

Foundation Stage Nativity

Even though last July we were able to hold our Year 6 leavers assembly outdoors and welcome parents onto the school grounds, it had been 470 days since parents had been allowed into school to watch their children perform. That is why on Wednesday and Thursday it was lovely to welcome parents back to watch our Foundation Stage children perform Whoops a Daisy Angel. The children were all brilliant and sang their hearts out.

Can we take this opportunity to thank parents for all the kind words that we have received and to all those who supported school by ensuring that only two members of each family attended. This support is greatly appreciated and allows school to put in place measures to ensure that these events can take place safely. Thank you.



'I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the nativity today. It was so wonderful and myself and all the Reception parents are so grateful that we were able to attend. After last night's announcement, we wondered if you may be forced to cancel it. Thank you for putting the social distancing measures in place to enable it to go ahead. It was clear how much work had gone into the performance and the children were all little superstars! We really do appreciate not only today's nativity but the many other things you do throughout the year to make their school experience so magical!'

'Thank you for all the effort your staff have put into the Foundation Stage nativity this year. It was such an uplifting morning and we are so grateful that we were all able to watch the children perform live.'

contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk

Telephone No.
01785 337 300
Absence Reporting
ParentMail



Year One and Two Visit to Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

On Thursday 16th December, Year One and Year Two children, will be given the opportunity to experience live theatre, when they will be visiting the Gatehouse Theatre to see a performance of Snow White.

We will be leaving school at 1.00pm and will return back at approximately 4.30pm. We will text you with an exact time when we know that the coach has left the theatre.

Contributions of £20.50 are invited towards the cost, payable via your ParentPay account. Please note that if there are insufficient contributions the visit may need to be cancelled.

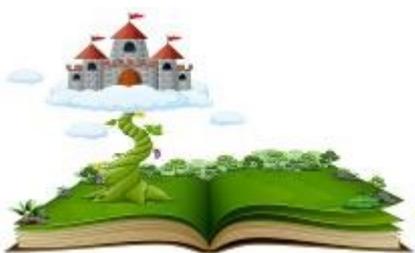


Whole School Pantomime

As part of our Christmas celebrations each year we look forward to a visit from Tread Productions and the children enjoy watching the live performance of a pantomime in school.

This year due to Covid restrictions we will be watching a filmed version of their pantomime instead.

This year every class will be watching an interactive production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' during the day on the last day of term.



Christmas Jumper Day

We have decided to hold Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term, therefore if your child would like to come to school in a Christmas jumper or one of their favourites, instead of their school jumper, on Friday 17th then they are more than welcome.

We are asking for a contribution of £3.00 towards the cost of the pantomime as well as covering a donation to 'Save the Children', payable via your ParentPay account next week.

PE is cancelled next Friday and Year Five and Year Six children are able to wear their jumpers during their Christmas assemblies.



Children's Christmas Meal

A traditional Christmas dinner will be served on Wednesday 15th December.

If you would like to send in a Christmas Cracker to add to the festive spirit please do.

Menu

Roast Turkey/Festive Quorn Slice
Stuffing
Pigs in Blankets
Mini Yorkshire Pudding
Roast Potatoes
Broccoli
Sprouts
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Festive Cupcake
Fruit Pot

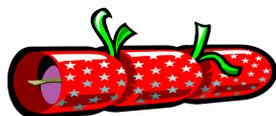
As it is not possible to change the menu options for just one day could you please order as follows:-

For a roast turkey dinner order the roast dinner option (*says pork on the menu*).

For a festive quorn slice order the vegetarian option (*says veggie steak on the menu*).

If your child would like the festive cupcake please order a biscuit - the fruit pot remains the same.

If you have any problems please contact the school office.



