

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



Issue 5

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Principal's Message

Once again as I look back through the news of the Spring Term it becomes clear to see quite how much gets packed into such a relatively short period of time. In only 11 weeks the children's classroom education was supplemented with a large number of extra and co-curricular opportunities to support the learning.

Group events are becoming more popular, but the highlight of the term for me was the Oak-Tree Art Exhibition held at Lopping Hall in January. The quality and range of pieces exhibited from all of the schools was incredible. Well done to

all of the children whose work was on display.

I hope the children enjoy this Summer Term, which I can see will be packed with even more trips, activities, performances and special events. Good luck to the Braeside and Normanhurst GCSE students who will be going on exam leave shortly.

Have a good term, and as ever I hope to be able to catch up with you at one of our many events over the coming weeks.

Kind regards

Matthew Hagger

Matthew Hagger

Stratford and East London Music Festival

On Monday 5 February pupils from Year 2 at Oaklands made the annual trip to the Stratford and East London Music Festival held in South Woodford. The choir sang two contrasting songs - the lively and exciting 'Space, It's A Place' complete with actions, followed by the beautiful 'Skye Boat Song' with sound effects from the thunder drums.

The children concentrated well and sang their very best.

It was a very close competition this year and we were proud of the Oaklands children for their excellent singing and team spirit!



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Oak-Tree Football



Coopersale Hall v Oaklands

On Monday 19 March a large crowd of supporters gathered on the football

field at Oaklands to see Coopersale Hall, Normanhurst and Oaklands compete on the football pitch.

Selected pupils from Years 3 and 4 joined the squads and it was a tough competition. Coopersale Hall were the overall champions, but the players from Normanhurst and Oaklands fought well.

Well done to the pupils who took part; there was some fantastic team work.

Thank you to all of the cheering crowds for supporting the teams on such a chilly afternoon - this made a difference to team morale.



Normanhurst v Coopersale Hall

Coopersale Hall Year 6 Bikability

During the Spring Term, Year 6 children from Coopersale Hall took part in a Bikeability course to help them understand how to stay safe when cycling on the roads and to build up their confidence on a bike.

The course took place firstly in the school playground, and then once they



had all passed that stage it was time to move onto the local streets. The two-day course gave the children experience of different traffic conditions.

Well done to all of our young cyclists who remained safe and confident while listening carefully to the instructor - and what a worthwhile experience!

Braeside Experiments

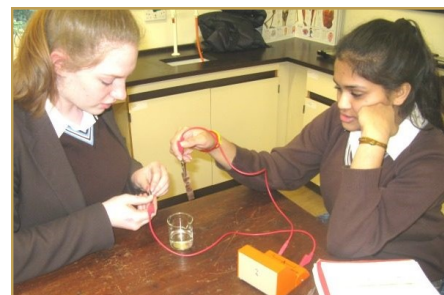
Children from Years 6 to 11 have been taking part in a number of



experiments to help further their learning in Science lessons.

Year 9 are making progress through their GCSE Biology course and carried out one of their required practicals; 'The Chemistry of Food'. Also as part of their learning about catalysts and enzymes, the pupils took part in a 'chemical race'.

Year 10 investigated chemical cells in one of their lessons. They set up their



apparatus and used it to investigate the voltage produced by different metals.

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Braeside Action Aid Fundraiser

The whole school gathered together on Wednesday 21 February to raise money for their chosen charity, Action Aid. The four Houses - Bronte, Fry, Nightingale and Mason - all took part in helping run different activities such as a cake sale and games including 'Splat the Rat' and 'Guess how many sweets in the jar'.



The hall was buzzing with activities as pupils and staff donated money in exchange for snacks and fun competitions.

Fry House was even taking part in a sponsored silence (which the teachers seemed to really enjoy!).

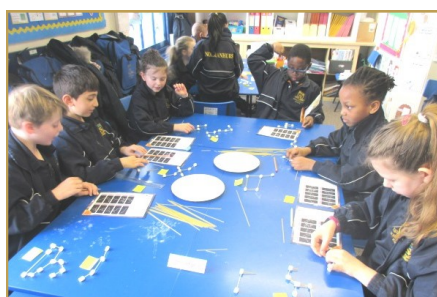
Well done to all of our fundraisers for all of your hard work!

Charities Supported Last Term

- Sports Relief
- Booktrust
- Book Aid International
- Hestia
- United World Schools
- Action Aid
- Brain Tumour Research
- Mellows Care Home
- Pelly Court Care Home
- Local School in Kenya
- WE Day
- ... and many more.

