



NEWSLETTER

7TH JANUARY 2022

Reception Campfire Night

On Friday 14th January, Reception class will be hosting our re-scheduled campfire night to support the learning on lighting up the dark.

We are asking that children return to school at 5:30pm dressed in warm clothing and with their own torch for an evening of campfire fun.

We will finish the evening with hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows around the campfire.

Children will need to be collected at 6:45pm.

We are very much looking forward to sharing this experience with the class. Please let us know if your child is unable to attend our campfire evening.



Year Two Mystery

On Thursday this week our Year Two pupils discovered that the toys have all gone missing from the toy box in their classroom!

A mystery began to unfold and they had a great time solving the clues and finding the missing toys.



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Absence Reporting
ParentMail



Happy New Year

This time last year we entered into our second lockdown with all our children not returning to school until March 8th. Therefore to see all the children arriving for school on Wednesday morning was a joy to see. This may have been a year like no other, and as someone once said 'Never make predictions, especially about the future', however, there were still many successes during the Autumn term and exciting learning opportunities ahead for all of our children.

This year we have made a significant investment in reading books and phonics resources for our reception and Year One children. Staff have also received extensive training and the impact that this is having on our children is clearly evident. Can I also thank you for the lovely comments that we have received from parents in Reception and Year One about the new resources and the home learning provided. We are really proud of the reading culture across the whole of the school with so many enthusiastic and committed readers. This can be evidenced from the number of children who have already become millionaire readers during the Autumn Term as well as the comments that the children make about their reading on a daily basis. As Barack Obama said 'Reading is important. It opens up the whole world to you.' Thank you for your continued support, it really does make a difference and helps the children access a full curriculum.

In mathematics Oakridge is now a part of the Teaching for Mastery Research group. The impact of the mastery approach has ensured that the children have become far more fluent in their mathematical thinking and this is underpinned by their ability to recall number facts and times tables quickly. Again can I thank you for your support in helping your child develop these recall facts.

The Oakridge Way

Last September saw us launch the Oakridge Way. This reflects the learning behaviours which help children to be the best learner they can be, as well as character traits which ensure that everyone in school helps create a positive environment for one another. The children have responded superbly, and not only has this had a positive impact in school, we are very proud of the fact that a number of children have been recognized for helping the community and thinking of others. At the beginning of the year as a part of our implementation we defined success as:

- We have defined The Oakridge Way
- Children can articulate when asked what The Oakridge Way is
- Children understand the importance of interpersonal qualities through a raised profile and reward system that includes parents.

Within the classroom, around the school building and at break times and lunchtimes all the children consistently display the Oakridge Way qualities ensuring that high levels of wellbeing are observed throughout the school

In November one of our Governors visited school to measure the impact. They asked three children at random from each class the following questions

Questions

1. In one sentence can you tell me what is 'The Oakridge Way'?
2. Can you explain what the canopy of the tree is about?
3. Can you explain what the tree roots are?
4. Why is 'The Oakridge Way' important?

We were delighted with the children's enthusiasm which showed in the responses that they gave.

Question 1 - 'The way we do everything at Oakridge', 'The way we do things around here'. 'It's about reaching for the stars and being the best person, you can be and being the best learner, you can be', 'To be the best person you can be', 'Teaches you how to be a good person and a great learner'

Question 2 and 3 - The canopy 'What you do to be a better learner' and 'How we learn and reflect on our work' The roots: 'About you' and 'How we act', 'The canopy is to become a better learner. The roots are to become a better person and be a better person to others'

Question 4 - 'It's about who we are as a school, we all follow and reach new heights with learning', 'Linking the school together, unites the school'

Enrichment and Curriculum

In 2021 –2022, because of the lockdown, we were only able to hold 43 enrichment activities in school. However during the Autumn Term there were 23 enrichment activities which have helped to make the children’s learning real and give our children the ‘cultural capital’ that we believe is important. These are an integral part of our school curriculum and the support we have received from the vast majority of parents has been fantastic. Once again, members of staff have given up their weekends and holidays to visit locations, before the trip takes place to ensure that the children’s learning experience is maximised. We have many more planned over the next two terms and more details will follow.

Sport

Over the past five years Oakridge Primary School has been awarded the ‘Gold Standard Mark’ for our sport provision and this term has seen more children taking part in sporting clubs as well as representing the school than any previous Autumn term. Between September and December 101 children in KS2 attended a sporting club (77% of KS2 attend a club) with 56 (43% of KS2) different children having represented the school in sporting competitions. This has resulted in some fantastic achievements which are outlined below.

