



# Newsletter

25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## **Oakley Cross Friends** *Article 31 - children have the right to relax and play*

Our PJ and Movie night was very successful and we had an excellent number of children attend this event. Thank you to staff and Oakley Cross Friends who gave their time to lead the event. Together a fantastic £140 was raised, which Oakley Cross Friends can use to support projects in school to benefit all of the children. Our Christmas fair is this Thursday (28<sup>th</sup> November) in our school hall, at 3:15pm. We have a number of local companies setting up stalls so you can browse for some Christmas gifts, grab refreshments and chance your luck in our Christmas raffle.

## **Visits and Visitors** *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Year 5 and Year 6 had a really informative workshop session provided by Christine and Sarah from the NSPCC. They discussed ways to keep themselves safe and who they could turn to for help. For more information, please visit [www.nspcc.co.uk](http://www.nspcc.co.uk). Maple Class had a really interesting day exploring Spennymoor town centre last week. They had a chance to view the Norman Cornish art exhibition in the Town Hall as well as locating the sites and scenes from his paintings in the town. The children have followed this up in class with some fantastic descriptive writing. Thank you to Mr Robinson for organising this event. Despite the rocky start, our Year 5 and Year 6 children had a super time during their residential visit at Dukeshouse Wood. The children displayed excellent behaviour throughout and showed a great deal of determination and resilience. We had the opportunity to take part in some high wire activities and develop teamwork skills on the ground. Whilst there, we had noticed that the range and number of activities on offer during our stay was reduced when compared to previous years and moving forward we will be looking to attend a different residential centre to ensure continued good value for money. I am sure you will join me in thanking the Miss O'Neil, Miss Curry and Miss Comerford who along with myself gave up their family time to attend this visit. Without this ongoing support from staff, residential visits would not be able to go ahead.

## **Sporting events** *Article 15 - every child has the right to join groups*

Our football league is well underway now and our team has taken part in a number of games so far. Feedback on their sportsmanship and teamwork is very positive and we have achieved some good results. Thank you to Miss Turner, Mrs Lowrie and Miss Curry for supporting the team and attending these events. Last week, Willow Class, Pine Class and Beech class participated in dance workshops in school. They had a great time putting together their routines and performing to other classes. We may have some Strictly stars in the future! Pine class also took part in the local school's Kurling and Boccia festival last week. We had some very talented children across our two teams and overall we came third and seventh in the festival. As usual the children's behaviour was super and they represented our school well.

## **Coffee Afternoon** *Article 3 - the best interests of the child should be top priority*

Our Coffee Afternoon in school was well attended and it was lovely to see so many of you there. Miss O'Neil will be sharing some of the information provided at the coffee afternoon in the near future for those of you who couldn't make it.

## **Jewellery** *Article 19 - all children have the right to be safe*

Children must not wear jewellery in school. There is an increasing number of children wearing rings, bracelets and hooped earrings. These items should remain at home to avoid any unnecessary accidents or losses in school. Small stud earrings and a watch may be worn but must be removed for PE lessons. Thank you.

## **Attendance** *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Our overall attendance today stands at 94.2%. Please make a huge effort to help improve our school attendance. Currently Maple Class is top of the leader board with a class attendance of 96.37%. Your child's Head Teacher, Mrs R Brannan email: [oakleycross@durhamlearning.net](mailto:oakleycross@durhamlearning.net) Tel: 01388 833186

attendance is important and we will contact parents of children where attendance is causing concern to offer further advice and support. We are monitored closely by the local authority; low attendance could trigger their intervention and persistent absence can lead to parents being issued a fine or further enforcement action.

#### **Anti-Bullying Week** *Article 19 - all children have the right to be safe*

Our Anti-bullying week was really successful. To start the week, our Year 5 and Year 6 children had a really informative day working with the team from 'Show Racism the Red Card'. They discussed bullying and the forms it can take as well as the effects on those involved and also took part in some active sessions. The children got together to create a school rainbow in support of Anti-Bullying and shared the message that it is okay to be different. Children explored texts linked to the themes of bullying and also had reminders about staying safe online. This week we will be welcoming children and staff from Evergreen School to work with us on shared activities. Thank you to Miss O'Neil for organising this event.

