



# NEWSLETTER

24TH SEPTEMBER 2021

## Science Day

On Tuesday this week all classes in KS1 and KS2 took part in a day of Science. All of the children enjoyed taking part in scientific investigations and had the opportunity to take part in some hands on science lessons.



[contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk)

Telephone No.  
**01785 337 300**  
Absence Reporting  
ParentMail



## Oakridge School Association (OSCA)

**W**e have some shoes to fill...

OSCA, our Parent Teacher Association, plays a very important part in the life of Oakridge Primary School.

It helps provide a valuable link between home and school by organising activities which improve relationships between staff, parents and children.

The members of OSCA work very hard to support the education of all of our children by helping to raise funds, close to £30,000 in the last five years. OSCA have used this to purchase equipment which is not normally provided by the Local Authority. Just a few examples include:

Sets of IPADs

Refurbishment of the ICT Suite

Shelving and new books for the Library

Playground equipment which is used at playtime and lunchtimes

We have all missed our community events and it has been a real shame that Covid restrictions have prevented activities such as the Christmas and Summer Fayre, discos for the children, as well as magic show evenings, race nights and all of the other exciting things which bring our community together, whilst raising funds for our school. We hope in the future to get back to these, and OSCA will be instrumental in ensuring this happens.

To ensure that we can continue to provide funds, as well as memorable activities for the children, we need some new members to join OSCA. There are usually three or four planning meetings throughout the year, where events are planned and members of the committee take on a role within the organisation. To date, we have been extremely lucky to have been supported by a committed group of parents who have ensured that OSCA has always been a huge success.

Being a member of OSCA is a great way get involved with the school community and to meet other parents. As well as being a member of the committee our OSCA members also come into school and help at events such as the school disco, golden book assemblies and other school events.

Moving forward, we need some new volunteers who can continue the legacy and provide that vital community link. If you feel that you could support OSCA, please contact Mrs Lewis in Reception for an informal chat. With many years' experience working with OSCA, she will be able to chat through what the role involves.

OSCA make a real difference to all of our children and it would be great to have you involved.

## Phonics Workshops

**W**e are running a workshop for Reception and Year One parents to help you support your child's learning at home.

The workshops will be held at school on 29th September and will take place at 9.00am and repeated at 6.00pm.

A ParentMail form has been sent out to all parents of children in Reception and Year One and we would be grateful if you could complete it and let us know which workshop you would like to attend.

Thank you.

## EYFS Meeting

**W**e will be holding a meeting on Thursday 14th October for the parents of our children in Nursery and Reception.

The aim of the meeting is to provide you with information about the new EYFS curriculum and an email has been sent out directly to parents from Mrs Evans, our head of Foundation Stage, with full details.

## Year Five and Six Reading Book

**T**his term, Years Five and Six will be studying the book "The Girl of Ink and Stars", by Kiran Millwood Hargrave, in our English lessons

Some children have expressed an interest in owning their own copies of the book which will avoid the need to share and mean that they can make their own annotations and notes as we study it. If you wish to purchase a copy please visit your ParentPay account to place an order.

This would be excellent for their understanding of the text, as well as good preparation for the study skills that they will require in high school and of course the book is then theirs to keep and reread to their heart's content!

If you would like a copy, please order a copy via ParentPay.



If you need to contact us over the weekend with the results of a positive Covid test could we please ask that you get in touch using the following email address:-

[contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk)

## Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a school governor. If you would like to apply may we remind you that the closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 27th September. Thank you.

## Oakridge School Lottery

One of the ways you can support our school is by joining our lottery.

The lottery is run by My School Lottery. Tickets cost £1 a week and for every ticket you play 76% goes to our school and towards prizes.

We are currently 19 tickets short of our target so if you think you could support us please visit [www.myschoollottery](http://www.myschoollottery) and buy a ticket.

They are currently running a promotion to win a Harry Potter prize bundle. If you play your local school lottery this half term and you could win a bundle containing:-

- Harry Potter & The Cursed Child - Family Theatre Voucher
- Harry Potter Warner Bros Studio Tour - Family ticket



## School Photographs

Tempest photography were in school on Thursday this week taking individual and group sibling photographs.

We expect the proofs to be with us next week. This year all orders are to be made to Tempest Photography Direct via their website with the options of posted out to your home address or dropped off at school.



## School Lunch Orders

Thank you to everyone who has been ordering their school lunches via ParentPay.

Now that we are a few of weeks into the school term could we please remind you that meals (including Tuck) need to be booked and paid for by 8.00am each day (this can be done in advance).

Could we please also request that if your child is absent from school you cancel any bookings that you may have made. All food is cooked to order and if you have not ordered a lunch for your child they will be offered a sandwich and dessert. This will also help to reduce food waste. Thank you.



## Year 5 and 6 School Games: Stafford & Stone District Schools Cross-Country Competition

On Thursday, 16 children travelled to Stafford Grammar School to represent Oakridge in the School Games District Cross-Country Competition. This event is always one of the highlights of our sporting calendar, and it was fantastic to see it return this year, following its absence in 2020.

