



# NEWSLETTER

February 2018

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## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Once again the children have been busy in all areas of the school since the last newsletter.

Congratulations to all our Year 6 pupils for their successful 11+ entrance exam results into a wide selection of schools in Essex and Hertfordshire. Their hard work, perseverance and focus certainly paid off! Congratulations also to some of our Year 2 pupils who entered 7+ exams and have been offered places at some nearby local independent preparatory schools.

In the Expressive Arts arena, Year 2 sang their hearts out at the Stratford and East London Music Festival held in Woodford, Y3L performed an amazing assembly to their parents about The Romans and Y1J entertained the rest of KS1 and KS2 only last week with a wonderful and colourful celebration of Chinese New Year.

In sport, the girls football team participated in a tournament at St Edmunds School and our cross country team endured mud and cold at Alderham School, Elstree. In school, Year 2 enjoyed a multi-sports afternoon under the direction of Mr Paine and his Year 6 assistants and all the children in KS2 are representing their House in football matches over the next two weeks.

Year 1 to Year 6 children were challenged with a variety of problem solving activities during their Maths workshop just before the half term break and some Year 6 children represented the school at the Forest School Science competition.

You can read more details about all these events in this newsletter.

We have Open Morning on Thursday 8 March, when we hope to welcome new families to have a look around the school. I am sure they will be impressed when they meet your children and see their achievements, both in terms of their work and in their positive, happy and committed approach to school life.

*Sue Belej*

**Sue Belej**

# NEWSLETTER



## GR Badgers & Squirrels visit Mellows Care Home

On Friday 2 February it was the Badgers and Squirrels turn to visit Mellows care home. The children were very excited for the visit and were excellent at remembering the rules when walking to the home. During the walk the children were singing, using their number skills by noticing numerals in the environment as well as being conscious of road safety! Once at the care home the children made



the residents day by performing beautifully, singing and dancing with Mrs Rathbone.



They then enjoyed looking at stories and telling everyone about their topic 'Caring for Others.' Once again, Kim, the events manager, said just how wonderful Oaklands children are and how happy they had made the elderly residents! The Garden Room staff would like to say a big thank you to all of our helpers.

## St Edmunds Football Tournament

On a bitterly cold and wet Saturday morning, Oaklands girls football team took part in a 7-a-side tournament at St Edmunds School in Ware, Hertfordshire. After meeting early at the school we made our way to the venue on the mini-bus with the girls excited at the prospect of competing against the other schools. The pitches were in immaculate condition despite the weather and it made for some excellent football being played throughout the morning.

We played our first game against St Edmunds and narrowly lost the game 1-0. It was their only shot of the game in a match where we created plenty of chances but just couldn't find the back of the net.

Our next game saw our girls come up against Howe Green School. Again they got an early goal and we went in at half time 1-0 down. After a positive team talk, they knew they could get back in the game if they continued playing in the same vein. Our pressure paid off and Maya got a well deserved goal for her relentless attacking play. The game was drawing to an end but the girls did not want to finish the game with a draw! After a flowing attacking move involving Livvy, Maya and Evie, they passed to Hannah who didn't hesitate in dispatching the ball into the back of the net.



We finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in our group and that meant progress to the semi-finals of the cup competition. Our opposition was a very strong St Josephs in the Park School who had some very talented individuals. As was the pattern in our games, we got off to a slow start and found ourselves 2 goals down. The girls did not drop their heads and led by Estel, who organised Emmy, Lillia and Evie to excellent effect in defence, managed to stop their attacking threat. Annabel turned provider for lots of our attacking play and distributed the ball superbly to our attacking 3 of Livvy, Maya and Hannah who all interlinked well. We got a goal back through Hannah and we were unfortunate not to get any more goals.

