

Orley Farm School



ISSUE 26(13/14) 2nd May, 2014

A Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

I wish to start by thanking you for your support and turnout last night at our Future Schools' Evening. It was good to see so many of you taking the opportunity to get a feel and flavour of the many schools that we prepare pupils for in order to continue their journeys. Whilst it can be a little overwhelming, I would hope that everyone took away a school that might not have been on their radar.

On Wednesday evening Linda Kerrigan chaired our termly PA meeting. Thank you to those involved, we covered some good ground and it was really interesting and worthwhile for me to have feedback on a number of issues. As you may know, Linda Kerrigan and Harj Innis are stepping down this year and we are seeking suitable replacements. I did ask both to talk about what they had taken from the experience of leading the PA in order to inform prospective future chairs; please do chat to them if you are interested, it is a very rewarding role that will give you an opportunity to really connect with our community. I would add that one motion that I second, is moving from a Parent Association, to a Parent - Teacher Association, bringing our community closer together. More to follow at the AGM.

Talking of stepping up for a challenge, we have introduced a new dimension to our 'Leadership Programme'. Over the past fortnight, applications for our Year 8 'Head of School' have been scrutinized by a staff panel. Senior pupils had to put in a letter of application and then face a full interview process. I am proud of our innovative stance on this initiative, as I know that most schools do not put this process in the hands of the pupils. What I saw as a result was a level of honesty, passion and commitment that genuinely left me, and others on the panel, rather blown away! We have exceptional young adults in this school who have foundations that would leave some of our politicians wanting! Well done to all who took the risk and applied. Particular congratulations to Jordan Cordice, who will be Head of School, and to Dhillon Selvarajah, who will be Deputy Head of School. They will be chairing School Council meetings, meeting prospective parents and be on the interview panel for forthcoming staff interviews to name but a few of their future commitments. But for now, enjoy the long weekend...



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KEY DATES

Saturday 10th May, 2014

10:00—12:00

Orley Farm School

OPEN MORNING



Cricket Captains

Congratulations to Joe Bone and Akhil Sofat on their appointments as the 1st XI and Colts A cricket captains respectively. Particularly well done to Joe for leading his team as they won their opening two matches this week against St. Martin's (Monday) and Aldenham (Wednesday). Please take a moment to look at the match reports and photos on the school website.

Stephen Bloom



'It was absolutely fantastic and such an informative evening. I never realised the choice available'

MS Parent

'Your parents and pupils are amazingly warm and polite...we were really struck by the welcome that we received.'

Head Teacher

'it was wonderful to have first hand information, without the car park twist!'

PP Parent



SNAPSHOTS



57 Year 6 pupils and 10 staff got up very early last Friday morning and set off to Paris on a Eurostar train. Our first day was spent visiting the sights in Central Paris: The Louvre Museum, The Arc de Triomphe, The Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Sacré Coeur and Montmartre district. They put into practice some cultural and oral work learnt in class: every child had to memorise an 80 word-long presentation about one of the three main monuments we visited and they did this brilliantly. A lot of effort was put into this and the children thoroughly deserved their second day at Parc Astérix Theme Park. The trip was enjoyed by all. The rain was unfortunately ever present but I am glad to say that the children had a very good time and a fun, cultural and educational experience!

Mr G. Ravasse



[View and download more photos here](#)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Across the School

Pre-Prep News

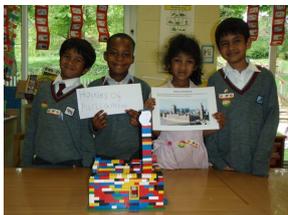
All of the Pre-Prep were thoroughly entertained by 'Robert' from Perform. As the children skipped out of the drama workshop on Wednesday they each excitedly talked about the slimy starfish and the huge, grumpy octopus under the water.



"I have found a mini-beast"; "I have counted 3 ants"; "Why do caterpillars stick so well to the leaves?" These are just a few of the many wonderful questions and comments I have had from Reception children this week. They are truly loving their new mini-beast topic!



Parents of Year One, you must ask your children about 'The Houses of Parliament'. The children have taught me some new and interesting facts which I am sure will amaze you as well!



Year Two have been investigating different materials in Science and sorting them into 'human-made' or 'natural' materials. They have also enjoyed sketching outside with Mrs Gati. As we start May, the Year 2 children have started their maypole dancing. They did exceptionally well, only getting tied up a few times!



All children had fun in their swimming lessons this week and enjoyed the warmth of the pool. I do hope we start to have more days like Wednesday as it was lovely to see the sunshine and will definitely make the swimming even more enjoyable.



Reception

At morning drop off please leave your children at the Reception door and give any messages to the member of staff on the door. Mornings are a very busy time and the Reception staff need to be greeting the children and helping them get ready for the day. All messages will be passed on as soon as the doors are closed at 8:30am. Thank you for your support.

Across the School

Pre-Prep News *cont...*

Value of the week: Do your best!

Eco-code: Watch out for litter, Bin it!

I wish you all a happy weekend and especially hope enjoy the extra day on Monday!

Miss Samantha Mowle
Head of Pre-Prep

Middle School News

Another week has flown by – WOW! Along with plenty of rain, we had a beautifully warm day squeezed in too!

What are the dimensions of the 3B classroom door? How long is the Middle School corridor? These were just a few of the many questions that our Year 3 mathematicians answered this past week. Metre sticks, metre wheels and tape measures were the tools of choice and everyone got involved in some more practical Maths. After all, this is one of the best ways to learn this important subject!

