



NEWSLETTER

May 2018

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Although we have experienced a mixture of British weather during the first few weeks of the Summer Term, it has not dampened the children's enthusiasm for learning and their determination to work hard in all their lessons and activities.

May has been a busy, fun and action packed month as you will see when you read this newsletter.

Many pupils have already had the opportunity to go on various trips: Year 6 to PGL residential in Liddington, Surrey, GR to Hayes Hill Farm, Transition to Lea Valley Park and Year 4 to the Suntrap Centre, High Beech. By the end of the Summer Term all the classes will have been on an educational trip, even Lower Kindergarten!

Do check our website for details of next half term's events, including Sports Day and Prize Giving.

Sue Belej

Sue Belej

Y3 -Y6 Instrumental Concert

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 15 and 16 May, KS2 held their annual Music Concert at Oaklands. All pupils from Years 3-6 who learn a musical instrument at school were invited to play in the Concert. So, at 6pm, dressed in their concert finery, the pupils performed solos and duets on the piano, recorder, violin, flute, drum kit, guitar and ukulele.



A few nerves were visible but everyone played their very best and demonstrated the fruits of diligent practice. Many thanks to our wonderful peripatetic music teachers who guide and instruct the children and well done to mums, dads, grandparents, relatives and friends who listen and encourage each week.





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TR to Y6 Brain Blaster Workshop



On Monday 24 April, children from Reception to Year 6 attended the 'The Brain Blaster' workshop. In small teams the children had to complete puzzles and solve problems. All the children were fully engaged with the challenges and they had lots of fun. Some of the skills the children were challenged on involved investigation, listening to each other and learning to include people in their group. This programme gave the children a chance to be independent learners and the puzzles encouraged them to persevere, especially the Scales problem! This workshop definitely helped the children to use their reasoning skills in a practical way.



"I really enjoyed it because I thought it would be impossible to catch the fish with my eyes shut, but with the help of my team I caught 2!" - **Sara 4Z**

"I enjoyed it. The last puzzle with the food was really challenging. I really enjoyed working with the Year 6." - **Poppy 4C**

"I really liked catching the fish because you had to trust your friends" - **Annabella 3L**



Bancroft's Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 25 April, Oaklands School took part in the Bancroft's School Swimming Gala. A strong group of pupils took part, including Hannah, Annabel and Lucy from Year 6, Emmy and Isaac from Year 5, Amber and Jeyda from Year 4 and Annabella and Riana from Year 3.

In an event full of very strong schools, our swimmers performed exceptionally, with all pupils finishing 1st or 2nd in their heats.

Hannah qualified for the 50M freestyle final and finished in a very respectable 3rd place just behind 2nd place in a time of 38.47. All the pupils competed in both the freestyle and medley relays producing some very promising displays.

The Year 3/4 team qualified for the final and managed to achieve 4th place which was very pleasing to see.

Overall Oaklands finished in 7th place out of 10 schools but were only 4 points behind the 5th place team, showing how close the competition was. **The children can be proud of their efforts. Well done!**

School Council

The latest meeting saw the council reps feeding back ideas from their classes on how to make Oaklands School more environmentally friendly. Some ideas were instantly possible, such as turning off lights when leaving a room, others require more discussion such as having 'plastic free' days or re-cycling all waste including food.

The Year 6 council reps, Maya and Livvy, will feed back to the rest of the school immediately after half term.

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Y6 PGL Liddington



Year 6 had a wonderful adventure at PGL Liddington. Not only were they challenged on different levels, but they also worked on their team building and their courage was definitely tested in many ways.

Although it was difficult being away from their families, they experienced new things, gained confidence and built stronger friendships.

The week's adventures included activities such as a Challenge Course, the Trapeze, Vertical limb, Jacobs Ladder, the Giant Swing, Zip Wire and many more. The children enjoyed the freedom of being outdoors all day and were, without a doubt, confronted with different seasons in one day.