Science Week at Normanhurst

This year Science Week had the exciting theme of 'Space'. Throughout the week, starting on Monday 12 March, pupils had the chance to take



part in a range of space-related activities including a virtual reality experience, a visit to a mobile planetarium and an interactive assembly.

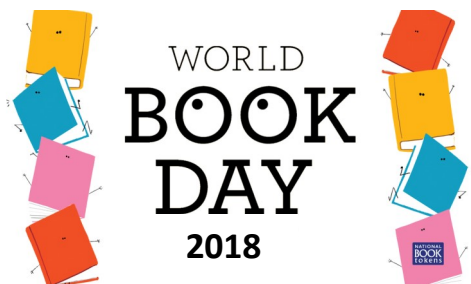
Activities continued into the classroom

where pupils made constellations out of spaghetti and marshmallows, created space themed crafts, made moon rock cakes and learnt more about the world outside of our small planet.



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Book lovers celebrated their favourite stories in March as World Book Day came around again! World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. In fact, it's the biggest celebration of its kind, designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and marked in over 100 countries all over the world.

World Book Day was the perfect opportunity for pupils to celebrate

their favourite books by dressing up as some much loved characters. There were some fantastic and creative costumes on show, well done everyone! Pupils also received a book token with which they could redeem a book from a special selection at a local book shop.

Various book-related activities took place throughout the week including an incredible cake sale at Braeside. Thank you to the pupils and parents who put in so much time and effort to make such amazing cakes.

The pupils at Normanhurst enjoyed a Mad Hatter's tea party, trips to the local library and an Alice in Wonderland drama workshop.

Transition children at Oaklands went on a Bear Hunt and Braeside Juniors enjoyed their parents coming into school to read with them.



Coopersale Hall School



Normanhurst School



Oaklands School



Braeside School



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Sports Day Dates

Braeside

Thursday 21 June - Sports Day

Coopersale Hall

Monday 11 June - Infant Sports Day

Tuesday 12 June - Junior Sports Day

Wednesday 13 June - LK Sports Day

Thursday 21 June - UK Sports Day

Normanhurst

Thursday 24 May - Sports Day

Oaklands

Friday 8 June - Sports Day

Coopersale Hall Performing Arts Showcase

On the morning of Wednesday 14 March, pupils from Years 3 to 6 put on a fantastic display of performances to an audience of friends and family to showcase the new skills they have been working on throughout the year.



The showcase involved a huge range of acts from singing and musical performances to karate, gymnastics and juggling. Well done to all of the very talented performers, who clearly impressed the audience. The showcase is an annual event, so we are already looking forward to what next year brings!



Loughton Young Artists Exhibition



On the evening of Friday 19 January we were treated to a stunning exhibition of artwork produced by GCSE pupils at Normanhurst and Braeside Schools. The exhibition formed a part of the Loughton Young

Artists competition, which is a showcase for outstanding artwork produced by schools in the area.

The exhibition took place in Loughton Gallery and featured artwork in a range of media produced by pupils from both schools.

Included in the exhibition were two pieces produced by Normanhurst pupils that won 1st place prizes in the National ISA Art competition. The private viewing was well attended by both parents and pupils and was an excellent way to celebrate the creative talents of the pupils.

First prize went to Karishma at Braeside for her striking and realistic self-portrait. Second prize went to Bilal from Normanhurst for his stunning architectural form photography. Suzannah from Braeside was highly commended for her thought-provoking mixed media work entitled cultural identity.



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Oak-Tree Art Exhibition

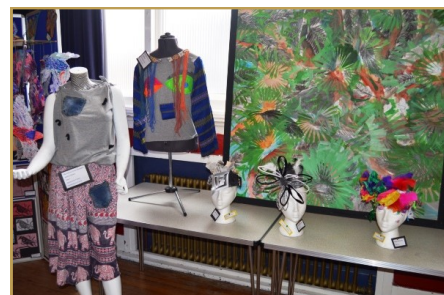
The Oak-Tree Art Exhibition took place on Saturday 20 January in Lopping Hall in Loughton. The large room was packed with parents, staff and pupils, all eager to see the hard work produced by the pupils from Braeside, Coopersale Hall, Oaklands and Normanhurst.

The artwork was produced by children from all age groups across the Group.



Coopersale Hall Display

Work was displayed in a wide range of materials including textiles, painting, ceramics, collage, and printmaking.



