



March 2020

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Spring Term has flown past us, with the very occasional glimpse of sunshine in the last week or two that hopefully indicates that warmer weather may be with us soon!

As the weeks go by, I continue to be amazed by the pupils at Oaklands School. They all have a such deeply embedded enthusiasm for learning and experimenting with ideas, together with an outstanding positive attitude towards all the range of activities that make up the daily life at our school.

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

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 6 March when many of the pupils transformed themselves into Harry Potter, Mary Poppins or characters from Alice in Wonderland!

Given the present health situation, our sporting calendar has unfortunately not been as busy as normal as local and national competitions were gradually cancelled as we moved through the half term.

However, there is still lots to read about, including events and the achievements of the pupils, in this newsletter.

May I wish you all a happy Easter. I look forward to hopefully welcoming you and your children back to School on Tuesday 21 April.

Sue Belej

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LK Meet the Animals

The younger children got the chance to meet a huge range of animals for Science Week. They were all very brave, saying hello to creepy crawlies, reptiles, birds and fluffy creatures.





Awards

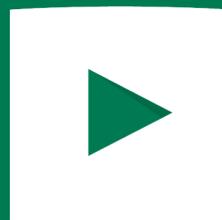
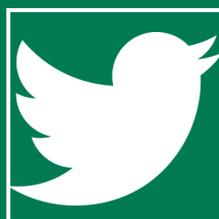
Since the last newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with either a Merit, Good Behaviour or Friendship certificate.

	Merit	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1RF	Ni'al Diwan, Scarlett	Isabella Smith	Jude Baldock
1Z	Aakarsh, Zachariah	Arabella Govender	Denzel Defoe
2C	Jude Foley, Max Yau	Max Yau	Anaya Sanghera
2S	Lina Valero Teuma, Siddharth Natarajan	Richard Gingell	Julia Berdine
3C	Gabriella Goldstein, Georgia Prokopi	Sienna Cotts	Rafaella Epaminondas
4C	Zayan Uddin, Tyran Pabla	Melveen Sandhu	Dylan Patel
4Z	Zavier Siah, Oliver Hagger	Libby Green	Zavier Siah
5C	Ava Houlding, Riana Guenzl	Thiago D'Agostino	Sophie Epaminondas
6G	Freya Cole, Poppy Sharp	Phoebe Connolly	Jeyda Faik
6J	Charlotte Lemka, Gwilym Thomas	Waiz Muhammad	Inaya Jeelani

Well done everyone!

Getting Social

Please click on the buttons below to be taken to our social media platforms and website.





NEWSLETTER

World Book Day

During the first week of March, the children had fun dressing up as their favourite book characters for World Book Day. All the children looked fantastic and there were plenty of Harry Potters and Mary Poppins' roaming the school!

World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and 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. The school raised an amazing **£161.62** on World Book Day which will be donated to Book Aid International.



Year 2S

2S wrote about what makes a good friend. In PSHE they discussed the many different traits of a good friend and then the children wrote them onto their flowers and created this wonderful display.



Year 6 Bancroft's Science Fair



This term, ten Year 6 pupils were invited to the annual Bancroft Science Fair at Bancroft School. The pupils, who were selected 'out of a hat', were all delighted to have been chosen.

With several other junior schools, the pupils visited the Biology Department to look through microscopes, investigate fossils and try their hand at mind bending puzzles. In the Engineering Department, they built rockets and fired them across the school field. While in the Chemistry Department they were treated to an explosive demonstration, including (albeit small) a hydrogen bomb!



The afternoon concluded with the Bancroft 6th Formers giving interactive demonstrations of their favourite bit of science. An inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all (teachers included!).

Reception Visit St Albans Cathedral

Reception recently visited St Albans Cathedral. They explored measure, shape, pattern and colour through various activities. The children were amazed by the stained glass windows and experimented with mixing colours and shapes to create their own. Another favourite activity was measuring the height of the cathedral using a balloon!

They also used their arms, feet and hands to measure inside the cathedral. The children clearly enjoyed their experiences as they have produced some excellent



Mindfulness Club

Mindfulness Club is a new, daily lunch time club that was introduced to children in Y1-Y5 a couple of weeks ago and has been an instantaneous success with a large number of children. Each class, on a rotational basis, is invited to the Science Room to listen to relaxing music with the opportunity to draw or colour pictures or chat quietly with their friend/s. A member of the Senior Leadership team is on duty in the room with the children.

