



Headteacher's Blog

FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2015

I can hardly believe that another year is drawing to a close. Whilst the end of term is not until Tuesday 21st July, this will be my final blog of the year. Next week, Mr Smith will post a 'photographic round up' of the end of term celebrations on the website for you all to enjoy.

PRIZE GIVING

Congratulations to everyone who received an award in our Prize Giving ceremonies today. It is always one of the most special days in the school calendar for me, and it is a pleasure to be able to reward the children's hard work and celebrate their achievements throughout the year in this way.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

This week we would like to offer our huge congratulations to by Hayley Hewson and Dan Burden, who are now fully qualified teachers at OPA. We are very proud of them both, and very lucky to have them! They are book looking forward to having their own classes next year.

WEDDING BELLS...



During the summer, both Miss Hewson and Miss Scripps will be getting married. Miss Scripps will return as Mrs Malcom, and Miss Hewson is keeping her own name. We would like to congratulate them both, and can't wait to see their wedding photographs. What beautiful brides they will be!

FOND FAREWELL



On Tuesday we will say a very fond farewell to our lovely Mrs Wilson-Andoh, who is leaving us to take up the position of Assistant Head at Caroline Haslett school. Saeeda has been with us for almost 8 years, and will be sorely missed by both the staff and children. We would like to wish Saeeda every success in her new role, and will be sure to keep in touch

BRIDGEBUILDER ASSEMBLY – THURSDAY 16TH JULY

Our children in Key Stage 2 enjoyed a Bridgebuilder assembly yesterday afternoon, the focus of which was all about making the right choice for yourself and not following the crowd blindly – a very valuable message.



This week we were thrilled to learn that we are in the Skoolbo ‘One Million Club’ – a very exclusive club of only 9 schools, each of which have answered over one million questions! What an amazing achievement! Thank you so much for encouraging your children to use Skoolbo at home – let’s keep going over the summer holidays and see if we can move up the ‘One Million Club’ charts!

The screenshot shows the Skoolbo website's 'One Million Club' section. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, About, Testimonials, Ambassadors, Partners, Pricing, FAQ, Contact, Register, Downloads, and Sign In. Below the menu, the text reads: "We would like to say a huge congratulations to these Super Schools who have answered more than one million questions. Well done on such a superb effort!"

Rank	School Name	Questions Answered
1	Barclay Primary School	1,941,355
2	Eastern Green Junior School	1,874,847
3	ARK Oval Primary Academy	1,681,622
4	Tatley Primary School	1,587,760
5	Oxley Park Primary School	1,077,899

SCHOOL FETE

I am delighted to announce that FOOPA raised the magnificent sum of **£3,568.64** at this year's school fete, which is amazing! The events held by FOOPA this school year have made over £7,000, and the money put back into school from last year's profits and some of this year's has been over £6,000! What a difference our FOOPA ladies make to our school, and the lovely thing is that all the children enjoy the benefit. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated and hardworking team of volunteers, and look forward to continuing to support their fundraising activities next year.

The winners of the school fete raffle were:

Aspley Guise Golf	C . Sturridge
Aspley Guise Golf	M. Bryant
MK Dons Family Ticket	M. Johnstone
Mk Lightening Family Ticket	D. Rogers
Mead Open Farm Ticket	L. Flin
Bowtique Cut & Blow Dry	A. Yorke
Bowtique Shellac Hands	B. Rogers
£20 Pizza Hut Voucher	M. Musthaffa
Yo Sushi Voucher	Shayaan
Rag Doll Anna Voucher	M. Robinson
Chiki Ceramiki Voucher	E. Latham
£10 Coffee Boutique	P. Choughule
Sweet Tree	S. Winkfield
Bottle Champagne	C. Monk
Glitter Glass & Bottle	M. Walters
UPA Voucher	F. Clarke
Gullivers	A. King

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

We will be holding our own Sporting Achievement assembly on Monday. This will be a relaxed, in-house assembly, and a time for the sports coaches to celebrate the children's many achievements this year. The coaches would also like to take 'team photographs' of all the children who have represented the school in *any* sporting events this year. Therefore, if your child has represented the school, please send them to school with an appropriate sports/PE kit on Monday for the team photographs. We are also hoping to have a special visit from our Championship friends at the MK Dons....Fingers crossed!!