Sporting Competitions 2021 - 2022

Winners - Y5 Boys Stafford and district schools cross country competition (County Finalists)

Winners – Y5 Girls Stafford and district schools cross country competition (County Finalists)

Winners – Y6 Boys Stafford and district schools cross country competition (County Finalists)

Winners—Y6 Boys Stafford and district schools Football (County Finalists)

Winners - Y6 Girls Stafford and district schools Football (County Finalists)

3rd place – Y6 Girls Stafford and district schools cross country competition

Music

This year we have focused on developing further our music curriculum and this has ensured that all the children have been involved in listening to and appraising music as well as performing and composing. We have been supported in our music delivery by two specialist music teachers who have delivered music lessons to Years 3,4 and 5. Christmas was a great opportunity for the children to showcase their singing talents and we hope you enjoyed watching the children’s performances on YouTube. We are also delighted that so many of our children are engaged in learning a musical instrument, with 82 children in KS2 learning a musical instrument. The school continues to offer musical tuition for woodwind, brass, violin, guitar and keyboard and in the summer term all the children in Year 3 will be provided with a brass instrument and free tuition as part of our schools music offer.

OSCA

A huge success of the Autumn term was the support and involvement of OSCA in ensuring that Christmas activities were able to take place for all our children. On behalf of everyone at Oakridge I would like to thank Claire and Martin Ashley, two of our Nursery parents who are our new Chair and Vice Chair, for all the time and effort that they put into supporting the school. Can I also thank everyone who kindly donated, wrapped presents or supported in any way. All your help and support ensured that we were able to hold a Christmas Fayre, a Christmas Market as well as ensure a visit from Santa which made Christmas a magical time for all the children.

All in all despite everything that Covid and its unpredictability threw at us, it was great term. We really do appreciate all the support and understanding that we received from our school community in what was without doubt the most challenging of circumstances. Thank you.

We are all positively looking forward to this term, we have lots of great plans in place which we will be sharing with you in the coming weeks.

Stoke City Tickets

Stoke City Football Club have been to visit us in school this week, to provide children at Oakridge with a very special offer of seeing a live match at the Bet365 Stadium.

You may be aware that Stoke City have been in to school in previous years to introduce children in Year Two to their 'City7s' campaign, which is an initiative aimed at giving children an opportunity to watch their first live football match, as well as engaging in all of the matchday fun at the stadium.

All children in Year 2 and 3 have been given a special offer of a **FREE** ticket for themselves and 1 adult to watch the match between **Stoke City** and **Fulham**, which will take place at the Bet365 Stadium, on **Saturday 22nd January - 3pm Kick-off**.

Children in Reception, Year 1, 4, 5 and 6 have also been given a special offer to attend the match. Children in these classes can purchase a child's ticket for just **£5**, which is a discount of 75% on the usual ticket price. Adults accompanying their children will also be able to purchase a ticket at a reduced cost of **£20**.

All tickets are located in the family section of the stadium, where children will be able to enjoy pre-match activities such as face painting, mini-golf, and use of Xboxes. They will also have the chance to meet Stoke City mascot 'Pottermus'.

All children have received a letter, explaining all of these details and more. If you wish to attend this match and take advantage of this fantastic offer, then please complete the form attached to the letter, and return it in the envelope before **Wednesday 12th January 2022**.

We appreciate that this is a short turnaround, so please ensure that you send your forms back in to school with your child as soon as possible. Once all forms have been received, match tickets will be posted out to your home address direct from Stoke City FC.



Year Four Swimming

On Wednesday 12th January, Year Four pupils will be attending their first swimming lesson at Stafford Leisure Centre.

All boys need to wear swimming trunks (not shorts) and girls need to wear a one-piece swimming costume (not bikinis).

If hair is long enough to impair vision then a swimming hat must be worn (this applies to both girls and boys). All jewellery should be removed and left at home.



Additional Inset Day

Please note that an additional INSET day has been set on Wednesday 20th July 2022.

The last day of the school year will now be **Tuesday 19th July**.

Primary School Admissions

If you have a child who is due to start in our Reception class in September 2022 please note that the admissions process will close on 15th January 2022.

School Admissions do not issue application forms as the Service is keen to provide a paperless system in all its admissions processes wherever possible. All applications should be made on-line via the Staffordshire County Council website.

Staffordshire County Council will offer places on 18th April 2022.

We regret that no priority is given in the admission process if your child is currently in our Nursery.



Foundation and Key Stage One Playground

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in a bid to secure a significant amount of funding to re-surface the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One playground.

The work is scheduled to take place mid-February and although it may cause a couple of weeks of disruption during arrival and departure at school, we feel that the new playground will be a real enhancement for our children.

We will keep you updated as to when the work is due to commence and any changes to the arrangements for dropping off and collecting your child from school.