#### **Drama Performance** *Article 15 - every child has the right to join groups*

Well done to our drama group for their excellent production of 'The Key Master'. Despite numbers in the group having reduced significantly, the girls took on the extra roles and responsibilities and gave the usual high standard of performance. Well done to Mr Robinson who directed the production and a huge thank you to the time he has given over the years to drama in Oakley Cross. As numbers have dwindled so significantly, Drama club will no longer be running.

#### **Reading at Oakley Cross** *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Mrs Collier will continue to lead our school book club this year. The savings club is still in place so children can save in advance. Children can save a small amount each week or fortnight and will have their very own savings card to keep a record of their savings. This money can then be used at the school book fair. Reading is important to us and we want your child to be the best they can be. We really appreciate your support by taking time to hear your child read at home and 10 minutes each day. This has a very significant impact on improving their fluency and comprehension. Please make sure children return their reading books regularly so they have chance to read a wider selection.

#### **Parent, Child and Teacher Meetings** *Article 3 - the best interests of the child should be top priority*

Thank you to those of you who attended the parent, child and teacher meetings in school last week. This time is planned into our busy school day to allow you to come and share your child's successes and we hope you found the meetings useful. As you know, across the 2 days we also ran a prize draw to win £50.00 ASDA voucher which will be drawn this week. Watch out for the winners name to be announced soon.

#### **Beech Class Special Person Lunch** *Article 24 - every child has the right to nutritious food*

Thank you very much to those of you who came along to enjoy lunch with your child. The children really enjoyed sharing lunchtime and it was lovely to see so many of you there. Thank you to our kitchen staff too.

#### **Breakfast Club** *Article 24 - every child has the right to nutritious food*

Breakfast Club begins at 8.10 a.m. for all of our children. Breakfast Club is free and there is a good choice of cereals, toast, yoghurts, fruit and drinks on offer - a filling and healthy breakfast! Please enter through the Sports Hall entrance.

#### **Governor Vacancy** *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

We currently have vacancies for two parent governors on our school governing body. If you are interested in this role or would like more information, please pop in to school.

#### **Parent Mail** *Article 17 - you have the right to get information that is important to you*

Thank you to everyone who has now registered with Parent Mail to receive all our school letters and bulletins. If you have registered but not downloaded the FREE app please do so. Parents who have, tell us this makes receiving our messages so much easier than relying on email alone as you will receive a notification alert.

#### **Nursery Places** *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

We still have places available in our nursery. If you are interested in a place or would like more information, please pop in to school and we will be happy to show you round and provide you with an application form.

### **Messy Play Sessions** *Article 31 - all children have the right to play*

Our final Messy Play Session will run in school from 10am until 11 am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and will have a very Christmas theme. The session is suitable for babies sitting up unaided through to children of 5 and costs £5.

#### **Dates for your Diary**

Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA Christmas Fair 3.15pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3/Y4 Dance Festival
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas Sing Song/Nativity 9am
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1/KS2 Christmas play 2pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1/KS2 Christmas play 9.30am
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 party (afternoon)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 carol service at St Helen's Church 2pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1/KS2 Panto trip
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS party (afternoon)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Littlest Elf 9.30am
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 party (afternoon)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day (£1 fine)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols in school 2pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

We have a number of statutory assessments to complete within school and it is very important that children are in school during these periods:

**11<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - KS2 SATs** - all of Maple Class (Y6 children) must be in school

**18<sup>th</sup> May to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 - KS1 SATs** - all of Pine Class (Y2 children) must be in school

**8<sup>th</sup> June to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 - Y1 Phonics Check** - all of Beech Class (Y1 children) must be in school

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with school if you want to put forward a suggestion or discuss anything.

Thank you.

R Brannan