



# Headteacher's Blog

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015

I am so proud of how hard our Year 6 children have worked on their SATs tests this week. Their concentration and determination to do their best has been wonderful to see. They really do deserve every success!

To celebrate the end of their SATs, the children have had a lovely day in school today, starting off with a delicious continental breakfast in the Year 6 hub and a day of fun activities, which they thoroughly deserve!

## STAFF AND NEW TEACHERS



This week, I am delighted to welcome Debbie Litchfield to our school. Debbie has joined us in the office as School Administrator, and brings with her a wealth of experience.

I am also pleased to announce that two new teachers, Lauren Waller and Charlotte Gregory, will be joining us in September. They are both experienced teachers currently working in other Milton Keynes primary schools.

We are also fortunate that two of our trainee teachers will continue with us here at Team Oxley after their graduation day at the end of June – our best wishes to Dan Burden and Hayley Hewson. (Claire Woods and Katherine Ayres have been appointed to other primary schools).

We also look forward to welcoming Kelly Page in September, who will be joining us as a Nursery Nurse.

## FOUNDATION TRIP TO BUTTERFLY FARM – MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY

On Monday, Rabbits and Hedgehogs enjoyed a trip to Butterfly World in St. Albans. They spent the day learning about butterflies, bees, ants and lots of other mini-beasts. Some of them were brave enough to hold a cockroach, an African land snail and a stick insect! They saw an enormous ant and were lucky to find out what it would be like to be a mini-beast in a garden of huge flower pots, little hand fork, giant matchsticks, key and coin. They left Butterfly World completely exhausted and some of them had a little nap on the coach.



## YEAR 1 TRIP TO WHIPSNADE ZOO – TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY

On Tuesday the year 1 children had a fantastic day out to Whipsnade Zoo. The children walked around the different continent areas where they saw a record number of animals!! They also had the opportunity to enter the Whipsnade classroom where they learned about animals camouflaging and even stroked a snake! A big thank you to the children who were so well behaved and very enthusiastic, and also to our parent helpers who accompanied us as a thank you for helping in year 1 on a weekly basis.



## YEAR 2 – VISIT FROM GUIDE DOG

In Year 2 this week, a guide dog came in to meet Mrs Waller's literacy group. Verity and her owner, Julia, came to tell the children all about guide dogs and how to care for them. From this visit the children have now written some amazing reports about dogs!



## YEAR 5 MAYAN MASKS

The children in Year 5 have been busy making Mayan masks as part of their topic 'Rites & Rituals' – look at their amazing work!



## FOOPA MUFTI DAY – FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY

A reminder that next Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, will be a mufti day in aid of FOOPA (Friends of Oxley Park Academy) and all their wonderful work they do for us. We would be grateful if children could please bring in a small monetary donation, even if it's only a few pennies.

## SHOE GIFT BOX APPEAL - SMILESYRIA



We have agreed to help support Crisis Aid's 'Smile Syria' campaign. The aim of this campaign is to urge as many children as possible to donate an Eid Shoe Gift Box so that they can be distributed to the children in war-torn Syria.

If you would like to help support this appeal, please could you ask your child/ren to take a shoe box that they have at home, add some pre-loved toys that they no longer play with, some crisps and sweets to the box, then to wrap the box and label whether it is suitable for a boy or a girl, and the age of the child.

We will shortly receive a 'collection box' which will be in/around main school entrance – we would be grateful if all donations could be brought into school by next Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, as the boxes will then be collected, sorted, packed and then driven out to Syria in a 40ft container!

They would also be grateful for donations of empty shoe boxes and any wrapping paper, so perhaps it's a good chance to have a sort out over the weekend!

You can find out more information about their all the work Crisis Aid do in Syria by logging onto their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/feedysyriamiltonkeynes>.

## PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRES

Don't forget to return your Parental Questionnaires to school by next Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May!

## CELEBRATIONS

This week we have the following wonderful celebrations to share with you:

- ★ Emma, Ruby, Jack and Temi in Year 3 are the latest Oxley Parkers to have learned all of their Times Tables, and I was very pleased to see them this week when they came to receive their special certificates from me. Emma also brought in her 'Swimmer of the Month' trophy to show me, which she received for always trying her best.



- ★ Finley and Samsam from Year 4 came to see me this week. Finley brought in his 'Man of the Match' trophy which he received for working hard in his match last week, and Samsam has also been working hard in her Arabic learning, and has now moved on to the 'big books'!



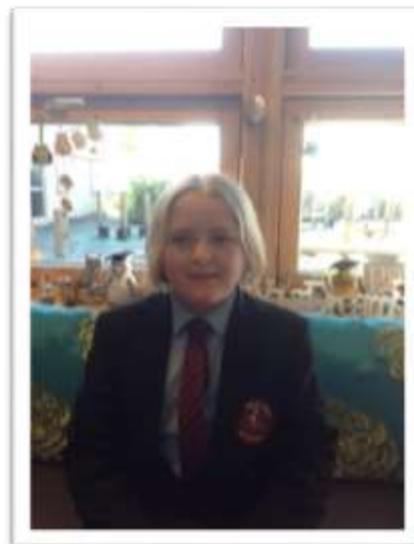
- ★ Michelle in Foundation brought in a Mathematics certificate to show me this week.



- ★ Hollie and Siah in Year 3 came along to show me their fantastic shape poems this week.



★ I am very proud of Abigail in Year 6, who had more than 17cms of her hair cut off yesterday for charity. Her beautiful blonde hair will be sent away and used to make wigs for young children who are ill. What an admirable thing to do!



## MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THIS WEEK'S SUPERSTARS!

### EMILY'S STAR MUFTI DAY – FRIDAY 5TH JUNE



We will be having a mufti day in school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June to raise contributions towards the charity Skydive that I am doing on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June for Emily's Star. Any small monetary donations would be very gratefully received for this fantastic local charity.

I have also 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](http://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/>. Many thanks to all those who have so kindly sponsored me already – thank you all for your generous support!

## COMING UP

Date		
<b>Tues 19th May</b>	Year 4 Performance to parents	2:15pm & 6:00pm
<b>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	Mufti Day in aid of FOOPA  Golden Thread Assemblies: Year 1 & 2 Year 3, 4 5 & 6  BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM	9:10am 10:00am
<b>Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Jun</b>	SCHOOL RE-OPENS Y6 Leavers' Memory Book photoshoot	
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun</b>	New Foundation Stage parents' meeting	7:00pm
<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Jun</b>	Mufti Day in aid of Emily's Star  Celebration Assemblies: Year 1 & 2 Year 3, 4 5 & 6	9:10am 10:00am
<b>Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Jun</b>	My Skydive in aid of Emily's Star - wish me luck!!	

Have a wonderful weekend.

**Cathy**