

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019



Issue 8

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Principal's Message

As I look back at the Spring Term I'm as proud as ever at how much we managed to fit into each school's calendar for the children.

Alongside the normal classroom teaching, there were a huge number of sporting, musical, dramatic, artistic or otherwise exciting opportunities to learn new skills or compete. This has always been a major part of what we offer to the children and I'm delighted that these opportunities continue to grow.

One of my own highlights was accompanying the 120 or so Year 5 and 6 children to the Young Voices concert at the O2, which was a fantastic experience for both the children performing and for their

families in the audience. Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet was lucky enough to be able to provide some backing music to the children's amazing singing!

The Summer Term will be as packed as ever with events and I know you will be looking forward to the Summer Ball in May as well as the Sports Days, Prize Days and fun family days at each school. I always enjoy chatting with parents at these events so do come and say hello!

I hope you have a lovely Summer Term.

With best wishes

Matthew Hagger

Matthew Hagger

St John Ambulance First Aid Course for Year 6

On Friday 29 March, Oaklands 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.

It was a good opportunity to ensure that the Year 6 children are fully

equipped with the skills that will make a difference in a first aid emergency and gave them the confidence to make quick emergency decisions when needed.



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Braeside and Normanhurst Trip to Innsbruck



During the February half term, forty pupils from Braeside and Normanhurst went to Austria for an exciting week of skiing in Innsbruck. Most of the children who went on the trip had very little experience of skiing, but that did not stop them having a fantastic time. As early as day two all

of those that attended were able to stand on their skis.

Pupils were very lucky to have had excellent skiing conditions and the ski school instructors were pleased with our pupils' endurance. Everyone made quick progress and found themselves on the blue and red slopes within days.



As well as skiing, the children also had two evenings out. The first was into Innsbruck, which is the capital of Austria's western state of Tyrol, a city in the Alps that has long been a destination for winter sports. The second outing was to have delicious pizza in the nearby town.

This was an excellent experience for our pupils with some fantastic memories made.

Normanhurst School Drama Showcase

Parents of Normanhurst pupils were able to get a sneak peek behind the scenes at what their children have been learning in Drama this year. The Drama showcase ran for 3 nights, with each year group from Years 1 to 10

performing a short piece to display the fruits of their labour in lessons. Pieces ranged from 'Peter and the Wolf' with puppetry to 'The Gruffalo' with physical theatre.

This was an excellent showcase of talent and hard work. Well done to all of our confident performers!



Pancake Day Races at Coopersale Hall



Pancake Day arrived on Tuesday 5 March with bright sunshine, and provided the perfect morning for some pancake races. All Coopersale Hall children got the chance to test their running and flipping skills in the staggered races, with some of the older children helping the younger children with their races. It was lovely to see the different year groups working together.

There were some very exciting races, even if not every flip was successful!

Well done to everyone who took part and also to those who helped to run and organise the event - it certainly put some smiles on the faces of both the children and the parents who came to watch.

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Year 5 BBC Ten Pieces Earth Mission



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

As well as taking part in a number of Space-related activities in class, Year 5 set about creating and learning their own musical composition based on the Earth. The piece has 4 parts, starting with the spinning Earth before moving onto the rainforest. This was followed by the ocean and then Earth spinning again.

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. Well done to all of the Year 5 children!



Charities Supported Last Term

- Book Aid International
- NSPCC
- Wood Green Animal Shelter
- Comic Relief
- Teenage Cancer Trust
- Marie Curie
- Brain Tumour Research
- Bloodwise UK
- Hestia Charity

Impressive Assemblies from Coopersale Hall

During the Spring Term the children at Coopersale Hall put on some excellent assemblies for the rest of the school and their families.

In the Piano Assembly, 12 talented pianists performed an array of songs.



Some children were at the beginner stage and others more advanced, but all were very confident.

Years 1 and 2 have been using the new 'Recorder Karate' scheme to help them with their musical progress. The pupils showcased some songs they have recently been working on to acquire their 'belts' in their lessons



during the Recorder Assembly.

In the Singing Assembly, the children who take singing lessons sang a variety of songs from different eras. In a few of the songs some of the children even performed solos! It is safe to say there are some very talented pupils at Coopersale Hall.