On the night, there were 4 races – Year 5 Girls, Year 5 Boys, as well as Year 6 Girls and Year 6 Boys. Teams were made up of 4 children, with the aim of the game to score the lowest overall total possible. The format meant that the first 3 runners of each teams would have their finishing positions added together to provide the team with a total score, with the winning team of each race progressing to the County Finals Day at Keele in July, to represent Stafford & Stone District. 12 schools competed on the night.

First up on the night was the Year 5 Girls' race. Our team got off to a great start, managing to make it up the first hill in good time, and more importantly, without any trips or falls. As they disappeared in to the distance, parents all gathered nervously, waiting for them to re-emerge. As the girls came back in to sight, we could see a cluster of Oakridge blue near the front of the pack. The crowd roared them down the hill and towards the finish line as Elsee won the entire race! Then quickly after came Ayla in 4<sup>th</sup>, Lily 5<sup>th</sup>, and Grace 21<sup>st</sup>. A truly phenomenal effort from the girls gave us an overall score of just 10 – the best I've ever known at Oakridge! To have all 4 runners finishing in the first 3<sup>rd</sup> of the race is incredible, well done girls!

On to the Year 5 boys, and again we were off to a fast start, and feeling confident as our runners headed up to the top field. Once again, as they reappeared, we could see Oakridge runners near the front. They crossed the finish line to achieve yet more, incredible results! Henson claimed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Oliver was 5<sup>th</sup>, Euan 6<sup>th</sup>, and Shay 15<sup>th</sup>, giving us a score of just 13! All 4 runners finishing in the top 20 – amazing!

Year 6 were up next with the girls, feeling excited and a little emotional that this would be the last race at the Grammar school as Oakridge children. The girls started well, as parents and children gathered to cheer them on. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> race of the evening and the third set of fantastic performances with the girls giving it everything they had, crossing the line red-faced and out of breath from their efforts! Georgia finished 8<sup>th</sup>, Pippa 12<sup>th</sup>, Ros 19<sup>th</sup>, and Sophia 21<sup>st</sup>. This meant that yet again, all our runners had finished in the first 3<sup>rd</sup> of the race, well done girls!

The final race of the evening was the Year 6 boys. This team were keen to reach the County Final, just as they had done 2 years ago. However, on that occasion, the County Final didn't take place due to Covid. The start of this race was heart-warming as all of the Oakridge children who'd finished their races still made sure they ran up the hill at the start to cheer the boys on, really demonstrating the Oakridge Way, and what makes our school so special. The final race saw more fantastic finishes from our children. We had another race winner with Will finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place! He was then followed by Todd in 5<sup>th</sup>, George 14<sup>th</sup> and Oliver 19<sup>th</sup> – again, all 4 runners in the top 20, and an overall team score of 23.

We have just received confirmation that 3 of our teams, Year 5 girls, Year 5 boys and Year 6 boys have all finished 1<sup>st</sup> out of the 12 schools on the night and have reached the County Finals, with the Year 6 girls finishing in a fantastic 3rd place – an incredible achievement, well done everyone!

All of our runners performed exceptionally and left the grammar school with beaming smiles and a huge sense of pride, as did all parents and staff. It was fantastic to get back to an event that we had missed so much, and have parents there to cheer the children on made it all the more special. We are already looking forward to next week, when it will be Year 3 and 4's turn.



## Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

**W**e are currently looking to appoint a Lunchtime Supervisor to join our team.

### Key responsibilities include:

- Supervising and supporting pupils during the lunchtime period
- Engaging pupils in play at lunchtime in a positive, caring and enthusiastic manner
- Having the ability to work as part of a team
- Managing pupils' behaviour
- Work as part of a team under the guidance of the Senior Lunchtime Supervisor

You will be required to work between 11.45am and 12.50 on a Wednesday term time only.

If you would like any further information about the role, please contact the school office.

## Short Film Festival

**E**xpect sweet sounds, kaleidoscopic music videos, and a song-and-dance number about how life begins in this programme of shorts for families to watch at home!

This isn't your average online film screening though - along with a brilliant selection of short films, you will receive a specially-made activity pack with various fun tasks to undertake, including making your own 'Courage Trumpet' to help overcome fears and embarrassment, and how to discover what a slinky sounds like (which is like a lightsaber btw).

Filmic highlights include the brilliant, rhythmical *Orgiastic Hyper Plastic* about humans' love affair with plastic, and the Latvian short animation *Choir Tour* about a young choir that breaks away from their conductor while on tour and then causes mayhem in a hotel.

The screening itself will be split in two - the first half for ages 3-5, and the second half is geared towards 6+, but there's nothing to stop you watching it all (and there's plenty to be enjoyed by adults too!). Compère extraordinaire Sarah Hamilton Baker will guide you through the films and the activity pack.

**We have 30 specially-made activity packs to give away... The activity packs will be given to the first 30 people to book on to the activity and can be collected from Stafford Library.**

**Tickets:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/colour-box-home-sound-music-tickets-169859760115>

