



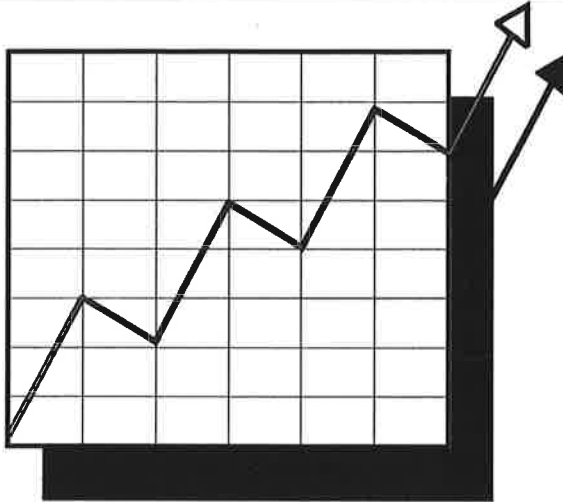
The Oakwood REPORTER

The Governors Annual Report to Parents

Oakwood First School

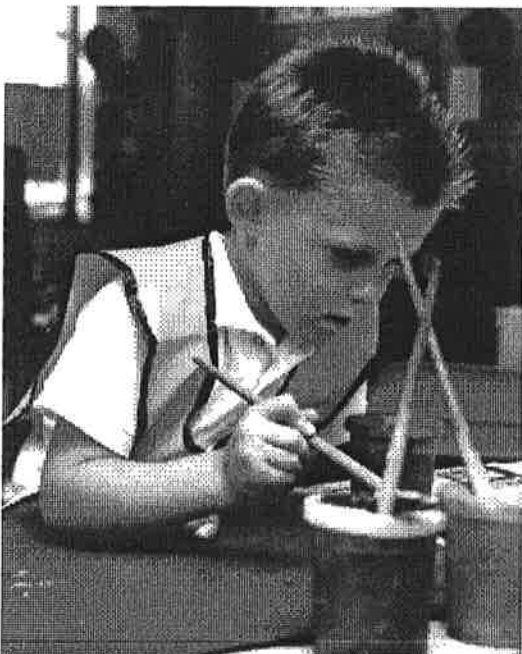
1991 - 1992

Aiming High



The National Curriculum is now well underway. The intention is to have consistently high standards of education throughout the country and the Governors at Oakwood are keen to ensure that the school meets these standards.

We are informed regularly about the way the curriculum is developing. The National Curriculum requirements for History, Geography, and Technology are now in place alongside the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, but because the First School has an integrated curriculum, these may well not be identified by the pupils as separate subjects.



Hitting targets

the development of Standardised Assessment Tasks

Blue Base has been involved with the Standardised Assessment Tasks introduced by the government to operate alongside the National Curriculum. They aim to compare standards of education across the country. This year the tasks have been simplified and assessment has taken place over a longer period of time.

On the whole, the teachers felt that the children were not too pressurised, although one little girl did not want to come to school because the work was getting too hard! The staff have spent many hours administering, assessing and marking the tasks and were pleased to find that the overall results confirmed their own assessments. They were, however, aware that some areas of the curriculum were neglected because of the time devoted to the tasks. On a positive note, they did see the standardised tasks as being a useful means of highlighting specific aspects of difficulty that particular children might be having.

News in brief

During the Spring term Green Base was visited by an Inspector as part of a Year 3 enquiry taking place at a number of schools in the city. He was enthusiastic about the work he saw and gave an excellent report of his visit. Well done Green Base!

Written reports on your child's progress will be sent home during the summer term. Please use the space provided to write your comments and then talk to the class teacher at the parents' evening later in the term.

Orange Base huts have gone at last! The number of children in the school has fallen over the years so we no longer need the extra accommodation. The number on the roll now is 265.

Changes in the age of transfer of children from middle to secondary school are proposed for September 1994. Our children will also transfer to middle school a year earlier.

