



Headteacher's Blog

FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2016

FOUNDATION SHOE BOX APPEAL – FRI 11TH NOV

Thank you to everyone who so kindly brought in their Shoe Box for the Foundation Shoe Box Appeal. We have received a total of 192 shoe boxes, which is incredible, and we have been overwhelmed by your generosity. You will bring a smile to the faces of so many underprivileged children.



We would also like to say a special thank you to one of our lovely parents, Mrs Robertson, who inspired her colleagues to contribute to the appeal and dropped off 66 shoe boxes here on Monday!

On Sunday 20th November, there is a special 'Shoebox Sunday Service' at the Parish Church of St Mary's, Woburn, MK17 OPG at 10:00am. Everyone who has contributed to the appeal is welcome to go along. There

will be thousands of shoe boxes from the local area, a brass band playing and refreshments will be provided.

ARMISTICE DAY WREATH LAYING

This morning I had the privilege of attending The Mayor's Armistice Day wreath laying ceremony at MK Rose in Campbell Park. Johnny, our Head Boy, and Millie, our Head Girl, came along with me, together with Jasmine and Lilia from Year 6. In school, everyone observed the 2 minute silence beautifully at 11:00am.



After the ceremony, we made a quick stop at The Centre:mk to warm up with a hot chocolate, via the Winter Wonderland at Middleton Hall.



SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

It was my pleasure to watch our talented actors perform A Midsummer Night's Dream in school this afternoon- wow! What talent!! Thank you to Miss Keane, and all the staff and children involved. They have each received a 'Happy School' award for making us happy with their performance. The whole school was engaged. What was lovely was that all of the children kept saying that they couldn't wait to perform it again this afternoon! They thoroughly enjoyed every minute, as did we!



RE-OPENING OF TESCO EXPRESS, OXLEY PARK

Yesterday morning, our Head Boy, Johnny, and Head Girl, Millie, had the great honour of cutting the ribbon to re-open the newly refurbished Tesco Express store in Oxley Park! Thank you very much to the Store Manager, Andy, and his staff for inviting us.



FIREWORKS DISPLAY – MON 7TH NOV

Our Fireworks display was a huge success once again this year. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such an enjoyable evening. Also, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing FOOPA volunteers - we really do appreciate all of the hard work which they put in to the co-ordination of our school fundraising events.



THE LULLABY TRUST CHARITY WALK

On Sunday a group of 60 Year 4 children completed a 4½ mile walk in aid of The Lullaby Trust. Made up of staff and families, the group walked around Ouse Valley Park in the glorious sunshine, luckily the rain held off until they had finished! It was a lovely morning and they managed to raise over £500! And the total keeps rising! Y4 staff would like to say thank you to all the families that joined them and thank you to all that sponsored them.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/OPAWalkforBabies>





Our congratulations go to Mrs Gill and her husband Chris on the safe arrival of their beautiful new baby daughter, Zara Autumn Gill. Zara arrived on Friday 4th November weighing 6lbs 14ozs. Lyndsey and Zara are both doing well and we are looking forward to a visit very soon!



YEAR 6 SATS MEETING – MON 14TH NOV

Just a reminder that there will be a SATs information meeting for our Year 6 parents from 5:30pm to 6:00pm on Monday 14th November in the hall.

PARENT CONSULTATION – WEDS 16TH NOV

Our Parent Consultation evening is taking place on Wednesday 16th November, for Year 1 through to Year 6. If you haven't already booked your appointment, full details of how to book are available under the 'Latest News' section of the school website. Parents of children in our Nursery and in Foundation should please see their child's teacher to arrange an appointment.

CHILDREN IN NEED MUFTI DAY – FRI 18TH NOV



On Friday 18th November children can wear non-school uniform with a spotty theme. Year 6 will be supporting the cause by holding a cake sale after school so bring some pennies for tasty treats. For keen bakers out there, if you would like to donate to this then please do but there is no expectation.

