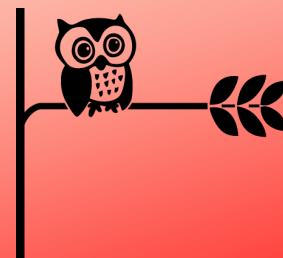


Oswald Road Primary School Newsletter

News from November 2014



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

It's been a really great month at Oswald Road. The build has now been handed over and we couldn't be happier with it. We are now looking at making the area behind the hall into a calm, quiet zone for playtimes, which I think will be a great move forward for the school.

News from Oswald Road Primary School.....

What's been particularly lovely for me this month has been the amount of children popping into my room to show me brilliant work and to share news they are excited about. My new room is ideally placed for children to just pop in, so this is great. Now the school build is taking up less of my time, it has also been lovely to start some teaching again and I have been taking a group of Year 5 children to do creative writing.

We will be having an official opening of the build in Spring term, as fitting it in this half term with all the wonderful Christmas performances the children have planned would be difficult. The lovely Kathryn Whalley will be leading on this event, so watch this space!

School Improvement Plan

Each year, all the staff get together to write the School Improvement Plan. It is split into five teams: Achieving Success, Fit for Learning, Parental Links, Stay Safe and Rights and Responsibilities (this area used to be called 'Extended Links'). Each team has a lead, who works with their team on a joint vision. There are approximately 15 people in each team. Together they draw up a mind map of what they want to achieve over the year, before an action plan is written. Every member of staff is involved and leads on something. We will be holding a Parent Forum soon to share our School Improvement Plan with you all.

Kathryn Whalley - Rights and Responsibilities Lead

This academic year I am leading the School Improvement Plan area called 'Rights and Responsibilities'. The team consists of staff from across all areas of school life.

This year is an exciting time for our team with a new school and a fresh perspective on our journey to being 'Outstanding'. We will be meeting regularly every half term to run a new School Council, look at 'Rights and Responsibilities' of our children in school and promoting 'Respecting Classrooms'. Our team will be leading on UNICEF's Rights and Responsibilities project. This is an exciting step forward for the school.

Page 2. What's going on at Oswald Road

Black History Month



In October, all the classes in school celebrated Black History Month with lessons on Identity. This resulted in a wonderful display which can be seen on the stairwell (near the Year 2 classes).

In November, Sam Kalubowila, from the Race Relations Resource Centre at The Central Library, visited us and did an assembly to follow up Black History Month and also to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of WW1. Here, we chose to celebrate the contributions of Black and Ethnic Minority soldiers from across the British Empire who fought alongside Britain. Over 827,000 soldiers from India had volunteered to fight for Britain

by November 1918, as well as tens of thousands of African and Caribbean soldiers.

As well as the contribution of soldiers from the Commonwealth, we also looked at the life of Walter Tull, a Black Briton, born in Kent. As well as being only the second Black professional football player, playing for Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town, he also went on to become the first ever Black officer in the British Army, at a time where military law prevented anyone who was not of European descent from becoming an officer. Walter sadly was killed in action at Favreuil in the Spring Offensive in March 1918, and his body was never recovered.



Wonderstruck, Manchester Museum

Children from Oswald Road were lucky to be part of the Network Choir (from four primary schools) which performed with many other choirs from Manchester at the Manchester Museum over a two day event in November. The songs were written to celebrate the museum's collections and the children got the chance to perform with some fabulous choirs in a unique setting. Audiences were genuinely wowed by the sounds of the voices and parents were very proud! We'd like to say a big thank you to Mrs Murray for giving up so much of her own

time so that Oswald Road could take part and for continuing to be a real inspiration to the children – it really is appreciated. Also a big thank you to the parents and carers who gave up their time to support their children and Choir. We look forward to the star-studded Bridgewater Hall performance in December.

Parents of children in the Network Choir

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Year 6 have been completing some wonderful work this term....

Jessie and Jake have kindly agreed to share lovely their pieces below which are based on The Piano, An Amazing Short Animation by Aidan Gibbons, portraying an old man sharing his life story with his young grandchild through evocative music.

'Sorrow flits like death with a clammy touch to the living, feeding on dented hearts and eating away at haggard souls. My own mourning has gnawed at something beautiful inside me, leaving a gaping chasm where there was once light. I am a mere shadow of my former self; hollow as the rotting tree. Lost in the weight of my past, my fingers slide automatically across the keys of the piano and as the first note sings out, the spell is broken. My caged memories fly free and I find myself lost in an eternity of oblivious daydream...'

Jessie Tomlinson

'Darkness. My eyes adjust to the gloom as I begin to play. My own frail fingers dash across the ivory keys, like a chequered chessboard, all black and white. Suddenly, all my memories come flooding back into my empty mind.

I seemed to fall into the piano and then everything was really black and white! I viewed myself at a music concert, much younger and stronger but not wiser. Joanne, (my beloved wife) sat beside me as I kissed her head. She thanked me for the space and we watched the performance. I could tell in her face that it was love at first sight.

Next, I zoom to our wedding day and where I slipped the ring onto her finger! Oh, I remember that feeling. I was so happy that day. Now the dismal tones of the piano are bringing me back, back through the war, back to the present.

I sit on the piano stool and I play some more. But Joanne is appearing! I am still terrified but I know she means me no harm. I slowly place my arm around her shoulder only to find air. She speaks but no words exit her mouth. I

know that I will never see her beautiful face again. But seeing her is giving me hope, hope that not everyone, no matter how lonely, shall be alone.

