



# Headteacher's Blog

FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

## CHILDREN IN NEED MUFTI DAY – FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOV



Thank you to everyone for supporting our Children in Need mufti day today. It's always a day in which the children love to take part - we've had lots of superheroes and spots in school! The donations are yet to be counted, but we will let you know the total figure raised as soon as we can.

## ARMISTICE DAY OBSERVANCE – WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOV



The whole school observed a 2 minute silence at 11:00am on Wednesday morning, and did so beautifully. I had the pleasure of taking Max and Lauren, our Head Boy and Head Girl, to the Mayor's Armistice Day Observance and Wreath Laying at MK Rose in Campbell Park. This was a very special ceremony and it was a privilege to have been invited.



Our Head Boy and Head Girl wanted to share the poem that was written and read by the Poet Laureate Mark Neil:

***POEM: 'One'***

*You can get lost in the numbers;  
Snow-blind by the immensity of it all.  
The millions who served,  
died or came back lesser men,  
unsure if it might have been better  
to not have returned at all.*

*Yet the small scale can speak loudest.  
Village hall plaques and cenotaphs where  
a handful of names represent  
half or more of a lost generation.  
Lives given in faithful duty to a cause  
perhaps never fully understood  
beyond duty, King and country.*

*The boy sculpted for life outdoors  
and the love of the girl next door,  
rooted there like the oak  
working the same parcel of land,  
daisy-chained father to son for centuries.  
Leaving the county for the first time  
putting on courage, hidden until now,  
with the uniform.  
That future ended, planted in foreign soil.*

*Sitting uncomfortably in a church one time  
reading the walls for distraction,  
I found one name remembered by the girl left at home:  
Pride and ache etched into wall and heart.  
Sorrow condensed, intensified, distilled  
until like cheap brandy it burned and numbed,  
That's the handle to the scale. Not the millions lost,  
But that one loss, magnified by millions.*



## BOOK BAGS

As previously mentioned, children bringing rucksacks to school is creating tripping and Health & Safety hazards. All classes throughout the whole school have now been provided with a book bag trolley for the children to put their book bags in each day. If you do not wish to purchase a book bag, a carrier bag with your child's name on it will be adequate. Lunch boxes should go on the lunch trollies and if children require PE kit to change into for an end of day sports club, this can be brought in in a carrier bag that can be put into the child's cubbyhole under their coat peg. This should not cause too many difficulties for parents, but will make this much safer for our children in school.

## FRIENDS OF OXLEY PARK ACADEMY ('FOOPA')



Our FOOPA committee will be holding their AGM in school at 2pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November. All parents/carers are warmly invited to come along. I know that there are lots of you who are interested in joining FOOPA but who are unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments. If you would be interested in getting involved, but are unable to attend the meeting, please let me know via email ([cathy.higgins@oxleyparkacademy.com](mailto:cathy.higgins@oxleyparkacademy.com)) in advance of the meeting, particularly if you are interested in holding down a position, eg treasurer (please let me know if this is the case as you may be elected in your absence!!). All parents are automatically members of FOOPA by virtue of being parents of children in school, so please do come along to the meeting if you can.

## Winter Wonderland Day

On the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> November, because we have such good children and staff, I am hoping that the fairies and the elves will visit overnight again this year to transform the school into a Winter Wonderland ready for 1<sup>st</sup> December. I think we have been *really* good this year, so I expect they will visit. That means that, on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, it may take a little bit longer to go through the school in the morning, to enjoy all their hard work. I have written to Father Christmas and I am hoping that he will come along to join us. Please could parents/carers allow extra time and be patient with us in the morning, so that the children can enjoy this experience.

## DESIGN OUR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CARD



I would like to invite the children to design our school's Christmas card this year. They can choose any design they like, using either felt pens or paint to make sure it is bright and colourful. Please send your child's design in to me by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November and don't forget to put their name on the reverse of their design. I can't wait to see their lovely designs!

# JUNIOR JUST DANCE – SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Tickets are now available for the Junior Just Dance competition being held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November, priced at just £5 per person. If you would like to come and show your support for our wonderful group of talented children, tickets can be bought online at [www.celebrityjustdance.co.uk](http://www.celebrityjustdance.co.uk), from the box office at Bury Farm Equestrian Village on (01525) 222114 or by emailing [charlie@celebrityjustdance.co.uk](mailto:charlie@celebrityjustdance.co.uk). Hot food, cold snacks and beverages are available on the day.

