



Oakfield Park News

December
2019

ALL DIFFERENT ALL VALUED ALL EQUAL



Message from the Headteacher

Dear All,

In our last newsletter I was able to tell you that we had been inspected by Ofsted but I wasn't able to give you any details regarding the outcome. You will have heard since then of our "Outstanding" judgements in all six areas against which we were measured.

The criteria against which we were judged have changed greatly since our last inspection in 2014 with the general consensus being that the bar has been raised thus making the new gradings even harder to achieve, so it's a massive "well done" to all! While on this subject, I would like to take this opportunity once again to extend our gratitude to all parents and stakeholders without whose support and enthusiasm these outcomes would have been even harder to achieve. We have even reached the dizzy heights of an article in last week's Pontefract and Castleford Express and today's Yorkshire Post – see below!

School is top of the class again

EDUCATION
Nick Frame
@nickframedaily

A SCHOOL has landed an 'outstanding' rating - its third top mark in 11 years.

Oakfield Park School in Ackworth provides for children with special educational needs and following its latest visit from Ofsted was given the highest mark across all five key areas. This includes the quality of education, pupil behaviour, personal development, leadership and sixth-form provision.

Headteacher Steve Copley said: "Everyone involved was delighted that the school was judged to be outstanding in all areas in which they were inspected.

"Naturally, staff, pupils and parents were thrilled by this outcome.

"It's a fair and justifiable reflection on all the hard work by students and staff over the years since our last inspection

In 2014, which also judged us to be an outstanding school."

The Barnsley Road school caters for pupils between the age of 11 and 19 with severe learning difficulties and currently has 119 youngsters registered.

They received their visit from the education watchdog across two days in October.

And there was no shortage of praise for the school by the visiting inspectors, who said: "Oakfield Park is a remarkably friendly and welcoming school. Staff are highly skilled.

"They really know their pupils and understand their needs precisely. Pupils feel happy and safe because they know that adults care about them.

"Pupils' behaviour is superb. Pupils work hard and achieve highly at Oakfield Park.

"The quality of education is outstanding. Leaders, staff and governors are extremely ambitious for pupils to achieve their potential."

TELL US: Let us know what is happening at your school.

FIRST CLASS

Outstanding is an expectation

FEW SCHOOLS are given an overall outstanding rating by Ofsted, and even fewer receive the top mark across all five key areas.

For Oakfield Park, receiving the top mark has become an expectation.

In 2008 the school received an 'outstanding' mark, but then slipped to a 'good' overall rating three years later.

However, the school returned to form in 2014 with another 'outstanding' outcome, this time with top marks across each area.

During that visit, the Ofsted inspectors said leadership was "exceptionally strong" and teaching was "very effective in every class".

CLASS ACT: Staff and pupils at Oakfield, which has received the best Ofsted report possibly.

On a separate note, Nicola Cryer, our Assistant Headteacher, has been seconded (and promoted) to Highfield School after the holiday for two terms. Her massive input here will be difficult to replace but I can give you all my assurance that we shall ensure that no student's education will be negatively affected by this temporary move.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the festive season.
Very best wishes,
Steve

Friends of Oakfield Park Christmas Raffle

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated prizes and bought tickets for this year's Christmas hamper raffle. We will update you with our fundraising total in the New Year.



Children In Need

Thank you to everyone who supported our Children In Need fundraising efforts this year. We raised a fantastic £420 for this very worthy cause.



Oakfield Park School School Governor Profile

Katie Beedle



My name is Katie and I am a primary school teacher, currently teaching Year 3. I have previously been the SENCo and gained my PGCE in Special Educational Needs Coordination in 2018. The education of children and young people with Special Educational Needs is my passion.

I am a co-opted governor and am also on the Complaints Committee.

This is my first governor position which I took up when I moved to Ackworth almost a year ago.

In my spare time I enjoy going to watch Leeds United and Castleford Tigers. I also enjoy attending Fit Steps and Zumba classes as well as being part of an adult tap group.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

School Dinners

The cost of a school dinner to pupils is **£2.40 per day** or £12.00 per week. Payment is accepted by cash or cheque. Please make cheques payable to **WMDC**.