MARVELLOUS ME



Many of you have already signed up to the Marvellous Me app. Marvellous Me was the creation of a Daddy who was tired of asking his children what they had done at school and getting the same answer, "Nothing.". Many of us know this feeling all too well. At Oxley Park Academy we are always looking at ways to improve the communication with our parents. We know that children achieve better when there is collaboration between school and home. Our philosophy has always been that 'it takes a whole village to educate a child'. We want you to feel engaged and part of your child's educational journey. Alongside Mrs Higgins' Blog, our year group pages, curriculum newsletters, interim reports and parents consultations, we hope Marvellous Me will add an extra link between the school and yourselves. It is so lovely to get updates about what your child has been up to or achieved in school, and the app can also be shared with other family members, aunts, uncles and grandparents. If you haven't signed up already please do.

YEAR 5 & 6 CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION



A reminder, as mentioned on my blog of Friday 14th October, that we have been approached by Iain Stewart MP once again this year for our Year 5 & 6 children to take part in his annual Christmas card design competition. This year's theme is 'Houses of Parliament with a Christmas twist!' and designs should be submitted on A5 sized paper. Please return all entries to school by **Friday 18th November** with your child's name and class clearly written on the reverse. The winning entry will be announced at 6:00pm on Friday 9th December at MK College, Silbury Campus on Silbury Boulevard. Once printed, the winning design will be sent to all of Iain Stewart's constituents, other MPs and even to Her Majesty the Queen! All entries will be displayed at the Silbury Campus from 1st December-30th December.



CROSS COUNTRY

On Saturday, athletes from years 4, 5 and 6 competed in a massive cross country event. They were competing against more than 20 other schools from across Milton Keynes. Everybody gave it their absolute best and achieved brilliant results, which made me very proud to be their coach. A few special mentions in the team are for Emma A in year 5 as she competed in the year 6 race, and Rian S in year 4 as he has now qualified for the Bucks trails. Well done to all our athletes!

Mr Rutherford

BASKETBALL

On Monday, Mr Thurston took the basketball team to the local festival. We played 4 other schools, winning 3 and drawing 1. The games were short so we needed to take the baskets when we had a chance. We defended well, only conceding 2 baskets in 4 games. The team did really well and have progressed to the finals!

FOOTBALL

Wednesday saw the football team play their 4th league game, against Loughton. A very tough game with both goalkeepers making some great saves to keep their teams in the game. We played well and didn't give up. The game was level for the majority but some well-placed passes and good finishing won us the game 3-1! The goals came from Remey (x2) and Luke C.

A very good week for our sports teams. Well done!

Mr Thurston

MILTON KEYNES SCHOOLS SPORT PARTNERSHIP

Our colleagues at Milton Keynes Schools Sport Partnership are hoping to introduce the project HIT 5 into all primary schools. In order to help achieve this, they have applied for funding from the AVIVA Community Fund, but need our votes to help try and secure the funding. We would like to urge all our parents to take just two or three minutes to register and cast their votes to help MKSSP achieve their aim. Voting closes on Thursday 17th November. Please do vote if you can.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN PLEASE VOTE FOR OUR HIT 5 PROJECT WITH AVIVA COMMUNITY FUND

Did you know that the obesity rates for children in Milton Keynes are above the national average?? Worryingly 72.5% of Milton Keynes residents are classed as overweight or obese (Reception Year- 22.1% and Year 6 - 32.4%).

The Milton Keynes School Sports Partnership aims to tackle this problem by introducing the project **HIT 5** into all primary schools. This will give **ALL CHILDREN** in Milton Keynes the chance to develop a better understanding of diet, nutrition, mental wellbeing and physical activity needed to lead a healthy lifestyle.

In order to help achieve the above we have applied for funding from AVIVA Community Fund. For our bid to be successful **WE NEED YOUR VOTE**. Please follow the link <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/16-2791> It only takes a few minutes to register then Aviva will email you a link so you can access your 10 votes.

VOTING FINISHES ON 17th NOVEMBER 2016.

Our aim:

H
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5

Heighten children's and parent's awareness and understanding of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle.

Increase children's fitness levels and physical literacy, which should in turn encourage participation in activities

Timprove children's wellbeing, through understanding and empathy for others, social skills, teamwork and cooperation.

5 Increase attainment across whole school, through confident and happy learners

Together work with schools across Milton Keynes to reduce obesity rates.

5 lifestyle changes that will make a real difference to everyone!