Dance rehearsals are going really well and the children's costumes have to be seen to be believed. This will be the third year we have taken part, and fingers crossed it could be third time lucky! Go Team Oxley!!

Hosted by  
**JUST DANCE**  
in association with  


in aid of  


**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 in BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**  
**SPECTACULAR CHARITY BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCE COMPETITION**  
for LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Featuring talented students from schools within Herts, Beds & Bucks  
Venue: Bury Farm Equestrian Village, Mill Road, Slapton LU7 9BT  
Doors open: 12:30pm / Show starts: 1:30pm

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT**  
[celebrityjustdance.co.uk](http://celebrityjustdance.co.uk)

[facebook.com/CelebrityJustDance](https://facebook.com/CelebrityJustDance) | [www.celebrityjustdance.co.uk](http://www.celebrityjustdance.co.uk) | [@CelebJustDance](https://twitter.com/CelebrityJustDance)

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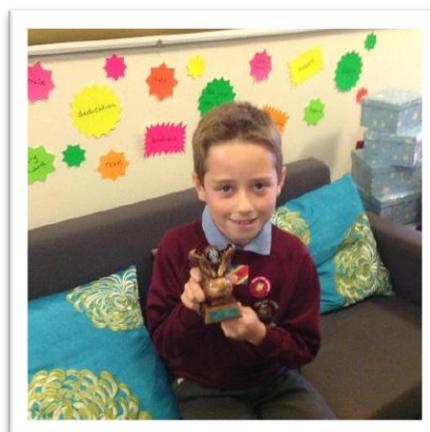
## CELEBRATIONS

This week, we have celebrated achievements with the following children:

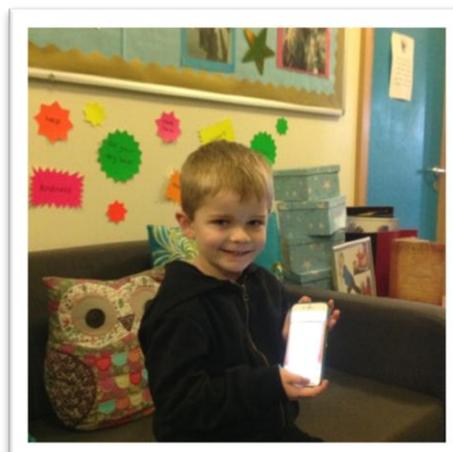
- ★ Isabelle in Year 2 took part in a gymnastics competition at the weekend and brought in her medal and certificate to show me.



- ★ Ben in Year 5 received a trophy from his football team for being 'Best in Training' last week.



- ★ William in Year 1 did some beautiful writing at home, and brought a photograph of his hard work in on his mummy's phone to show me.



- ★ Max in Year 2 has earned his 5m swimming badge and certificates, and proudly brought them in to show me this week. Mia in Year 2 has achieved her 25m swimming certificate, and even took part in a sponsored swim to raise money for the Anthony Nolan charity in October.

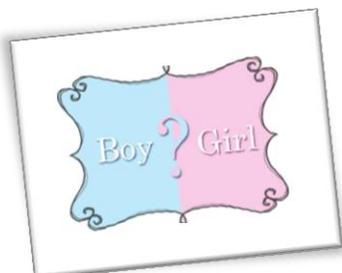


★ Amy in Year 6 took part in a swimming gala last weekend and won 8 medals – 6 golds and 2 silvers! Her time for the 400m freestyle places her second in the county! Gray in Year 3 has passed Stage 2 in his swimming lessons and has now moved up to Stage 3. Zoe in Year 4 brought her amazing character description literacy work to show me this week.



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

### AND FINALLY...



I am delighted to announce that there is another Oxley Park baby on the way... Our lovely Mrs McClaren is expecting Baby No 2 in February. I am sure you will join me in sending congratulations to Amy and her husband Andy.



### COMING UP...

Date		
<b>Tues 17th Nov</b>	Year 1 performance to parents	2pm and 6pm*  <i>*No children under the age of 12 at the 6pm performance please.</i>
<b>Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Celebration Assemblies: Years 1, 2 & 3 Years 4, 5 & 6	9:00am 10:00am

Have a great weekend – see you Monday morning.

**Cathy**