



# The Oakwood REPORTER

The Governors Annual Report to Parents

Oakwood First School

1992 - 1993

## BACK TO THE FUTURE!

This Governors' Report does not quite look back to prehistoric times but we do want to offer our praise to the children and staff of Oakwood for their many achievements in the last year.



Picture courtesy of Southern Evening Echo

From September 1993 we will be welcoming younger four year olds into school. As many of you will know, Hampshire has changed its policy for admitting children to school, and all children will now have the opportunity of having 9 terms in our school, irrespective of the month of their birthday. We will have extra support staff in the Reception year and will also be making alterations to Yellow Base during the summer holidays to make better provision for younger children.

**'... all change now please'**

What will happen when the children come to school? Some children may attend school on a part-time basis to begin with, and full information about this and the other detailed arrangements are available from the school office. For all the children, the reception class is designed to help make a smooth transition from home to school and to lay firm foundations for future learning.

The Scraposaurus, which won top place in the Echo's dinosaur competition, is a reminder that Oakwood is a school in which learning is fun and where links with the wider community continue to play an important part. The Report also looks forward to two major changes which promise to make the coming year a busy and challenging one.

The second change will be at the top end of the school. From September 1994 children throughout Hampshire will transfer to secondary school at the age of 11. Oakwood First School will become an infant school and we will lose our Year 3 group of children altogether. This means that in 1994 two year groups will transfer from

us to what will be the Junior School. We are already working towards a close liaison with the Middle School to prepare the way for the children who will be immediately affected by the changes. Teachers and governors have been involved in wide-ranging discussions about the proposals and parents too were given the opportunity to hear a representative of the Local Education Authority answer questions early in the Autumn term. If you are still unsure about how your child will be affected, please do not hesitate to contact the school for clarification.

Dear Parent

I hope you like the format of this Governors' Annual Report to Parents. Last year was our first attempt at producing this style of report and we were delighted that the Times Educational Supplement awarded us a Certificate of Merit in its national competition. This allows us to display the TES logo this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and fellow governors for coping so well with another year of continuous change.

*Pete Peart*

Chairman of the governors

**News  
in brief**

When the new age of transfer arrangements come into effect, this school will be teaching the National Curriculum at keystage one only. The tests for seven year olds will be at the end of their time here. The information gained from the tests has so far reinforced the teachers' own assessments, but the staff are not sure that the information gathered justifies the amount of time taken to do the tests.

Thanks to all parents who help in school at any time.

Do see your child's teacher if you would like to help. There is plenty of opportunity.



## 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  
Mrs D Frewin (part time)

Secretary  
Mrs M Stephens

Administrative Assistants  
Mrs B Keeley (part time)  
Mrs M Sanger (part time)

Special Needs Assistants  
Mrs A Weight  
Mrs P Jackson (part time)

Classroom Assistants  
Miss Caroline Rossiter  
Mrs Angela Kimber

Employment Trainees  
Tracey Birkett  
Bonita Jamieson

Caretaker  
Mr E Day

Cook  
Mrs I Hobbs

Assistant Cook  
Mrs L Smith

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants  
Mrs P Gander  
Mrs L Hurst  
Mrs M Stubbs  
Mrs M Huntriss  
Mrs M Burke  
Mrs P Burnett  
Mrs G Collins  
Mrs S Russell

# Flying high?

... how well are they doing?



Mrs Guy and Laura help Red Base Children Aaron Laver, Kelly O'Brien, Lucy Philips and Carly Franks to train for 'Mary Poppins'.

### ...teachers

Teachers are concerned to improve their professional skills and develop their careers. To assist in this, Hampshire has introduced an Appraisal scheme for teachers. Head teachers are appraised by another Head and an officer from the Local Education Authority, and then are involved in appraising their own staff. This year, Miss Slade and four members of staff have been appraised. Will it be Governors next?!

Mrs Weight has been awarded the City and Guild Certificate of Learning Support, the first award of its kind in Britain. She and Mrs Jackson are the support staff who help children who, for one reason or another, are finding learning difficult.