From baking in the sun whilst building different rafts, to getting drenched in the canoes and on the quad bikes. The children's thinking and problem solving skills were tested in various ways.

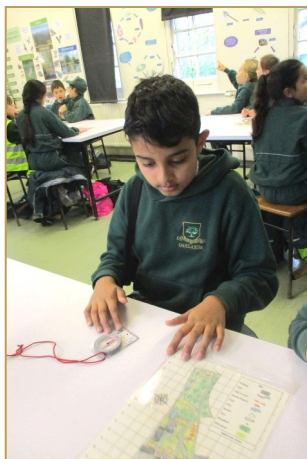


PGL was, without a doubt, a treasured experience that the children will remember for a long time to come.



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Y4 Visit to Suntrap Educational Centre



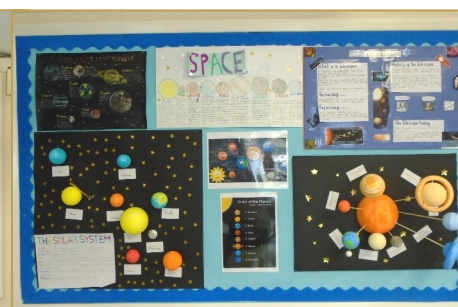
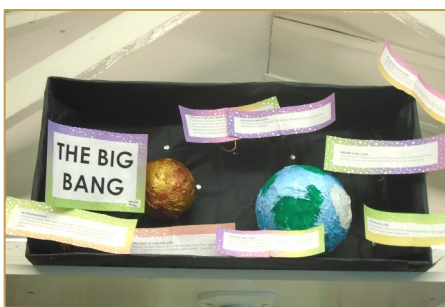
Despite wet weather, Year 4 had a wonderful time at Suntrap Educational Centre. The pupils were busy with a coordinates challenge and had to use a map to locate specific landmarks around the grounds. They went on to using compass bearings to orientate their way through Epping Forest. The pupils also enjoyed meeting some of the centre's pets including chickens, a salamander and a bearded dragon.



Everyone had a great day and the children learnt some key mapping skills to help with their Geography topic within school.

Science Work

The Science room is bursting at its seams with incredible examples of independent research homework from Year 2 to Year 6 pupils. Topics include 'Space', 'The Human Digestive System' and 'Lifecycles'. We obviously have some budding scientists in the school!



House Meetings

The first House meetings of the Summer Term were held on Wednesday 9 May. The children were asked to provide suggestions for the calendar of House events for 2018-2019. They provided Mrs Belej with a range of ideas for all the age groups in the school. Well done!

'Wow' Assemblies

KS2 enjoyed their 'Wow' assembly on Monday 14 May. Children from Year 3 to Year 6 shared their outstanding pieces of work with the rest of the key stage and the teachers.

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Smoothie Making in Transition



Transition Woodpeckers have been busy making fruit smoothies to promote their knowledge and understanding of the different fruits grown all over the world. They have also been exploring halving in Maths which was incorporated into the activity.

Firstly, the children designed their own fruit

smoothies which included writing a list of ingredients and thinking of a creative name for their smoothie. When making their drink, the children carefully cut the fruit they needed into halves and filled their cup half full with milk or juice before adding it to the mixer. The children said it was a fun Maths lesson and a very tasty snack!



'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'



Year 1 have been reading the story of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', and were lucky enough to have a tea party with the tiger himself! The tiger suggested they had healthy sandwiches as he wasn't feeling too well after his feast at Sophie's

house, so 1R and 1J kindly made some for them all to enjoy. Everyone had a great time!



Volcanoes in Year 3



Year 3 were set some challenging, volcano related homework tasks this half term. They had to choose to either create, make or write something from a list of exciting options.

The results were amazing! Children brought in a selection of homemade volcanoes (some of which erupted), wrote poems about volcanoes and there

was even a volcano monopoly board game 'Volopoly'.

The children enjoyed showing and sharing their fantastic creations.





