Headteacher Weekly Update

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Oakley School
Skills for Life and Independence

6th October 2023

Dear Families,

I hope you are keeping well. We have been so fortunate to still have some lovely warm weather this week as we now move into autumn and October.



Sue, Forest School Teacher, Steph and a group of our pupils went to the Assembly Halls in Tunbridge Wells this week and I am delighted to share with you that Oakley School received the Gold Award and were announced Winners of The Best School 2023 at The Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom Awards.

Oakley School are ''Highly recommended for their refurbished herb and vegetable gardens, creative recycling and the great participation of all age groups'' This is a huge recognition for all the work the pupils and staff have contributed to developing our wonderful outdoor area.

In our newsletter this week our Phase Leaders have shared some updates from each Phase, I hope you enjoy reading about what learning has been taking place (please see below).

Save the dates:
Friday 20th October - Grand Opening Discovery Zone
Friday 3rd November - Grand Opening Life Skills Room
More information to follow…

I wish you all the best for the weekend.

Sam
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Safeguarding at Oakley School



The new online safety bill which has just been passed in parliament will require tech companies to make their sites safe for children. Children are at risk of being groomed, targeted by criminal gangs, persuaded by extremist views as well as viewing inappropriate content. We have to teach pupils how to stay safe online, rather than remove all technology. The NSPCC is a useful place to start, guiding you how to have conversations with your children. At school we teach them explicitly about the risks as well as having appropriate monitoring and filtering to prevent them from accessing inappropriate content. Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC

Phase 1 have had a fantastic start to the year, with a strong focus on settling in and establishing daily routines. Children have been learning about "Britain's Kitchen," in various ways; shopping roleplay and creative, vegetable based messy play, which has made learning so much fun. This theme has been integrated their into their art lessons, focussing on printing and mark-making, using food items. Phase 1 have been exploring mathematical numerals in an interactive and musical way through song. The children have also begun to discover nature during their forest school sessions.

Phase 2 have had an exciting start to the year with a focus on several engaging literary adventures; "The Tiger Who Came to Tea," "Oliver's Fruit Salad," "Sam's Sandwich," and "The Enormous Turnip."
In Phase 2, we've put great emphasis on embedding essential routines and working on our interoception skills, creating a solid foundation for their overall development. Through sensory exploration, the children have learned to describe and understand sensory sensations like "hot" and "cold". The topic of "Britain's Kitchen," has provided lots of opportunities for messy and sensory play, as they've explored a variety of fruits and vegetables. A standout moment in Ash class was their wonderful performance of "The Enormous Turnip" in front of proud parents during a stay-and-play event.

Phase 3 is on an exciting journey centred around the theme of "Britain's Kitchen," where they're discovering the world of seasonal foods and, specifically, the health benefits of fibre. The children have been looking at texts linked to this theme; "The Highway Rat" and "Fantastic Mr. Fox,"
Phase 3 have been learning about the importance of rules and who to turn to if they ever have concerns or worries; in the classroom, in school, within their families and in the wider community. Phase 3's curriculum this term has also extended to exploring other aspects of life, such as family structures, address writing, weather reports, and the world of Pop Art.

Phase 4 It's been a busy term already!

Our young people have been researching our new class names and finding out about our authors, including listening to stories and books written by them. We've also been exploring Britain's kitchen by finding out abut food and farming and using our brand-new life skills room to cook some delicious recipes.
We have been practicing our life skills by going out into the local community and developing our knowledge of road safety, communicating appropriately with people we don't know and shopping for our Life Skills lessons.