



March 2019

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Spring Term has flown past, complete with rain, gale force winds and the occasional glimpse of sunshine that hopefully indicates that Spring is just around the corner!

Throughout the term, I have continued to be amazed by the pupils at Oaklands School. They all have a deeply embedded enthusiasm for learning and experimenting with ideas, together with an outstanding positive attitude towards the activities that make up the daily life at our school.

There has been much to celebrate. Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for their success in various 11+ entrance exams. After spending two weeks revisiting some of the schools, they have all made their decision and accepted one of their offers.

We celebrated World Book Day on 6 March when the school appeared to be invaded by an army of Harry Potters!

The sporting calendar has also been busy, with selected KS2 pupils participating in both local and regional sports competitions.

During the last two weeks, we have enjoyed entertaining assemblies from Lower Kindergarten and Upper Kindergarten and wonderful play performances from Year 2C and Year 2S. The confidence, speaking and singing ability of the pupils in front of a large parental audience never ceases to surprise me.

You can catch up with all the latest events and achievements of the pupils in this newsletter.

May I wish you all a Happy Easter. I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to School on Wednesday 24 April.

Sue Belej

Sue Belej

2C Drop-In Session

2C had their Drop-in morning this term with lots of parents popping in to look at everything Year 2C has done so far this term.

The children loved showcasing their work and had lots to talk about! It was great to see how proud they were of all they had achieved, and how proud their parents were of them!





NEWSLETTER

ISA U11's Tag Rugby Competition

On Friday 1 March, pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in the ISA Tag-Rugby competition at Woodford Wells Cricket Club. It is the first time Oaklands School have taken part in this event and they all did fantastically against some strong opposition.

We were able to enter two teams with the view of giving some other children a chance to show their potential. Our A team played 5 games, winning 3, drawing 1 and losing 1. Unfortunately we did not finish in the top two to qualify for the semi-finals. Our B team worked tirelessly and just missed finishing first in their group winning 1, drawing 2 and losing 2 but appeared to improve as each game went on.



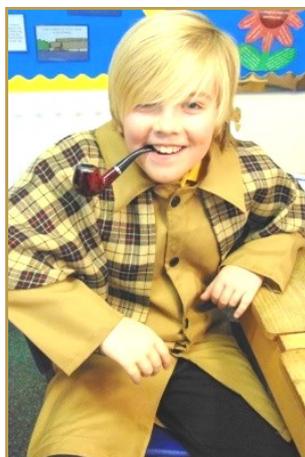
Francesca was likened to a female version of Usain Bolt with her direct speedy sprints to score some superb tries! Luke, Alex, Leo, Jayden and Cailan showed we have a good future in tag-rugby, with some fantastic play and tries of their own. Aminah represented the school in sport for the first time and the experience really boosted her confidence. Well done to everyone who played; the highlight was two entertaining draws against our rivals Normanhurst and Coopersale Hall!

World Book Day

On Wednesday 6 March, Oaklands School took part in World Book Day. Everyone came dressed as a character from their favourite book. There was a huge range of characters and everyone had a lot of fun trying to spot people from their favourite tale. The children were able to share their favourite book with each other and discuss why they like it so much. Every child received a World Book Day book token as well.

Thank you for all your help in raising money for Book Aid International who provide access to books for children around the world.

£169.20 was raised for Book Aid International!





NEWSLETTER

Bancroft's Netball Tournament

Nine players from the netball club took part in the Bancroft's Netball tournament on Wednesday 6 March, in which 23 schools took part.

The girls learnt some valuable defending skills in their games against Bancroft's A, Ursuline, St Edmund's and Chigwell B. Their last game was against Forest in the quarter finals.

Well done to everyone!



EYFS Curriculum Day

On Friday 8 March, the children from Lower Kindergarten participated in a variety of activities for Curriculum Day.



They made their own musical instrument with Mrs Ten-Houten and experimented with Mrs Glasgow to create some wonderful potions.

They learnt about how vegetables grow and used coloured matchsticks to put together their own Mr Potato Head.



Senses

Throughout the year the children take part in Curriculum Days, where they enjoy learning about a particular theme with an interactive, cross-curricular approach to learning. During Curriculum Day in March, the children in Reception learnt about their senses. Here they are telling each other a story through massage.