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Awards

Since the March Newsletter the following children/class have been presented with either a Merit Certificate, a 'WOW' Certificate, a Good Behaviour Award or a Friendship Card.

Class	Merit	WOW	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1J	Elizabeth, Arabella	Anayah, Gabriella		
1R	Esah, Ben	Jack, Isabelle	Nathan	Avani
2C	Bethan, Tyran	Bethan, Cleo	Liberty	Alexia
2S	Percy, Asya	Dylan, Jusleen	Melveen	Holly
3L	Annabella, Ava, Bebeana, Phoebe	Riana, Thiago	Bebeana	Thiago
4C	Whole Class Headteacher's certificate Jack, Aadi	Freya, Summer	Luke	Freya
4Z	Whole Class Headteacher's Certificate Aminah, Gwilym	Ellie, Cailan	Waiz	Jayden
5G	Jake, Charlotte, Isaac, Tristan	Emmy, Francesca	Afiyah	Amy
6J	Whole Class Headteacher's Certificate	Estel, Alice	Whole Class Headteacher's Certificate	Whole Class Headteacher's Certificate

'Supertato'

The children in Garden Room were very excited to be visited by one of their favourite book characters 'Supertato and his Friends'. The children were able to help 'Supertato' rescue his friends from the 'Evil Peas'.

The children also used their imaginative skills to create traps to capture the 'Evil Peas'. The children had some fantastic ideas and even implemented them at home, with one child capturing a pea in the night!





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Daffodil Marie Curie collection

The school raised **£45.13** for the Marie Curie Daffodil collection; thank you all for your contributions.



Halving

Transition Owls have been learning all about halving.

They have looked at halving pieces of fruit, recognising shapes split in half and halving quantities.



Building Projects

Oaklands have successfully gained planning consent recently for three large projects:

1. Rear Double Storey Extension - This is designed to increase the size of the school hall by around 75% by rotating it and building over the grass bank on the side of the playground. Next to the new hall there will be a new base for our SEN department, which will help them to continue to deliver their excellent service from the heart of the main building.

As part of the project, the kitchens will be fully refurbished with new commercial equipment installed throughout. We will also be creating a fixed servery through to the kitchens from the hall, which will help with the service of food at lunchtimes. Underneath the hall on the new lower ground floor will be a very large specialist classroom that will accommodate a new Science Room and/or ICT Suite.

2. Front Double Storey Extension - This will see a new entrance lobby created where the fire escape and bin cupboards are currently at the side of the school next to the Transition entrance and kitchen back door. New toilets will be installed, with a covered waiting area and benches outside for parents. All sheds and bins will be relocated. There will be a new large classroom built above the new entrance lobby, which will be allocated for use by one of our classes nearer the time.



3. Car Park and Drop-off/Pick-up Area - The wasteland at the bottom of our second field will become a car park and dropping-off/picking-up area, with independent access from Warren Hill. Staff and parents will be able to park and drop off whilst on our own site. A new track along the bottom of our main field will be installed, with low level lighting, to link the car park and pathway leading to our bottom gate. One of our caretaking team will be on duty in the area at the start of each day to ensure that children make their way safely through the site to the building.

In addition to all of these projects, our Lower Kindergarten will be enlarged and reshaped over the summer break, with a new outside play area that will be more conducive to free flow learning. The Garden Room windows will also be replaced, and a few other minor improvements will be made around the site.

All in all, this is a £1.1 million building project that will both increase and modernise the facilities that Oaklands has to offer, and Oaklands is delighted that all children will be able to make use of them when complete.



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Transition Trip to Waltham Abbey



The children had a wonderful day exploring the Waltham Abbey Gardens, and participated in a wide range of activities which allowed them to learn more about their natural surroundings and deepen their knowledge and understanding of their current topic of 'Growth'.



The morning activities were based around the children using their senses. The 'Sensory Safari' included looking at colours in the gardens and wearing a blindfold to listen to sounds. A favourite activity was collecting natural fallen treasures to make a smelly cocktail!