Normanhurst School Display

The exhibition was extremely well attended by both children's families and local members of the public, and visitors were visibly impressed by the high standard and diverse range of artwork on display.

All pupils should be extremely proud of the hard work that they put in to create such an impressive exhibition - well done all!



Oaklands School Display



Braeside School Display

Coopersale Hall Assemblies

The children of Coopersale Hall have given us some impressive assemblies this term. The annual piano assembly gave everyone the opportunity to see the progress that pupils have made in their lessons. The children were at a variety of levels ranging from just having started to play right up to Grade 5.

The Scottish dance assembly was a calendar highlight, with children putting on Scottish attire to help them

look the part, entertaining the audience with a fabulous display.

Individual classes worked hard to put on some entertaining and informative assemblies. Year 2C enjoyed showing parents and children what a day in the life of a Year 2 pupil looked like, while 2D worked together to perform a show entitled 'Learning is Fun'. Year 2F were keen to show the results of their month long 'Creative Challenge', and Year 4 showcased the range of games that could be played in the playground.

To support their topic work of the history of toys, Year 1B performed a dance called 'The Magic Toys', complete with costumes, and even Transition children got on stage and put on two assemblies: 'Funnybones' and 'All About Me'. Well done!



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Oaklands Young Mariners Base Trip

Year 4 and 5 children from Oaklands had a fantastic time at the Young Mariners Base in Cheshunt during the last week of term.

From the moment they arrived at the centre, the fun didn't stop. The children were able to try a range of



activities including rock climbing, team exercises, canoeing, archery, fencing and much more. By the end of the trip there were some expert archers and climbers in the group—despite the wet weather that didn't put them off!

Everyone had a lovely experience trying new activities with their friends.



Epping in Bloom 2018



Coopersale Hall children were set the task of creating a flower made out of plastic bottles for this year's Epping in Bloom competition. There were some outstanding entries, with other schools from the Epping area also

taking part. Well done to Nancy who won 1st place and Elara who was runner up.

Victoria from Epping in Bloom presented a trophy in an assembly to the winners. All entries have been used to create a spectacular 'instant flower bed' on St John's Green.



Forthcoming Summer Events

Braeside

Thurs 10 May - Junior Peri Music Concert

Fri 29 June - Year 3-5 Production

Fri 29 June - Year 11 Leavers' Dinner

Sun 8 July - FOBS Summer Fete

Coopersale Hall

Tues 5 June - LK/UK Tiddly Prom

Wed 20/Thurs 21 June - Oliver Production

Mon 2/Tues 3 July - Summer Dance Show

Wed 4 July - Picnic in the Park

Normanhurst

Thurs 7 June - International Food Evening

Fri 22 June - Year 11 Leavers' Dinner

Sat 23 June - NSPA Summer BBQ

Oaklands

Tue 12 June - Dance Display

Sat 16 June - Summer Fete

Wed 27 June - School Production

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Speech Day Dates

Braeside

Friday 6 July - EYFS Celebration of the Year

Friday 6 July - Prize Giving

Coopersale Hall

Tuesday 3 July - EYFS Celebration of the Year

Tuesday 3 July - Prize Giving

Normanhurst

Monday 2 July - EYFS Celebration of the Year

Thursday 5 July - Prize Giving

Oaklands

Wednesday 4 July - EYFS Celebration of the Year

Wednesday 4 July - Prize Giving

Normanhurst and Oaklands Visit Hadleigh Country Park

Both Normanhurst and Oaklands pupils enjoyed a trip to Hadleigh Country Park in March to learn more about their History topics of the Stone Age, Iron Age and the Romans.

They had the opportunity to become archaeologists for the day as they dug up interesting artefacts such as parts of weapons, ceramics and even bones!



After looking at some of the pottery, they were able to create their own clay pots.

The children enjoyed a detailed History talk inside a realistic roundhouse before the teachers dressed up as Celtic and Roman warriors! The day finished with the pupils learning about army organisation and working together as a team to avoid the paper 'rocks' being flung at them!

Normanhurst's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Production

An audience of family and friends filled the Redbridge Drama Centre on Tuesday 13 March, clutching their



golden tickets with anticipation! The pupils put on a spectacular performance with some professional acting, singing and dancing skills.

The children portrayed their characters brilliantly and had the crowd roaring with laughter at their jokes and comic acting.