Year 6 Anglo Saxons

Well done to all the Year 6 children who worked very hard on their Saxon topic homework this term. Some children designed Saxon outfits representing the 'rich and poor'. We had a wonderful Saxon hut and rondavel that was made in Design and Technology and two clay pots with runes drawn on them. Year 6 loved this topic and learned a lot through practical activities and attending a Saxon workshop.





NEWSLETTER

Year 3 Trip - Hadleigh Country Park Roman Visit

Year 3 had a Roman themed trip to Hadleigh Park this term. They learnt all about archaeology and discovering artefacts, how to make clay pots, visited the Celt Roundhouse and even had the teachers dressing up as Romans and Celts! The children had a great time going back 2000 years discovering how the Romans and Celts lived, what amenities they had and how they fought in battle.



Jusleen – *“I enjoyed when we had a Roman object in the bag and had to guess what it was.”*

Calli – *“I liked it when we made clay pots and going into the Roundhouse.”*

Santi – *“I really liked being archaeologists and I discovered a dog’s jawbone!”*

Alexander – *“I liked learning about the items in the Celt Roundhouse.”*

Reception Woodpeckers



Reception Woodpeckers have been busy exploring doubling amounts in various ways. They have doubled ladybird spots by drawing on the same amount of spots to each wing and have doubled bears using mirrors.



They have also painted a pattern on a butterfly wing and folded the paper to print the double! The children are beginning to record doubling number sentences whilst exploring.

Year 5 Planet Earth Art

This term, Year 5 have been making a video to submit to the BBC Ten Pieces music project. To celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the famous Planet Suite, schools were asked to compose a piece to represent our planet, Earth.



As well as the musical element, they have also been working hard creating some artwork to represent the rainforests, oceans and planets. We’ll have to wait until April to find out if we were successful!



NEWSLETTER

Awards

Since the last newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with either a Merit, 'Wow', Good Behaviour or Friendship certificate.

Well done everyone!

Class	Good Behaviour	Friendship	WOW	Merit Certificates
1R	Anaya	Gisele	Class Headteacher's Certificate	Jude, Skye, Oliver, Surya
1Z	Jessica	Lucy	Class Headteacher's Certificate	Ozlem, Lina
2C	Sevak	Chanel	Class Headteacher's Certificate	Lily, Isabelle, Chanel, Ben
2S	Anastasia	Sienna	Class Headteacher's Certificate	Meeah, Anayah, Darcey, Kaazim
3C	Kiki	Tyran	Holly, Alanna	Kiki, India, Jusleen, Dylan
3L	Maja	Kristina	Olivia, Kristina	Libby, Zavier, Kristina, Saffiyah
4C	Bebe	Maya	Aanya, Oliver	Maya, Millie, Annabella, Nicholas
5G	Amaya	Freya	Poppy S, Amaya	Amaya, Aadi, Sydney, Amber
5Z	Jayden	Gwilym	Inaya, Poppy G	Aminah, Poppy, Inaya, Charlotte
6J	Libby	Zaamin	Charlotte, Emmy	Amy, Tristan, Amy, Francesca

Year 6 Debating

This term Year 6 have enjoyed learning through the use of practical activities. In their lesson starter, the class were challenged to use their persuasive skills to debate if the sea is more powerful than the wind.



There were excellent opinions and facts shared and the class did a wonderful job in persuading each other by using thoughtful, convincing vocabulary.



They also worked in teams in a sorting activity to match different poetic features to their description and example. They were challenged to listen to each other's opinion and work as a team. Well done Year 6!

We are on YouTube!

Keep up to date about what is going on at Oaklands School by following us on our YouTube page which is filling up with videos from school events.





NEWSLETTER

Lower Kindergarten Assembly to Parents

A big congratulations to all the children in Lower Kindergarten for their wonderful performance in our Parents' Assembly on Thursday 14 March. The children sang a variety of songs, which they have been learning during the Spring term. They then retold the story of the Three Little Pigs, with each group representing one of the pigs. They all did incredibly well to stand up in front of so many parents. Mrs Belej, Mrs Potts and the LK staff are all extremely proud of everyone. **WELL DONE Lower Kindergarten.**



2C Design Technology



As part of their Design Technology topic, Year 2C have been cooking this term.

The children made gingerbread Biscuit Bears – just like the one from the story they have been reading by Mini Grey. However, unlike the bears in the story, Year 2C's Biscuit Bears were better behaved



and did not run away, plus they were very tasty!

