carers will be able to go to their child's class to share their movie with the children and take part in the Goodbye Group. The day will also be the official launch of Tapestry (see News section for more details). Please do come along to share this special and exciting day.



Meet the new teacher

We are working on class lists for next year, and you will be informed of your child's class for next year as soon as we are in the position to let you know. If your child is going to have a new teacher, in order to help with the transition, this year we are inviting parents/carers in to school to have a transition meeting with the current and new teacher. The new teacher is going to contact you to arrange a meeting during the second half of the term.

Requests and 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 labeled. 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 plimssoles 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 nursing team 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. ✓

Emailing teachers

Although we are very happy for parents/carers to be in contact with teachers via email, please note that most teachers are in class full time, and have limited time to access their emails. If you need to speak to your child's teacher urgently or if the matter is pressing, please either write in your child's home/school diary or leave a phone message for them with the school office.



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 your child's teacher. 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.

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

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.



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.

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:



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



Summer Term 2017

Events

- 9 May 10.30 am Summer Fun
Day planning meeting – all welcome
- 14 June 10am – help with Summer Fayre
- 17 June Summer Fayre 12-3 pm
- 19-23 June Sports Day date TBC
(details to follow for each class)
- 10 July Summer Raffle being drawn
- 4 July Summer Show Afternoon
12.15-1.15 Bring-a-dish lunch
1.15-2.00 Summer Show (Movies)
2.00-2.45 Tapestry workshop
2.45-3.15 Classrooms
- 18 July Leavers' Assembly

School dates Summer Term 2016:

Fri 21 July Term ends

School dates Autumn Term 2016:

- Mon 4 Sept INSET Day – no children
- Tues 5 Sept Children in
- 23-27 Oct Half term holiday
- Mon 30 Oct Children in
- Wed 20 Dec Term ends

Parent / Carer Workshops

For the rest of this school 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.

26 April	Social Stories
6 June	Epilepsy
21 June	Play and Holiday Ideas
28 June	Multi-Sensory Impairment meetings
4 July	Tapestry (as part of Summer Show Afternoon)