Congratulations to Mrs Palmer who is expecting her first baby in the summer. She will be taking maternity leave next term.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Frewin to the teaching staff. She works part-time in Green Base and we greatly appreciate her sharing of the workload in these large classes.

## Helping Others

The Governors are most grateful to all the parents involved in the Cakwood Schools Association for all their fund-raising efforts throughout the year. The new fashion show venture proved a great success and altogether the OSA has raised 1350 for the school, allowing us to buy a cooker a colour printer and a CD player. **The fete this year is on 19th June.** Please give it your support.



Prefects or rogues? Staff enjoy their uniform day

### ...pupils

As many as one in five pupils is likely to have special needs during their time at school. The Governors try to ensure that these needs are identified and that the children are given appropriate help. Mrs Short has been given particular responsibility in this area and attends the Local Education Authority forums for special needs governors. From September, the funding arrangements for children with special needs will change and evidence of each child's need will be submitted to a panel which will then decide on the level of funding for that child.

### ....students

In the past student teachers on teaching practice from La Sainte Union have been overseen and monitored by college tutors, but in 1992 a pilot scheme was launched to train experienced classroom teachers for this role. Mrs Guy was one of 15 Southampton teachers to be selected to help train student teachers and she has now been responsible for six students. She is soon to begin studying for the Advanced Certificate in Mentoring. We appreciate this additional link with LSU and wish Mrs Guy every success.

The Mayor's challenge in April gave the staff the excuse to turn out in uniform, while the children enjoyed a "come as you please" day. A total of £60 was raised for local charities. A donation of £182 was raised at the Christmas concert for Leukaemia Busters and the gifts from the Harvest Assembly were given to the St. James Shelter and the "League of Friends" in the Children's Ward at Southampton General Hospital.

## In touch

At the invitation of Rev John Page of Lordshill Church, Oakwood and Fair Isle First Schools were asked to provide four banners depicting the Lordswood/Lordshill Community. Each year group made a banner and these were then displayed in Lordshill Church.

The school celebrated its 15th birthday in January 1993 with a special assembly and of course cake with candles! Some of the original staff were present and Mrs Kennell and Mr Couper represented the governors. The school opened with 150 children on the roll; there are now 280.

Our Green Base choir again participated in the Guildhall Family Carol Concert at Christmas and we enjoyed welcoming the Millbrook Senior Citizens to our Christmas concert at school.

By law, the school has to record all unauthorised absences of pupils. We would, therefore, be grateful if parents would notify the school if a child is absent, for whatever reason, so that records are accurate.

Mrs Langton has taken on the onerous task of helping with administering the standardised tests for seven year olds in South West Hampshire. She says:-

*"I have gleaned many new ideas about successful classroom management and assessment which I hope to share with my colleagues at Oakwood"*

She will be continuing to offer her expertise to other schools in the coming year.



## Well read!

Book Week was a new venture this year and was greatly enjoyed by children, staff and those who kindly came in to read to groups of children. During the week each child in the school made a book which was spiral bound and covered, a fitting memento of all the hard work.

A number of children throughout the school are taking part in the Book Trail at Lordshill library. We are most grateful to Mrs Elliot and the library staff for their help in stimulating interest in reading for so many of our pupils.



*Middle school Head practises his reading during book week!*

## Your good health

*How the school cares for the health of your child*



*Mrs Atwill (school nurse) tests the hearing*

The school doctor and nurse visit regularly to check the health of children as they enter school and also to follow up children who may have a particular problem eg. poor hearing or poor eyesight.

We were dismayed to learn of the poor dental health of children in this area of Southampton. Oakwood came 88<sup>th</sup> in a survey of five year olds in 103 schools in the Southampton area, while Southampton itself comes 160<sup>th</sup> out of the 178 areas that comprise the national league tables. Dentists are pressing for fluoridation of the city's water supply to help alleviate the problem.

A number of safety issues are covered throughout the year. Children in Blue Base have recently been encouraged to learn the Green Cross Code and have been given practical help in learning to cross roads safely. The school also enjoyed a visit from the railway police and the slogan "I am aware that I must take care" may well have been chanted to you at home!