1Z Art

In Year 1Z, the children have been studying the impressionist painter Claude Monet. After looking at some of this work and getting a better understanding of what impressionism is, they recreated his famous 'Water Lilies' Painting by using the technique of 'dotting'.

All the finished pieces looked fantastic, well done 1Z!



Book Fair

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who came with their children to visit the Book Fair. It was very successful and a percentage of the profits are given back to the school. It is always so lovely to see the enthusiasm from the children when they are buying their books.



NEWSLETTER

KS2 'Wow' Assembly

On Monday 25 March, a range of achievements were celebrated in the KS2 'Wow' assembly. To begin the assembly, the school orchestra played 'Amazing Grace' to the rest of KS1 and KS2 which was spellbinding. Each member of the orchestra was then presented with their new 'Orchestra' badge in recognition of their hard work practising their instrument and their membership in the orchestra.



Two pupils from each KS2 class were presented with a 'Wow' certificate by Mrs Belej for their wonderful work in class, which included imaginative creative writing, improved handwriting and success in Maths, Geography and Topic work.

Mrs Belej was also delighted to present certificates gained by pupils for activities they attend outside school; these included a Gymnastics Proficiency award and Tap and Ballet certificates and plaques.

Busy Bees

Busy Bees have spent two weeks painting these lovely money boxes. Now to take them home and start saving.

I wonder how many coins they could hold?



'Wild Woods'



Key Stage 2 have been making their own minibeast hotels in the Wild Woods. They decorated a plant pot before adding straw, pine cones and twigs to make a cosy place for the minibeasts to stay.

The pupils added the 'hotels' to the log pile which is already a great habitat for the insects. Some children then took part in a minibeast hunt in the Wild Woods; they

found lots of woodlouse! It was a great way to find out the sort of creatures that can be found in the woods.





NEWSLETTER

Y5 Trip to Lee Valley

Year 5 enjoyed the morning sunshine as they learnt about canal and navigational features when they went on a cruise on the River Lee Navigation. They looked at riverside history and gained a good understanding of life on a narrowboat and how a lock works.

The children produced canal boat art using traditional designs and also managed to spot lots of birdlife along the canal. After lunch, they went on a river walk and improved their geography field skills by measuring the water flow rate and working on field sketches.

It was an enjoyable and informative day!



School Council

Libby and Charlotte in Year 6 provided the feedback from the last School Council meeting to KS1 and KS2 pupils in assembly on Monday 25 March. This involved details of the Travel Survey conducted in each class in early February.

The pupils were surprised by the overwhelming number of them that travel to and from school every day by car, with only a few pupils car-sharing with another family.

The survey also asked about the daily use of the car park. Since the results were analysed and with the nicer weather with us now, more parents are now using this facility at the beginning and end of the school day. However, the School Council would like to request even more parents use the car park to further reduce the congestion and unsafe parking on Albion Hill and to ensure greater safety for pupils and adults as they arrive and leave the school site.

Thank you in anticipation of your support in this matter.



NEWSLETTER

Year 2 Easter Talk at St Mary's Church

Year 2 had a lovely afternoon visiting St Mary's Church in Loughton to find out more about Easter. They enjoyed a talk and some quiz questions, then got to open some special eggs with interesting objects inside. The children then had an egg-citing egg hunt and coloured in some Easter pictures.



After this, they got to eat some delicious Hot Cross Buns and learnt the significance of them. A big thank you to Revd Malcolm Macdonald at St Mary's for entertaining Year 2 and teaching them so much about Easter!



ISA London North Hockey Competition

On Friday 22 March, Oaklands and Normanhurst combined to take part in the ISA London North Hockey competition at Old Loughtonians Hockey Club in Chigwell. Danny, Tristan, Emmy, Francesca, Lillia, Libby and Amy made up the Year 6's with Alex and Luke representing the Year 5's. Jordan from Normanhurst was our goalkeeper for the day and well done to him for putting on the suit of armour which took a while!

In a competition of 3 groups, we were in a group of 6 teams and needed to finish in the top 3 to qualify for the quarter finals. We played 5, won 2, drew 2 and lost only 1 game. After the scores were added there were 2 other teams on the same points as us, but unfortunately they qualified in 2nd and 3rd place as they conceded 1 less goal! This was very frustrating, but our children can be as proud as I was with the way they played. Some fantastic goals were scored by Alex, Luke and Danny after some fine passing! Well done everyone and hopefully we will have a little Oak-Tree hockey tournament in the summer to look forward to!



