



# Headteacher's Blog

**FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

Welcome to our new school website!! The website has been created with comments and feedback from a parent focus group which met during the summer holidays to help plan the structure and content from a parent perspective – we'd like to say thank you very much to Rod, Heidi & Fiona for giving up their time and the input and suggestions they gave. A very big thank you, too, to Mr Smith for all his hard work in putting the website together.

## Goodbye Mrs Jain



Today we said a very fond farewell to Mrs Jain from Year 2. Due to family commitments, Ruchi is giving up work, but will stay good friends with Oxley Park.

## Visit from Year 3



Yesterday I was delighted to spend some time with the children from Jays Class who had written a lovely story all about Jay the Scorpion, who escaped from class into my handbag and came along with me to a 'very important meeting with Simon Cowell' before escaping again! As with all good stories, there was a happy ending - Jay became the class pet! Sharing little moments like this always brightens my day. Thank you, Jays.

## Strictly OPA



Following our magnificent performance in Strictly MK 2013, it's that time again!!!!

We held our school auditions on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, open to all the children in KS2. What a turn out! We had in total 119 talented children audition where they were taught a quick routine, given a little time to practice with music and then performed in groups. As I'm sure we can all appreciate, this is easier said than done and the children did a fabulous job!!!

Obviously the challenge came when we had to choose just 12 children from those 119, but that said, we have done it...!

The children who we have invited to represent Oxley Park Academy in Strictly MK 2014 are

- ★ Marcus R
- ★ Mathew J
- ★ Luke L
- ★ Taylor W
- ★ Jake B
- ★ Cassie C-S
- ★ Grace C
- ★ Charlotte D
- ★ Lauren T
- ★ Molly B
- ★ Cecilia A
- ★ Masha J

A big congratulations to all the children, and also good luck, as a huge amount of dedication, fun and commitment will be required – as I can confirm from last year!

Let us also congratulate our other 107 children that went along and gave 100% at the auditions – a fantastic effort for their positive attitudes!

The children have been informed and I would like to add that the encouragement shown from the rest of their classmates was absolutely lovely - there was clapping, congratulating and real 'Team Oxley' spirit demonstrated. Thank you, too, to the staff for running these auditions and for undertaking the very difficult task of talent-spotting and short-listing.

Go Team Oxley!!! Dates and details will follow in due course.

## Year 2 Trip – Milton Keynes Museum

This week Year 2 visited the Milton Keynes Museum to learn all about the Victorians and what it was like to live in the Victorian times. The children were led by excellent guides who gave them a real insight into life on a Victorian farm. The children learnt how to do the laundry, what all the equipment in a kitchen was used for and how strict the Victorian teachers were in the school room! They are now looking forward to learning more as their new topic, Through the Keyhole, begins next week.



## Year 3 Adventure Stories

Our Year Threes visited Year One today to read them their adventure stories that they have been busy writing all week. They had a fantastic time and all the Year Ones said how great their stories are! It was lovely to see them working together. Lots of the Year Ones loved the stories so much they want the Year Threes to write more!



## FOOPA Treats for the children

Our lovely FOOPA ladies recently set up a 'wish box' for the children and teachers to write down suggestions of things they would love to have for their classes. Well, we wished, and the FOOPA ladies made our wishes come true! In the past couple of weeks we have received an abundance of lovely treats – just take a look at the list below:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Mr Oldfield</b>  | Metal detectors  |
| <b>PE Guys</b>      | Footballs x24<br>shuttlecock x18   |
| <b>Year 1</b>       | IPOD Touch x 2<br>fairy lights x2<br>Rug<br>Home for Rainbow               |
| <b>Year 2</b>       | Games x 12   |
| <b>Year 3</b>       | Games x 12<br>Lego<br>Stacking stalls x3<br>Cushions x 9<br>CD player x1   |
| <b>Year 4</b>       | CD player x 3  |
| <b>Sensory room</b> | Rug<br>Wall light x 3<br>Fairy lights<br>Cushions x 3<br>Blanket<br>Mirror |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Year 5</b>     | Rug<br>Bean Bag<br>Cushions x 3   |
| <b>Year 6</b>     | Books (all 3 classes)<br>CD Player x 2<br>Board games x 6<br>Bean Bags x2 |
| <b>Foundation</b> | Paint<br>Large rug  |