The costume, set and props that were designed by Mrs Parrott and created by the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh participants were very impressive, and



the stage hands worked tirelessly behind the scenes before, during and after the show. All cast and crew worked hard to create a truly spectacular performance - well done!

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Sporting Successes

Sport plays an important part in school life and all pupils are encouraged to become involved with the range of sporting clubs and activities on offer. The Spring Term was no exception, and we have seen a number of sporting successes across all four schools.

Braeside

Junior pupils showcased their dancing skills to a room full of friends and family in January, with everyone impressed with what they have been learning. Most Wednesdays throughout Spring Term, the netball team played matches against other local schools including Debden Park, Roding Valley and West Hatch. Everyone tried very hard and showcased some fantastic skills.



Braeside School Dance Display

Coopersale Hall

The school netball team recently took part in the Local Schools Netball

Tournament, winning 6 out of 6 matches against some formidable opponents. Earlier in the Spring Term the Coopersale Hall Karate team won the Inter Schools Karate Championship, and we were very proud of Arwen and Oliver who represented the London North Area Team at the I.S.A. National Swimming Gala.



Coopersale Hall Karate Team

Normanhurst

On Tuesday 22 March, the Junior Gymnasts took part in the Waltham Forest Key Steps Gymnastics competition with many excellent



Normanhurst School Athletics

performances. At the Borough Winter Olympics League, everyone was very

impressed with Jesse who broke the Year 10 school high jump record. The Year 6 hockey team have been playing very well at the Olympic Park, going through to the semi-final of the Waltham Forest Tournament.

Oaklands

Well done to Oaklands Key Stage 2 pupils who ran for around the school fields over and again in a set time to raise money for Sports Relief. The netball team have had a busy term competing in many tournaments, and will be very proud of their runners-up position in the ISA North London U11 Tournament. Four girls also recently competed in the Forest School Swimming Gala, which saw many first place positions.



Oaklands School Netball Team

Well done to all of our sports stars across the Group who have competed in so many internal and external competitions.

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Sports Relief at Oaklands

Friday 23 March was a fun-filled, energetic day of sporting activities at school, with tasks ranging from treasure hunts for the Early Years



EYFS Sporting Treasure Hunt

children, partner-based relay races in Years 1 and 2, and mammoth cross



KS2 Cross Country

country laps of the first field by the Key Stage 2 children. We will not know exactly how much the children have raised until the beginning of the Summer Term when all of the sponsorship money is brought into school.

The Key Stage 2 cross country sponsorship event was also one of the House events of the term. The results were as follows:

1st: Holly

2nd: Beech

3rd: Sycamore

4th: Willow

Mr Paine and the teachers were very impressed with the determination of all the children to complete their physical challenge. Well done everyone!

United World Schools - The Gift of Reading Competition

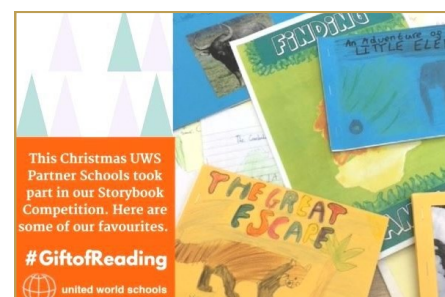
Earlier in the year, the children from Coopersale Hall in Years 4 and 5 took part in the United World Schools Gift of Reading Storybook Competition. Children were asked to write and illustrate a story about an animal for primary school aged children in

Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal.

In the Spring Term it was announced that Louis and Charlie were awarded joint third place. Lewis's book was called 'The Lost Snow Leopard' and Charlie's was 'The Beautiful Peacock'. Susanna Worth of UWS said:

"Thank you so much to everyone who entered our Gift of Reading Storybook

Competition. We were incredibly impressed by the creativity of all the submissions."



Down the Rabbit Hole at Braeside

Members of the Performing Arts club put on a fantastic performance for parents in the school hall. They have been working very hard during their



after school club on a mini version of Alice in Wonderland, and were given the chance to perform to their families.

The production included several musical numbers that had the audience laughing and singing along.

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Royal Academy Drawing Lab Workshop

On Friday 26 January, Year 10 and 11 Art GCSE pupils from Braeside and Normanhurst took part in an immersive drawing workshop. The class was under the instruction of renowned artist and Royal Academician Jeanette Barnes.



Throughout the session the pupils were encouraged to develop an

understanding of her methods and approaches.

The pupils were taught to create a series of charcoal drawings based on stories and collages of photographs.

The session was designed to challenge pupils to explore new ways of working, with some fantastic results.