The girls were packing up thinking their morning was over but we had 1 more match in the '3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place play-off' match. Our now weary troops pulled their socks up for last effort against Duncombe School. We were very unlucky to lose the match 2-0 but our play, sportsmanship and attitude was outstanding and they and the school can be extremely proud of their achievements. Mr Paine



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## GR Caring for Ourselves



This week Garden Room's topic has been 'Caring for Ourselves'. The children have been learning how to look after themselves by discussing what our bodies need to stay healthy. They have been looking at healthy food, exercising with Spartacus from 'Lazy Town' and had a dentist role play area. The children especially enjoyed the hand washing science experiment which involved using glitter to represent how easily germs can spread. This also encouraged thorough hand washing as it was hard work getting their hands clean from those sparkly germs!

The class also have a local dentist coming to visit which everyone is really excited about.



## In-House Multi-Sports



On Thursday 8 February, pupils from Year 2 took part in a 'Multi-sports' festival on the school playground. Activities included football dribble and shoot, tennis hit into a bucket, cricket drive through cones and many more.

The children had been working extremely hard in their House teams during PE lessons leading up to the event, developing their skills and also their understanding of teamwork. They were supported by their Year 6 peers who did a fantastic job in encouraging and organising the pupils on the day, and reading their scores accurately.



Each pupil will receive a certificate for their efforts and the results were as follows:

**Holly 1st place — 192 points**

**Sycamore 2nd place — 191 points**

**Beech 3rd place — 183 points**

**Willow 4th place — 168 points**



2C top scoring girl - Alexia, 2C top scoring boy - Tyran

2S top scoring boy - Percy, 2S top scoring girl - Kiki

**Well done to everyone for a fantastic day of sport. Prizes will be awarded to pupils from Holly House and the top scoring individuals.**

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## KS2 'Wow' Assembly

On Thursday 1 February the following children in KS2 were presented with a 'Wow' certificate in assembly:

3L Jamie, 4C Chloe and Amber M, 4Z Poppy G and Leonardo, 5G Anna and Zaamin, 6J Livvy and Hannah.

**Photos of the children and examples of their work are on display near the school office.**

## Y2 at the Stratford & East London Music Festival



On Monday 5 February, the pupils from Year 2 made the annual trip to the Stratford and East London Music Festival held in South Woodford. They sang two contrasting songs, firstly, the lively and exciting "Space, It's A Place"



complete with actions, and then the beautiful "Skye Boat Song" with sound effects from the thunder drums. The children were nervous with excitement but they concentrated well and sang their very best. It was a very close competition this year and sadly, we did not win, but the children were gracious in defeat and proud to have taken part. An important lesson to learn!

## Internet Safety

Tuesday 6 February was National Safer Internet Day. The children in both Key Stages spent time in their computing lessons revising the importance of using technology safely and responsibly. Many of them designed posters to promote safer internet use for children.

Gabriella, Bethan, Jayden and Lybah are showing their informative and colourful finished documents.



## 3L Assembly

Year 3 put on a fantastic performance last week where they transported the audience back to the Roman era. They took the school

on a journey to the colosseum, barracks and Roman baths whilst also introducing the audience to Roman characters such as the senator, centurion, soldiers and slaves. Their confidence shone through as the class sung and danced to Roman themed music which included an informative song on how to become the perfect Roman, dressed in togas and gold leaf wreaths.





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## 1J Chinese New Year



On Wednesday 21 February, 1J held an assembly to celebrate Chinese New Year 2018. The children helped to re-tell the story of 'The Great Race', when the Jade Emperor asked animals to compete in a race to have years named after them.



They wore masks and enjoyed acting out the story to KS1 and 2. William wore some special gold and red clothing, which he informed us symbolised wealth and good fortune, before teaching the whole school how to count to 10 in Mandarin. Well done 1J for putting on a great assembly at very short notice.

## TR Chinese New Year Food Tasting



In Transition the children celebrated Chinese New Year. They all took part in different activities, one of them being Chinese food tasting. The children were able to try seaweed, rice, noodles, prawn crackers and hoisin sauce. They enjoyed writing down what they liked and didn't like.



They even got to try using chopsticks to pick the food up.