Mr Brian Welch, the Mayor of Southampton, attended the Easter Assembly. He also took the opportunity to visit the Bases to see the children at work.

Thanks to all parents who help in school at any time. There are plenty of opportunities to help if you would like to, especially on clubs after-noon in the upper school. Do see your child's teacher if you would like to help.

Meet the staff

Headteacher
Miss C Slade

Deputy Head
Mrs L Newman

Class Teachers
Mrs P Guy
Mrs S Ross
Mrs S Langton
Mrs E Bath
Mrs T Palmer
Miss E Jones [part-time]
Mrs M Langley [part-time]
Mrs E Pitcher
Mrs N Hiscock
Mrs K Chafe

As well as having responsibility for a class, each teacher also contributes her expertise in a particular area of the curriculum.

Secretary
Mrs M Stephens

Administrative Assistants
Mrs B Kelley [part-time]
Mrs M Sanger [part-time]

Special Needs Assistants
Mrs A Weight
Mrs P Jackson [part-time]
Mrs M Munford [part-time]
Mrs J Hayter [part-time]

Employment Trainees
Tina Ridges
Bonita Jamieson

Caretaker
Mr E Day

Cook
Mrs I Hobbs

Assistant Cooks
Mrs B McClure
Mrs L Smith

Lunch time Supervisory Assistants
Mrs Y Reid
Mrs P Gander
Mrs L Hurst
Mrs M Stubbs
Mrs M Huntriss
Mrs M Burke
Mrs P Burnett
Mrs G Collins
Mrs S Squires

Update

on teachers' training days

You may wonder what happens on days when there is a day closure. It is worth saying that these are not extra holidays for teachers! The government says that teachers must have these days set aside for training so that they keep up to date with new ideas, materials and equipment and also have the opportunity to share their individual expertise with colleagues. This year there have been days set aside for maths, history and geography, appraisal, and consultations with parents. A new venture was also tried - a day on the subject of behaviour which involved the teaching staff and supervisory assistants from Oakwood, Sinclair and Oaklands schools.

Some staff have been involved in individual training. Mrs Ross has been work-

Teachers try their hands at other jobs

The Hampshire Teacher Placement Service was established to give teachers an opportunity to have a business placement as part of their professional development. This year Mrs Hiscock went to BBC Radio Solent, Mrs Palmer to "Davis, Langdon and Everest" (Quantity Surveyors) and Mrs Newman to the Southern Tourist Board. Miss Slade has recently returned from her placement at BT's Training Dept. She says :-
"This is the first whole week I've had out



Mr Day working above and beyond the call of duty!



Mrs Kelley counting the dinner money

ing for a Mathematics Diploma, and Mrs Weight for a Certificate in Learning Support at Eastleigh College.

Governors also attend training sessions. Much of the recent training has been about money - how much we have and how we spend it. There have also been sessions on pay policy, catering in schools and grounds maintenance.

of school in my teaching career! It has allowed me to take stock of where the school is now and to prioritise plans for the future, as well as being an opportunity to share with colleagues in a totally different environment".

“ This is the first full week I've had out of school in my teaching career! ”

Changing faces

We say good-bye to two Governors this year. Mrs J Puckett was a parent governor for two years and also one of the original members of teaching staff at Oakwood. Mr A Grinyer was appointed by the Local Education Authority almost four years ago and has been a great help with financial advice. We thank them both for their contribution to Oakwood and wish them well in the future.

Mrs P Griffiths is the new parent governor. She has supported the school for many years through the Oakwood Schools Association and we hope that her time as a governor will be as rewarding.

We welcome Mrs M Langley to the teaching staff this term. She is job sharing with Miss Jones in Red Base. Mrs M Sanger has joined the office staff and can be found doing all manner of tasks in the afternoons.