Mr Paine

Robin Class Painting Portraits

Robin Class enjoyed posing for each other when they painted portraits to celebrate Mothers' Day. They found out that although painting portraits can be tricky, it is also a lot of fun!





NEWSLETTER

'Playtime Scheme'



Recently, we have introduced a new 'Playtime Scheme' at lunchtime, with the view of giving our children more opportunities to play games and activities whilst having fun with their friends!

After an interactive assembly detailing the system and how it works, the pupils have been playing and trying out all the new activities including a target throw, football target shooting, Jamanga, snakes and ladders, basketball, skipping and lots more.

It has been very successful so far, seeing all the children play with big smiles on their faces. A big 'thank you' needs to go to Year 6, who are helping to set up the games and supervise the children to ensure they are safe and having fun.



Karate Club



Karate continues to be one of the most popular clubs on the extra curricular timetable. Some of the children are ready to take their next 'belt' grading.



Making a Volcano in Owl Class



Owls worked together to make a volcano using newspaper and modroc. Once it had dried, they painted it grey before experimenting with different thicknesses of paint to make the lava effect.

The children are all very excited to use bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to try and make it erupt!



NEWSLETTER

Safari Pete

Early Years had a visit from Safari Pete this term. He brought along with him two meerkats, a monitor lizard and even a baby crocodile! The children learned a lot about each animal and were able to interact with them. What a fantastic experience!



Oaklands KS2 Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 27 March, KS2 pupils took part in the annual Swimming Gala at Loughton Swimming Pool. After weeks of practice to get them ready for the day, there were some expected nerves etched on some faces as parents came in to watch their children swim. Everyone swam with courage and determination and it was so pleasing to see nearly all of our pupils swimming a length in all the strokes. There were some very close races and the timekeepers and judges did an excellent job to filter the results to the scorers to tally up the House points. The morning finished with a new 'Squadron Relay' with 2 swimmers from each year group and House competing for their team. It ended a fantastic morning of swimming and the pupils were very pleased to be going back to school for a well deserved lunch!

The overall results were as follows;

1st Willow 241 points

2nd Beech 175 points

3rd Holly 146 points

4th Sycamore 144 points



St John Ambulance First Aid Course



On Friday 29 March, our Year 6 children attended a first aid course held by St John Ambulance. This course focused on core skills such as asthma, choking, burns, communication and casualty care, fainting, first aid kits, primary survey and recovery position.

The teaching was excellent. The trainer used numerous real life examples and 'hands-on' practice to reinforce basic first aid principles. The children were taught vital first aid skills, which will stay with them for a lifetime.

This was a great opportunity to ensure that our Year 6 children are fully equipped with the skills that would make a difference in a first aid emergency. The course has hopefully given them the confidence to make quick emergency decisions when it really matters.





NEWSLETTER

Red Nose Day

For Comic Relief 2019, Oaklands decided to wear something red and bring a joke into school to share with their class. During the Comic Relief assembly, Holly House shared some of their jokes with the rest of the children and we looked at who the money being donated would go on to help. Holly House did a wonderful job of showing the importance that the donations can make to people.

Sophia's Joke: *I couldn't figure out why the netball was getting bigger.....THEN IT HIT ME!*



All the children had such great fun dressing in as much red as they could to celebrate raising money for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day. **Thank you for your donations, the School raised £249.07! Well done!**

Roald Dahl's Fantastic Stories

Roald Dahl used to make stories up for his daughters to entertain them and his daughters invited their friends round to listen to them. The play performed by our Year 2 pupils this term showcased snippets of several famous Roald Dahl stories including James and the Giant Peach, Matilda and George's Marvellous Medicine. They all performed confidently to a packed audience of parents and were really excited so sing their favourite song as an encore after a huge applause! Well done everyone!





NEWSLETTER

Year 5 BBC Ten Pieces Earth Mission

What with the 50th anniversary of the moon landing and the 100th anniversary of Holst's 'The Planets', it is a great year to be learning about Space. The one planet that Holst did not write about was Earth, so the BBC have challenged pupils from lots of schools to compose their own piece of music about the Earth in a project called 'Ten Pieces Earth Mission'.

