



Headteacher's Blog

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2014



Well, I can hardly believe that we've reached the end of another busy term and that Christmas is almost upon us. We've had a fantastic week in school this week, with Christmas party days, Christmas lunches, governors' awards, Christmas Jumper Day, and Santa even found time in his busy schedule to come and visit us again this week...!



Fond farewells



Today we said a very fond farewell to Miss Harbottle and Mr Poole.

Sadly, Miss Harbottle is leaving to take up a position at a school much closer to her family home. From January, Mrs Catlow will teach the children in Golden Eagles 1 - she has already been spending time in the class and getting to know the children, and is very much looking forward to working with the class in the New Year.

Mr Poole, who is head coach for the MK Lightning Ice Hockey team, is leaving us to work within a new role promoting ice hockey and skating throughout the local area – an opportunity which he couldn't pass up.



Both Miss Harbottle and Mr Poole will be hugely missed by us all and we hope they both stay in touch and come back to visit us! We gave them a special send off this morning with their final Oxley Park Hacka.



Christmas Jumper Day



Thank you very much to everyone for supporting our Christmas Jumper Day today, raising money for Save the Children. It has been great fun, and who doesn't love a Christmas jumper? Miss Newnham and Mrs Morris went a step further, and had an Olaf Christmas Onesie Day! We will let you know how much was raised once the coins have all been counted.



RED Challenge

I handed out rewards this morning to the 97 children who completed our 'Read Every Day' challenge for the autumn term. They have each received a certificate and a special 'Mrs Higgins' RED Challenge Superstar' pencil, and their names have been placed on a roll of honour in recognition of all their hard work. A new RED Challenge will be launched in the spring term and I look forward to rewarding even more children at the end of next term!



100% Attendance

We have also rewarded 127 children today, who have all achieved 100% attendance this term for being in school, on time, every day. This equates to just over 23% of our pupils. This is a tremendous achievement by these children, particularly during the long autumn term when there is often a lot of illness. Each child who has reached their 100% attendance has received a personal certificate and a special sticker - congratulations to each and every one of them!

FOOPA Christmas Gifts

Our wonderful FOOPA volunteers have been in school today, handing out gifts to each of the children. Once again, the children were super-excited! A massive 'thank you' to the FOOPA ladies for everything they have done for us this year.



Junior JustDance

Last Sunday, Oxley Park took part in the Junior Just Dance competition. The team competed against 7 other schools from Milton Keynes and had great success in coming runners up for the second year running. The children danced their socks off in both their Quickstep and Jive routines, scoring top marks for their fantastic energy in their Jive! The judges were very impressed by how well the children worked as a team, danced as a unit and also by the complexity of the music and steps. Everyone at Oxley is very proud of how professional the children have been throughout training, raising funds for their costumes and in the competition itself. What great role models you all are – well done!

Tuesday 6th January – Science Day and our traditional 'Dress Up' day

We are going to start the new term with a special 'Science Day' on Tuesday 6th January. We have organised for an external company to come in and deliver assemblies to the children and run a workshop in each class. Throughout the day, the children will be taking part in fun science experiments and activities in their classes. To maintain our tradition of a 'Dress up' day on the first day back in January, we would like to invite children to come to school **dressed as a scientist**. This could cover any branch of science and can be from any era – Albert Einstein, Professor Brian Cox, or they could even be a sports scientist/physio!



Dogs

A dog was seen running around on the playground on Monday afternoon at home time. Please may I respectfully remind parents/carers that dogs must be tied up outside of the school premises and are not allowed on the school grounds.

Celebrations

We have had lots of celebrations with the children in school this week:

- ★ Daniella in Year 2 took part in the Rugby Gymnastics Christmas Team Competition last weekend, and her team (from Kingston Gymnastics) came first! Daniella performed a routine on the beam, and brought in her medal and certificate to show me.



- ★ Hannah, Charlie and Shay performed in a dance routine to the school this week, having been to On Pointe for curriculum enrichment this term. Their On Pointe teacher presented each of them with a trophy. Shay has also achieved his 50m swimming certificate recently.



- ★ More swimmers! Liam in Year 1 has been awarded a certificate for swimming 15 m, and Robyn in Year 1 has received a certificate for swimming 100 m. Fern in Year 5 took part in a competition at her swimming club last weekend.



She took part in 5 events and received 5 medals!



- ★ Ben and Joshua in Foundation brought in their gymnastics awards to show me!



- ★ Nicola from Foundation and Poppy & Jacqueline from Year 2 all brought in their gymnastics awards to show me this week,



- ★ Skye and Clarrie, both from Year 2, went to a Christmas party at their kick-boxing class last weekend, and won two medals for their kick-boxing/dance routine, which sounded very energetic!



- ★ Freya in Year 2 has recently received a certificate for swimming 50 metres!



- ★ Year 1 have had another good week! Robyn has collected her 'Spelling Bee' certificate for learning to spell all her hot words, and Sophia, Max and Drew have all received their certificates for reading their 100 hot words.



★ Asheka in Year 5 came to see me this week, having learned all of her times tables! I gave her a quick-fire test and she passed with flying colours!



★ Aryan in Year 3 brought in his football trophies to show me this week, which he received from Tattenhoe Youth FC Under 7 Pumas for being 'Most Improved Player of 2013/2014'.



Congratulations to each and every one of this week's superstars! Please keep the celebrations coming in – I love to hear all about our children's many talents.

Coming up ...

Date		
Mon 5th Jan	INSET DAY	
Tues 6th Jan	SCHOOL RE-OPENS Science Day – Children to come dressed as a scientist.	

And finally....

Miss Keane happened to spot 'Goodwin the Gritter' out one evening this week. The driver wasn't too impressed when she stood in the middle of the road to flag him down, but once she explained that one of our children had named the gritter, he was happy for her to take a quick photo!



I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of the many Christmas cards, and very kind gifts that I have received. I will think of you on Christmas morning when I open them, once Santa has been...

All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a wonderful break over the festive period, and I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

With my very best wishes to you all

Cathy