

NEWSLETTER

Inspiration and Success



unicef

Thank you for helping to raise

£857

at the Mela for UNICEF's Appeal to help Syrian Children

A Magnificent Mela At Oswald Road!

Thank you to everyone who attended October's Mela and for your generous donations of food for the World Café. What an afternoon it was!

There was such a buzz around school and a real community feel to the event. From salsa dancing and origami, to mehndi hand-art and Chinese lanterns, there was a blend of activities on offer throughout the school. It took several months of planning by the Parental Links and the Ethnic Minority Achievement teams; getting the arts and craft activities ready was the biggest job on a long list of tasks!

We hope that you had the opportunity to visit a number of the activities on offer and that everybody enjoyed getting involved!



It was great to see some former pupils back in school helping to support the event. Mahnoor, Rosa and Maddy kindly showcased their mehndi art skills and African drumming talents, while Satnam Singh's (one of our Year 3 Class Teachers) son gave a very impressive Dohl drumming performance at the end of the afternoon. Thank you, as well, to Rachel and Michelle from the PTA for working alongside school staff to run the World Café and to all the parents and carers who helped do mehndi on the day.

We have had lots of positive feedback about the Mela; parents and carers have said that they loved the way that staff were involved, enjoyed watching the musical performances (did you see how amazing our teachers were on the steel pans?!) and working with children doing arts and crafts.

Thank you for supporting the event and helping to make this a fantastic occasion at Oswald Road!

Sarah Greenway
on behalf of the Parental Links & Ethnic Minority Achievement Teams



"It was a fabulous way of getting the school together to celebrate one of its greatest assets - its cultural diversity"
- Izzy Syed (Parent)





PTA FORS - Friends of Oswald Road

We're incredibly lucky to have a PTA as active and dedicated as we do and whose efforts make such an incredible impact on the school.

Thanks to PTA (FORS) (Friends of Oswald Road) and their continuous fundraising work, a total of **£14,741.31** was raised last year, all of which goes towards improving the educational resources at school.



The most recent focus has been on raising funds for development of the school playground and we're so proud of what we can provide for the children, thanks to the work of PTA (FORS).

Our recently finished green space in the playground provides the children with a sensory and stimulating new area for play; the children have just harvested some of the pumpkins they planted there last term!



If you would like to become involved and help make an impact on the school, please contact the new Chair, **Mark Hobbs**, who is leading PTA (FORS) for 2015/16. Mark takes over from Nina Jones, who we wish to thank for her dedication to helping make every event a success and for helping to raise such a fantastic amount for the school last year.

You can contact Mark at oswaldptachair@gmail.com

CBBC Newsround: Strictly Come Oswald!

The team from CBBC's Newsround have been in school twice this year; firstly, to find out what some of our Year 5 and 6's thought about the new series of Strictly Come Dancing and the 2015 Rugby World Cup. The children were brilliant in front of the camera and had plenty to say about the celebrity contestants, rating their chances of success - just like the judges on the show!

In November, the CBBC crew returned to Oswald Road to speak to another group of our Year 5 and 6 children, recording the unique and interesting Christmas traditions their families have! The clips might be used in Newsround's Festive Advent Calendar (the team couldn't make any promises, as they'd be choosing from a large selection of clips)!



Visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/30345563> to see the first two videos, which feature Oswald Road pupils!



Did You Know We're A Nut-Free School?

Please take care **not** to include tree nuts, peanuts or any products containing these ingredients in the snacks or packed lunches you give to your child (please make sure to check the list of ingredients!)

Thank you very much for your support and cooperation.





Year 3 Enjoy Storytelling At Its Finest

On the 25th of November, Year 3 were lucky enough to enjoy an afternoon of literary delights at Chorlton Library, spending time with author and storyteller Richard O'Neill.

Richard, a professional storyteller and writer who works in over 150 schools, museums and libraries each year, enthralled the children with his stories, including his latest: "The Princess and the Wooden Slipper". He answered the children's questions about being an author and the art of storytelling; the teachers, library staff and Richard himself were very impressed with their behavior and their listening:

"I had the pleasure of delivering a session to your children and staff at Chorlton Library as part of the Chorlton Book Festival. I just wanted to say what a brilliant audience the children were; their sitting and listening was exemplary and their questions were insightful. It's clear that the children have been enthused when it comes to literacy. A huge thank you to the children and staff for such an enjoyable event."



