

# Oaklands School



## Newsletter March 2017

Welcome to Oaklands Spring Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the activities that have been keeping us busy over the last few months.

### Staffing

I am delighted to announce that I have been appointed to the role of permanent Headteacher of Oaklands School. I'm looking forward to the rest of the school year and we are beginning to put plans in place for next session already.

We also have more staffing news, two of our temporary PSAs have been appointed to a permanent role Alex Wolkowska and Laura Stojakovic.

One of our teachers, Nancy Dundas will return from maternity leave after the Easter break and will be based in Class 3 (Monday and Tuesday). We would like to thank Frances Duncan who has been covering this post whilst Nancy has been on leave.



### Dates for Diary

We are always incredibly busy at Oaklands school and just to keep you in the loop (with a bit of advance warning) we have included a list of diary dates at the back of this newsletter.

### CMRGs

We have recently been involved in meeting with senior education psychologists to discuss the new pupil intake for Oaklands School. This will be finalised in the summer term.

### Easter Assembly

We have our Easter assembly next Friday at 9.30 and all parents, carers and friends are welcome to attend. There will be an Easter hunt at the end of assembly for our children to enjoy.



### Pupil Equity Funding

Recently we were informed that we would be allocated a sum of money from the Scottish Government. This money is to help close the attainment gap between the least disadvantaged children and the most disadvantaged children. We should have this money in our budget at the start of the new school session.

Linked to this government priority we have been asked to monitor parental contributions. We started to do this a few months ago and we realised that we have been asking some of our pupils to pay for swimming and others participate in hydrotherapy free of charge. After Easter we will no longer ask parents to pay for swimming and the Parent Council have agreed to help support us with this cost.

### Oaklands Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of April at 11am – all welcome. Please also see below information from Elaine Weir P.C. chairperson



*"We currently have a LET from CEC for the pupils of Oaklands to have use of the hydrotherapy pool on a Saturday morning.*

*If you would be interested in your child coming along and using the facilities please contact me for further details ([jtaweir@hotmail.com](mailto:jtaweir@hotmail.com)).*

*Do you have or do you know someone with a life guard qualification who would be interested in*

*covering this slot on a Saturday morning? If so, please get in touch.*

*Many thanks*

*Elaine Weir - P.C. Chairperson*

### **Nursery News**

The Nursery class have really enjoyed our visits to the Holyrood Ranger service. Our topic this term has been all about the outside. We looked at bees and ladybirds, made pictures of flowers and butterflies and had the chance to plant some bulbs for the nursery garden.



The children have been taking part in lots of activities relating to children's rights culminating in our Rights Respecting Week which started on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. We have been creative with paint, paper, material and sticky tape, making flags which represent our cultural heritage.



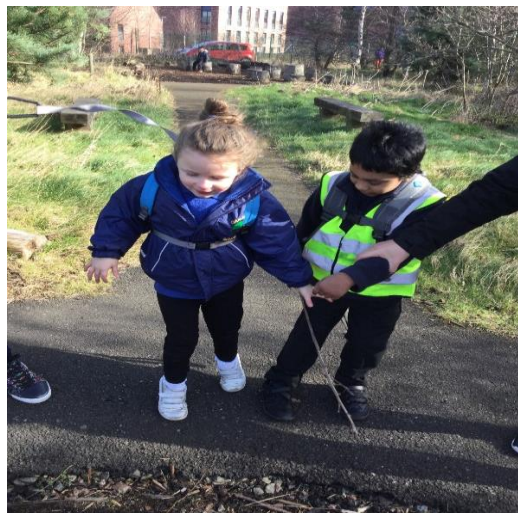
We also had great fun building a den in the Nursery – using fabrics and lots of pegs! We then played with and explored toys which represent our right to a home.



### **St Crispin's Class**

This term St Crispin's Class have been having a lot of fun on a Tuesday when the other half of our class, who are based at St Crispin's School at Blackford, have been coming to visit. Each week we have our snack together and then we all go out to the woods. Like us, they love our wonderful Millennium Woods and together we have been watching for the signs of winter turning to spring. We hope to visit them next term in their school.

Erica and Sarvesh



### **Class 1**

Class 1 attended their first Holyrood Challenge session Friday, 3rd March. In coordination with our theme of Mexico, our challenge was to make mini-pinatas and decorate ninas and ninos with colourful accessories. We had a lovely time and look forward to our next session.





