



Dear Parents,

GREETINGS

Many more pupils were at school this week as the Sallah festivities and summer holidays were officially rounded off. Once more, a hearty welcome to all pupils and families to Oakland International School. A vibrant, warm, 21st Century school environment with emphasis on holistic teaching and learning. We incorporate learning into the academics, morals and character, co-curricular and more. We look forward to partnering with you on this exciting journey in the academic year 2017/2018.

We operate an open door policy where parents are welcome to come into school to discuss their child with us; and as much as it doesn't interfere with teaching time you will be granted audience with members of the academic team and other key staff who work directly with your child.

We appeal to parents to ensure their children are in bed by 8.30 pm particularly on school nights to ensure they get enough sleep before school the next day. In the same vein, children must also have breakfast before being brought to school as the food is fuel for their brains and bodies to be able to learn. Anything short of this is an actual disservice to the children.

SCHOOL WEEK

Please note our hours in the course of the school week.

- Gates open Monday – Friday: 7.30 am
- Academic school day ends Monday – Thursday: 1.30 pm (Early Years) and 2.00 pm (Primary)
- Academic school day ends Friday: 1.00 pm for both Early Years and Primary.
- Co-curricular activities end Monday - Wednesday: 3.00 pm for both Early years and Primary

- Co-curricular activities end Thursday: 3.00pm for Primary only. No co-curricular on Thursday for Early Years.
- Co-curricular activities end on Friday: 2.15 pm for both Early Years and Primary.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

My name is **Folashade Adah**. I studied Educational Guidance and Counselling from the University of Ilorin and graduated in 2009. I am presently running a Master's degree at the Open University of Nigeria in the Education Department. Since my Youth Service in 2010, I have been working as a teacher and a school administrative staff. I am happy to join the Oakland team as a teaching assistant.

Nneka Emere received her B. Ed (English language) from Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria in 2014. Previously, she worked at Kewton Group Nigeria Limited as the personal assistant to the CEO for a period of four months after which she decided to join the education sector to practise her true passion and calling; being a teacher. When she isn't at school, she spends time singing. Nneka joins the Oakland team as a teaching assistant.

Ada Ewuzie received a Bachelor of Science Degree with a Second Class Upper from Imo State University Owerri, Imo State in 2010.

Between 2014 – 2016; she has worked as an administrator building her capacity in every area of administration. During her time with Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce, she was the Business and Membership officer growing and managing members.

Currently, she works as an Administrator/Public relations officer in Oakland International School where she is part of a team that promotes the school via social media.

She is passionate about organization and considers administration a gift from God. She is a skilled report

writer and possesses good communication skills. She is a reader who believes in the saying "Readers are Leaders".

She believes in team play and loves children.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

At our school, Early Years Foundation Stage comprises: Toddler, Playgroup, Nursery and Reception.

We are committed to underpinning our provision with the four distinct but complimentary themes of the Early Years Foundation Stage. A Unique Child, Positive Relationships, Enabling Environments, Learning and Development.

In the EYFS setting at Oakland International School we believe that all children are entitled to the best possible start in their school life, both intellectually and emotionally, in order to enable them to develop their full potential.

We aim to support each child's welfare, learning and developmental needs by:

- Recognising that all children are unique and special. Understanding that children develop in individual ways and varying rates.
- Providing a safe, secure and caring environment where children feel happy and know that they are valued by the practitioners looking after them.
- Fostering and nurturing children's self-confidence and self-esteem through their developing awareness of their own identity and role within the community.
- Teaching children to express and communicate their needs and feelings in appropriate ways.
- Developing children's understanding of social skills and the values and codes of behaviour required for people to work together harmoniously.
- Supporting children to develop care, respect and appreciation of others, including those beliefs, cultures and opinions different to their own.
- Understanding the importance of play in children's learning and development. Providing learning experiences in play that reflect children's personal interests and areas of curiosity in order to encourage and develop their natural desire, interest, excitement and motivation to learn.

- **Active Learning through Play**
- At Oakland International School we recognise that young children learn best through being active. We recognise that children's play is an essential and rich part of their learning process, supporting them in all areas of development.
- Activities are designed to engage children in practical, first-hand experiences which will support children to discover, explore, investigate, develop their personal interests and areas of curiosity, and help to make sense of the world around them as they begin to understand specific concepts.

Our learning journey for this term includes:

- Entry point assembly on MARVELLOUS ME, being our first theme
- Whole EYFS showcase on our JUNGLE THEME for next half term.

By: Mrs Victoria Obona, Early Years Coordinator.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PRIMARY YEARS: KEY STAGE 1 & KEY STAGE 2

I would like to welcome all the pupils, parents and the school community back. I hope you are rejuvenated from a relaxing and enjoyable summer. The school is already bustling with activities as we are already fully engaged in teaching and learning. Starting the school year is always an exciting event whether you are a pupil, parent or a staff member. We all anticipate a year of discovery and learning.

As the Key Stage (KS) Manager at Oakland International School, I am particularly eager to continue our journey of continuous improvement this year as we provide new and enhanced support to teachers and non-academic staff, create a collaborative professional learning community, and improve outcomes for the pupils. Teacher quality is the number one reason why pupils succeed. We are blessed in OIS with dedicated teachers and wonderful families. I am placing my bet that all pupils' outcomes will continuously improve in OIS this year as we focus on instructional practices and provide support and professional development to teachers while harnessing their creative ideas and solutions. We are welcoming our very energetic and enthusiastic Head teacher; she is an impressive head who is passionate about teaching and learning and steeped in successful teaching methods and techniques.