Year 5 Get a Visit From a Real-Life Scientist!



Dominic Bowman, who is studying for his PhD in Astrophysics, came into school to talk to our Year 5 children about our solar system and the stars that he studies, millions of miles away.

He talked about the size of different planets and explained how they are spaced throughout our solar system, then he told us about his exciting search for new planets and the possibility of finding life elsewhere in the universe! By the end of the day, our brains were buzzing with new and fascinating facts!



Luqman Exhibits At Autech Future Art 2015

On Thursday 1st October, Luqman Kawooya was invited to Old Trafford football stadium where his artwork was being displayed as part of the Autech Creative Future Art Exhibition 2015.

His entry, entitled "The View From My Classroom", was a Lego model he created in Year 4 and was selected from hundreds of entries hoping to be featured in the final exhibition. Mr Salisbury accompanied Luqman to the event:

"Walking around the exhibition with Luqman was like being on tour with a celebrity! So many people recognised his name and commented on how impressed they were with his entry."

Luqman won a special commendation for his piece, as well as a certificate and gift vouchers. Very well done!



Parent Governor Elections

We are very pleased to announce that Mr Ali Ayub was voted in as our newest Parent Governor in the election held last week.

Mr Ayub, an active member of the Chorlton community, has been a lifetime resident of the area and currently has a child in Year 2 at Oswald Road.

Congratulations to Mr Ayub, and thank you also to Mr Owen Sedgwick-Jell for his application.

Please take a read of Mr Ayub's candidate statement (right) for more information about our new Parent Governor.



Oswald Road Primary School

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Headteacher: D. Howard



Candidate Statement: Ali Ayub

I have lived in the Chorlton area all my life and I have strong ties to the community. I am proud to be part of this community and I am also proud to be part of the Oswald Road School community. I have a child in Year 2 who joined the school in September 2015 and I have been extremely pleased with the welcome he has received from the staff and pupils. I have also applied for my second child to join the school in September 2016.

I am an active member of my community and I like to be involved in community projects. This includes participating in inter-faith activities and raising money for charitable causes.

As a Muslim parent, I believe that I can benefit other parents from different ethnic backgrounds by encouraging them to integrate into the school and help them to play a positive role in their engagement with the school.

I believe in the ethos of the school and strongly believe that I can serve the school as a Parent Governor of Oswald Road.

Mr Ali Ayub



Inspiration & Success



Memody Music Service

One of our friends, Tom Edney, a former Teaching Assistant at Oswald Road, has been raising funds for his new company, Memody, which has its roots here in school.

Memody is a music service that enhances the lives of children and young people by working with them to compose and record songs. Mr Edney told us more about this innovative and impactful project:



"In the three years I have been writing and recording music with children and young people, I have become increasingly aware of how sessions become more like collaborations than tuition. Directed by my experience and skills, one Year 4 child showed me how to write a song that was under two minutes long; something I had been trying to do since I was about 17/18 years old... I'm now 33!"

Children and young people teach experienced songwriters and musicians how to fall back in love with music and appreciate the novelty of creating a piece of music (something that can fade as you grow older, but so vital when writing a song). It is safe to say that I enjoy making music with children and young people just as much, if not more, than I do with my own peers and professional music collaborators."

If you'd like to listen to some of the brilliant songs that have been made or support this project, further information can be found at <http://memodycic.tumblr.com> or you can contact Mr Edney at tom.edney@googlemail.com





We're Mega Maths Challenge Finalists!

This term, children from Key Stage 2 took part in the first ever Mega Maths Challenge Cup! This is the first Chorlton inter-school maths quiz, established by the local cluster.

Oswald Road were lucky enough to host the first round, with Ned Silvey, Jai Sketchley, Isobel Holt and Zain Khan forming our 'Amber Team', and Charlotte Simpson (Year 6), Gaia Turchetti-Rayner (Year 5), Ahmed Tahir (Year 4) and Juliet Garrabet-Thomas (Year 3) making up our 'Blue Team'. Both groups put on a great performance, but it was our Blue Team who defeated two other schools and clinched a place in the final!

The children were quizzed on a range of maths topics which tested their skills, speed and team work. The Blue Team was then invited to take part in the final at Manley Park Primary, which took place on Tuesday 1st December.

