Headteacher Weekly Update

Sam Perryman (Mrs), Headteacher

For more news and information please visit our website: www.oakleyschool.co.uk

Oakley School
Skills for Life and Independence

Friday 5th January 2024





Dear Families,

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very **Healthy and Happy New Year**. It has been lovely to have everyone back in school over the past couple of days.

Thank you for your support and generosity at the end of last term leading up to Christmas, the pupils had a wonderful, rich experience of seasonal festivities. We have started Term 3 this week and our focus has been ensuring we are all adjusting to being back into school routines, following timetables, structure and re-engaging in learning again. The topic for the term is: 'A Day in the Life of…..'.

We have had two staff training and development days before pupils returned to school and one area of focus has been on how we continue to support your children with their futures and destinations (Careers). We are keen to establish a link with a volunteer from business as an **Enterprise Advisor**. Please see the attached for more information, if you are interested in finding out more about this role and how we can develop links for our school in the community please do contact me.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of some important information and your support would be appreciated:

- **Attendance:** it is essential your child attends school every day (assuming they are fit & well) - full attendance ensures your child maintains their learning and they achieve the best outcomes. We will contact any family if we have concerns about attendance and look at how we can work together to support you.
- **Communication**: we rely on your support and I ask that you keep sharing information with us about your family, such as: changes to home address, contact information, changes to arrangements at home, hospital appointments, changes to transport etc. This up to date information will help us to support your child and family.
- **School Dinners**: The menu is available on our school website: www.oakleyschool.co.uk/school-meals/ School dinners are £2.80 per day (£14.00 per week) and you can either pay online via the school gateway or send in cash or a cheque (made payable to Oakley School). Please do not hesitate to call (01892 823096) or e-mail office@oakley.kent.sch.uk if you have any questions about school dinners and/or payments.
- **Vehicles on sites**: It is essential everyone drives **SLOWLY and CAREFULLY.** Please switch off your engines when stationary – the safety of our school community is paramount.

A polite reminder:
Please can I take this opportunity to remind families the importance of all adults modelling the school values we teach your children **(Work Hard, Be Kind, Have Fun, Stay Safe).** Unfortunately we had a couple of incidences last term of families becoming cross and frustrated with staff about issues that were out of our control. We are working very hard within a demanding context with many external pressures from the Local Authority, Government and we are all working collectively to get the best outcomes for your children. We have an open door policy and I encourage families to come and speak to us.
Your continued support and cooperation is helpful, thank you.

Very best wishes for 2024
Sam

E-mail: sperryman@oakley.kent.sch.uk

This week we have welcomed two new staff to Oakley:
Catharine, Chestnut Class Teacher and Suzanne, Family Support Worker.

Next week Suzanne will write to families to introduce herself and tell you more about her role.

Reminder:
The Local Authority have an open consultation called Locality Model for Special Educational Needs Inclusion. Kent County Council are seeking views from families and staff about the SEN provision across Kent, with the primary focus on how the Local Authority are working to support children and young people with SEN. I will be sharing our views on behalf of the school, however I encourage all families and staff to complete the consultation too so we ensure we can have excellent outcomes for your children.
The consultation closes on 24th January 2024.
Click here for survey

Safeguarding at Oakley School



The staff at Oakley have recently updated their knowledge around online safety during the Inset training earlier this week. The key points of keeping children safe online is to be curious about what they are doing online. Check that they are accessing age/ stage appropriate content. Who do they have contact with online (lots of our pupils will be talking to friends on social media and through gaming). Check their behaviour online. We teach the children that if they wouldn't do or say that in school or at home they shouldn't be doing that online. Here is a useful website for you to access for more information. Supporting young people with

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Kent & Medway CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Become an Enterprise Adviser

An EA is a volunteer from business who partners with a school or college. You will use your skills, business experience and networks to support the school develop their careers offer for students.



Why become an EA?

- Develop your own skills in project management, strategy and communication
- Build your own professional network
- Gain experience of the school environment and students with additional needs
- Be the link between your business or your employer and young people

What does Oakley School need?

Oakley School is a Special School for children and young people from 3 to 19 years with a wide range of special educational needs

- Someone who can help shape the Oakley School Careers Programme
- Someone with good networks who can engage other businesses or individuals to offer employer input
- Someone in reach of Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells to meet with the careers team and wider stakeholders

What are the commitments?

- Happy to join the community of EA's in the Kent and Medway Careers Hub and nationally through the Careers and Enterprise Company as a volunteer for a minimum of a year
- Undertake an enhanced DBS check - at the cost of the Hub
- Attendance at meetings with the school and the schools' Enterprise Coordinator on a half termly basis
- Take part in Hub networking and ad-hoc EA training throughout the year

Find out more here

Contact: Rachael Chibhaga, Enterprise Coordinator
rachael.chibhaga@theeducationpeople.org

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