



Headteacher's Blog

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH 2015

RED NOSE DAY

Thank you to everyone who came to school 'wearing something funny for money' today. There were lots of fantastic costumes and the children have had a great day. Thank you too for all the lovely cake donations for our cake sale after school. We will let you know how much we've raised just as soon as the coins have all be counted.



OFSTED REPORT



Following our Ofsted inspection last week, we have been notified that their report will be published online first thing next Thursday morning, 19th March. The report will be accessible by logging on to <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

EXPANSION CONSULTATION

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the consultation on the school expansion so far. If parents would like to make any further comments, please send them through by 9am on Friday 20th March to expansion@oxleyparkacademy.com. Also, if you would be interested in participating in a Focus Group, or would like to contribute your ideas on the proposed school expansion, please contact me directly on cathy.higgins@oxleyparkacademy.com. We would very much welcome your input.

MRS BROWN

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Brown (Jays' class) at Easter. Gilly will be leaving to set up her own business writing plays for primary schools. Mrs Walmsley, a teacher to support outstanding practice, will take on Gilly's role as Jays' class teacher on Thursdays and Fridays after Easter, and will be spending lots of time getting to know the children and the parents before the Easter break. We wish Gilly every success in her new venture.

YEAR 2 PERFORMANCE – TOWN MOUSE, COUNTRY MOUSE

I was hugely impressed by the standard of the Year 2 performance this week. As I said on the evening, the children's commitment, poise and confidence were outstanding and I was particularly impressed by how they worked together as a team and supported each other to produce the most amazing performance. There are many schools who would be proud of their Year 6s performing such a play!



SOLAR ECLIPSE – FRIDAY 20TH MARCH



Next Friday, 20th March, there will be a solar eclipse, the first since 1999. Some parents have requested that their child be allowed to stay at home so that they can witness this event at home safely with them. We have carried out a Risk Assessment at school and feel that the best option is to have two registrations next Friday morning.

Children may either come in to school for normal registration **at 8:40am**, or if they stay at home, they may come into school **at 10:45am**. For safety and security reasons, the school gates will only be opened for children to arrive at these times, and not in between. This is similar to the arrangements made when the Olympic Torch came to Milton Keynes. A letter will be sent home next week.

According to the BBC website, the eclipse will start at approximately 8:45am, will be at its maximum (97%) at 9:31am, and will finish by 10:41am. Children attending school will watch the eclipse safely via live streaming or TV coverage in their classrooms.

The next solar eclipse is not until 2026, so we won't want to miss it!

YEAR 6 TOPIC WORK

This week our Year 6 children shared their recent topic work (The Battle of Britain – Bombs, Battles & Bravery) with Year 1. The children really enjoyed looking at the wonderful modals



NSPCC FUNDRAISING

On Thursday, we had our final visit from Fiona from the NSPCC. She had come to say a massive Thank-you to Team Oxley for the amazing effort they had gone to, to raise sponsorship money. During her assembly she announced the total amount raised by the children; this amount has since been added to therefore, the total now stands at **£3,917**, an incredible amount. Well done to all the children who took part!

ART WEEK – 22ND JUNE – APPEAL FOR HELP

We will be having a special Art Week during w/c 22nd June. Mrs Musselwhite, our art specialist teacher, is currently planning the timetable and would appreciate any offers of support to come in and help in school, whether parents, grandparents, or any artists that you may know. We will be doing art every morning in school during that week. If you, or someone you know, would be able to offer any support, please contact burcu.musselwhite@oxleyparkacademy.com.

SHORT STORY WRITING COMPETITION WITH TAMSYN MURRAY

To celebrate the launch of new Middle Grade series *Completely Cassidy: Accidental Genius*, author Tamsyn Murray and her publisher, Usborne, are running a 500 word short story competition on the theme of MY SECRET TALENT.

The competition is open to children aged between 7 and 13 years. It launches on 2nd March 2015 and closes on 30th April 2015, with the winner being announced on 1st July 2015. The maximum word count is 500 words, there is no minimum. The judges are **Cathy Cassidy, Karen McCombie and Kelly McKain**.

Entry is via email to tamsyn@tamsynmurray.co.uk or via post to Completely Cassidy Story Comp, Usborne Publishing, 83-85 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RT.

