



Dear Parents,

## GREETINGS

It has been a good week for us and we sincerely hope yours went well too. Many more pupils resumed this week and we welcome them and their parents to a brand- new year of learning, fun and adventures. We ask that parents please take a few minutes every Friday or over the weekend to read the newsletter. A lot goes into getting it ready and sent to you, as most of us receive our emails on our phones; it behoves us to read about the week at our child's school and note reminders for the weeks ahead. The children are our greatest investments, let us please give the necessary attention required.

## COFFEE MORNING

Our first coffee morning for the year held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018. We had quite a good number of parents turn out and we believe the interactive session was beneficial for everyone. We will summarise a few of the issues that were up for discussion. Needless to say, attendance at coffee mornings is one of the non-negotiables for parents at Oakland International School. We also believe we give enough notice for parents to plan accordingly, kindly spare an hour to attend these meetings in future.

## MATHS BOOSTER CLASSES

Maths Booster classes are a free value-added programme at our school for pupils in Years 3 to 5. It is an early morning intervention plan of which we have seen progress in pupil performance across the school. We ask that parents please make an extra effort on the days indicated:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 7.30 a.m  
.....Years 4 & 5
- Wednesdays: 7.30 a.m. ....Year 3

## PROJECT X

The school has invested in a more updated, interactive and effective reading scheme by Oxford University. It is a school resource and will not be sent home but it is used everyday at school during guided reading. These resources will be on display at the parents workshop coming up later this month. How they are used will also be explained and parents will be given a few strategies to use at home to help their children read, comprehend, analyse, read-in-between the lines and more.

## COMMON ENTRANCE PREPARATION

Common entrance preparation is on-going in Year 5 every Thursday afternoon from 2.00 to 3.00 pm. They are exposed to the method of testing, have timed practice papers and lessons are delivered by three of our teachers in rotation. English Language: Mrs Otisi, Mathematics: Mr Kelechi and General paper: Ms Adekola.

## PARENTS WORKSHOP

This forum comes up at our school on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00 to 12.00 noon. Ms Jane, Mr Amoah and other members of the academic team will be at school to share with parents some of the strategies used in the classroom to support teaching and learning. We will display our resources, share with you how to use everyday objects around you to engage and motivate the children. It is essential that all parents attend, we will give one house point to each child whose parents attend the forum.

## REPORTS

We have changed our report format from this term. The report will henceforth have a column over 40 marks to represent the average of the tri-weekly assessments. Another column will be over 60 marks for the examination score. The report will show your child's score as a percentage, it will show the class average and will have a grading system A, B, C, D and F. We believe this will be a much easier format to understand by parents.

## SPELLING BEE

We have introduced the spelling bee competition to our school from this term. Our first ever inter-house spelling bee competition will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March and the parents of the participants will be invited to watch and cheer on the children. Please watch this space. The benefits of the spelling bee for all pupils include:

- Improved spelling prowess
- Improved presentation skills
- Improved confidence

## NON-NEGOTIABLES FOR PARENTS

For the benefit of the new parents in particular and as a reminder for all parents in general, please find below our 10 non-negotiables for parents as we partner with you in teaching and raising the next generation.

1. Ensure that your child comes to school having had adequate sleep and a good breakfast. This helps them to feel confident and positive while at school.
2. Ensure that your child arrives at school punctually and regularly.
3. Ensure your child has the correct uniform on and he or she is neat and tidy.
4. Check and sign your child's school diary each evening and support your child in anyway indicated by the teacher especially with homework.
5. Share with the teacher any problems at home that your child is experiencing.

6. Support your child by attending coffee mornings, parent interviews and other school meetings and events.
7. Support your child and the teacher by becoming actively involved in the operation of any individual education plan and any Special Education Needs Processes.
8. Support your child's learning by listening to them read regularly. In the case of younger children, please read to them regularly. Your child/children will develop a love of books and reading.
9. Ensure that all contact addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers are correct and up to date.

Respond to letters sent home from school and inform the school of reasons for your child's absence prior to the absence.

## CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Registered clubs start next week. It is important that parents please sign-up their children and send us the club schedule sheet on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Pupils who are not signed up will not be permitted to take part in the clubs on offer from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Our football club has been contracted out to a new coach, this means we have interviewed and engaged a professional with the passion and relevant experience to take football at our school to the next level. We promise the pupils and parents that the activities will be a lot better this year and moving forward. We are also planning a strategy whereby we have alternate practice weeks at our school and at our standard size football pitch.

## AFTER-SCHOOL CARE CLUB

The idea behind the club is to provide a safe, caring and happy environment for children after the school day, to relax, socialise and nap (if they want to) before they are picked up by their parents at 5.00 pm. The school will provide a time and space for the children to sit and get on with their homework tasks, but the tasks will not be checked. Parents must be clear with their

children as to their responsibilities with regards homework and parent expectation.

### OPEN DOOR POLICY

We mentioned at the coffee morning the importance of good communication between home and school. We operate an open-door policy whereby parents may come in to school between 7.30 and 7.45 a.m. to speak with their child's teacher or after-school in the afternoon. You may also speak with the Head Teacher or Key Stage Manager at these times.

### STAFFING NEWS

With very heavy hearts we report to the school community the loss of baby Christabel Don Peters (Ms Kates's baby) who passed away during the Christmas holidays. Our prayers are with her parents, Mr & Mrs Don Peters at this time.

### YEAR 5 WRITE-UP

We welcome everyone into a new year and a new term.

Year 5 has hit the ground running already as we have started engaging the children in various learning activities.

In Mathematics, we have been working on the use of place value in number systems and numerations. This will help the children consolidate their understanding of place value of numbers as it enables them to order, sort and compare numbers, while applying it to different context.

In English, we have been looking at short stories and their genres. From horror stories to comedy, we have been enjoying reading and creating our own endings to these stories.

In Science; we have been studying the properties of gases around us. Our children have been able to experiment on the behaviour of gases and how gases relate with other states of matter.

In Project know thyself, we are looking at how the Greeks developed the Olympic games, the

timeline of the ancient Greek civilization, the food and culture it shared.

### SCHOOL FEES

We ask that parents please send to the school accountant the transfer slip or deposit slip for the payment of school fees. Please note, it is only after the Oakland receipt is issued that your child's account is reconciled. We hope to get your full support on this to avoid any embarrassment.

### PHOTO GALLERY

Our photo gallery this week shows the Year 5 pupils working with clay to create a human bust and their ever so interactive science lessons. Also, beautiful photographs from the Year 4 class assembly on ancient Egypt.



Science experiment in Year 5, solids, liquids and gases.

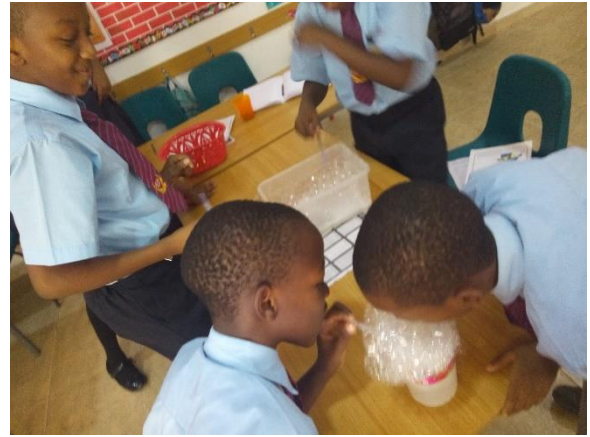


Hands on learning is excellent





We learn how to work together in small groups.



No one was left out of the fun activity



Everyday materials are used to clarify and enforce learning



Year 4 class assembly, focus on Ancient Egypt



Detergent, water and air.



Archaeologists dig up the ground to find ancient remains to piece History together



Exciting journey all the way back to the time of the pyramids and the Pharaohs.



Well done to all the Year 4 pupils



More from the Year 4 assembly

We wish all pupils and parents a fantastic and restful weekend.

Regards,

**OIS MANAGEMENT.**