Oakwood Academy Newsletter

"Living, learning and thriving"
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20th December 2019

Thank you to the children for supporting our local community throughout this term. The singing groups have performed at the library, Schneider factory and the local church as well as attending the Lord Mayors Carol Service at St Andrews.
The food bank were thrilled to receive the generous donation especially for Christmas.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 6th January 2020.

Parent Meetings will take place on 14th and 20th January 2020. Parent meetings will take place in January. Appointments will be made during the first week back.

Attendance
For Week Ending 13th December

The expected average percentage attendance for a child is 96%.

Well done to James KS1 and Shakespeare KS2 for the highest attendance

	89.0**%**
Donaldson	87.5%
Jeffers	89.0%
Murphy	88.2%
James	**92.8%**
Jansson	95.3%
Dahl	92.4%
Morpurgo	95.8%
Walliams	**91.3%**
Shakespeare	**96.1%**
Lawrence	90.4%

THE HUT

In September we were lucky enough to further develop our support for children at Oakwood. We have a dedicated base known as 'The HUT'.
HUT stands for Helping Us Thrive. I am sure your children may have mentioned it to you as it is a very exciting space that all children have access to. The Hut is staffed by specially trained practitioners: Mrs Pellow and Miss Woolley.
Here at Oakwood,we place a great emphasis on the importance of ensuring that every child develops positive mental health and resilience. We believe that the Hut plays a significant role in ensuring this.
Our aim is to:

- Support children to make sense of their experience(s).
- Find positive and effective ways to manage their emotions and feelings.
- Create an environment of safety, connection and compassion at all times.
- Ensure children are supported to maintain the capacity to thrive and learn, despite difficult events that may occur in their lives.

The children have given us some feedback about their time in the hut:
'It is really good because it is fun. It's the best place ever.'
'I like the Hut because the teachers help me with my troubles and worries.'

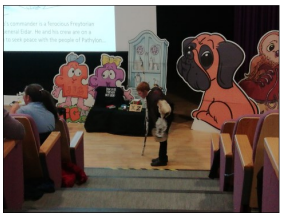
YOUTH COUNCIL

It was a great privilege to accompany Callum and Izzy to the Plymouth City Council Chambers and to meet with Alison Hernandez: The Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. During this session we learnt about how Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and partners are improving Road Safety. It was important to gather the views and recommendations of Plymouth children and young people and to discuss the outcomes from their consultation with their fellow constituents. A report is being compiled and will be shared with all School Champions in the New Year. I'd like to thank both Callum and Izzy for representing Oakwood and their fellow Champions impeccably.

HMS HEROES

Once again, the China Fleet Club invited MKC Heroes to an annual swim and Christmas gathering. MKC Heroes enjoyed a fun swim followed by lunch and the important presentation of their annual Poppy Appeal collection. Suzanne Archard, from the Royal British Legion, received the cheque for £2789.44 that was raised by selling the Armed Forces Day Badges and collecting for the Poppy Appeal on Poppy Saturday. It was a pleasure to invite Isabelle and Oliver to take part this year. They were a credit to their fellow Heroes and Oakwood Primary.

YEAR 5 CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY AUTHOR VISIT



This term Year 5 were invited to Plymouth University to meet the author David Lawrence Jones. We enjoyed spending time at the university and listening to his story about how he became an author. The children were amazed to learn that David didn't like books when he was younger but fell in love with the story 'The Famous Five' by Enid Blyton. The children got to see a range of David Lawrence Jones books and even experience an interactive story telling session. Some children were even asked to join in. At the end, the children were very lucky and were able to choose one of his books and have it signed.

MAYFLOWER 400

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a 6-week program on Mayflower 400 which was delivered by Plymouth Argyle FC. During the 6 weeks, the children learnt about the historic voyage of the Mayflower ship from the UK to the 'New World' of America. As well as learning about the Pilgrims' voyage, all the children participated in PE lessons based on four famous American sports: Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, and Athletics. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and benefited greatly from professional coaching.