County Swimming finals

We went to the swimming finals full of confidence, and made the long trip to Stoke Mandeville stadium (home of the Paralympics), the opening ceremony began.

After a mascot race and a talk from a few Olympians, we headed to the swimming pool.

The races began and we were doing really well, winning several heats and finishing runners up in other heats.

But due to unforced errors and a serious injury, we ended up competing in 4 races with one less swimmer, meaning we couldn't gain any points. As a result, we finished 8th, but 8th in the county is some achievement! Well done, kids!

Mr Lindop



RECORD BREAKERS ANNUAL READING CHALLENGE

Don't forget that 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!

CELEBRATIONS

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

- ★ Ben and Ethan in Foundation have both learned all their 100 Hot Words and came to collect their special certificates from me this week – perfect timing, just before the end of term!!



- ★ Harley in Year 1 has done a beautiful piece of writing at home, all about sharks, because he loves sharks! Jack in Year 3 received a trophy from his football club, Tattenhoe FC, for his commitment throughout the year and for good sportsmanship.



- ★ Daria in Year 1 won 3 medals in a karate competition last weekend, for very good punching and kicking! Freya in Year 2 has completed Levels 7 & 8 in British Gymnastics and brought her certificates in to show me. Krishan in Year 2 received a trophy from Tattenhoe FC for his commitment to the team, and also received a medal at a football tournament last weekend.



- ★ Huzaifa in Year 2 had a go at archery on his recent Beavers trip, and got a bullseye! Ryker in Year 2 brought in lots of posters to show me, which he has been busy making at home, about all the different things he likes, such as sport, nature, minibeasts and food!



- ★ Finley in Year 4 brought in some lovely handwriting to show me this week, which he had done at home this week.



- ★ Sophie in Year 4 has achieved Rosette 10, 11 and 12 for her Freestyle Dancing. She has now completed her rosettes and will be moving on to medals. Lacey in Year 1 has passed Levels 8 & 7 in gymnastics and brought her certificates in to show me. Johnnie in Year 4 received a trophy from his football team, Water Eaton U9 Whites for his commitment to the team throughout the year. Mason, also in Year 4, who plays for the same team, received one trophy for his commitment and also won Players' Player of the year!



★ Liam in Year 1 brought some beautiful writing in to show me this week – he has written and illustrated a wonderful story. Faith in Foundation has written her very own version of The Very Hungry Caterpillar (one of my favourites!). And excitingly, Rachel in Year 4 came 2nd in a competition, run by Read Write Inc. The children took part in class, and had to write a short story about courage. The entries were sent off, and this week we have been notified that Rachel has come 2nd in the Year 2-4 category! We were delighted for her – well done, Rachel.



★ Megan in Squirrels came to see me this week, as she has now learned how to spell all her 100 Hot Words. Here she is with her special certificate.



★ Verity in Foundation has learned all her 100 Hot Words, and here's a lovely photograph of her with her special Barbie certificate..



★ Sebastian in Year 1 has learned how to spell all of his 100 Hot Words and came to collect his 'Spelling Bee' certificate today. Izzie in Year 1 came to show me her amazing craftwork – look at the beautiful owl cushion she made! It even had a little bit of tartan on, just for me! I was also very impressed by Faith's Spanish work - she has now reached Level 2, and she's still only in Year 1!



MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR SUPERSTARS THIS WEEK!

COMING UP...

Date		
Mon 20th Jul	RED Challenge & Handwriting challenge assembly (<i>in-house</i>) Years F/1/2 Years 3/4/5/6	9:00am 10:00am
Tues 21st July	Leavers' Day. Leavers' Assembly – parents welcome END OF TERM	1:20pm
Weds 22nd Jul	INSET day	
Weds 2nd Sept	INSET day	
Thurs 3rd Sept	School re-opens	

It has been the most amazing year (again!). Thank you for making my job the best job in the world!

I wish you all a happy summer break.

Cathy