THE OAKLEY EDITION

A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the first issue of the Oakley Edition! We hope you enjoy this half-termly newsletter, rounding up news and events, both in and outside school. First, we would like to introduce you to our Writing Club team:

Editors: Avie J (7P1), Emily F (7P1); Feature Writers: Holly M (7A1), Stacy H (7A2), Isabella O (7A2), Rosie G (7P1); Story: Jocelyn D (7M1); Interview: Freya H (7A1); Advice column: Lina R (7A2);Games and Crafts: Emilia H (7P1), Giza I (7A1); Layout: Tallulah F (7A2).

In the newsletter there will be information on what has happened this half term, as well as what will be happening in the next. Sometimes there will be things like stories and games. Furthermore, in the newsletter there will be an Agony Aunt column, so please get in touch with us with any concerns so we can help by telling us your worries, and giving you advice on what to do.

We are always open to improvement, so if you have any suggestions or ideas for features, please let us or Miss Hopkins know.

Enjoy our first edition!

FIREWORKS: FUN OR FOE?

BY HOLLY MALTBY

Fireworks: what do you think?

Bonfire night happens every year on the 5th of November and a of couple days before that, the fireworks start. How you feel about them will inevitably affect how much you enjoy a display, but that's not to say you aren't prepared to stand in the cold to watch their beautiful array of colours.

Fireworks are a very controversial matter because of people's views on the loud noises they create, the use of explosives like gunpowder, and the amount of air pollution that the produce. This is a small matter in comparison to many, but it surely does divide the nation.

Origins

Bonfire night marks the anniversary of the failed gunpowder plot in 1605, where 13 men - including guy Fawkes - plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London. We celebrate using fireworks to mark the failure of Guy Fawkes and his men during their rebellion. Bonfire night was/is also known as Guy Fawkes day.

Fun Fact: The gunpowder plot was foiled when one of the conspirators wrote a letter to his cousin, warning him not to attend parliament on the day of the proposed explosion. He wasn't the brightest spark!

Close celebrations

Another celebration that goes on a week later is Diwali, and although many people confuse it with late bonfire night displays, it has its own reasons for using fireworks. Diwali is a religious festival of light that both Sikhs and Hindus celebrate, it occurs a week after Bonfire night and uses fireworks as part of the celebrations.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

LEST WE FORGET

BY IZZY OCHOA AND STACY HENRIQUES

WHAT IS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY?

Remembrance Sunday, also known as Armistice Day, is a time to remember, commemorate and grieve for people who have sacrificed their lives in war for our freedom. It is held on the 11th of November at 11am to mark the signing of the Armistice agreement, ending World War One (WW1). One of the ways we can show remembrance is by wearing a poppy. Did you know, these were the first flower to grow at Flanders Fields, a famous WW1 battleground? May they never be forgotten...

HOW DID OAKLEY COMMEMORATE ARMISTICE DAY?

Mrs Mali held an assembly for all students explaining the significance of the day, and asked two students, Leoni and Sadie (both in P2) to read the poem 'In Flanders' Field'. We then studied this poem in English, before creating our own poppies exploring the theme of remembrance.

HOW COULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

In buying and wearing a poppy, you donate to the British Legion, who support war veterans. You can also get involved by making art, attending a remembrance event and much more! Even taking a second or two to pray for the soldiers who have passed shows your respect and appreciation for their sacrifice...

(How to) Have yourself a sustainable little Christmas!

by Rosie Gao

Wrapping paper is a popular product, especially at Christmas. However, there is a problem with this, as most wrapping paper is unrecyclable and therefore bad for the environment. It also takes 50,000 trees to make 8,250 tonnes consumed at Christmas (estimated Christmas use = 75% of total.) Similarly, sticky tape is also bad for the environment as a lot of tape is made from polypropylene, which is unrecyclable. Tape can be better for the environment if it is made from paper or plant-based materials, such as cellulose, which is made from plant protein.

Presents are an essential part of Christmas. But they can be bad too, since most presents consist of plastic, which contains harmful chemicals, Therefore it is unrecyclable. Not all toys are unrecyclable though, for example you can get wooden toys which are reusable and can be recycled. Additionally, most toys from Christmas crackers are also unrecyclable. However, as usual, there is a way to prevent this. You could get Christmas crackers that have paper hats, paper jokes etc. and wooden or paper novelties.

Like the presents, Christmas trees also play a huge part in Christmas, but have negatives too. Every year, 8 million trees are cut down just for the Christmas season. As usual, you can prevent this by getting an artificial tree, so that you can save one tree from being cut down and protect the environment.

The last item I would like to mention is Christmas cards. It is nice to receive a card at this special time of the year, but a lot happens before you get the Christmas cards itself. Many trees are cut down for the cards. 1 billion cards are thrown in the bin which equals 33 million trees. To stop this from happening, you can buy cards from businesses that are FSC-certified.

AN ORPHAN'S CHRISTMAS VISION

A SHORT STORY BY JOCELYN DAVIS

My heart hammered like a drum inside my chest, my lungs licked by a searing flame as I doubled over, gasping frantically for breath. Then I felt an icy hand on my shoulder, pulling me. My legs gave way and I fell down, down to my grave. I tried to scream but could not make a sound. And still I fell, ever closer to the hideous shadow that seemed to be waiting for me. It threw back a hood, and beneath the heavy folds of pale material, two soulless eyes stared up at me and the skin cracked as the mouth curled into a petrifying leer. A hand extended, foul and rotting, but I barely registered the stench, as my eyes were fixed on the sharp silver blade that the fingers clasped as though it was part of this abnormal horror. I was going to die.