As well as taking part in a number of Space related activities in class, the pupils set about creating



and learning their own musical composition based on Earth. The piece had 4 parts, it started with the spinning earth before moving onto the rainforest. This was followed by the ocean and then Earth spinning again. Everyone did a fantastic job.

The final work was filmed and will be sent into the BBC for a chance to have it played on BBC Radio 3 on Earth Day, and also featured on the BBC Ten Pieces website.



Year 2 Multi-Sports Festival

On Monday 1 April, all Year 2 pupils took part in the annual House Multi-Sports competition. Activities included: football dribble and shoot, hockey dribble and shoot, basketball bounce and shoot, tennis drop shot and hit, cricket drive through the cones, underarm bowling and a Connect 4 challenge. This event was a celebration of all the skills the children have learnt during this half term and it was great to see them all performing so well.

They Year 6's acted as 'House team buddies' and they did a great job looking after the children and scoring all of their events. We await the results of which House gained the most points and was victorious!





NEWSLETTER

Year 3 Mosaic Making



Year 3's final lesson on their Roman Topic was to create their own Roman mosaic. They designed their own plan and then stuck coloured tiles to the base until their mosaic was finished.



The children enjoyed making the mosaics and persevered with the challenges that they

faced. The finished work is colourful and creative, well done!

The Cave of Wonders

Year 4 and Year 6 have been very busy in the Cave of Wonders this half term learning about electricity. They have had great fun exploring and problem solving with different components and circuits; from experimenting with switches in complex circuits when building working traffic lights in the classroom, to creating their own electric light-up quiz boards on their favourite topics to test their friends' knowledge!



It has been a term full of hands-on, practical learning that has left the children with invaluable skills and some fun memories.

Trashion Show House Competition

We had a wonderful morning with children entertaining us at the Oaklands Trashion show catwalk! All the houses worked together to design outfits and accessories for their house out of trash/rusbish. It was fantastic!





NEWSLETTER

ISA Cross Country

On Saturday 30 March, Annabella in Year 4 took part in the ISA National Cross Country Championships at Rugby School, Warwickshire. She was representing not only Oaklands School, but London North against six other ISA regions. On arrival, she was greeted with beautiful sunshine and a pristine course on which to run.



After a long wait for her race, Annabella was finally ready at the start line, jostling with the other girls for a good position. She held the lead in the early stages of the race, maintained a good position throughout, and came in with a strong finish to be placed 7th, which is a remarkable achievement. The top 10 finishers all received an 'outstanding achievement' certificate for their efforts. Well done Annabella.



A special thank you to her Dad and sister Cleo who supported her on the day.

Annual House Football Competition

On Monday 1 April, Years 3-6 took part in the annual House Football competition. Years 3 and 4 combined to play their event at 9.30am and Years 5 and 6 pupils merged ready to start their event at 10.30am. The houses were split into 2 teams in order to give all the pupils an opportunity to play as much as they could. Each House played three games and the top two from each group went through to the semi-finals. The winners of group A played the runners-up of group B and vice-versa. The winners of those games met in the final; both finals were closely contested.

The final results were as follows:

Year 3&4

- 1st – Holly A
- 2nd – Willow B
- 3rd – Beech A
- 4th – Beech B
- 5th – Holly B
- 6th – Willow A
- 7th – Sycamore B
- 8th – Sycamore A

Year 5&6

- 1st – Sycamore B
- 2nd – Holly B
- 3rd – Sycamore A
- 4th – Holly A
- 5th – Beech A
- 6th – Beech A
- 7th – Willow A
- 8th – Beech B





NEWSLETTER

Year 6 Mothers' Day



Year 6 had a great idea in Art to make each of their mums feel extra special this Mothers' Day. This was a lovely activity with lots of creative ideas. The pupils all agreed that "Mums are like buttons; they hold everything together".

Happy Mothers' Day to all the mums at Oaklands.



A Visit from the Easter Bunny

A huge thank you to the OPA for organising such a lovely event in the last week of term. All of our pupils got a chance to go and visit the Easter Bunny either on the playground or in the all! Classes took it in turns to meet the bunny, sing him a song, find eggs on the floor and then exchange them for a sweet treat.

Everyone was so excited, making it a lovely end to what has been a great term.



Happy Easter Break!