



Headteacher's Blog

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2015

SCHOOL EXPANSION



Thank you to everyone who came along to Parents' Evening on Wednesday and for taking the time to come and see the plans for the expansion of Oxley Park Academy onto a site at Shenley Wood. We very much appreciate all your thoughts and comments. Full details are now available from our school website, including the plans for the new building. There is also a letter seeking your views on a few key areas of the expansion. Please

take the time to have a look at the plans at your leisure. We would welcome any comments or questions you may have, either by email to expansion@oxleyparkacademy.com, or by returning the feedback form in an envelope marked for my attention. All comments received will be reviewed by me and Governors at regular meetings.

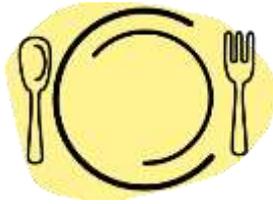
TRAINEE TEACHERS

We will welcome back our Trainee Teachers next week. I am very pleased to announce that Dan Burden and Hayley Hewson have been appointed to full time positions at Oxley Park Academy with effect from 6th July 2015. Our other two Trainee Teachers will be joining two other lucky schools next year.

TEMPORARY TEACHING ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

We currently need two temporary Teaching Assistants to cover staff absence until July 2015 in Key Stage 2, working 8:30am-12:30pm (3hrs 45 mins per day, plus 15 min break). This equates to 18.75 hours per week, term time only, at £7.30 per hour. An application form, person specification and job description can be found on the school website. The deadline for submitting applications is **9am on Wednesday 4th March** and interviews will be held on Friday 6th March.

SCHOOL MEALS



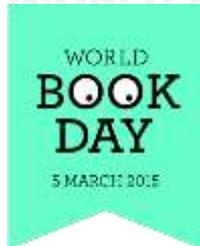
During the Easter holidays we will be having our kitchen upgraded in order that we can provide hot, freshly cooked meals on site every day for our children. The service will be provided by Luton Borough Council - I have watched their provision in my friend's school and have been very impressed. A Kitchen Manager will be based on site and the new system will allow more flexibility in terms of children having meals on an ad hoc basis. We would encourage all parents to sign up for this service as we have also requested that they are able to provide packed lunches. Parents will be able to pay for their children's school meals via Parentpay.

For children covered by the provision of Universal Infant Free School Meal, they will automatically be opted in to receive a meal each day – parents will need to opt out if they wish to do so. Next week I am due to make a further visit to a school in which Luton Borough Council provide the meals, and I will report back to parents on my blog next Friday.

NSPCC

Thank you for all the children's hard work in practising their calculations for the NSPCC multiple marathon. Most classes have completed their challenge although Foundation will be doing theirs early next week. Fiona will be coming in on Thursday next week so now it's time to collect all the sponsorship money you were promised for working so hard and bring it into school. We hope that Team Oxley will raise lots of money to help children through NSPCC projects such as Childline. Thank you for your support.

WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 5TH MARCH



Don't forget that World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March, and we would like to invite all children (and staff!) to come in to school dressed as 'Where's Wally', or one of the characters from the 'Where's Wally' series. Just simple blue jeans and a red & white stripy top will be perfect –or even a plain white t-shirt with red stripes painted on will be fine!



Also:

- We would like the children to bring in their favourite book to share in school next Thursday
- If they would like to, they could write a book review about their favourite book (this could include the reasons why they like it, why they think other people would like it and the book's genre)
- We would love the children to bring in a photograph of them reading in their favourite reading place, or in the most creative reading place...

We are planning lots of fun book-related and reading activities for the children, so it should be another fantastic day!

The World Book Day organisers are also running a competition to design a National Book Token. If your child would like to take part, please download a template from their website at <http://worldbookday.com/competitions/token/> and return entries to your child's class teacher by **Friday 10th April 2015**. We will submit all entries received and one overall winner could see their design made into a real National Book Token! There are also National Book Tokens to be won for both First Prize and Runner-up Prizes in 3 different age groups. Good luck!



RED NOSE DAY – FRIDAY 13TH MARCH



We will be celebrating Red Nose Day in school on Friday 13th March. This will be a mufti day with the theme 'Wear something funny for money', so all children, and adults, are invited to come in to school wearing something funny of their choice – a costume, odd socks, face paints, whatever they choose! A small monetary donation, even a few pennies, would be very gratefully received. Our Year 6 MADD Group ('Make a Difference Day' Group) will also be organising a cake sale in the playground after school – if you could spare some time to bake a few cupcakes, a tray bake or some yummy biscuits, the MADD Group would really appreciate your support. Any cake donations should please be brought in to school on the morning of Friday 13th March.

CELEBRATIONS

This week we have shared the following celebrations in school:



- ★ Rishi in Year 4 has won a medal and a certificate for public speaking.
- ★ Nishita in Year 5 and Prithvish in Year 3 have learned all their Times Tables and came to receive their special certificates from me.
- ★ Sahasra in Foundation, Hasini in Year 2 and Sanvika in Year 1 all received medals and certificates for their beautiful Indian dancing. Sanvika also brought her ice skating certificates to show me.
- ★ George from Year 3 brought along some beautiful handwriting to show me – he has been working hard to 'THRASS out' his spellings.
- ★ And finally, Niamh from Year 4 made a 'half term scrapbook' during the holidays and brought it in to show me.



- ★ Savani from Year 1 brought along a dancing medal and certificate to show me.
- ★ Izzy and Wareesha from Year 1 have been working hard and have now learned how to spell all their 100 Hot Words.
- ★ Shay and Anais from Year 3 are the latest Oxley Parkers to have learned all their Times Tables and came to collect their special certificates from me.
- ★ Chantelle in Year 1 brought down a piece of writing to show me her adjectives and connectives.
- ★ Taylor in Year 6 recently took part in a competition for his cadets for Drilling and Piping. He came 1st for Piping and 2nd for Drilling – what a wonderful achievement.



- ★ Pierre in Year 3 brought down his fantastic maths work to show me this week – I was very impressed! Good boy!

*Congratulations to all of this week's Oxley Park superstars on your many achievements - what a wonderful range of talents you have!
Well done to you all, I am very proud of you.*

COMING UP

Date		
Thurs 5th March	World Book Day – Dress up as Where's Wally	
Fri 6th March	Celebration Assemblies Year 1/2/3 Year 4/5/6	9:10am 10:00am

Let's hope the sun keeps shining this weekend – see you all on Monday morning!

Cathy