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Young Voices 2019



On Tuesday 5 February we took around 120 Year 5 and 6 children from Braeside, Coopersale Hall, Normanhurst and Oaklands to perform at the annual Young Voices

Concert at the O2 Arena. The children were very excited to be performing at such a huge venue, and really gave it their all. We were lucky to have been allocated some of the best seats in the house, directly behind the stage and performers, meaning our children and school banner could be seen from all around the venue!

Young Voices is a concert made up of children from schools across the country that form one of the largest school choirs in the world. It was an amazing experience with plenty of parents attending to watch the Oak-Tree children sing along with

thousands of others, and this year our choir was backed by Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet!

Well done to all of our amazing performers, and thank you to the staff and parents who made the event possible.



Speech Days 2019

Coopersale Hall School Tuesday 2 July

Early Years Celebration of the Year - 2pm
Speech Day and Prize Giving - 4pm

Oaklands School Wednesday 3 July

Early Years Celebration of the Year - 2pm
Speech Day and Prize Giving - 4pm

Normanhurst School Monday 1 July

Early Years Celebration of the Year - 1pm
Thursday 4 July
Speech Day and Prize Giving - 6pm

Braeside School Friday 5 July

Early Years Celebration of the Year - 2pm
Speech Day and Prize Giving - 4pm

Coopersale Hall Performing Arts Showcase

On Wednesday 13 March a large audience of parents were entertained by a fantastic array of performances by KS2 pupils at Coopersale Hall.

The showcase involved a wide range of acts that the pupils had been working on during the build up to the event.



Performances included a few singing numbers from all pupils in the show, piano and violin solos, demonstrations by the band and an excellent display by the gymnastic squad that left some of the younger children gasping.



The showcase was an opportunity for the pupils to demonstrate their many talents to their friends and families, and is always a popular event in the school calendar.

Well done to all our accomplished performers - you should all be very proud of yourselves!



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WORLD BOOK DAY

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 that is marked in over 100 countries around the world.



Oaklands School



Normanhurst School



This year all four Oak-Tree Schools took the opportunity to celebrate the event and dress up as their favourite story book character.

Pupils at Braeside took part in a mask making competition, with some creative results! They also enjoyed a book-swap, which was an innovative way of encouraging them to read something new.

Normanhurst held a story writing competition, with winners from each year group. Many pupils also took a trip to the local care home to read to and share stories with the residents.

Both Oaklands and Coopersale Hall children had a lot of fun showing each other their favourite books, with some children even getting into character!



Braeside School



Coopersale Hall School



YouTube Channel

Visit our schools' YouTube channels to see videos from some of the many events that take place through the year.

- [Braeside School](#)
- [Coopersale Hall School](#)
- [Oaklands School](#)
- [Normanhurst School](#)



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Sports Days 2019

Oaklands School
Friday 7 June

Coopersale Hall School
Wednesday 12 June

Braeside School
Thursday 20 June

Normanhurst School
Friday 21 June

Year 3 & 4 Oak-Tree Football Tournament



For the second time this academic year, we held an Oak-Tree Football Tournament at the Peter May Sports Centre, but this time it was the turn of the Year 3 & 4 pupils. Despite being younger, the children showed some

very promising footwork on the pitch, making use of the space around them while also passing and tackling effectively.

With each school getting a chance to play each other, Coopersale Hall came out as the overall winner of the Tournament. Well done!



A Visit from Iain Duncan Smith MP

In February, Normanhurst pupils were delighted to welcome the local MP and friend to the school, Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith to visit the School Council. The pupils listened as he spoke about his role as a Member of Parliament for Chingford and Woodford Green, and about his life



in the House of Commons. They also had the opportunity to ask questions about current affairs and the highlights of his career.

Topics ranged from what it meant to be a Secretary of State, to the current issues surrounding homelessness.

Staff were very proud of the pupils as they showed a healthy interest in politics.

Year 3 & 4 Oak-Tree Netball Tournament



Year 3 & 4 pupils from all four Oak-Tree Schools took part in a Netball Tournament in the Spring Term. The children played a number of 5-a-side games on a half size pitch, which really helped them to understand more about the different rules associated with different positions.

Everyone enjoyed the experience and they all had the chance to play each



other, with Coopersale Hall coming out as the overall winner. Well done!

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Easter at the Oak-Tree Group of Schools

Although the weather may not be getting much warmer yet, Spring was certainly in the air at the end of term and the children celebrated with a range of Easter activities and events.