INDOOR ATHLETICS

On 6th November, 12 children from Year 5 and 6 represented Oakwood at the Sir John Hunt Indoor Athletics. The children took part in a variety of events: obstacle races, a range of relay races, speed bounce, chest push, long jump and triple jump. The children performed amazingly and represented the school in a fantastic manner. In many of the events, the children managed to secure 2nd place. The highlight for many in the Oakwood team was the obstacle race at the end of the afternoon because it gave the children an opportunity to compete as a team and provided a memorable experience. By the end, the Oakwood team was rewarded with bronze medals for coming 3rd overall.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The children enjoyed a festive Christmas lunch on Thursday, which included homemade fruit juice and plastic free Christmas crackers. The teachers and support staff were on hand to serve the children their tasty Christmas feast whilst Christmas music was played in the background.

SINGING GROUP

The school choir have once again been very busy singing at several venues. The children started their performances at The Church of the Holy Spirit's Christmas Fayre on Saturday. There was tremendous applause throughout for the soloist, the groups and the full choir's singing.

This was followed by three performances in one day when the children sang at the Library's Memory Café then at The Schneider factory followed by the Lord Mayor's Carol service in St Andrew's Church.

Finally, the children delighted adults with their singing at the Christingle Service.

FOUNDATION NATIVITY

The Reception children from Kerr and Donaldson classes performed the Nativity for Christmas. It was a fabulous production and the children were really excited to perform for their parents. They worked hard at learning their lines and certainly used their big voices! Thank you to parents for all their help in providing costumes and coming to watch. We wish you a Merry Christmas xxx

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The Children had a festive afternoon partying, and playing party games, Thank you for all your donations that helped to make the afternoon successful and enjoyable.

DECORATIONS AFTERNOON

Children and parents at Oakwood enjoyed another glitter and glue filled decorations afternoon. They enjoyed making a range of decorations such as a painted wintery scene, Christmas cards, snowflakes and some children even tried to break the record for the longest paper chain ever made! Children in KS2 also made Christingles to take down to the church service. A big thank you to parents and grandparents for supporting the afternoon and lending your artistic skills to help the children!

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of those that supported the North Plymouth Food Bank this Christmas. Yet again, your kind generosity was very much appreciated and will help Plymouths most vulnerable families this Christmas.

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT

The children were visited by a special visitor this week… Father Christmas!

They enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate whilst Santa read them a Christmas story. They were all on the 'nice list' and received presents.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

The singing group and the year 6 children attended the Christingle Service at the Church of the Holy Spirit on Wednesday. Earlier in the week Reverend Iain had come to our Decorations Afternoon and helped the year 6 children make Christingles from oranges, cocktail sticks, sweets, dried fruit and red ribbon. The year 6 children led the service and the singing group sang a collection of songs and carols to help celebrate this special time of year. Thank you to Abbie for her beautiful solo and to Elise, Olivia, Freya and Sophia for leading the Christingle Carol. Well done to you all!

Diary Dates 2019/2020 **(Dates maybe subject to change)**

	2019/2020 TERM DATES
23rd Dec—Fri 5th Jan 2020	**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**
Mon 6th Jan	School re-opens 8.45am
Tues 14th Jan	Parent Meetings 3:15pm —6:00pm
Mon 20th Jan	Parent Meetings 3:15pm —5:30pm
Mon 17th Feb– Fri 21st Feb	**HALF TERM**
Mon 24th Feb	School re-opens 8.45am
Fri 30th Mar—Mon 13th Apr	**EASTER HOLIDAYS**
Tues 14th Apr	School re-opens 8.45am
Mon 4th May	Non-Pupil Day
Fri 8th May	May Bank Holiday
Mon 25th May—Fri 29th May	**HALF TERM**
Wed 22nd Jul	**Last Day of Term**

From all the
Oakwood Primary Academy Staff