During the afternoon the children used their art and design skills to create pictures using mirrors and make a natural collage which represented the parts of a plant. To end the day, the children had the chance to press leaves and petals to make their own bookmarks. As well as the bookmark, the children also planted their own healthy, tasty treat to take home.



Garden Room Visit to Hayes Hill Farm

Garden Room visited Hayes Hill Farm on Monday 14 May. The children were able to experience feeding the lambs, meeting different animals and also watching the Birds of Prey show!





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Year 3 Visit to Waltham Abbey Gardens



Year 3 experienced a fantastic day at Waltham Abbey Gardens. They were immersed into the day as soon as they arrived and were sent on a 'fallen treasure hunt' in order to collect various plants in the Rose Garden.

They learnt identification and classification skills and discussed the process of photosynthesis. After lunch,

they headed back outdoors to learn about seed dispersal. Children formed groups and got into role, acting out the different ways seeds disperse.

The day was completed with a practical challenge of making a 'seed bomb', children rolled clay and mud together, making a hole in the middle and filling it with wild flower seeds ready to take home and throw in their garden in order to grow wild flowers. Everyone had a great time and all the children learnt some key skills to help with their Science work in school.



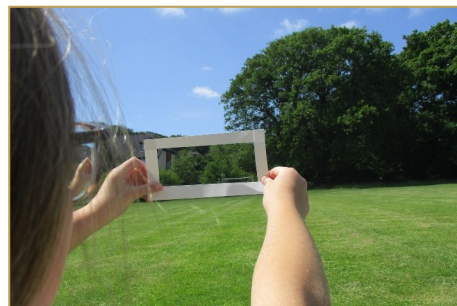
Sports Day - Friday 8 June 2018

Outdoor Classroom Day

Outdoor Classroom Day is a global campaign to celebrate outdoor learning and play. Thousands of schools all over the world take their lessons outdoors, and we were lucky enough to have some beautiful weather on Thursday 17 May for the event.



Children of all ages took part in some fantastic activities, with Year 6 conducting some problem solving tasks and doing some landscape drawing using viewfinders. Year 2 children worked in small groups to act out the tale of 'The Rainbow Bird', and even had their Maths lesson outside!



Wednesday 4 July

EYFS Celebration of the Year - 2pm

Years 1 - 6 Prize Giving - 6pm



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ISA London North Athletics Championships



On Friday 11 May, Oaklands School took a team of boys and girls to the ISA London North Athletics championships at Bedford International Athletics stadium. The children all arrived bleary eyed for an early meet at school ready to make the long journey to their destination.



The weather was perfect for athletics with bright blue skies, sunshine and mild temperatures. It was a very busy schedule with over 30 schools taking part. There was a great atmosphere and our pupils certainly seemed to relish the occasion and not let their nerves get the better of them.



There were too many outstanding performances to mention then all individually but all pupils should be hugely proud of their efforts on what was a very enjoyable day.

Annabella produced a remarkable run to finish 1st in the 600M race with Amber finishing 5th in the same race in a group of 20 other girls.

Hannah and Annabel finished 1st and 2nd respectively in their 80M races.

Maya showed great stamina in a field of really strong girls in her 600M race, finishing in the top 10.

All of our relay teams put in great displays with our Year 5 and 6 girls teams and also the Year 5 boys team qualifying for the finals.

The Year 5 girls comprising of Emmy, Lillia, Francesca and Charlotte came 2nd place and were just pipped to the line in what was a very close race.

There was a high quality field of athletes on the day and our pupils showed what great potential we have at Oaklands. We are all very proud of you.

Well done to Luca, Dhanna, Maya, Hannah, Lucy, Maya and Annabel from Year 6. Emmy, Lillia, Francesca, Charlotte, Isaac, Arjun and Danny from Year 5. Maya, Amber, Chloe, Alex, Luke, Cailan and Waiz from Year 4 and Annabella from Year 3.

Oaklands Summer Fete

Saturday 16 June 2018

from 12noon to 3.30pm