Entrants will need to print off a permission form and complete it to show parental permission to enter – this needs to be completed and sent with their story as a paper copy or scanned in and attached to an email.

The winner receives £100 of Usborne books, a £50 Paperchase voucher and a signed copy of the book. Two runner-ups will receive signed copies of the book.

Further details and full terms and conditions at www.completelycassidy.co.uk. Good luck!

MK DONS FAMILY FUN DAY – SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

GROUP TICKET REWARDS



Our next MK Dons Group Ticket Reward match is next Saturday, 21st March, when they host Notts County. This is a Family Fun Day, which means that our GTR tickets are priced at just:

- ★ **Adults: £7**
- ★ **Under 18s: £1**

Tickets are available via Parentpay or the school office in the usual way, and must be purchased through us by 9am on Friday 20th March.

For the Family Fun Day, the activities will start outside the ground from 12 noon and will include live music, entertainers, inflatable slide, digger derby, fairground rides and much, much more. The top ten schools that sell the most tickets will receive **a player visit from a member of the MK Dons first team.** (This will be determined by dividing the number of tickets ordered by a school by the number of students on the school roll.). So please encourage all your friends and family to book their tickets through school for this fixture. See you there. Come on you Dons!!

MY SKYDIVE!

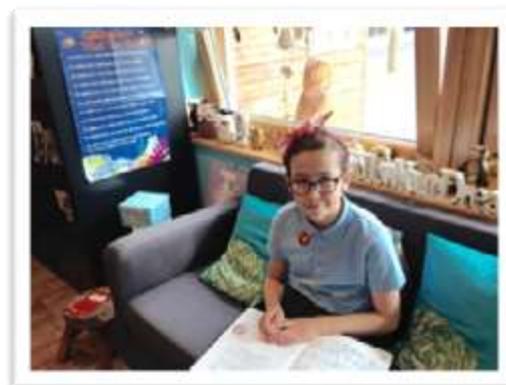


As you all know, I am doing a charity skydive on Saturday 6th June, in aid of Emily's Star. I have now set up a Virgin Money fundraising account – if you would like to sponsor me to raise money for this fantastic local charity, please log on to www.virginmoneygiving.com/Cathy_Higgins (that's Cathy_Higgins - the underscore doesn't show in the link). More information on Emily's Star and their work can be found on their website at <http://www.emilysstar.co.uk/>.

CELEBRATIONS

This week we have shared the following celebrations in school:

- ★ Amy in Year 5 came to see me this week with some amazing literacy work.



★ Usher in Year 3 has been working really hard at home on both his writing and maths and brought in his hard work to show me. George came to share his oral story, based on Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, with me.



★ Savani in Year 1 has achieved her Level 7 gymnastics and brought her certificate in to show me this week. Isabelle in Year 2 took part in a Shinri Karate fundraiser on Sunday, raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The challenge was to do 100 katas, and the event raised over £300.



★ Zoe and Hollie in Year 3 are the latest Oxley Parkers to receive their Times Table Awards for having learned all their times tables. Well done, girls!



★ Mason & Brooke brought their Red Nose Day work to show me this morning.



★ Joshua was awarded a trophy at On Pointe in curriculum enrichment this week and came in to tell me all about it. Nathan from Year 3 had one of the best costumes of the day for me – he came as Dennis from David Walliams' book 'The Boy in the Dress.'



★ Beth in Year 1 has learned her 100 Hot Words, and Oscar, Arin, Daria, Ewan, Hannah and Jackson have all learned to spell their 100 Hot Words. They came to collect their certificates this morning. James in Year 4 brought some literacy work to show me.



★ Libby in Year 1 wrote a lovely story this week. Anusha in Year 1 has received her Level 7 gymnastics certificate. James in Year 4 has turned his writing into a special book and Owen in Year 4 took part in the same charity Karate event as Isabelle (above).



★ Jake in Year 6 brought his fantastic Andersen shelter model to show me today, part of his Year 6 topic work.



**WELL DONE TO ALL OF THIS WEEK'S OXLEY PARK
SUPERSTARS!**

COMING UP

Date		
Mon 16th March	Y2 SATs Parents Information meeting	3pm or 5:30pm
Fri 20th March	Celebration Assemblies Year 1/2/3 Year 4/5/6	9:10am 10:00am

I hope you all have a great weekend. See you on Monday.

Cathy