We shall continue to equip the KS1 pupils with learning skills such as reading, writing and logical reasoning, and develop these in KS2. The upper KS2 pupils will continue to enhance their Mathematics alertness as we shall continue with the Maths Booster classes. The Year 5s will also have their Common Entrance Preparatory classes which will expose them to external exam 'mock situations' to forestall the last minute crash programmes that typically arise when they are in year 6.

In all of these, there are the continuing assessments, internal assessments and tracking systems that will enable us to quickly identify any pupil who is not meeting their Age Related Expectation (ARE), and quickly design an intervention programme for them. This indeed promises to be busy, yet an exciting academic session.

Wishing all, a positive and bright beginning to the 2017/18 school year!

By Mr Fred O. Amoah, KS Manager

COFFEE MORNING

- Our first coffee morning for the session comes up on Tuesday 19th September at 8.15 am. We will also be inaugurating members of our School Council and Lead Monitors. All parents are cordially invited to this forum to learn more about our school, our plans for the session, to network and socialize with other parents and to be a part of our first ever prefectship and leadership inauguration. It will be a prompt start to enable parents get to work when the forum closes at 9.00 am.

MATH BOOSTER CLASSES

As we have done in the past, we resume Maths booster classes for our pupils from Monday 18th September.

- Year 3 booster class: Wednesdays 7.30 am – 8.20 am.
- Years 4 & 5: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.30 am – 8.20 am.

We appeal to parents to make a concerted effort to get their children to school in good time for these weekly support classes.

DEL F EXAMS

The DELF (Diplome d'Étude en Langue Français) examination is an international certification issued by the Ministry of Education, Paris. This certification attests to the competence/ proficiency of the bearer in the French examination. It is valid for life.

Oakland International School for the first time partook in this exercise. The year four pupils of the 2016/2017 academic session, after a series of preparation, wrote the A1.1 level of examination in the month of May 2017 and recorded an 83.3% success in the examination. Of the 12 candidates that wrote the examination, 6 pupils scored more than 70%. We congratulate every pupil who has participated in this examination.

We are glad to welcome a new set of year 4 pupils this session. These new pupils will be writing the A1.1 level of the examination while the year 5 pupils will write the A1 level (a higher level). Preparation for this examination commences immediately with the French Teacher, Mlle. Nnenna Onyima. The preparation for the examination will take place on Thursdays 14:00-15:00. This implies that the year 4 class will be having French as their free club.

The year 5 pupils will also be prepared separately for their own level of the examination. The dates and fees will be communicated to you at a later date. Our congratulations go out once more to the parents and pupils of the successful year 5 pupils.

LIBRARY

It is my great pleasure as the School Librarian of Oakland International School, to welcome our pupils back to a new and exciting academic session 2017/18.

I am happy to announce that School library updates will be coming up bi-weekly in the school newsletter. Discovery research published in the British journal of educational psychology shows that the involvement of fathers and mothers in creating a reading culture at home has a direct impact on a child's academic performance, cognitive and social development. Encouraging your children to read just gives them a great start to life.

I will be sharing with you 2 easy ways to encourage your child to have a reading culture:

1. Be the Change You Want to See

You cannot encourage your children to read when you do not read yourself. Parental involvement is crucial in building a reading culture and it is also important for success in a child's education. Your children are more likely to read if they see you reading regularly. It is also important that you provide enough reading materials for all the children in your house. Availability of mixed reading materials and being a good role model will certainly prompt your children to adopt a reading culture.

2. Make Room for Reading

Create a comfortable reading nook that will entice your children to want to curl up and read. Just the act of creating space can take away the distractions and help your child focus on reading. Children can opt to read in their bedroom but it is best when you have a common reading area that is quiet and cosy for everyone. Some children may prefer to read outdoors at their favourite spot; let them snuggle there and enjoy their book. In making room for reading, it is a good idea to minimise TV time and to free your child from some house chores so he/she can spend adequate time reading. #guided reading link: oxfordowl.co.uk

By: Mr Emmanuel Amoo, School Librarian

SCHOOL FEES

We will be making calls as from Monday 18th September to parents who have not paid fees for their child/children. This is to ensure we have an understanding and to help the school meet all her financial obligations which include very importantly buying updated resources and other instructional materials, staff remuneration, upgrade and maintenance of facilities and so much more. Kindly send in the payment slip or transfer advice for your child to avoid any embarrassment. We thank parents for their understanding, cooperation and support on this very sensitive issue. Kindly send an SMS to **0909 998 9643** or email to headadmin@oaklandintlschool.com this weekend if you wish to schedule an appointment. Thank you.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Nigeria's Independence Day comes up on the 1st of October and we celebrate our great nation at 57. Oakland International School will mark National day

on Friday 29th September at 8.30 am. We invite all parents, family and friends as it promises to be a colourful and fun event. All pupils have been divided into the 3 main ethnic groups as listed below:

- Toddler Class: Igbo
- Playgroup: Igbo
- Nursery: Yoruba
- Reception: Hausa/Fulani
- Year 1: Hausa/Fulani
- Year 2: Yoruba
- Year 3: Igbo
- Year 4: Hausa/Fulani
- Year 5: Yoruba

For more detail, please read the notice sent home through your child yesterday in hard copy.

CLUBS

Please find attached the club schedule for Term 1. Registered clubs start on Monday 18th September. **Ballet wear will be available for purchase on Tuesday at school, cash will be received by the club provider please.**

PHOTO GALLERY

Our very popular and colourful photo gallery will be back next week on the pages of the newsletter. Watch this space.

We hope you all have an enjoyable and restful weekend.

Regards,

OIS MANAGEMENT.