The problem of how to deal with strangers is regularly dealt with in the top two years with material based around a video "Kids can say No". This is offered on preview to parents before the children see it, so look out for the next showing and come along.

*You are warmly invited to the*

*Annual Parents' Meeting*

*on*

*Tuesday 6th July 1993*

*at 7.30pm*

*in the school hall*

"Thinking back to my own school days, I recalled governors as ageing crusty dignitaries, dusted off annually to attend the Christmas concert. It was therefore with great apprehension that I approached the staffroom for my first governors' meeting, and crept in like the nervous new boy at school. Thankfully, I found things have changed since my school days!

## New boy speaks out...

In fact, these are turbulent times in education, and the first thing that struck me was the far-reaching nature of recent changes. As a governor responsible for helping to implement these reforms, I have been pleased to find myself part of a committed and caring team, seeking to protect the best interests of pupils, staff, parents, and the community. Being a governor is hard work and time-consuming; there are meetings and training sessions to attend, and a seemingly endless supply of literature to read. It is however enjoyable and rewarding, especially visits to the school to meet the staff and pupils and to see them at work. I feel that I have a chance to put something back into "the system" and would encourage other parents to take the opportunity should it arise."

Malcolm Walter

## New developments news from the governors

Governors are appointed for a four year period, and for many that came to an end in 1992. We express our thanks to these governors for their contribution to the school and are pleased to welcome Mr Walter, Mrs Terry, Mr Weight and Mrs Kennell to fill their shoes.

The governors try to keep up to date with educational developments and share individual expertise with the rest of the governing body. Most governors have been on training courses covering a wide range of topics, including clerking, special needs, quality in schools, and guidelines for new governors. Mrs Short also visited the Education Show in Birmingham to see resources and materials available to schools.

# £ Money Matters

One of the Governors' tasks is to decide spending priorities. The charts give a summary of 1992-1993 allocation and expenditure.

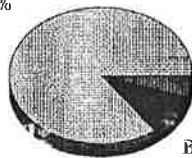
**Q.** Where did the school get its money from this year?  
LMS Annual allocation £351739

Sales and Lettings £1861

Interest £2681

**Q.** How was the money spent?

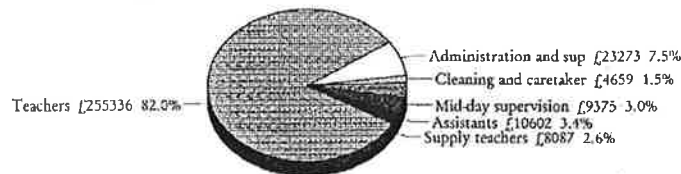
Staffing Costs 84.7%  
£311332



School Costs 4.9%  
£18013  
Building Costs 10.4%  
£38085

### Main categories of expenditure

School Costs  
Educational supplies £1516  
Post and Telephone £626  
Subsistence £650  
Administrative supplies £921



### Detailed breakdown of staff costs

Building Costs  
Repair and Maintenance £7615  
Electricity and Gas £4842  
Rates and Water £17696  
Cleaning £7694

## Meet the governors

### Chairman

Mr P Reid (LEA Rep) [20/9/96]

### Clerk

Mr G Mugridge (Co-opted) [9/6/95]

### Other LEA Representatives

Mr W Couper [31/8/96]

Mrs J Kennell [31/8/96]

### Parent Governors

Mrs P Griffiths [23/9/95]

Mr M Walter [20/10/96]

Mrs J Terry [20/11/96]

### Teacher Governor

Mrs L Newman [8/9/96]

### Other Co-opted Governors

Mr S Weight [20/10/96]

Mrs J Short [20/10/96]

### Minor Authority Representative

One Vacancy

The dates in brackets after each name indicate when their office ends. Miss Slade has 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 each term. There are also sub-committees to deal with curriculum matters, staffing, finance and buildings.

The next planned election for parent governors will be in September 1995.

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.