Both the Juniors and Seniors at Braeside took part in a fun-filled Easter egg style hunt with some tasty chocolate prizes during the last week of term. The Junior children were all very creative with their Easter bonnets, which they proudly paraded around the playground for their parents. The Juniors even had a very special visit from the Easter Bunny himself who came to hand out the Easter eggs to the children.



Braeside School



As usual, Coopersale Hall went all out for Easter starting with a visit from the Easter animals. The children had the chance to meet some wonderful

animals, including the Easter Bunny! On the last day of term all pupils came to school wearing some spectacular bonnets that they enjoyed parading round in outside. Both the Early Years and Years 1 to 6 showcased an array of songs to family and friends, certainly ending the year with a bang.



Coopersale Hall School



Year 2 made the most of the sunshine for their Easter celebrations at Normanhurst. They took a walk to the green by the church to take part in an Easter egg hunt in the sunshine. The NSPA also arranged a lovely Easter walk to Connaught Water and back before returning to the school for a hot cross bun and a drink or two!

The children from Oaklands were very excited to welcome the Easter Bunny to school. Each year group had the chance to go and meet the Bunny, sing him a song, and collect a chocolate egg. Year 2 pupils also visited St



Normanhurst School



Mary's Church and listened to a talk from Reverend Malcom Macdonald. They enjoyed learning about the significance of hot crossed buns and also enjoyed eating them!



Oaklands School



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Loughton Young Artists Exhibition

On Friday 25 January we were treated to a stunning exhibition of artwork produced by GCSE pupils at Normanhurst and Braeside School. The gallery was packed from the start of the event until the end, with many proud pupils, parents and teachers admiring the work.

The exhibition formed a part of Loughton Young Artists competition, which is a showcase for outstanding



artwork produced by schools in the area. The exhibition featured work completed in a range of media, from painting to sculpture. It was an excellent way to celebrate the creative talent of our pupils.

The GCSE exhibition was open to the public in the gallery for the rest of the week. Later in February there was also a prize giving ceremony at the gallery.



Braeside Dance Show



During the Spring Term, family and friends were treated to a wonderful dance assembly by Braeside Junior

pupils. The children have been working on their moves in their PE lessons, so each of their dances had an Autumn theme.

Year 1 and 2 children gave a scary rendition of the 'Monster Mash', complete with some creative masks. Year 3 and 4 then sang and danced in the rain in their Autumn weather inspired dance, before Year 5 danced to Katy Perry's 'Firework'. Early Years children rounded off the show by delighting the audience with their little Autumn fairies moves.

All of the children worked hard in the run up to the event, having come up with most of the moves themselves.

Well done to all of our pupils!



Oaklands Year 2 Multi-Sports Festival

In March the whole of Year 2 at Oaklands took part in a Multi-Sports Competition to complete their topic for PE this half term.

In the 5 weeks leading up to the event they had been learning, practising and performing various activities such as



football, tennis, hockey and basketball. It was clear that they had been working very hard in PE by watching their amazing standard in all the activities.

The Year 6 pupils acted as 'House team buddies' and did an excellent job looking after the younger children and scoring all of their events.

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Incredible Assemblies from Oaklands



There have been some particularly impressive assemblies at Oaklands during the Spring Term, with different year groups taking it in turns to entertain the rest of the school and their parents.

Year 3 travelled back in time to the Roman era. Donning some spectacular

costumes they took to the stage and told the tale of a time travelling adventure with songs, dancing and acting that showed how much they learnt about how the Romans lived.

Year 2 showcased their interpretation of several famous Roald Dahl stories during their show, such as James and the Giant Peach, Matilda and George's Marvellous Medicine. They all deserved their huge applause, and



were more than happy to sing their favourite song as an encore.

Our brave Lower Kindergarten children also took to the stage and told the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', complete with actions. There were some very proud parents and teachers in the hall!

Well done to all of these children!



Normanhurst Celebrate Science Week

Science Week is always an exciting event in the Normanhurst calendar, and this year was no exception. The



theme was 'Science in the real world', which meant the children could be



involved in a range of interactive workshops through the week.

Pupils from Year 1 to 6 enjoyed a Sublime Science workshop, where they could make their own slime, edible sherbet and fake snow. There was also a Forensic Science workshop where the pupils had to work together to use their scientific skills to solve the

case of a stolen dog.

In addition to these workshops run by outside providers, pupils also took part in a range of other activities in their classrooms that included hatching sea dragons, making volcanoes, planting cress, learning the anatomy of colour, making lava lamps, experimenting with Oobleck, exploring how parachutes work and a truly EGGcellent assembly!