Christmas Class Assemblies

The children are all looking forward to their Christmas Assemblies which will be held on the following dates:-

Wednesday December 15th 2:15pm

Year 3 Christmas Assembly

Thursday December 16th 9:15am

Year 4 Christmas Assembly

Friday December 17th 9:15am

Year 5 Christmas Assembly

Friday December 17th 2.15pm

Year 6 Christmas Assembly

We will not be issuing tickets but ask that only two family members per family attend and that face masks are worn at all



Please note that there will be **no tuck** on **Wednesday** next week

Key Stage One Nativity

Our Year One and Year Two children will be performing their nativity on Tuesday 14th December and Wednesday 15th December.

The performances will start at 9.30am and should last for approximately 45 minutes. Tickets will be restricted to two per family and because of restrictions each class will have a set day for parents to attend. Could we please ask that face masks are worn whilst in school and during the performance.

Could we please ask that you do not arrive too early as we are unable to let parents into the building until just before the performance starts.

Please note the days and times below.

Tuesday December 14th 9.30am Year 1 parents

Wednesday December 15th 9.30am Year 2 Parents

As in previous years tickets will cost £2.00 and are to be paid for on the door. Tickets for entry will be issued on Monday.



Whilst we are happy for parents to take photographs of their children we would be grateful if you would be mindful not to cause a distraction during the performance and be considerate of other the parents and other family members sitting around you.

Could we also please remind all parents and carers to refrain for uploading any group photos of our Nativity plays on to any social media sites. Thank you.

Brass Tuition

The children who are currently in Year 4 have been receiving Brass tuition for two terms - the cost of this has been covered by a grant that we received from Staffordshire Performing Arts.

The whole class lessons have now finished. If your child has enjoyed learning to play either a cornet, trumpet or trombone and would like to continue they may do so.

Mr Walker, their teacher, will be taking small group lessons at a cost of around £100 for the two terms; this can be paid in 2 instalments. We need at least 4 children to continue and the amount will be confirmed as soon as we know final numbers. There is no cost to hire the instrument.

If you child would like to continue learning to play, could you please complete the ParentMail form that was issued earlier today no later than Thursday 16th December so that we can 'book' Mr Walker.

Shooting for the Stars!

We are incredibly proud of our Year Six pupil Pippa who last Saturday topped the West Midlands regional results in Round 1 of the British Shooting Schools Pistol shooting competition, she was also placed 12th girl nationally and 17th overall nationally.

As a result, Pippa has been invited to the National Schools Finals in February where she will be proudly representing Oakridge. We all wish Pippa well in the National finals in the New Year.

Inset Reminder

Don't forget that we have a planned inset day on Tuesday 4th January and that we return to school after the Christmas Holiday on Wednesday 5th January.

Sporting Clubs After Christmas

A ParentMail form has been sent out with changes to the sporting clubs after Christmas. Please complete it by Thursday 16th December if your child would like to take part.

Monday	Boys and girls Year 3 & 4 Netball
Tuesday	Girls Year 5 & 6 Netball
Wednesday	Girls and boys Year 5 & 6 Cross-Country
Thursday	Boys Year 5 & 6 Football

Charity Gift Donations

Iwould like to send my sincere thanks to you and all the families that donated gifts towards our charity this Christmas. I cannot tell you how grateful we are to you for supporting us, and what a big difference it will make to the children we support, thank you.

A Child of Mine is a Stafford based registered charity. We support families across Staffordshire and work alongside healthcare professionals when a child has died. We are a small charity but work passionately to deliver services locally, for families who have lost a child at any age or circumstance.

We provide confidential emotional support, practical information, and guidance to families, and provide training and education for professionals. We also provide several groups for parents and both younger and older children who have lost a sibling. These groups provide a safe, friendly environment where they can meet others who understand.

We rely totally on charitable donations to continue our work so thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity and support.

Thank you.

With kindest regards

Gayle

Gayle Routledge | Chief Executive Officer |
Founder



Under 11 Girls' County Cup Football Match

On Friday last week, our Under 11s girls' football team travelled to Codsall Middle School to take part in the Staffordshire Schools F.A. County Cup Quarter-Final. The team had reached this stage after an impressive 11-0 win against Veritas in the Round of 16.

