

# Great Oaks Weekly

## Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017



In the second part of fairtrade fortnight pupils in 7B showed us in Assembly on Wednesday all of the different processes that go into making chocolate and where all the money goes, from the people that harvest the beans to those that milk the cows and the companies that package the Chocolate.

Following the Assembly the Student Council ran a Fairtrade snack shop selling crispie cakes, fruit bars, chocolates and Bananas - all with the fairtrade logo.

They made over £80 which is going towards a charity called Vandanmu Ethical Cottons that works with survivors of the Boxing Day Tsunami in Southern India making Ethical bags, towels and aprons. For more information contact Mrs Ganesan.



### Dates and Coming up

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Film Club**  
 10.00 -12.00



**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Comic Relief**  
 Wear your onesie to school day

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April**  
**INSET Day**  
 School closed to pupils

**10<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
**Easter Holidays**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June**  
**INSET Day**

**Film Club @ Great Oaks**  
**Tomorrow**  
**10.00 - 12.00**



**Friends and families all welcome - free popcorn and drinks**

**Next Friday**  
**Wear your Onesie to School Day bring in £1 for Comic Relief or £2 if you're not wearing a Onesie!**

**RED NOSE DAY**



## ART PICTURE OF THE WEEK

The Year 11s have been working really hard on their Silver Arts Award this term. As well as running lunchtime Clubs they have all completed a visual art project that was exhibited in the Art room this week for the rest of the school to view.

Below is Carl with his model Fire station.



## PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

We have a Parent Governor vacancy at Great Oaks. It's a busy time for Governors with lots going on at the moment as reported in our weekly newsletters. If you think that you would be interested in supporting the school in this way please have a chat with Andy Evans or Sue Williams (Chair of Governors) to find out more.

## HIGH NEEDS FUNDING CRISIS AND ACADEMY UPDATE

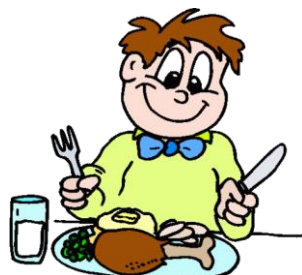
Thank you to everyone who has written, tweeted and emailed comments regarding the 12% cut to Special Needs Funding in Southampton. Your comments and views are having an impact with MPs and councillors now all being aware of the issue. More information will follow as we get it.

As a result of the uncertainty around the funding we have made the decision that we will postpone our Academy conversion that was due to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April, this will now take place on 1<sup>st</sup> September providing the crisis has been resolved.

We have also sadly made the decision that we will be unable to run any Residential trips in the Summer Term. Traditionally we have run three local residential trips in the Summer, but the financial uncertainty means that we cannot be afford to do that this year. We will review the situation in the Autumn should the funding issues be resolved.

## SCHOOL DINNERS

City Catering have asked for all outstanding school dinner debts to be paid by the 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Please talk to Dawn in Welfare if you are unsure if you are owing money.



## SCHOOL EXPANSION

In order to accommodate the additional pupils that need a place at Great Oaks School in September, and enable an expansion of our Post 16 provision the Local Authority are currently consulting on increasing our place number from 186 to 212 (with 200 on the Main/Harcourt /Lodge sites) from September 2017. They have also agreed a small amount of money in order to fund refurbishment of some classrooms.

A letter will be going home about this next week, for more information contact Andy Evans or any of the Governors at School.

## TERM DATES 17 - 18

### Autumn Term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Half-term - 21<sup>st</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October

### Spring Term

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March


Half-term - 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> February

### Summer Term

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Please note that these dates are slightly different to both the Hampshire and Southampton school term dates.

Dates of INSET Days for 2017 - 18 will be published shortly



**Alex Kelly**  
Alex is the author of the best selling TALKABOUT resources and has over 30 years experience of working with people with learning disabilities & autism. She now runs her own company Alex Kelly Ltd, employing 12 Speech and Language Therapists.


**Thursday 30 March: THERAPEUTIC STORIES**  
Alex Kelly will talk about when a therapeutic or "social story" is useful and how to write one. Therapeutic stories are appropriate for children (4+) and adults.

**Thursday 18 May: USING PICTURES and SYMBOLS**  
Grace Anstey and Zara Owens will talk about how to use pictures and symbols at home to increase communication & decrease anxiety. This session will be useful for parents of children of all ages.

**Monday 5 June: DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION**  
Chris McLoughlin and Grace Anstey will explain the development of receptive and expressive language and how we can help all children to develop communication.

**Thursday 6 July: SIGNING**  
Hannah Anderson will give a practical talk on why and how we should use Makaton sign language. She will teach you a few basic signs to get started. This session will be useful for parents of children of all ages.

With a focus on communication




# PARENT FORUMS 2017

7.00-9.00 pm at Fleming House, Romsey, SO51 8ED

Alex Kelly Ltd Independent Speech and Language Therapy

Please contact us for more information and to book a place.  
£5 contribution on the door towards our costs & cake!



**Alex Kelly Ltd**  
Fleming House  
Ainslie Road  
Romsey  
Hampshire  
SO51 8ED  
phone: 02380 987334  
email: office@alexkelly.biz  
Facebook: Alex Kelly Ltd  
www.alexkelly.biz

**Thursday 14 Sept: COMMUNICATION & BEHAVIOUR**  
Alex Kelly will talk about the link between communication and challenging behaviour and offer some practical strategies to help. This session is useful for all ages.

**Monday 9 October: PECS & use of TECHNOLOGY**  
Zara Owens, Grace Anstey & Hannah Anderson will talk about developing communication through the use of PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) and Communication Aids and Apps. This session will be useful for all ages.

**Thursday 9 November: BODY LANGUAGE** Alex Kelly and Amy Green will talk about the rules around Body Language—what are they? And how should we teach them? This session will be more useful for parents of children who are at school or are adults.

**Monday 11 Dec: MINCE PIES & SPEECH THERAPISTS!**  
Come along for a chance to chat to a speech therapist about your child. Please feel free to bring your son or daughter with you... there will be plenty of us there!