### **Class 2**

This term, Class 2 have had the privilege of Tuesday sessions with Music Students from Edinburgh University. The three girls, Sophia, Joanna and Cylan, have worked collaboratively with the Class Team to tailor sensory music sessions around our topic 'Flavours of the World'. We created a sensory story wherein the children went on a hot air balloon ride, using our parachute to signify the balloon. We landed in Scotland and France to experience a cold climate and a warmer one. The Music students are very, very talented. Our children have benefitted from experiencing the clarinet, guitar, accordion and violin being played to a very high standard. Even our song signifiers have had harmonies and the girls have wonderful voices. The children have experienced the vibrations from the instruments and have had these amplified through the resonance board. The children have had a wonderful time and have developed relationships with the girls. We cannot thank them enough!

### **Class 3**

Class 3 have had a great time working on their topic 'Flavours of the World' this term. They have 'visited' 5 countries; China, Tibet, Scotland, Egypt and Australia. There have been many highlights. They cooked, tasted and smelled foods from around the world. When visiting China and Tibet, they took part in a Buddhist ceremony with prayer flags, incense and chanting. In Egypt they constructed pyramids, found out about mosques and also practiced belly dancing.



In Australia they experienced a sensory story about 'The Dreaming', the Aboriginal belief system. And during Scottish week they took part in Scottish dancing and listened to traditional stories.

They also worked hard in the build up to World Book Day. They teamed up with S3 to perform the story 'Can't Dance Cameron' in front of the school and parents, and also the author, Emily Dodd. The children then had the opportunity to meet Emily and her collection of Scottish animals after the show.



### **Class 4**

Class 4 is thrilled to report that "Curry Tuesday" for Enterprise continues to go well. The money raised by the end of this term will be spent on our last shopping outing for items to be donated to our local foodbank. We have been producing up to 26 curries every week so our donation should be fairly large.

We have been enjoying our "Flavours of the World" topic and are now in Portugal exploring Lisbon Cathedral, with its bells and organ music; playing bells of our own for Religious and Moral Education. Portugal is famous for its food as well as drink! Herbs and spices came from the colonies and we have been experiencing them in class. We have worked hard and are looking forward to our holidays!



### **S1/S2**

Class S1/S2 has been working on the topic of Europe. We have been making Italian Pizza, Spanish Tapas, German frankfurters and more during our cooking sessions. We have been adding the country's flag and food pictures onto our map of Europe in the class. Linked to our enterprise activities, we have donated £64.19 to the Clown Doctors! We raised that money with last's term enterprise. We are all really happy about it because the pupils love the Clown Doctors and they do a fantastic job in our school and many other places.

We also enjoyed our Scottish week. We had a great time baking shortbread, making our very own bagpipes and dancing to Scottish music. The Scottish assembly was an excellent opportunity to see what other classes had been up to throughout the week. Our class highlight was when we had a visit from a real bagpiper! He came to our class in full highland dress allowing us to explore the tartan and his bagpipes. We showed him the bagpipes we had been making and he was very impressed. He then played for us in the playground. It was brilliant but very loud!

There was an amazing opportunity for one off our pupils, Dylan, to take part in a whole day event at Craigroyston High School. Dylan attends Craigroyston High every Thursday morning to take part in a Home Economics class. He was invited to complete The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland's Elementary Cooking Skills Certificate. This involved the pupils spending the whole day at Craigroyston to cook 3 different courses. These were; Soup, Potato Wedges and Salsa and Apple Scones. Dylan did really well and received his certificate. Well Done Dylan!



### **S3**

We have spent a lot of time in our class looking at where we come from as part of our Rights Respecting week and topic work. We loved having Polish snacks and Scottish snacks.

The Boys are continuing to work hard on the MOVE targets. They are gaining more confidence every week.

Our Enterprise is going well with over £100 for Gorgie farm.



### **Seniors**

Seniors have enjoyed another action-packed term! We have continued to be out and about in the community as much as possible, visiting local places while working hard on developing life and independence skills. We have visited local shops, Braidburn Rainbow Café, Homebase and State Street bank. During a trip to Pilrig Park career fair, where we got to meet lots of people and explore a variety of things on offer as we move up through school.

We are continuing to enjoy weekly visits to Music for All, Ainsley Park for swimming and to Craigroyston High School where our school leavers take part in sports and art classes. These sessions are always great fun. Recently, during sports, the pupils got to try out some new gym equipment. This was very exciting! Julia loved using the treadmill independently!

We have been taking part in several whole school activities including Rights Respecting Week where we got to build our own den. We really enjoyed chilling on the comfy chairs and beanbags in the den we shared with S3.

We also had the opportunity to perform a brilliant Scottish story called 'There was a wee lassie who swallowed a midgie.' We really enjoyed creating all the animal props for the story and had a ball acting it out for everyone during assembly. Towards the end of this term, we have been making lots of enterprise goodies that have an



Easter theme including chocolate cards, baskets and candles. These are on sale in the foyer of school so grab them while they last!

