



# Headteacher's Blog

FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015

## EXPANSION UPDATE

Some people have been concerned that they have heard rumour that planning permission was refused for our expansion. I would like to please make clear THIS IS NOT THE CASE. As you will see from the Latest News banner today, the LA have managed to find a nearer, more suitable site for the expansion therefore withdrew the planning request once this became available. I have been spending time with the LA and with Nifty Lifts and Shenley Village to ensure that we make productive use of the time to develop strong partnerships and joint projects in the time leading up to the deferred opening. There are lots of exciting things in store!

So, whilst disappointing, we, and the LA, are retaining our commitment to the expansion process for OPA and remain positive in the face of adversity! I will update you further in the new term – or earlier if there are any developments.

## SCHOOL FETE

Thank you to everyone who came along to the school fete on Sunday. It was a fantastic day and was very well supported. We are waiting to hear from FOOPA with a grand total of the monies raised but we'll be sure to let you know as soon as possible.



At the fete, the playground buddies and some of their friends arranged with FOOPA to set up a stall at the fete to raise money for more playground equipment. They sold sweets, held a raffle and had 'guess the number of sweets in a jar'. On the day they raised a whopping £110. It will be exciting for them to choose what they are going to spend the money on for all children to play with. Well done, guys!

## ROAD SAFETY

We have been contacted by Milton Keynes Council this week with proposals for some additional works for Harlow Crescent and Redgrave Drive to help improve the safety for children travelling to and from school. Full details can be found under the 'Latest News' section of our school website, where you will also be able to find details of the new 'Park Smart' scheme which we will be launching in September.

## PICNIC ON THE PITCH – TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY



On the last day of term, the whole school will be having a celebration 'Picnic on the Pitch' for lunch. This means children who usually have a hot dinner provided by the kitchen will be given a sandwich grab bag, along with fresh strawberries and cream and an ice lolly! What a lovely way to end the term!

## LOOM BAND CHALLENGE

Toby Z in Year 3, along with his friends from Doves and Jays, completed their 'Loom Band Challenge' on Wednesday. They made a giant loom band bracelet that measured a huge 114m! Toby and his friends have raised around £250 for the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital Charitable Fund (a cause that is close to Toby's heart). Toby is now going to send his loom band to another charity, Loom to the Moon, as part of their Guinness World Record attempt. Well done to Toby and all his friends for showing such an enterprising spirit.



## RECORD BREAKERS ANNUAL READING CHALLENGE

Record Breakers is the 17th national Summer Reading Challenge and all nine Milton Keynes libraries plus the Mobile Library are inviting children of all ages to take part.

The aim is for as many children as possible to read or have help reading any six library books of their choosing during the summer holidays. Along the way they can collect stickers, a bookmark, plus a medal and certificate for completing the challenge.

Milton Keynes Libraries reported the highest participation and completion rates to date in 2014 and hopes that Record Breakers 2015 will beat those records!

Children can start signing up from Friday 17 July and need to have completed it by Sunday 13 September 2015. Good luck, and I can't wait to see all those children in September who have completed the challenge!



## ATHLETICS SHOWCASE

This week saw the first of our athletics showcases. In P.E, Upper KS2 children have been taking part in athletics. They have all been recording their personal bests in different events. The 6 boys and 6 girls in years 4, 5 and 6 with the top scores were then asked to compete against each other. It was fantastic to see such a high level of skill but also the crowd were amazing at cheering on their friends and classmates and the skills of sportsmanship were very much on show. It was great to give out the gold, silver and bronze medals and have so many parents come and support. Thanks to Mr Rutherford and all those who made such a fabulous morning possible.





### **STANTONBURY ATHLETICS**

Last Saturday, we had a small team of athletes from Years 4, 5 & 6 competing at Stantonbury, against the top 16 athletes from all of the competing schools in Milton Keynes. The events the children took part in were long jump, triple jump, vortex throw and running. They all did really well to get to the final competition and they represented the school really well. Congratulations to our amazing team!

### **SPORTS COACHES V PARENTS - FOOTBALL MATCH**

Last week, our PE staff arranged a Sports Coaches v Parents football match. It was a closely fought match, but our Sports Coaches managed to secure an 8-7 victory! Well done to everyone who took part.