But no. I awoke in my own bed shaking and covered with sweat from the horror of my dream. My head dropped with exhaustion as I relayed every detail silently. I padded out of my bed and over the cold flagstones. Sure enough, it was snowing. I would usually curse at the regular nightmares that plagued my dreams, except tonight, I could prevent a death. I was sure that the doomed spot was in the walled garden near the orphanage where some of the older kids would often illicitly sneak out whenever it snowed.

All I had to do was march up to a gang of 16-year-olds, almost twice my age, demand that they did not have any fun tonight due to a psychic vision about some sort of demonic figure covered in snow making the ground open and the victim fall to their demise in a fiery chasm of hell that I had dreamt about at one in the morning. Easier said than done, I think.

It was the scratching of my itchy standard orphan uniform against my arm that woke me. I was lying on cold wooden flooring and my head felt hazy. Then it all came flooding back. I had tried to stop them, but they had simply laughed and knocked me flying. I looked at my watch: almost one in the morning. It would be close, not to mention dangerous, but I could still do it. Barely. But why? a small, unwelcome voice in my head whispered. You already tried once and look how they reacted. If anybody deserves death, it's them. No. I still remembered what had happened last time I had listened to the voice. It had led to Ma's death. But I could not, would not, think of that now. Right now, I had to save the others. But as I staggered to my feet, an ear-splitting scream pierced the silence.

The nightmare was early I ran, ignoring the pounding in my head, as my bare feet slapped against stone, dry, dusty air filling my lungs. Just a little longer. If they found me out of bed, they would instantly make a connection between me and the attack. I had collapsed on my bed, panting hard, when the realisation struck me. By warning them, I had made myself stand out. Great. I would have to spend at least the next month avoiding all eye contact and conversation with everyone.
I looked at my phone and gasped.

It was Christmas Day.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Freya H took the time to get to know Oakley's Head of Science, Miss Harrison

Just for fun, which would you rather:

1. Cats or dogs? Dogs.
2. Hands for feet or feet for hands? Hands for feet.
3. Beach or ski holiday? Beach!

If you had a superpower, what would it be?

Teleportation

Desert Island Choices: choose 3 of the following:

- Books: Harry Potter, Karen Slaughter, The Time Traveler's wife.
- Songs: Something – The Beatles; Vampire – Olivia Rodrigo; Whatever – Oasis.
- Foods: Pizza, Chicken Goujon, Roast Dinner

Favourite Clothes Shop:

Zara

More seriously now, why do you like science? Because it answers life's questions, gives me a purpose.

And why did you want to teach it? Because I remember my good teachers and I want to teach thousands of young good scientists.

Why did you choose Oakley? It's a new school and I could make good scientists from Yr 7.

What do you love/are excited about Oakley? I love the smallness and the potential it has, and I know everyone here. I was excited to meet everybody.

If you could teach another subject, what would it be and why?

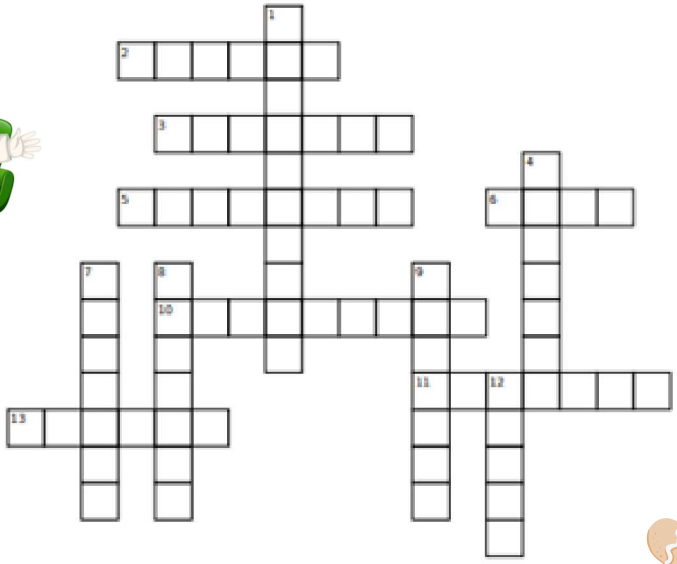
P.E., because I would get to wear comfortable clothes and I love sport.

FUN AND GAMES

Dear Agony Aunt,
I have been having a tough time adjusting to my new school, in particular with one girl. She keeps calling me names and has once hit me with a bottle. She keeps picking on me and I don't want to tell on her because was my best friend from primary school. I don't want to destroy our relationship; what should I do?

Oh dear! Try and make new friends, perhaps starting with the people in your tutor group. You can still be friends with her, just not best friends. You can also tell her to stop directly. If she does not stop, ask her for the reason she is being mean and if she still continues, tell the teacher and let them support you. I hope you have a good day, dear, and remember to use my advice!

Love, Lina.



Down:

1. One of our values
4. Where we get lunch.
7. English and science homework
8. Red house
9. Good morning in French.
12. _____ points

Across:

2. Our school
3. Purple house
5. Miss _____in the spotlight teacher
6. Mrs _____ our headteacher
10. Physical _____
11. Mr _____, head of year
13. Blue house