In touch

Safety First

Please help us make safety a priority for the children by :-

i) being careful where you park when you collect children, avoiding the zig-zag lines, school gateway, and other places that make it difficult for children to cross the road safely;

ii) keeping dogs out of the playground and playing field. We are still troubled by dogs fouling the field and so causing health hazards for the children;

iii) making sure that the school knows who is collecting your child if your usual arrangements are changed.

The Chief Community Dental Officer spoke at the AGM of the Oakwood Schools Association about the poor state of dental health in Southampton, and in our area in particular. She urged parents to reduce the quantity of sugary foods and drinks in the family diet.

Green Base's summer outing is to the Hawk Conservancy at Weyhill near Andover, while Blue Base are off to the Upper Hamble Country Park.

Minutes of Governors' meetings (excluding any confidential items) are always available for you to read in the school office. There is also a full statement of the school accounts, a copy of the current prospectus and details of term/holiday dates, should you wish to refer to them.



Well read!

Green Base enjoyed a visit from the children's librarian from Lordshill library. They then visited the library and were shown how to use it properly. A number of children throughout the school are taking part in Lordshill Library's Booktrail in May and June.



(Year 2) making good use of the library

Each child chooses a book, reads it at home and then answers questions on it before moving on to the next book. Those who manage to read four books successfully receive a certificate from the Mayor. We greatly appreciate this encouragement for the children to develop their reading. The Schools' Library Service staff have recently helped to reorganise our own school library and we hope the children will have increasing enjoyment from these resources.

Link-up

The school maintains its links with the wider community

Part of the Governors' role is to make sure that the school maintains its good links with the local community. These are some examples of our involvement this year.

At Christmas the choir joined with other school choirs in the Family Carol Concert at the Guildhall, and at the end of term the Redbridge Senior Citizens were invited for afternoon tea following the school concert. Green Base are visiting the Lunch Club at Lordshill in the summer term to sing to the members. All children have the opportunity of making music and of enjoying performances from visiting musicians.

One highlight of the Spring term was the visit of the dog warden. She certainly captured the attention of pupils and staff alike. She presented useful information about how to look after dogs as pets and also helped the children to understand how to behave towards other people's dogs.

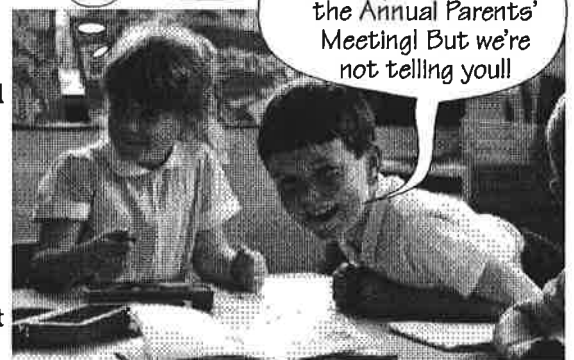
We have welcomed a number of trainee teachers into school through the year to work on teaching practice. Several students from Taunton's, Oaklands, Regent's Park, St Anne's and the Technical College have also been in school for various lengths of time.

Date for your diary

The Annual Parents' Meeting will be held on 7th July at 7.30 p.m. in the school hall. This is an opportunity for you to meet governors, teachers and other parents to discuss things in this report and ask your questions about the school. It is not, however, a time to talk about individual children, but you are always welcome to arrange to see any teacher for that purpose.

We've got a secret...

...we've just fixed up the date for the Annual Parents' Meeting! But we're not telling you!

