



Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

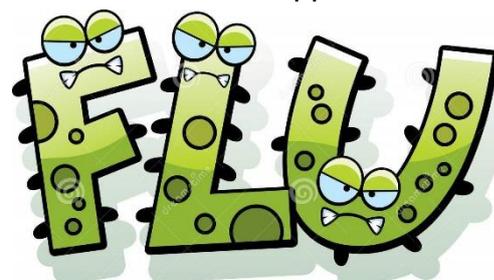
Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Oaklands,

As the February break gallops rapidly toward us, I wanted to write to update you on a few school matters.

### **Staff News:**

Since returning after Christmas, we have been incredibly busy with the class teachers and their support teams ensuring the very best opportunities for our children and young people.

Unfortunately, we have not managed to miss the flu like virus that has been doing the rounds and we have had to contend with a number of staff and pupil absences. **The staff teams have been quite incredible in stepping in to support each other to ensure we have managed to run our classes and our school effectively during this period.**



**Rebecca and I are incredibly grateful to them, as I know you will be, for their willingness to 'go the extra mile' for our children and young people and ensure that the impact on their school experience has been minimal.**

We hope to start back after the February break with a more settled period.



We also have some news to share with you regarding staffing in our **S1-3** class. **David Palencia de la Torre**, our class teacher, has recently managed to secure a permanent position as a PE teacher at the Royal Blind School.

We are sad that David is leaving us but we want to thank him for the work he has done at Oaklands School over the last two years. As well as being class teacher, David has been our ICT coordinator and Webmaster. We will miss him and wish him the very best of luck as he moves on to his new school.

We currently have a **permanent class teacher post** advertised, with the closing date of the end of the week. We will endeavour to have this post filled as quickly as possible, with an excellent candidate. We will try, but are unlikely to be able to get a supply teacher. During the interim period, Rebecca Vaughan, our DHT, will be supporting the class team to ensure there is continuity with the educational programme for our S1-3 class.

Alongside the Class Teacher vacancy, we also have a **permanent Principal Teacher** post advertised and temporary **Pupil Support Assistant posts**.

Interviews for the above posts will take place after the February break. (We look forward to informing you of the successful candidates as soon as these positions are filled.)

## What's happening in school?

### ☆ **Dance Festival**

On Wednesday, we hosted a Dance festival in school. We had over 150 children and staff from 10 other Additional Support Need Schools. The different groups had an opportunity to perform a dance routine and we were truly blown away with the performances.

Our wheelchair dance group and our Active Dance Group stole the show! (I am of course a little bit biased!)

### ☆ **Family Ceilidh**

As part of our improvement plan this year, our intention was to increase **family engagement** and involvement. We have held two cinema nights, one in October and another one at Christmas time. We also had successful open day - B.O.A.T.S. (Bring Our Adults To School day).

Our next big event (being organised by our Senior Phase pupils and staff) is a Ceilidh on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

We've sold 50 tickets already and hope to have a sell-out event.

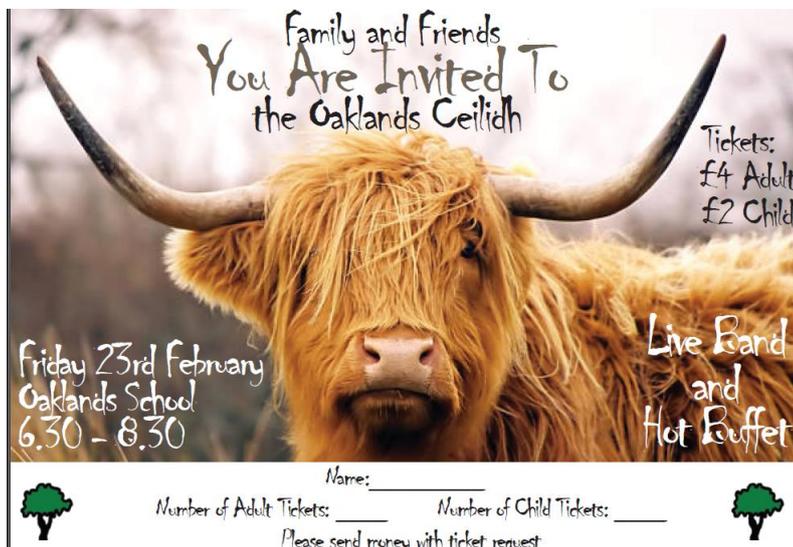
Price for the evening is £4 for adults and £2 for children (this will cover the cost of a hot buffet and a live band). We hope to see as many of you as possible at this event, which we're sure will be a successful evening. It should allow our families and friends the opportunity to relax and enjoy time together.

Please contact the office or put a note in your child's Home/School diary if you would like to buy tickets.

### ☆ **World Book Week**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> for February, we will be having a focus week linked to World Book Day. Our main event is the Launch of 4 sensory story books which have been created by our 'in house author' and sensory story teller, Ailie Findlay, (Flotsam and Jetsam company).

Ailie has created 4 books depicting the seasons and the launch event is on World Book Day- Thursday 1st of March. Look out for your invitation soon!



## Can you help?

### **Innowalk Campaign:**

As you know, we are working extremely hard to fundraise for two Innowalk Pro machines.

We have had a number of donations and our total is sitting at **over £3500!**

We also have some fantastic news linked to this campaign! We had a budget adjustment last week and **we're in a position to be able to purchase one of these machines!!**

We are thoroughly delighted that the younger pupils in our school will be able to access this first machine. We are unsure when it will arrive as are just going through the ordering process.

These machines are inspirational and in a short space of time (during our trial period), we were able to identify some real benefits. We now have a smaller challenge (but a challenge nonetheless) to fundraise to purchase our second machine. This second machine will be suitable for our older/taller children.

### Recent Donations:

Our recent donations have included birthday money donated on-line (thanks Andrew D)!!!

We have also had a donation of nearly £500 from Erskine, Stewarts Melville School and a donation of £700 from Marchmont Takeaway!

We have been blown away with the generosity shown so far and the Innwalk Fundraising Committee group members are meeting regularly.

Next time you're in school please look out for our very visual **Totaliser** in the front foyer. No prizes for guessing that our extremely talented Art teacher, Angela Harrison was responsible!

### Save the date

Our next fundraising event will take place on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. This event will be a Race Night and is being organised by our committee. Please look out for further information after the February break.

We would be delighted to have your support as part of the Innwalk fundraising group, or any ideas you might have to raise money.

Please do share the link widely to friends, family or anybody who may be able to help.

#WalkTallWithOaklands

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/oaklandsschool-innowalkappeal>

<https://www.facebook.com/stvnews/>



### Play scheme

A number of our youngsters will be accessing the FABB go play scheme next week and we hope that they enjoy their time. If you require any further information, their contact details are:

Email: [go@fabb.org.uk](mailto:go@fabb.org.uk)

Tel: 0131 475 2313

As you can see from this newsletter, things don't stay still for long at Oaklands School! We're building a strong unit, with our parents, family, friends and staff working together to achieve the best outcomes for our children and young people

I do hope you have a very restful, enjoyable and healthy February break. **We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.**

Kind Regards,

*Morna* (Morna Phillips - Head Teacher)

**Oaklands  
School**