These wonderful donations will be shared and enjoyed by all the children. You can really see what a difference the FOOPA's fundraising makes to the school. I invited the FOOPA committee in for tea this week, just to express how grateful we are to them for all their hard work, at which they also presented the school with a cheque for **£2,500!** This will be used towards our 'Radio Oxley' project, which is being developed by Mr Smith for use by children throughout the school.

We would also like to thank the FOOPA who last Saturday 'swapped hairbrushes for paintbrushes' (quote from Mr Smith) and came into school to give the posts outside Foundation and Year 1 a much needed lick of paint. They have done a great job of brightening up the playground - well done!



Don't forget to buy your tickets for the forthcoming Halloween Disco and Fireworks Display – details can be found under the 'Latest News' section of the new school website.

## Community Open Days

On Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, we will be holding our first Community Open Day of the term between 9:30am-11:30am, and again in the afternoon from 1:30pm-2:30pm. This is an opportunity for any prospective parents, with children due to start school in September 2015, to come and have an informal tour of the school, and then meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to ask any questions. There is no need to make an appointment – simple come along. We look forward to welcoming our Oxley Parkers of the future.

## Tubs 4 Tablets (Exclusive to Tesco)

We have signed up for the Tubs 4 Tablets scheme from Flora and Stork, running currently in all Tesco stores. All we would like you to do is collect the special tokens from inside the promotional 500g tubs of Flora Original, Light and Buttery packs or Stork tubs. There will be a box inside the foyer where you can post the tokens, or send them in with your children to post at reception. Further information for parents can be found by visiting [www.flora.com/tubs4tablets](http://www.flora.com/tubs4tablets). We are hoping to get as many vouchers as we can in exchange for Samsung Galaxy tablets for the children to use in school. The scheme finishes in January 2015. So get collecting!!

## Secondary School Applications

As a mummy, may I remind those of you who are looking at applying for secondary school that now is the time to start looking out for their open evenings – details can usually be found in the local newspapers and on their school websites.

## Celebrations

This week, I have shared celebrations with the following children:



- ★ Joe, Lewis and Charlie from Year 5 came to show me the trophy their football team won in July when they won the Woburn & Wavendon FC Super 6s Under 9s tournament. Well done, boys!



★ Year 1 have had a good week this week - Macy, Faith, Isabel & Mia all came to see me today to collect their certificates for learning their 100 Hotwords! Thank you, girls, for all your hard work.



★ There has been lots to celebrate in Year 3 this week. Josh's football team won a trophy for 'best match' in a competition last weekend. Remey and Zak's football team also won a trophy in the competition, and Joe, Henry & Toby's team won a cup for coming 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 55 teams! Charlie has now passed Stage 3 in his swimming and has moved up to Stage 4. Special congratulations also go to Josh and his family, who had a baby boy recently.

★ James in Year 4 came to have a celebration lunch with me this week for reaching his 25 Read Every Day certificates before the summer break. We had a lovely lunch and sat outside in the glorious sunshine. Thank you for your company, James.

## Coming up next week

|                                  |                                      |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> | 9:30am-11:30am<br>&<br>1:30pm-2:30pm | Community Open Day   |
| <b>Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>   | 9:00am<br>10:00am                    | Celebration Assembly – Years 1/2/3<br>Celebration Assembly – Years 4/5/6 |

Unfortunately, time has run away with me this week, but I will issue some information next week about changes to home learning and setting within school.

Have a great weekend.

**Cathy**