## TR Chinese New Year Activities

Transition carried out a whole day of fun activities to celebrate Chinese New Year. As it is the Year of the Dog, the children made a lantern using a paper cup and decorated it as a dog, using furry material for the ears. They learnt that red envelopes containing money are given as a gift to wish others a Happy New Year.



The children made their own envelopes by cutting a template and carefully folding. They also did some coin rubbing to make their own money to add to their envelope.

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## Awards

Since the January newsletter the following children have been presented with either a Merit certificate, a Good Behaviour or a Friendship card.

Class	Merit	Good Behaviour	Friendship
3L	Nicholas, Millie, Aanya, Kaylan	Natalia	Konstantin
4C	Freya, Jeyda, Phoebe, Poppy S	Summer	Sydney
4Z	Waiz, Inaya, Aminah, Cailan	Charlotte	Gwilym
5G	Libby, Charlotte, Sophia, Francesca	Charlotte	Afiyah
6J	Bradley, Phoebe, Raef, Victoria	Lucy	Evie

## Bayeux Tapestry Art Project



The Year 6 children designed and completed a replica of a Bayeux Tapestry, depicting the Battle of Hastings. They learned about the Battle of Hastings in the 'Portals to the Past Workshop' they all had previously attended.



This was a great way of incorporating their artistic skills into their learning while also displaying their knowledge. The outcome looked amazing and all the children can be very proud of what they have achieved in this Art project.



**Non-uniform Day in Support of Mental Health raised £267.75 for 'Place 2 Be'! Thank you for all donations.**





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## Norfolk House Cross Country Event

On Friday 23 February pupils from Years 3-6 took part in the Norfolk House Cross Country race at Aldenham School in Hertfordshire. It was the first time the school has entered this event and I'm sure we will continue to enter as they were very hospitable.

We arrived at our destination with plenty of time to spare and the children put on their running shoes ready to start their races. For many, it was their first time representing the school and hopefully it will fill them with confidence going forward throughout the rest of the year.

Annabella and Freya from Year 3 and Charlotte, Amber and Chloe from Year 4 made up the U9's girls team and it was their turn to run the 1KM course. They all got off to a flying start and we had 3 runners who were at the front for the first half of the race. The course was starting to test them towards the second half of the route but Annabella maintained her speed and produced a fantastic run to finish 1<sup>st</sup> place. Freya, Amber and Chloe all finished in the top 15 also which meant the team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall which is a great result.

The U9's boys were next and the team comprising of Alex, Luke, Cailan, Jayden, Gwilym and Leo ran very well in the now freezing cold conditions to all finish in respectable positions.

Emmy, Lillia and Francesca from Year 5 and Maya, Estel and Hannah from Year 6 ran in the U11's girls race and they had the task of running a 1.5KM route. Emmy was the front runner for long periods and managed to keep her stamina to finish a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Maya and Hannah were also in the top 8 places with the others not far behind, also in a very tough and fast race. They managed to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the team event.

The final race of the day saw Danny, Jake, Isaac, Arjun, Tristan and Dhanna compete in the U11's boys race. They all got off to strong starts with Tristan running very well finishing in 12<sup>th</sup> place. Once again they were up against some very strong schools but all the boys ran their hearts out to finish the gruelling course.

Their efforts were rewarded with a nice warm coach to enjoy their sandwiches and treats for the journey home. A special thank you to Mrs Davey (Year 4 TA) for also helping out on the day. Everyone can be proud of their achievements! **Mr Paine**

## House Points Cup

The House Points cup was won by Sycamore House last half term. The results were as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> Sycamore 400 points**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Holly 376 points**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Willow 374 points**

**4<sup>th</sup> Beech 304 points**

Well done to all the children for their continued effort, hard work and good behaviour!



