

# Oakleigh School Newsletter



Summer 2018

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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 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. You can link to the questionnaire via our website, where you can also find some guidance on how to interpret the questions for children at Oakleigh.



<https://oakleighschool.co.uk/families/parent-view>. Thank you to those of you who have already completed this. As these are anonymous, we cannot respond to each person, but thought it would be helpful to let you know that we do analyse the data, and so far have the following responses:

- The school tries to respond swiftly to all concerns families raise. We would like to encourage all parents/carers to contact class teachers or Deputy/Assistants Heads if you have any concerns whatsoever about your child
- At Oakleigh we do not interpret children's behaviour as bullying. As part of our Behaviour Policy we acknowledge that our children do not intentionally harm others but sometimes lack appropriate communication and interaction skills associated with their learning difficulties. As a school we recognise this and aim to support our children to develop appropriate skills. Some children may require Behaviour Support Plans to identify key strategies to support them. Children are always in a highly supervised and supported environment
- The school prides itself on the care it takes to look after children, if you would like to know more please contact the Deputy or Assistant Heads.
- For some children it is very hard to interpret their views but we listen to our children taking account of their likes and dislikes and preferences. If any child was unhappy or upset we will contact parents/carers and work with them to ensure their child felt safe and happy

## Staff

Maria is back from Maternity Leave.

## Governing Body

We have had some recent changes to the Governing Body - Dominique Highfield is a new Co-opted Governor, Margaret Owen is now a Co-opted Governor, and Cristina Di santo is new Parent/Carer Governor.

## Pupils

Ayesha and Hawaa started Oakleigh this term, welcome to them and their families.

## Hydrotherapy Pool / Therapy Suite fundraising project

As you may know, having successfully secured the funding for our lovely new(ish) minibus, our next big fundraising drive is to build a new hydrotherapy pool. We hope to also be able to develop our therapy rooms. 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 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/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. Remember to regularly have a look at our **Website** – [www.oakleighschool.co.uk](http://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.

## Music and Drama events

A classical duo are doing a concert in the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> June, and we are hoping to have a short project involving 3 classes doing workshops spread over 3 days, 2 classically trained singers and a pianist, both via Live Music Now.



## British Museum

Classes are visiting the British Museum for in-depth workshops on the term's theme of ANIMALS. Katherine at the museum will be hosting the workshops using lots of sensory resources from the museum's collection.

**Special visitor to our Easter assembly –** Father Gregory from All Saints Church came to lead our lovely Easter assembly. One child from each class took part, and Sophie our Music Therapist accompanied the staff choir on the keyboard.

### **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.



### **Pets as Therapy (PAT) Dog**

Dexter, our Cocker-Poo PAT dog, continues to visit fortnightly with his owner Andrea. We are hoping to introduce a 2<sup>nd</sup> PAT dog to assist Dexter in his duties, as it can be tiring getting round the whole school! 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 Dance and Drama. Our **After School Clubs** continue to be very successful, with a range of activities being offered, including swimming, Little Group and Communication activities. We had a lovely **dance** demonstration by the Spring term dance club children. Some classes will be involved in out of school sports events with other schools.



### **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 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.

### **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.

**The Family Focus** theme this term is around Community Languages, and we will be asking families to upload videos of yourselves onto Tapestry saying 'hello' in home languages. We are really keen for you to use your home language so that we can learn how to greet your child in the language they know from home. All class teams will be posting a video on children's Tapestry pages saying "Hello" in the different languages that are spoken at Oakleigh.

### **RE and Community links**

We are delighted to have made links with Palmers Green Mosque, and this term some classes will be going on educational visits to the Muslim Community and Education Centre for Islamic Studies at the Mosque.

### **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.

### **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.

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 Claire Marsh know.

### **Donations, Fundraising and Publicity for ourselves and other causes**

We held a fundraising **Bingo** evening, and which raised nearly £800!

Alinea Consulting held a raffle on behalf of Oakleigh School, and raised over £640! We have used this money to purchase specialist sensory equipment for the children. Barfields newsagents raised over £220 with a hamper raffle. We also received a donation of £500 from a friend of a family at Oakleigh. These donations will go towards our new Hydrotherapy Pool project.



The **London to Lands End sponsored bike ride**, using an exercise bike, was a huge success, raising £350! Thank you to Lorraine for organising this great event. The bike was donated to the school and is now being used by the children.



We are very excited that we have registered with a new fundraising scheme called **Charitable Bookings**. This 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. 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](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). So far we have raised over £1,800.00, with nearly 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 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 [www.oakleighschool.co.uk](http://www.oakleighschool.co.uk).

**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](mailto:Lorraine.ferris@oakleigh.barnet.sch.uk).



### 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...

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 now has an **email** address - [psa@oakleigh.barnetmail.net](mailto: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.

**Our Summer Fun Day is on Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> 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!



We will be asking as many parents as possible to come in 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. Date to follow. Please see letter attached from parents on the PSA committee for the sorts of things that you can help with at the Summer Fun Day



The **Summer Raffle** will be drawn on 9<sup>th</sup> July – please do sell as many tickets as you can to friends and family. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize this year is a return airline ticket to New York!

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. See the school blog for the 2 days held in the Easter holidays.

### **PE and Sports**

Our Sports Days will be on 29<sup>th</sup> June for some classes and 6<sup>th</sup> July for others – see below for details. Times to be confirmed, some will be morning and some afternoon. Please do come along and join your child in the fun activities.

### **Celebration Afternoon – 12<sup>th</sup> July, 12.15-3.15pm**

This will be an afternoon full of a range of activities, including a bouncy castle, ice cream and live music. It will include parents/carers going with their child to classes for a celebration of achievements from this school year. We really hope that all parents/carers will be able to attend.

### **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 move class, in order to help with the transition, during the week starting 2<sup>nd</sup> July, teachers will be inviting parents/carers in to school to meet their new teacher.

## **Requests and information**

### **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. All children over the age of four are eligible for free nappies/incontinence pads, please contact the nursing team for more information.
- 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.

### **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.

## 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. <https://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 2018

### Events

- 16 June Summer Fayre 12-3 pm  
 29 June Sports Day for Gold, Pearl, Rainbow, Yellow, Purple, Orange, Diamond, Silver, Bronze classes – times TBC  
 6 July, pm Sports Day for Blue, Red and Green classes  
 9 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  
 12 July 12.15-3.15pm Celebration Afternoon  
 18 July Leavers' Assembly

### School dates Summer Term 2018:

Fri 20 July Term ends

### School dates Autumn Term 2018:

- Mon 3 Sept INSET Day – no children  
 Tues 4 Sept INSET Day – no children  
 Wed 5 Sept Children in  
 22-26 Oct Half term holiday  
 Mon 29 Oct Children in  
 Fri 21 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. Please contact the school office for more information.

SENDIAS	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
Sleep clinic	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May
Adult with Autism speaker – Roybn Steward	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June
Barnet Carers and BYCAS	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July
Hand under hand and responsive environment	Date TBC