Jacob Atherton

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Stop press - Trip to Eureka!

Year 1 really enjoyed their trip to Eureka on Wednesday 12th November. They learnt all about the gross but wonderful things our bodies do. Take a look at this gruesome wound...don't worry, it's only pretend—all children returned to school safe and sound!



Fantastic Achievement—Well done Beth!

Beth Walker-MacKay Year 6, has been highly commended for her poetry entry to the Ted Hughes Young Poet's Award. It was Beth's idea to enter the competition after

seeing the flyer in Manchester during her school choir rehearsal. Beth was inspired to write her poem when she was in her bedroom, one dark night!

When night-time comes

As the sky begins to blacken,
Shadows descend upon the bracken.
No day birds are overheard,
Above are owls and bats instead.
The sky has passed its red and pink,
Now it's greyish black I think.
Sunset's gone, the sky's light black,
The first fox now makes his track.
As the sky begins to blacken,
Shadows descend upon the bracken.

By Beth Walker-Mackay

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Cross Country Finals

It was a wet, cold and windy afternoon at Phillips Park as boys from Oswald Road School took part in the Manchester city wide cross country finals.

There was a fantastic atmosphere as 800 children alongside adults joined in with the warm up activities. Then the race began and children ran a distance of 2000m. The children were cheered on by supporters and Jenny Meadows, European Silver Medallist, creating a tremendous feeling of achievement. The rain and cold weather didn't matter now as everyone became united in the sporting event. The boys were tired but had enjoyed participating. They commented on how supportive the children from other schools had been during the run.

They even had enough energy to join in with the 'Go Run for Fun' race after the event. It had been a fantastic day, and to add to this Oswald Road came third and claimed the bronze awards!

Athlete Jenny Meadows said, "Running forms the basis of so many sports and is a way to encourage children to maintain active lifestyles."



Oswald Road came third in Manchester schools city wide cross country competition.



Tom, Ben, Harry, Zak and Fred ready to Run for Fun!

Lee Whitely visits Oswald Road School

On Thursday 6th November Oswald Road pupils and staff were inspired by a visit from Paralympic athlete Lee Whitely. Lee has won over 300 medals for sprinting 800m and 400m. During assembly, Lee spoke about his illness (2011) and the obstacles he had faced during his career. He provided everyone with an incentive to achieve in life. In the morning children had opportunities to carry out a circuit of exercises with Lee. They were also able to ask him some questions during the assembly. This was a sponsored event aimed at raising money for school to purchase playground equipment.

How did you first get involved in your sport?

'I started competing in Year 7 at school over cross country. I was invited to train with Sale Harriers at Sport City Manchester. In 2011 I became ill and this was a traumatic time in my life.



I enquired about disability sport and was nationally classified in July 2012 at the Birmingham Games. Members of Paralympic GB Team congratulated me on my performances achieved. I am lucky to have had support from my friends and family who helped me during my illness.'

Children's comments

'I enjoyed how he convinced us to think positive' - Thomas Devenish 6KR

'It was fun and exciting and I felt very happy' - Macy 2SS.

'I thought it was fun' - Ellie 4LM. 'I want to jump high like him' - Jamaal 2NG

Updates

In order to make the school grounds and surrounding area more secure, we have been in discussion with the local police to request an increased presence during the day time and after dark. We will also be fitting security lighting to the entrance on Nicolas Road.

We are also liaising with the Community Police about more support to help with the issue of parking around the school.

Diary Dates

Oswald Road Christmas Performances

Nursery—Singing Snowflakes, Wednesday 10th December at 2.00pm

Reception—Ralph the Reindeer, Tuesday 9th December at 9.15am and Thursday 11th December at 2.00pm

Yrs. 1&2—Strictly Come Dancing, Friday 12th December at 9.30am and Monday 15th December at 2.00pm

Yrs. 3&4 – Dr What and Dr When, Wednesday 17th December 2.00pm and Thursday 18th December at 9.30am

Yrs. 5&6—Dr What and Dr When, Wednesday 17th December at 9.30am and Thursday 18th December at 2.00pm

And.....

Wednesday 17th December KS1 and Foundation Stage 6-7.15pm School Disco

Thursday 18th December KS2 6-7.30pm School Disco

Friday 12th December School Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 16th December Network Choir Concert at the Bridgewater Hall



Mr Hough scales new heights!

The intrepid Mr Hough braved the elements to raise funds in aid of a great cause. The money will be donated to Stand Up to Cancer Charity. He said...

'I made it up and down Snowdon in just over 5 hrs. I had to face torrential rain, 25mph winds and minus temperatures at the top but it was all worth it. £430 raised for charity. Thank you for your generosity.'

Big Thanks to **Nicola Winter** for the beautiful planter display at the front of the school. Flowers and plants were kindly donated by **Chorlton Plant Nursery** ...Many Thanks!

Another massive thank you to **The Tree Station** in Gorton and to **Alderwood Treecare** in Chorlton. Both these businesses have kindly donated tyres, tree stumps and wood chip that the children are playing with in our Owl Garden.

And finally but not least..... to Sue Wood for raising £220 on the stalls at the Christmas Fair for Christie's Hospital

Request for spare clothes—Can Parents/Carers in Nursery and Reception please leave a spare set of clothes for their child(ren) in school in case of accidents. Thank you.

All newsletters will be emailed out to Parents/Carers and uploaded onto the school website: www.oswaldroad.co.uk. Some copies will also be left in the Reception area for parents/carers to take. If we haven't got your email address, please let the school office have it so we can ensure you get sent a copy. Thank you.