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## Anglo-Saxons Village DT Project



Year 6 have been very busy. The children constructed a Saxon village based on their History Topic. They worked on this project over a period of four weeks. First they were given examples of different Saxon homes and then instructions of how to design their own, using specific materials such as cardboard, clay, straw and sticks. When they were satisfied with their design, they had to construct their own Saxon home. The children worked very hard and were able to finish their project with great success. The last stage was linked to assembling their own Anglo-Saxon Village by applying their knowledge gained in lessons and the workshop. They had to justify why certain buildings such as "The Hall" and "The Church" were placed in strategic places. The children also displayed their own animals made out of clay. This was a wonderful project and the other KS2 classes were invited to celebrate and appreciate this project with the Year 6 children.



## Forest School Science Competition

Four of our budding Einstein's from Year 6 took to the laboratories of Forest School for a science competition. They had to pit their wits against teams from other schools in three 35 minute experiments. The children gained points for showing teamwork, initiative and ingenuity and worked against the clock to complete the tasks.

"We had to burn powdered compounds over a Bunsen burner and try and work out what chemical it was by the colour of the flame. It was so cool!" **Alice.**



Although all the activities were done under the watchful eye of Forest staff and prefects, they were unable to assist the teams. The afternoon concluded with refreshments of juice and cookies, followed by a practical demonstration by the Forest School science staff, with a little audience participation! This was an afternoon filled with lots of learning and discovering. The children definitely had a wonderful experience.



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## Counting in Year 1

Year 1 have been working on multiplication this week and are becoming fluent in counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. They have been making arrays using counters and then working out totals. Arrays are concrete or pictorial representations to help children understand multiplication and division. They are typically shown as rows of dots or counters, for example,  $2 \times 3$  would be shown as two rows of three dots/counters.



## Wild Woods

Transition Owls have enjoyed creating miniature gardens in their Wild Woods sessions. The children worked in partners to design their miniature garden before making it; they thought carefully about what they would see in a garden and the resources they could use in the woods to make the representations. The children then made their fantastic gardens which included ponds, washing lines, trees and sun loungers! The children thought their gardens would be good for a fairy to enjoy.



## Maths Workshop

On Friday 2 February, all children from Year 1 to Year 6 participated in a fun practical Maths workshop. They worked together as a team to solve challenging tangram and shape problems. The children were enthused and loved the challenge of getting onto the next level. **Everyone had a great day and developed a range of new skills.**



## Reflection Time

We have introduced a new display board in our School hall called 'Reflection Time'. The children will be taking ownership of this display as each class has a designated half term when their work appears on there.

During our school assemblies, a staff member will choose a reflection candle which has either a prayer or some thoughts written on it. A few minutes will be allocated, where the children will be able to think about the meaning of the words in the prayer or the thoughts. This reflection time is a vital part of our assembly as it provides an opportunity for the children to reflect on their day, their achievements and feelings, or the community and the wider world.



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## PE Activities

This term all the children have been learning to play various games consolidating and enhancing their physical skills.

Early Years children have been using the climbing apparatus in gymnastics to help develop their fine and gross motor skills. They have also had fun playing lots of parachute games, especially 'popcorn maker'. Transition children have been learning to bounce large and small balls and had fun playing 'catch the froggy.'



KS1 pupils have taken part in 'multi-sports' activities, developing their movement and coordination skills. Year 2 were able to celebrate the conclusion of this unit by taking part in the 'Multi-Sports Festival' in their House teams.



2C and 2S have also learnt how to compile 10-15 moves into a gymnastics routine by following prompts.



Pupils in KS2 have progressed really well in learning the game of 'tag-rugby' and all classes took part in a mini-tournament which showed their developing understanding and game play.



Year 5 and 6 also worked extremely hard following an aerobics routine to help enhance their coordination, fitness and strength. Year 3 and 4 showed they too have what it takes to show their fitness pedigree by taking part in circuit training lessons to improve their overall fitness and strength. Exercises included: shuttle runs, press-ups, mountain climbers and burpees.



Well done everyone for a successful term of PE!

## OPEN MORNING



**Thursday 8 March 2018 at 9.15am**