PLEASE VOTE – follow the link

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/16-2791>

Many thanks in advance for your support.

MK North Schools Sport Partnership



CELEBRATIONS

I have now arranged with each year group a specific day each week for children to bring their celebrations in to show to me. If children need to bring anything in from home, the days are as follows:

Year 1 – Monday

Year 2 – Friday

Year 3 – Wednesday

Year 4 – Thursday

Year 5 – Tuesday

Year 6 – Wednesday

Foundation will continue to visit as and when necessary.

This week, we have celebrated the following achievements:

- ★ Jaeden in Foundation came along to see me this week with this magnificent football trophy which he received for 'best player in training' at Tattenhoe Under 5s.



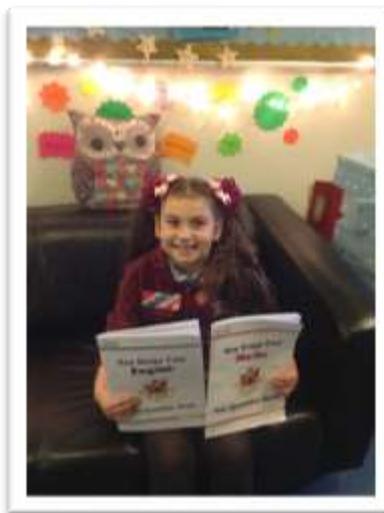
- ★ Hollie and Abigail in Year 5 both received rosettes for their floor routine and jumping on a vault at MK Springers Gymnastics Club.



- ★ Isabella in Year 1 has received certificates for passing her silver tap and ballet tests. Kayleigh in Year 1 brought in a lovely certificate and some photos to show me. Her daddy helped build a haunted house for a Halloween event raising money for the Henry Allen trust and Kayleigh helped out too. They raised £2,300.34!



- ★ Daria in Year 3 has been working super-hard with her cousin, *every day*, on these Maths and English workbooks, and brought in her amazing work to show me.



- ★ Nia and Thomas in Year 4 have both earned their Chief Scout's Bronze Award and brought their certificates in to show me. Lola in Year 4 sent a birthday card to The Queen and received a thank you. She was also awarded a rosette in a gymnastics competition and has received a Blue Peter Environment Award Badge. Rowan wrote a letter to Prime Minister Theresa May and brought along the reply he received.



- ★ Finley in Year 6 received a trophy for Man of the Match for his football team, Emerson Valley. Skye in Year 4 has learned all of her Times Tables and came to collect her certificate from me today. Whilst she was here, she also showed me a medal which she received when her rugby team won their tournament. Ayodhi in Year 4 received a 2nd place medal for her floor and vault work in a gymnastics competition. Rohan in Year 4 wrote to Lewis Hamilton and has received several photographs in return.



- ★ Sam in Year 2 received a trophy for being 'Star Player' for his football team, Tattenhoe Pumas. Toby in Year 2 has passed Stage 2 in his swimming lessons, and Michelle in Year 2 made a wonderful aeroplane!



★ Huzaifa, Richie and Rhys from Year 4 have been working really hard on their Armistice Day poetry and brought it down to share with me today. I am so proud of them!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THIS WEEK'S SUPERSTARS!

AND FINALLY

Our friends at Emily's Star will be spreading Christmas cheer this year with their Selection Box Appeal, collecting donations for the MK Hospital's Children's Ward and Neonatal Unit. If you would like to help support their appeal, full details can be found on the flyer below.

Also, there will be a 'Firework Spectacular' on Sunday evening at Scots Club in Bletchley, in aid of the Henry Allen Trust. Gates open at 4:30pm with the display starting at 6:30pm.



KEY DATES COMING UP ...

Date		
Monday 14th Nov	Y6 parents' SATs information meeting	5:30pm-6:00pm
Tuesday 15th Nov	Community Open Day	9:30am-11:30am And 1:30pm-2:30pm
Wednesday 16th Nov	Parent Consultations	2:20pm-7:40pm
Friday 18th Nov	Children in Need Mufti Day – Y6 fundraiser Celebration Assembly	9am Years 1 & 2 10am Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Have a great weekend. See you all next week.

Cathy