*"I have a few words...
Science is awesome!"*

- Mia Year 5

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Sporting Successes

Football

The annual House Football Competition at Oaklands saw Holly and Sycamore Houses tie for 1st place. Well done!

Coopersale Hall teams have so far been performing well in their League Matches with some impressive wins.



Some Year 5 and 6 from Normanhurst played in the ISFA Tournament at Harrow School last term, and although they did not progress in the tournament, with only selected schools invited to attend, this was a great achievement in itself.



Netball

The Spring Term saw the arrival of the annual House Netball Competition at Braeside, and this year was closer than ever between the 4 Houses. The winner was Fry House, who showed

some amazing teamwork. In Netball Braeside has combined forces with Normanhurst this year to put the best team forward for the ISA Netball, and have been making excellent progress.

Swimming

Both Oaklands and Coopersale Hall have been successful in swimming this term. KS2 pupils from Oaklands took part in the annual Swimming Gala in March and Willow House came out victorious. Coopersale Hall also held a House Swimming Gala, with Beech claiming the Shield. Oaklands and Normanhurst both attended to Forest School Swimming Gala with some excellent results.

Tag Rugby

This year the pupils have been trying their hand at Tag Rugby, which for many meant learning some new skills. These skills were taken to the ISA Tag Rugby Tournament, and although they didn't qualify for the semi-finals, there were some fun draws between the schools in the Oak-Tree Group.

Cross Country

In February the schools took part in the ISA London North Cross Country Championships, and had some very strong runners. Annabella from Oaklands progressed to the ISA National Cross Country Championships where she came 7th overall - what a remarkable achievement! Coopersale Hall took part in the Epping and Ongar District Cross Country Races and came 2nd in the small schools competition. In the Prep Schools Cross Country, in which all 4 schools took part, congratulations go to Coopersale Hall

and Oaklands who both came away with medals.



Every Friday morning at Braeside pupils from both the Juniors and Seniors braved the cold for their running club, which was excellent preparation for the ISA Cross Country Championships.



Normanhurst travelled to the Orion Harriers Cross Country event, where the best runners from Waltham Forest take part. Overall there were 420 runners, and everyone who raced for Normanhurst finished in the top half of the finishers. Well done!

Karate

Charlie from Coopersale Hall has been progressing extremely well in Karate recently, having just received his 1st Kyu with a distinction. Charlie has also captained the school karate team to success as they came first in the Annual District Competition.

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Ready, Steady, Cook Chartwells Roadshow

Our school meal provider, Chartwells, came into both Braeside and Normanhurst during the Spring Term for their annual roadshow to teach the pupils how fun and easy cooking can be.

A few pupils from each school were called up to cook and were split into either the Red Team or Green Team. With the help of a teacher and some fresh ingredients they were given 15 minutes to cook up something



creative and wonderful. When they were done, some of the other pupils were then invited up for a taste test and to vote for their favourite.

From Normanhurst, the winning team was Red Team who cooked up a spicy

Mexican dish. The Red Team also won from Braeside, whose finished creation was a delicious fish and rice dish.

Thank you Chartwells for providing a fun food experience for our pupils.



Coopersale Hall Bikeability



Last month Year 6 took part in a

Bikeability course to help them understand how to stay safe when cycling on the road. On the first day of the course, a lot of the learning took place in the playground and then once they had all passed that stage it was time to move on to the local streets.

The two-day course gives the children a real cycling experience where they can learn first hand how to deal with traffic. Well done to all of our cyclists for riding confidently and listening



carefully to the instructors. At the end of the sessions the children were awarded with badges for their work.

Prep Schools Cross Country

Several local schools took part in the Local Prep School Cross Country Competition, held at Coopersale Hall. There were some tough competitors but all four Oak-Tree schools did a fantastic job on a very tricky course. Everyone found the last incline exhausting!

A large crowd of supporters cheered on our sprinters which really boosted



morale! It was really pleasing to see so much team work within the Oak-Tree Schools.

Well done to everyone who took part, and especially to Coopersale Hall and Oaklands who both came away with medals.



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Wacky Dress Day

The children at Coopersale Hall enjoyed dressing up in their wackiest clothes at school to raise money for Wood Green Animal Shelter. There were some fantastic colours, clothes and hair, with everyone enjoying the chance to show off their craziest outfit!

