



Headteacher's Blog

Friday 19th September 2014

Earlier this week, Miss Harbottle, Mrs Ward and I spent some time in Scotland visiting a range of schools, including special schools, to look at bi-lateral integration and a programme called 'Better Movers and Thinkers', both of which are about using movement to make the brain more effective. Fascinating stuff! I was impressed by the improvement in cognitive abilities, as well as the physical abilities, of the children that took part in the programme. We will be developing this in school, to be piloted by Miss Harbottle and Mrs Ward, before rolling it out through school in stages. Watch this space!

Reading castle

As you may have seen, the John Lewis Partnership has very kindly donated a 'castle' to our school. It is being put to great use as a lovely reading area for the children, just outside the hall – it's perfect! I would like to extend our thanks John Lewis for their kind generosity.



Kingswood

Our Year 6 children will be away on their residential trip to Kingswood next week. I will be joining them for a couple of days at the beginning of the week and can't wait! Fingers crossed that the weather will be kind to us. Lots of fun activities have been planned for the Year 6 children who will be remaining in school, so they will be sure to have a great week, too!

Launch of our Autumn 'Read Every Day' Challenge

We will be launching our autumn 'Read Every Day' Challenge on Monday 22nd September. The challenge will be to read at home 5 days a week – there is a space for parents to record their child's reading in their planners. Once the children have read 10 times, they will receive a certificate – it is possible for them to earn a total of 5 certificates before Christmas. Any children who receive their 5 certificates will receive a special prize from me in an assembly in the last week of the autumn term. They will also go on the RED Challenge roll of honour. A new RED challenge will then be launched in the spring term.



Scholastic Book Fair – 17th to 24th September

The Scholastic Book Fair has arrived! It started this week and will run until Wednesday 24th September, and will be open after school until 4:15pm. Please do come along and take a browse through the childrens' books, including the latest David Walliams and Tom Gates editions, all at competitive prices.

Don't forget - proceeds for sales at the book fair will come to the school in the form of new books for the Library and classrooms, so all the children will be able to gain great enjoyment from the books we receive.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 10th October

A reminder that all parents, carers, grandparents, friends and neighbours are very welcome to come in and join us for our Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 10th October, between 9:30am and 11:00am. Please do pop in if you are able to.

The poster is set against a green and white plaid background. At the top, it reads 'You are invited to our Macmillan coffee morning.' in a blue, slightly shadowed font. To the right is the Oxley Park Academy logo, featuring a brown owl perched on a green branch. Below the title, the venue 'Oxley Park Academy' is written in a smaller, brown font. The time 'Time: 9.30-11.00' is in a pink font. A central instruction says 'Bring a delicious cake to share.' in black, with a note below it: 'Any cakes left over will be sold at the end of the day.' To the right of this text is an image of a box of colorful cupcakes. Below the text are two images: a white coffee cup with a heart-shaped latte art on a saucer, and a round cake on a white stand. At the bottom left is a green logo for 'WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING' with '10 OCT' in a small box. To the right of this logo, the text 'Come and join us in supporting a wonderful cause. Lets eat cake!' is written in a mix of black and pink fonts.

Celebrations



I was delighted to welcome the following children today, to share their celebrations with me:

- ★ Exciting news for Rian in Year 2 this week, who has recently been scouted by the MK Dons! He has started playing in their academy and I hear that his first trial went very well. Another talented footballer, Joe in Year 5, was also scouted at a tournament recently by Luton Town FC, and has been accepted into their development team. His first fixture, to be played later this month, will be against Crystal Palace. Congratulations to both Rian and Joe, I am really pleased for you both!
- ★ Isabelle in Year 2 earned her 10 RED certificates before the summer holidays, but hadn't had the chance to come and collect her prize, so today she came and chose her lucky dip reward. Thank you, Isabelle, for all your hard work.
- ★ Harrison and Wesley in Year 1 both brought their orange karate belts in to show me today. Well done, boys.
- ★ Arya in Year 1 came to receive his 100 Hot Words certificate from me – thank you for working so hard, Arya. I hope you like your Super Mario certificate.
- ★ Mia in Year 1 entered a colouring competition run by 'The Works' in thecentre:mk earlier in the year, and won 3rd prize! Her prize was a gift card. Congratulations, Mia, I hope you treat yourself to something lovely.



- ★ Rachel in Year 4 is a talented musician, and has recently achieved Grade 1 in Flute, which she passed with distinction. Congratulations, Rachel, I'm very proud of you.



- ★ Daniel in Year 6 is a huge fan of origami and often comes to show me what he has been busy making. Recently, he spent several hours at home constructing this amazing dragon, which he brought in to show me today. I was very impressed!

Don't forget that if your child has any celebrations from home to share in school, I love to hear about them! Please record the details in the special section in your child's planner, so that your child's class teacher can let me know.

Coming up next week

Mon 22nd – Fri 26th Sept

Y6 Residential trip to Kingswood

Fri 26th Sept

9:00am Celebration Assembly – Years 1/2/3

10:00am Celebration Assembly – Years 4/5/6

I am really looking forward to joining the children at Kingswood on Monday for an action-packed couple of days. Wish me luck!!

Have a great weekend.

Cathy