After a very close battle of mathematical skill, Oswald Road came **third** out of all nine schools involved in the competition! A truly magnificent achievement! As a school, we are so proud of all the children who took part! Congratulations, Blue Team!

There will be another Mega Maths Challenge Cup taking place in the Spring term. If your child is interested in taking part, please come and speak to Mr Salisbury (Year 5 Class Teacher).



World's Biggest Coffee Morning 2015 for Macmillan Cancer Support —

Parents, carers and staff made a variety of delicious cakes to support the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. We were delighted by the number of parents and carers that supported the occasion by making cakes and generously donating to such a worthy cause.

Macmillan Coffee Mornings go all the way back to 1990, when a fundraising committee decided to hold a coffee morning where the cost of their coffee was donated to Macmillan. It is now the charity's flagship fundraising event and has raised over £138 million since its first coffee morning.

For those who would like to join fellow Oswald Road parents and carers for a cuppa, PTA (FORS) holds a coffee morning **every Friday** (during term time), from 9.00am – 10.00am, in the small hall. Contact Michelle Dennell (michelle@galaxy17.co.uk) for more information.





Year 5 JORVICK Workshop

Year 5 recently took part in a series of workshops about the **Vikings** (which were delivered by some real -life Vikings!) The workshop was ran by the JORVICK Viking Centre, who came into school for a full day workshop in which the children learnt about weapons, Viking sagas and Viking home life.

Bulb Planting

The budding gardeners of 5WM have been planting daffodil, crocus and tulip bulbs around our school playground. Look out for them brightening up the school grounds in spring!



Litter Picking

Our brand new **Litter Picking Crew** have completed their first litter pick throughout the school grounds. From now on, the crew will be taking part in a weekly litter pick to help keep our lovely playground clean and rubbish-free.

Recycling Crew

The team have been busy collecting paper to be recycled from all the classes in the main building each week. Importantly, we are trying to always use both sides of the paper before we recycle it!

Commando Joe's

Our Year 5 children really enjoyed taking part in the inflatable assault course which was set up in the playground. It was tough, but they didn't give up!

You Reap What You Sow...

After carefully planting the seeds in our green space a couple of months ago, 5WM finally had the chance to harvest their pumpkins from the playground! The children prepared them in the school's cookery room and then enjoyed eating them back in class. (Growing vegetables right here in school is so lovely!)

Recycling Workshop

Children in Key Stage 2 recently took part in a fantastic assembly on **recycling**, where they played a game of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" and learned all about how to recycle their food waste at home. Our Year 5's took part in a Recycling Champions workshop, too! Well done KS2!





Children in Need 2015

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Pyjamas and Onesies Day in aid of BBC Children in Need! We are very pleased to say that we collectively raised **£434.32!** All the funds raised by BBC Children in Need are used to support projects delivered by charities and community interest companies working alongside disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.



Kite Mark Awards

The School Games Mark is a Government-led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competitive sports across their school and into the community.

The Youth Sports Trust (YST) is an organisation which supports schools with the development of physical education.

This year, Oswald Road Primary School has been awarded the Bronze Mark and the Silver Kite Mark from YST in recognition of our school's commitment to PE and school sport.



Silver Quality Mark 2014/15



Katie Pool - PTA (FORS) Top Fundraiser for 2015!

Katie Pool (Year 2) has raised a fantastic sum of **£871.81** for Oswald Road PTA (FORS)! In March, she took part in the sponsored read and raised £130 by reading **30 different books!** This was the most money raised by any pupil at school for the sponsored read!

In May, Katie then went on to take part in the Manchester Mini Run in Heaton Park, running 2 kilometres for charity. Well done, Katie! Thank you for your fantastic fundraising work in 2015!



Manchester Cross Country Finals

Philips Park was the venue for the Manchester City-Wide Cross Country Finals. On the 10th November, seven children from Oswald Road were selected to take part alongside pupils from twenty-nine schools from the whole of Manchester. This was a huge achievement for all those who took part!

The wet weather leading up to the race made the ground heavy and muddy, with the wind making the distance seem even further than it was! However, our runners all did brilliantly! The children all completed the gruelling race showing determination, grit and stamina. Even though they didn't win the event, they gave a brilliant performance and represented Oswald Road with pride.



Congratulations to:

**Austin Smith, Cleo Bentall, Ella Greenway,
Helen Worsley, Katie Hindle, Nancy Duggan & Sylvie Norreys.**

