Weekly Newsletter
7th May 2019

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS
unicef UNITED KINGDOM

Right of the Fortnight: Article 17: Your right to honest information from newspapers and television

Oakdene Primary School
Learning for Life

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week I was genuinely impressed with the swimming achievements of the Y5 cohort. Both classes made excellent progress, however, it became very evident that the children who regularly go swimming /had lessons to build on school lessons in Y3, really excelled. 100% of Mr Brown's class achieved at least 25m which is the Y6 target. Twelve of the pupils across the cohort achieved 400m plus. Swimming is a very important life skill.

Many schools have narrowed their curriculum in recent years trying to achieve better results in statutory tests—this doesn't work. In the draft proposals from Ofsted, it is clear that inspectors would like to see all children benefit from a rich curriculum. Many schools are now redesigning their curriculum and it is a privilege to help as a National Leader of Education. Starting this week, I will be working in four different schools in Middlesbrough, Durham and Darlington. When I became the Head Teacher of Oakdene 13 years ago, I was passionate about redesigning the curriculum and using it as a lever for whole school improvement, including standards. This continues to be the case. We know from your feedback to teachers how much you appreciate the regular visits and visitors which bring the curriculum alive. Remember, when you pay voluntary contributions, we can further subsidise or make future visits free - **Just like the two free visits below!**

Mrs E Bramley and Miss C Champion

Y3s' start to the term proved very exciting as they attended a STEM day at Inspire2learn, supported by the Big Bang North East. Days like this are a brilliant opportunity for employers to get involved in fun activities whilst raising awareness of what they do. These include Primetals, TTE and Teesside University, alongside individuals giving up their time from the medical sector (a doctor and surgeon), a PhD student and Marty who runs fabulous in-school computing experiences. The children saw a Tesla car which gave a brilliant context for the coding session to see such a huge robot in action. Following a fabulous lunch, Y3s finished the day looking at the science of energy.

Y4s visited Hartlepool Power Station last Friday and went behind the scenes. The children learnt how a low carbon, secure and affordable energy supply is vital for the future. Hartlepool Power Station is a member of the Partnership for Nature so the children also explored habitats of international importance when visiting Teesmouth on the same day.

Dates For Your Diary - Summer Term 1

Wed 1st May to Fri 24th May - Y2 SATS

Mon 6th May	**May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)**
Fri 10th May	Y5 Visit - York Chocolate Story
Mon 13th May to Thurs 16th May - Y6 SATs	
Fri 17th May	Oakdene Celebrates World Children's Day
Mon 20th May	Walk to School Week
Tues 21st May	The Book People 'Book Bus' Visiting School - Information to Follow
Thurs 23rd May	Y1 Open Morning
	Y2 Darlington Theatre Visit - Joseph
Fri 24th May	**Last day of the half term**

Mon 27th May to Fri 31st May - HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Wed 5th June	World Environment Day
	Y2 Open Morning
Mon 10th June to Fri 14th June - Y1 Phonics Screening Check	
	Y2 Phonics Screening Re-sits
Tues 11th June	Y6 Children Challenging Industry (Session 1)
	Snappy Proms
Wed 12th June	Y1 STEM Day
	Y5 and Y6 Open Morning
Wed 19th June	Phototronics Class Photos
Thurs 20th June	World Refugee Day
Fri 21st June	Y6 Darlington Theatre Visit - Horrible Histories
Mon 24th June	Y4 STEM Day
Wed 26th June	Y6 Children Challenging Industry (Session 2)
Mon 15th July	Y1 Visit - Saltburn

Weekly Awards - week-ending Friday, 3rd May 2019

Class Attendance Certificates: EY YRR KS1 Y1/2F KS2 Y5Be

EY Star Pupils: YRD Emily Smith YRL Freya Baron

Top Table:

Y1/2F	Emily Daniel	Y1LR	Lucy Macklam	Y2O	David Smith
Y3L	Lexi Singleton	Y3S	Oliver McCorrisken		
Y4G	Ruby Orley	Y4SW	Jake Rose		
Y5Be	Bobby Hancock	Y5Br	Dewi Evans	Y6S	Charlie Stephenson

100% Weekly Attendance Award:

NAM	Ben Bainbridge	NPM	Florence Bruce		
YRD	Cally Wright	YRR	Joey Marshall		
Y1/2F	Harleigh Ramsey	Y1LR	Arez Ali	Y2O	Jack Moss
Y3L	Lainey Milne-Forbes	Y3S	Ethan Wood		
Y4G	Imoshi Soyza	Y4SW	Oscar Smith-Sewell		
Y5Be	Caitlin Haley	Y5Br	Leena Scott	Y6S	Kayleigh Cunningham