Oaklands Travel Back in Time

Oaklands pupils stepped back in time last term with many History-related activities taking place.

Year 6 had the chance to dress up



Anglo-Saxons as part of their 'Portals to the Past' workshop. To further their learning, the pupils began construction of their very own Saxon village and worked together as a class to complete a replica of the Bayeux Tapestry.

Year 4 took an Ancient Egyptian educational journey and learned about life in the 14th Century. The children used authentic tools and materials to learn skills as apprentices in a wide variety of workshops. With



amazing costumes, music, dancing, wonderful story-telling and a banquet at the Royal Court, the children thoroughly enjoyed their interactive Egyptian day.

Key Trips

- Madame Tussauds
- Spun Candy
- Science Museum
- Colchester Zoo
- British Library
- Debden Brook
- Olympic Park
- Waltham Forest Town Hall
- Hadleigh Park
- Top Golf Chigwell
- V & A Museum
- Museum of Childhood
- London Transport Museum
- Natural History Museum
- National Gallery
- Fitzwilliam Museum
- Broxbourne Civic Theatre
- Roald Dahl Museum
- Suntrap Education Centre
- Bletchley Park
- St Albans Cathedral
- Mellows Care Home
- Young Mariners Base
- Fortune Theatre London
- Science Live! London
- Edmonton Go Karting
- Local Libraries
- Spinney Care Home
- Paradise Wildlife Park

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Easter Celebrations

With the weather slowly getting warmer, the children were able to enjoy the start of spring with a range of Easter celebrations.

Braeside

The Easter Bonnet Parade on the last day of term showcased the impressive creativity of the pupils. There was also an Easter egg hunt for both Junior and Senior pupils, which involved collecting tokens to earn points for their respective houses. After the hunt the Easter Bunny gave everyone a special chocolatey treat.



Braeside School



Coopersale

On the last day of term the children put on some lovely Easter services filled with songs, readings and dance.

Hall

There was also a colourful bonnet parade with some spectacular hats on show - even one shaped like a giant carrot! Everyone enjoyed the FOCHS Easter treats of a visit from both the Easter Bunny and a range of animals including lambs and rabbits.



Coopersale Hall School



Normanhurst

The NSPA arranged a special Easter egg hunt for Normanhurst families. Despite the snow, everyone battled the elements on a weekend walk through the forest before enjoying warm drinks and pastries. There were also some impressive Easter bonnets on display from the younger children.

Oaklands

The Easter Bunny paid a visit to the children of Oaklands on the field this year. Classes took it in turns to go and



Normanhurst School



meet the bunny, sing him a song, find a hidden egg and collect a special Easter gift! Thank you to the OPA for arranging such a lovely event.



Oaklands School



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Oak-Tree Schools Parents' Associations

Our Parents' Associations were very busy last term arranging a number of events for pupils, families and friends. The Parent's Associations are always looking for parents to get involved with fundraising or events. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with your committee if you would like to meet new families, contribute your ideas and work together to make a difference to your child's experience at school.

Braeside



FOBS provided some lovely Easter treats for the pupils on the last day of term, along with a visit from the Easter Bunny. The children loved getting the chance to meet such a special visitor. FOBS have also arranged for a collection of second hand uniform to be sent to school children in Kenya, thank you! There has been a change of committee recently and we are currently looking for a new Chair(s) and Secretary for FOBS.

Coopersale Hall



Thank you to FoCHS for arranging such a lovely Easter treat on the last week of term. The children were given the chance to interact with a range of animals such as chickens, rabbits and even an armadillo! Many children overcame their fears and held the tarantula. The Easter Bunny also made an appearance, much to the delight of the children, to wish everyone a happy Easter break.

Normanhurst



The Spring Term was busy for the NSPA as they arranged a variety of activities. The annual Easter Egg Hunt through the forest was as popular as ever, with everyone enjoying the warm drinks and snacks back in the school hall. The younger children had fun at the Mini Disco, while Years 4, 5 and 6 were treated to a movie and pizza night. All proceeds went toward the goal of purchasing 36 iPads for the school.

Oaklands



At the end of term, the OPA arranged a visit from the Easter Bunny who greeted the children down on the field. Each class enjoyed singing the Bunny some Easter songs and collecting a chocolatey treat. The children had fun at the Easter Disco, which was arranged for all year groups. Thank you also to the OPA for organising the second hand uniform sale and for providing the funds needed for the interactive Quantum Science Workshop.