The game started evenly, with both sides creating some early chances. Halfway through the first half, Codsall managed to take one of their chances to put them 1-0 up. Oakridge didn't let their heads drop though, and soon after we were level at 1-1. A fantastic team move was finished off neatly by Alaynna. Oakridge continued to have the better of the first half, mounting plenty of attacks which unfortunately, we couldn't convert in to a goal. The half-time whistle sounded at 1-1.

After the break, we were confident that if we continued to attack well, then we would find a way to win the game. Unfortunately for us though, Codsall started the half in blistering fashion, scoring 3 quick goals to give them a 4-1 lead. At this point, it would have been understandable for our team to become disheartened, but this did not happen. The girls showed a wonderful attitude, encouraging each other, showing great determination and refusing to accept that they were beaten. This admirable approach saw Oakridge wrestle back some control in the game, creating several chances which would've gotten us back in to the contest. Unfortunately, we didn't take any of them, and Codsall wrapped things up with a late goal to make the final score 5-1.

On balance, Codsall were deserved winners and we wish them all the best in the next round. Unfortunately, we are now eliminated from this competition. However, we have enjoyed a wonderful autumn term of girls' football, and we are all looking forward to the 7-a-side County Finals, which will now take place in the New Year.

It is easy to demonstrate our values when winning games, but the real test of integrity and the Oakridge Way is to show the same qualities when things are not going to plan. The girls certainly did this on Friday, and in some ways, should be even more proud. Well done to Kitty, Eleanor, Julia, Inaya, Isla, Lucy, Georgia, Holly, Sophia and Alaynna who cast a wonderful shadow and represented Oakridge brilliantly. A special mention also goes to our other Isla who unfortunately missed the game with covid, but still took the time to send a good luck message to the girls before the game.

A big thank you also goes to our parents who came along to support the team.



Boys' Under 11s Staffordshire Schools F.A. County Cup – Last 16 Match

On Wednesday, it was fantastic to see boys' County Cup football return to Oakridge. This competition didn't take place last year due to covid, so our team were very excited to get going this year.

We were fortunate to receive a 'bye' through the first round of the competition, and so this last 16 match was our first game in this year's tournament. In 2020, we had reached the semi-finals before covid cruelly saw the competition voided in March of that year. This time, we were hoping for another successful cup run.

In this round, we were drawn to play at home against Edge Hill Academy – a large junior school from Burton-upon-Trent, so we knew we'd be in for a tough match.

The game started at great speed, with both teams looking to get on the front foot and attack. Both teams started to put together some excellent passing combinations, as well as some fierce challenges. It was clear from the outset that this was a very high standard of football between two evenly matched teams. The first half remained level until we were awarded a freekick halfway through. Miller stepped up and curled a delightful effort in to the top corner to give Oakridge a 1-0 lead. Edge Hill finished the half strongly, forcing our goalkeeper Leo in to a couple of good saves.

The second half started in the same fashion as the first with some crunching tackles and physical battles, combined with some good attacking play. Oakridge had started to get on top of their opponents, passing well through midfield, giving our attacking players some more time and space on the ball. We were rewarded with a second goal when George latched on to a through ball and coolly chipped the goalkeeper. Edge Hill then really started to put us under pressure as we looked to protect our lead. They hit the bar and post, and forced Leo in to a stunning freekick save. Two minutes before the end we eventually made the game safe when Miller unleashed a powerful shot from the edge of the area to seal a hugely impressive 3-0 win. We will now advance to the quarter-finals.

The game was a joy to watch, and one of the highest standards of Under 11s football we have seen. Without a wonderful team spirit, togetherness and determination, we wouldn't have been able to produce such an impressive result. Leo, Oliver B, Oliver A, Huwi, Todd, Laurie, Will, Miller, George and Henson represented our school fantastically – demonstrating the Oakridge way both on and off the pitch. Well done boys!

Thank you to all of the parents who came and watched. It was also particularly lovely to see the Year 6 class come out and watch the final 15 minutes, and celebrate our third goal with the team. A fantastic memory for them all.