## FOOTBALL KITS

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Oxley Park Academy, who have very kindly sponsored our new football kits! We have recently had the kits delivered – a set for the Year 3 & 4 team and another for the Year 5 & 6 team, all of which are numbered and come in a numbered bag! The children look really professional in their new kits, and we look forward to their continued success.



## FREE MATHS RESOURCES

With the long summer holidays fast approaching, I thought you may find the following free math resources useful to work on at home with your child:

<http://www.learnyourtables.co.uk/>

<http://m.coolmath-games.com/>

Remember to keep practising those Times Tables at home!

## CELEBRATIONS

This week we have lots more wonderful celebrations to share with you:

- ★ Charlie and Hollie in Year 3 are going to be performing in 'Let's Face the Music & Dance' at The Venue, Walton High School, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July, and brought their wonderful costumes in to show me this week. Charlie is going to be the Boogie Master, and Hollie is a Robot Leader. We wish them both luck. *(photo by Jake)*



- ★ Zoey in Year 2 has passed her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Mixed Martial Arts and is now working on her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade orange belt. Ben in Year 1 painted a fantastic picture of a sunflower on canvas and brought it in to show me. Harrison in Year 1 has started writing a wonderful Fire Engine story. Yash in Year 2 has passed 5<sup>th</sup> grade in his Mixed Martial Arts, and Mia in Year 1 has received Rosette 4 for her Freestyle dancing.



- ★ Isobel in Year 4 has completed every challenge to receive her Gymnastics Proficiency Award, Level 1. Harvey and Fin in Year 4 both play for Water Eaton Youth Under 9s - Harvey has received Manager's Player of the Year, and Finley received a trophy for playing for his team throughout the season.



- ★ Isobel in Year 4 has completed every challenge to receive her Gymnastics Proficiency Award, Level 1. Harvey and Fin in Year 4 both play for Water Eaton Youth Under 9s - Harvey has received Manager's Player of the Year, and Finley received a trophy for playing for his team throughout the season.



- ★ Madison and Safiyah in Year 1 have both learned all their 100 Hot Words, and Mihir in Year 1 has learned how to spell all his 100 Hot Words.



- ★ Madison in Foundation has passed her Stage 1 Swimming. Beth in Year 1 recently won a horse riding race and brought in her rosette to show me. Wesley in Year 1 has written a story about Life Boats, which he showed me this week. Jovan in Year 1 received a trophy for playing for his team, Tattenhoe FC Whites U7s, throughout this season.



★ I would also like to give a special mention this week to Mel Hayden, who many of you will remember worked here as a class teacher before leaving in July 2013. She is now working with us as a yoga instructor. Mel has just completed a 'half iron man' competition, which consists of a 1.2 mile swim (76 lengths of a 25m pool), a 57 mile bike ride and a 13 mile half marathon! She has been training 6 days per week for 7 months, and set herself a target of under 7 hours. She actually finished in 6 hours 25 minutes! Well done to Mel, who kept dreaming, believing and achieving! Once an Oxley Parker, always an Oxley Parker!



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

### **AND FINALLY...**



Skye in Year 2 has sadly lost her Blue Peter badge. She brought it into school this week and thinks it fell off at lunchtime. We're looking out for it in school, but in case a child may have found it and taken it home, we would be grateful if parents could keep a little eye out for it too. As you can imagine, it is very special to Skye and she has been quite upset.



## COMING UP

Key dates for parents for the rest of the term are set out below:

Date		
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Jul</b>	Y6 Performance to parents	2:00pm and 6:00pm
<b>Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jul</b>	Y6 SATs feedback for parents	
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Jul</b>	Transition morning	
<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jul</b>	<b>Prize Giving</b> Years 2 & 3 Foundation & Year 1 Years 3, 4 5 & 6  Year 6 Prom	9:00am 10:30am 2:00pm  6:30pm-8:30pm
<b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jul</b>	RED Challenge & Handwriting challenge assembly ( <i>in-house</i> ) Years 1/2/3 Years 4/5/6	9:00am 10:00am
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Jul</b>	Leavers' Day assembly  END OF TERM	Times TBC
<b>Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul</b>	INSET day	
<b>Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept</b>	INSET day	
<b>Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept</b>	School re-opens	

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the glorious sunshine.

See you on Monday.

**Cathy**