This term, Jack began his work experience at the community shop. Jack has been working hard to sort items and bag things up for customers. He has been thoroughly enjoying meeting the staff and locals who use this valuable community resource. We think his big smile has made quite an impression as he brings back lots of treats for us each week!

We have all been working really hard and are going to enjoy a well-earned rest during the holidays! Next term we will be focusing on completing all our certifications and supporting the leavers as they prepare for life after school!



### Music Assembly

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of March the music students alongside class two lead a fantastic assembly. All classes had the opportunity to share in some of the lovely activities they have been doing together. Class 2 showcased this special partnership beautifully. Everyone really enjoyed joining in with the songs, ringing our bells and experiencing the parachute. Well done to class two and a huge thank you to the music students!

### Expressive Arts

We have had another busy term during Art and Drama beginning with all pupils working on the National Gallery Schools Art competition. The theme this year was Tune in, Play on and great fun was had creating art work using elastic band guitars, painting using drums and many other music focused activities. We'll find out in June if we have any winners so fingers crossed. During our Primary and Secondary drama sessions we explored some of the wonders of the world travelling by imaginary plane or train to

experience music, scents and other props relating to the different countries. Continuing the theme in art, the pupils used lots of different materials to create wonderful artworks related to various European artists from Paolozzi to David Mach. Filming has also began in preparation for this year's performance in the Awfey Huge Variety Show. Our film this year focuses on visits out with school where the pupils will travel on different forms of transport visiting various locations in Edinburgh. The show is due to take place on the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> June, it was a great success last year so please put it in your diary.



### Song Signifiers – Update

Next week another song signifiers video will be added to our school website and Vimeo channel – this time it's "Swimming". This song can be sung to your child as you leave to go swimming, on the way to swimming, as they get changed for swimming, as they head to the pool – or any variation of these. As with all song signifiers it will help make clearer to them what is about to happen, and can calm them down/help them focus, so use it as you see best with your child.

From Wednesday, you will be able to view this video by either going to:

[www.oaklandsedinburgh.com](http://www.oaklandsedinburgh.com) and looking under Our School/Supporting Pupils' Communication; or [www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com) and search (click on the magnifying glass icon to search) for "song signifiers". On some computers you can click on "channel" on the left-hand side of the screen.

Alternatively, you can download the free Vimeo app on to your smartphone or tablet.

As ever, if there are any activities that are very important to your child at home, or any parts of their daily routine where you think a song signifier would help, please contact Nicky Ford (Speech and Language Therapist) on 0131 315 8106, or your class teacher, and let them know. Please do also get in touch with any questions.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

27 <sup>th</sup> of March at 10am – celebration of the life of Conall Kemp – friends invited
29 <sup>TH</sup> of March – All the little birds puppet show in school all day.
30 <sup>th</sup> of March – S3 pupil attending the 2050 Vision workshop at the City Chambers
31 <sup>st</sup> of March at 0930 – Easter Celebration – all invited
31 <sup>st</sup> of March – Term Finishes
18 <sup>th</sup> of April – All resume
19 <sup>th</sup> of April – Drake Music weekly block begins
19 <sup>th</sup> of April – Whole School Easter Lunch
26 <sup>th</sup> of April – Parent Council Meeting
26 <sup>th</sup> of April – Dance Base –Finale session
1 <sup>st</sup> of May – Holiday
4 <sup>th</sup> of May – In-Service Day
6 <sup>th</sup> of May – Eco Fair at Blackhall (Oaklands will have a stall)
17 <sup>th</sup> of May – MOVE day – Oaklands Seaside Holiday – all invited
22 <sup>nd</sup> of May – Holiday
25 <sup>th</sup> of May – Parent Consultations
26 <sup>th</sup> of May – Oaklands School – Marathon festival – all invited
13 <sup>th</sup> of June – Sports Day – all invited
14 <sup>th</sup> of June – Kids Day Out at the Jack Kane Centre – 1 pupil from each class to attend
16 <sup>th</sup> of June – Awfey Huge Variety Show at the Festival Theatre – evening performance only – all invited
20 <sup>th</sup> of June – Seniors Graduation
21 <sup>st</sup> of June – Transition Afternoon
23 <sup>rd</sup> of June – Nursery Graduation
28 <sup>th</sup> of June – Whole School Celebration event – all invited

School closes for the spring break after our Easter assembly next Friday and we open to all pupil and staff on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

I hope everyone enjoys the holiday and we're looking forward to the summer term.

Kind Regards

*Morna Phillips*

Headteacher  
Oaklands School