The practical theme continued in Year 4 this week as we were involved in some still-life sketches. Children were set the task of looking carefully at a collection of objects and transferring what they saw onto paper as accurately as possible – not an easy task! The standard of artwork was truly superb and due to the need for intense concentration, the art room was quieter than it might normally be.



Some of our Year 5 boys were involved in their first cricket matches this week. We had a positive start and many boys displayed a willingness to occupy the crease when batting and building pressure when bowling and fielding. Our Year 5 girls have been refining their Rounders skills in preparation for impending matches and the competition at practices has been fun and healthy.



NOTICES

Across the School

Middle School News cont...

There were a good number of Year 5 pupils who were congratulated on their skiing efforts and in so doing inspired other Middle School children to partake in this wonderful trip in the future.

I would like to remind parents that if you need to see a member of staff or feel the need to pop up to the classroom to look for lost items, it is important that you check in at reception before doing so. Parents are not permitted to come up to the classrooms without permission.

In Middle School, but in Year 5 in particular, we have been reminded about the importance of friends and in our assembly on Wednesday we looked at how to be a good friend to others.



At the beginning of term a few items of clothing were misplaced. Could I ask therefore that you check that the clothes and kit are in fact your child's please? I would also remind you that all items need to be named.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Future Schools evening yesterday and it was especially good to chat with many of you about the wealth of choice on offer with regards to future schools. It is a big decision but one which we do together to ensure the best possible destination for your child. I hope that you found the evening worthwhile and not too daunting.

If your son or daughter is in Year 5 and you have not already met with either Mrs Mitchell or Mrs Cregor respectively, then please do make an appointment to see them.

As we head into a lovely bank holiday weekend this is perhaps an ideal opportunity to assess how the term is going and make any necessary adjustments so that the final weeks of this half of term prove as successful and fulfilling as possible. Enjoy the rest.



Last Tuesday, Joanna competed in a National Ice Dance Competition—we are delighted that she will be going through to the next round...Go Joanna...we are so proud of you!

Gavin Ryan

Head of Middle School

Upper School News

Pupils in Years 6,7 & 8

Saturday Open Morning 10th May 2014

Thank you to all the pupils who have already very kindly offered to be our tour guides for our Open Morning on Saturday 10th May. If you have not yet replied, please can you return your tear off slip from your letter and return it to Mrs Mitchell or reply by email at registrar@orleyfarm.harrow.sch.uk indicating your child's availability. Thank you.

Julie Jago

General News

Cricket Amendment

Next Thursday's match for the Colts A against Reddiford will now start at 2.15pm (not at 3.00pm as originally stated in the calendar).

Stephen Bloom

PA News

Are you a Visionary?

Do you have the scope to Oversee,

Plan and Direct the ORLEY FARM

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION of the Future?

The Orley Farm School PA is a successful dynamic organisation with huge range of interested and motivated parents behind it. We are well supported within the school community and we host four much enjoyed and well attended events every year.

Unfortunately Committee members can only stand for 2 years, and Harj and Linda's time is up. The PA is therefore looking for 2 NEW members from the school community that are willing to take on the planning and overseeing of school events for next year.

The PA has many willing helpers who need to be directed; and other members of the Committee who are there in a supportive role, eg our Treasurer, Rakesh, to deal with the financial side of things and our Secretary, Sunil, to deal with the Charity's Commission and our charitable status.

Other parents take on our admin side of things or our marketing or auditing; these parents come forward every year to work behind the scenes to make our PA the success it is. You will not be doing everything yourself!

You will be PLANNING, delegating, overseeing and motivating!

The only equipment you need is a computer, a can-do attitude and a winning personality, (well one of you at least!)

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

The advantages of being on the PA committee are many. You will be amongst the first to know about new school initiatives, planning and development. Meet parents from other Year groups and give your child the opportunity to do charitable work - great for their CV and future schools!

Please think seriously about joining YOUR PA Committee, as it supports the school that YOU have chosen to send your child to and helps foster a keen sense of community for them to belong to.

NOTICES

Looking Ahead...

Monday 5th May

Bank Holiday

St. Paul's Scholarship Exams 5th—7th May

Tuesday 6th May

Charterhouse/Hampton Scholarship Exams 6th—8th May

10:30—12:30 New Parents' Coffee Morning (DR)

Wednesday 7th May

09:00—12:15 Year 2 Fire Safety Education

10:30—12:30 New Parents' Coffee Morning (DR)

13:20 (depart) Cricket 1st XI and Colts A v The Hall (a)

13:30 (depart) Rounders U11 A and B and U10 A and B v Edge Grove (a)

14:30 Cricket 2nd XI and Colts B v The Hall (h)

15:00—15:45 4G Informal Concert (SGH)

Thursday 8th May

10:30—12:30 New Parents' Coffee Morning (DR)

14:15 *Cricket Colts A v Reddiford (h)*

Friday 9th May

12:15 (depart) Durston House Athletics Meeting (Perivale Athletics Track)

14:00 (depart) IAPS UK School Fencing Competition at Millfield School, Glastonbury (Years 4—8)

15:15 Cricket 1st XI or 2nd XI v Quainton Hall (a)

16:15 Rounders U11 A, B and C v Highgate (h)

Saturday 10th May

10:00—12:00 ORLEY FARM SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Sunday 11th May

Times tbc (return) IAPS UK School Fencing Competition at Millfield School, Glastonbury (Years 4—8)

THE WEEK AHEAD