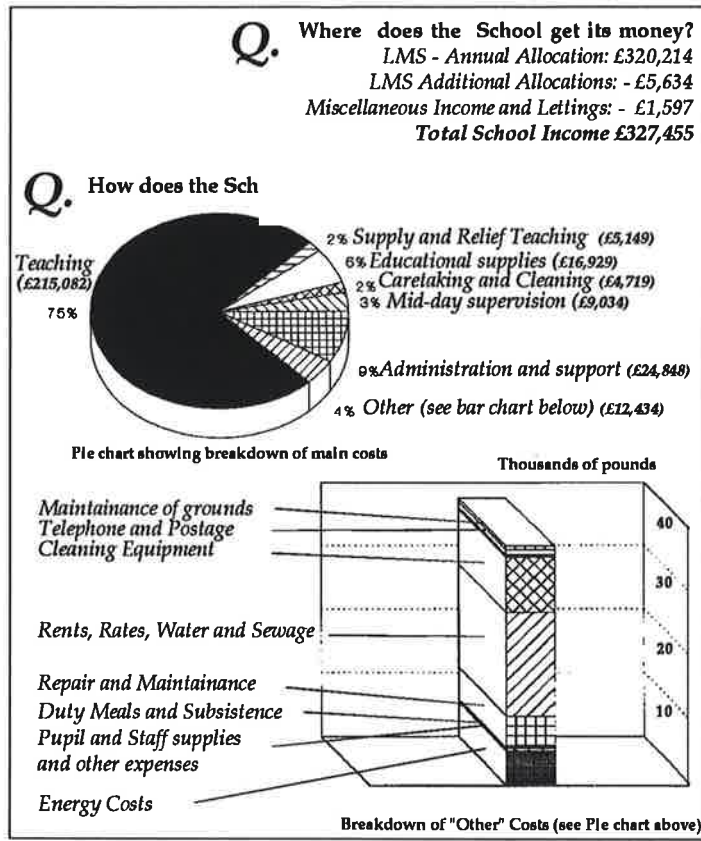




Money Matters

Over the last few years, the Governors have had increasing responsibility for the finances in school. We have to work out what our spending priorities are and this includes deciding what staff we can employ, which maintenance jobs have top priority, what we can afford to spend on books and equipment.

This year, we have employed Mrs Sanger to work part-time in the office. She has helped to ease the pressure created by handling our own budget. The school hall has been decorated, most areas of the school have been re-carpeted, and the area by the boiler house has been tidied. Play-ground improvements are now underway, including a new seat round the tree outside Red Base, and we have bought new books for the library.



"That's the way the money goes...!"

Detailed accounts are available for you to look at in the school office, but the charts show a summary of how our money has been spent.

OSA come up trumps!

The Governors are most grateful to all the parents involved in the Oakwood Schools Association (OSA) for all their fund-raising efforts throughout the year. This has enabled the school to purchase a CD Player, a colour printer for use with the computers, and a new cooker. The OSA fete this year is on 20th June. Please give your support.

The school has also played its part in raising money for others. We have an on-going commitment to Barnardos, and issue their distinctive "house" collecting boxes to children who wish to raise money in this way. The Christmas concert gave an opportunity to give a donation to the N.S.P.C.C. and the gifts from the Harvest Assembly were given to the St James Shelter.



The Chancellor and the First Secretary of the Treasury balance the budget!
 Miss Slade (Headteacher) and Peter Reid (Governor)

Meet the governors

Chairman
 Mr W Couper (LEA Rep) [31/8/92]

Clerk
 Mr R Archer (Parent Rep) [15/9/92]

LEA Representatives
 Mrs E Wallace (Vice-chair) [31/8/92]
 Mr A Grinyer [31/8/92]

Parent Representatives
 Mrs J Short [15/9/92]
 Mrs P Griffiths [15/9/95]

Teacher Representative
 Mrs L Newman [8/9/92]

Co-opted Governors
 Mr G Mugridge [17/6/95]
 Mr P Reid [16/10/92]
 One Vacancy

Minor Authority Representative
 One Vacancy

The dates in brackets after each name indicate when their office ends. Miss Slade had opted not to be a governor, but she works closely with us, attending and participating in all meetings, as well as giving us an open invitation to visit school, and a warm welcome when we do so.

The full board of Governors meets at least once a term. There are also sub-committees to deal with curriculum matters, staffing, finance, and buildings.

The next election for parent governors will be in September 1992. If you are interested in being a governor, please contact the school office.