A Fantastic Trashion Show

A highlight of the Spring Term was the inventive Oaklands Trashion show catwalk! All of the Houses worked together to design outfits and accessories for their house out of trash/rubbish. The finished outfits were very impressive!



Braeside Win the Eco-Schools Bronze Award

Congratulations to the Braeside Green Team who have just completed the Eco-Schools Bronze Award! In order to be awarded this status the pupils had to complete a number of tasks. They

have been working hard to complete an environmental review, and have now written an action plan that they will work on during the Summer Term.

Once they heard the news, the Green Team updated the rest of the school in a special assembly.



Key Trips across the Group

- St Albans Cathedral
- Hadleigh Park
- Lee Valley Country Park
- St Mary's Church
- Houses of Parliament
- National Gallery
- Colchester Zoo
- Science Museum
- Tate Modern
- The Globe Theatre
- Epping Forest Field Centre
- The British Library
- The Emmanuel Centre
- Bletchley Park
- Stratford Olympic Park
- Rainforest Café
- Hertford Theatre
- Roald Dahl Museum
- Willows Farm
- Barleylands
- Woodford Fire Station
- Greenwich Thames Explorer
- Central Baptist Church
- Apollo Victoria
- Holocaust Memorial
- British French Institute
- Geography Field Trip to Whitechapel and Old Spitalfields
- National Portrait Gallery
- Museum of Childhood
- Paradise Wildlife Park

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Braeside Junior House Gymnastics Competition



For the first time, Braeside held a Gymnastics Competition at the Junior site. Children from Year 1 to 5 have all been working on their moves in lessons and had the opportunity to put all of their hard work to the test.

A pupil from each year group took it in turns to come up in front of the judges and perform the routine that they had mastered. For each move completed the children would get a point, if they did it well they would get 2 points and if they completed the moves perfectly then they would receive 3 points. Moves included jumping, skipping,



planking and even in some cases doing the splits!



Once everyone had performed, the scores were counted and the House with the biggest mean score was announced as the winner.

Congratulations to Fry House who did extremely well and claimed 1st place!

Oak-Tree Summer Ball 2019

The Oak-Tree Summer Ball on Saturday 18 May is fast approaching, and is set to be a fantastic evening for everyone. The theme this year is James Bond's Casino Royale, and a range of entertainment has been arranged to keep everyone entertained until the early hours.

As well as a Champagne reception on arrival, guests will receive a three course meal including half a bottle of wine per person, plus there will be a jazz band, 'close up' magicians performing sleight of hand tricks throughout the evening, fun casino



tables, silent auction and raffle, DJ and a professional photographer to take photos throughout the night.

As a main event in the school calendars, tickets are selling very quickly. The booking form can be found on the Oak-Tree website, and tickets are charged at 1 for £70, or 10 for £630.

All profits from the evening (from ticket sales, auctions, raffles etc) will go back to the school's Parents' Association to benefit the children.

We hope to see you there!

MAY 18TH | 7PM TO 12.30AM

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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



The biggest event this term for FOBS was the Easter Bunny visit and Easter egg hunt. The children were so excited to meet the Bunny and enjoyed searching for the Easter tokens. They especially enjoyed tasty Easter treat at the end. Thanks to the work of FOBS this year, Braeside are much closer to reaching their target to purchase 30 iPads for both the Junior and Senior sites.

Coopersale Hall



Years 2 to 6 enjoyed a movie night organised by FoCHS in March, and the showing of Peter Rabbit proved to be a popular choice. Before the holidays, FoCHS arranged for the Easter Bunny and a collection of his animal friends to visit the children in school. Everyone enjoyed saying hello to the Bunny and had the opportunity to hold a range of exotic creatures including a tarantula!

Normanhurst



As usual the NSPA have been busy arranging many events for both the pupils and their families during the Spring term. The events started with the Kindergarten to Year 3 Disco in February, which was really well attended and a lot of fun. Nearer the end of term the NSPA organised an Easter Walk and Egg Hunt, with tasty hot cross buns and drinks gratefully received by families back at the school.

Oaklands



Oaklands pupils were also very excited to meet the Easter Bunny, which was a special treat set up by the OPA. The Bunny greeted all the children either in the Playground or in the school and gave them an Easter egg to enjoy at home. The children had a lot of fun at the Easter Disco, which was arranged for all year groups with a separate one for the Early Years children. There were some great dance moves thrown on the dance floor and everyone had an EGGcellent time!