Planned Absences

If you are planning to take your child out of school during term time, please remember to complete a Leave of Absence request form before doing so. Please respect the fact that we are being placed under pressure by local and central Government to grant these requests only in **exceptional** circumstances. The forms are available from the school office. Thank you.

Adverse Weather Conditions

With Winter now upon us, we would like to inform everyone of our policies and procedures in the unfortunate event that school may be closed due to bad weather. All parents will be notified that school is closed via a text message from mobile phone number 07548 247296. It is therefore **essential** that our contact records are up to date so please inform school as soon as possible should your mobile number or any other contact details change.

Details of the closure will also be posted on the school website at www.oakfieldpark.wakefield.sch.uk

You can keep up to date with all the latest information by tuning in to local radio station Ridings FM on 106.8.



Jack & The Beanstalk!

A group of lucky students went to see a tale of giant proportions filled with treasure and treachery in this year's dazzling pantomime, Jack & The Beanstalk, at the Theatre Royal in Wakefield. Everyone had a lovely day and thoroughly enjoyed the fun-filled production—oh yes they did! A big thank you also goes to Happy Days Children's Charity who partially funded the trip. Meanwhile, the rest of school enjoyed a lively performance of their Christmas show by local Theatre group Shabang!



Variety Club Christmas Party Fun!

Some lucky students from Key Stage 3 recently enjoyed a day out at the Variety Club Christmas party, held at Elland Road. Everyone had a fantastic time dancing, playing games and eating party food and had a visit from Lucas the Kop Cat and Santa himself!



Friends of Oakfield Park Bingo Pie & Pea Evening

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Friends of Oakfield Park Bingo, Pie & Pea evening held in school recently. It was a full house and we raised a terrific jackpot of £770.65 for school.



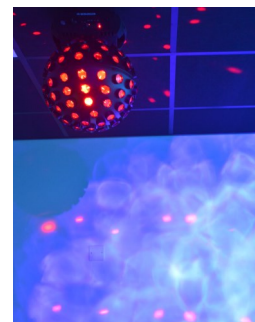
Sensory Equipment Improvements In School

Oakfield Park have recently secured a grant of £10,000 from St James's Place Charitable Foundation to upgrade the equipment in our sensory room.

The room is now enhanced with a sensory showtime projection kit, interactive bubble tube, a musical touch wall, rainbow light and an LED light curtain.

The students are loving their new multi-sensory experience!

We have also secured a grant of £5,000 from the Archbishop Holgate Hospital Trust in Hemsworth. This grant, along with donations from Friends of Oakfield Park and the School Fund, has enabled us to refurbish the sensory equipment in the hydrotherapy pool. Our students can now enjoy a highly interactive experience while they swim!



Poppy Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who recently bought a poppy from reception in school. We raised £48.41 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Social Media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @oakfieldparkschool for up-to-date photos, news and events.



Christmas Wreaths

Class 14 have been busy making Christmas wreaths to sell as part of their enterprise project. The money raised will help with the running costs of the school polytunnel, an important part of our school horticulture curriculum and enjoyed by all the students. Thank you to everyone who bought a wreath—look out for our hanging basket sale in the summer!



West Yorkshire Panathlon Finals

Ten students from Oakfield Park were recently selected to represent Wakefield District in the West Yorkshire Panathlon finals, held at Huddersfield Leisure Centre. The students competed in a variety of sports including table cricket, new age kurling, javelin, long jump, target throw and running races.

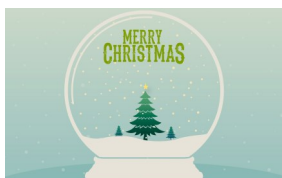
The whole team performed admirably and secured our best ever position, finishing in a fantastic 2nd place!



Dates for your Diary

Friday 20th December

School closes for Christmas holidays



Monday 6th January

School reopens



Friday 14th February

School closes for half-term



Monday 24th February

School reopens