Many children have commented that it is great to have a different activity to do at lunch time as they do not want to play games on the playground every day.



NEWSLETTER

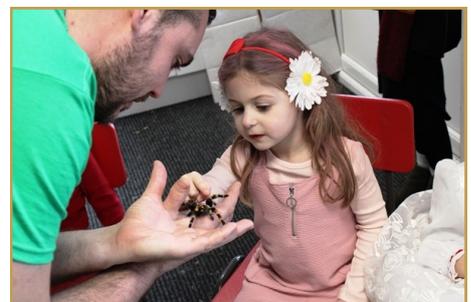
Science Week KS1 and KS2 Mini-Zoo

The children at Oaklands were given the opportunity to interact with a variety of insects, birds and animals this term as part of Science Week. 'Get To Know Animals', is an indoor mini-petting zoo who provided our children with lots of 30 minute workshops.

During the workshop, experienced rangers introduced the children to a variety of animals and insects. Each child was given the opportunity to interact with the animals. The children were able to ask questions and the rangers explained all there is to know about the animals, their territories and food preferences. The children were especially excited to meet Ron the giant rabbit and Holly the miniature schnauzer.

At the end of each session, the children entertained Nigel the Cockatoo by singing "If you're happy and you know it show your wings" ... Some children were fortunate to see Nigel react to the song, happily showing off his wings and dancing to the beat.

All the children had a wonderful experience and some of them even showed bravery and courage when interacting with the variation of animals. Well done to all of you.



Lower Kindergarten Adventures

The children in Lower Kindergarten have been enjoying a variety of Easter activities. The Easter sensory tray was a very popular choice, allowing the children to explore different textures. The children also



used their imaginations to create games with the toy chicks and bunnies and developed their counting skills by counting the big and small eggs.



Near the end of the week everyone decided to have an Egg and Spoon race in class. The children were very excited to see their teachers demonstrate first and cheered them on as they made their way around the classroom.

Finally, the children had their go by racing in groups of two and three. They found it very tricky to keep their egg on the spoon but showed determination to get to the finish line.

Year 6G Mothers' Day Creations

Year 6 have been using their creative skills to design a present for mums on Mothers' Day. A variety of resources were used such as paint, felt-tip pens, buttons, ribbons and a splattering of glitter!

The finished, crafty results were fantastic. A super end to a fantastic term.



Year 1Z Planting



In their Science lessons, Year 1 have been learning all about plants. They conducted an experiment to see which type of plant would grow best in the classroom.

Some children grew cress, some grew flowers and some grew courgettes.



Everyone has been giving their plants water and sunlight and some have finally sprouted!

Year 3 Hadleigh Country Park Trip



Year 3 recently visited Hadleigh Country Park to attend a series of Roman and Celtic workshops. The day began with a visit to a Celtic roundhouse, which was strange as it appeared much larger on the inside than it did on the outside. It was full of all sorts of Celtic and Roman artefacts, including querns, which the class used to grind wheat, much as people long ago would have done.



Year 3 were lucky enough to be joined by a real-life Celtic warrior and a Roman soldier. It was anyone's guess as to who would get the upper hand in battle. They also took part in an archaeological dig and discovered everything from chain mail, spear heads and swords, to bones.



Year 1Z Drop-in session

Year 1 had a lovely time looking through all of their books with their parents on Wednesday 4 March for the drop-in session. The parents were impressed with how much the children had covered since they had their last drop in session and it was wonderful to see the children so animated and excited to share their excellent achievements.

Reception Explore Habitats in the Wild Woods

Reception children took part in a range of activities to find out which animals lived in woodland areas and our Wild Woods. They looked closely at the way they move and the tracks they make. The children learnt that owls, badger, foxes and hedgehogs live in woodlands for food and shelter.





NEWSLETTER

Reception Robins WBD



Robin Class celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite characters and sharing their favourite books with each other. Here's Paddington Bear and Little Red Riding Hood reading together.



Year 4C Learn About the Egyptians

4C have used all their knowledge of the Egyptians to create their own informative posters about farming, mummification, food and clothing. Once they finished their own posters, they went and visited another group to tell them all about their chosen topic, this was to enable all groups to learn something new!



Year 6J Poets



Year 6 were encouraged to share the poems they have been working on to the rest of the class. The task was to incorporate personification, metaphors and other poetic features into their work.

They all did a fantastic job!



Haven House Cheque Presentation

The Early Years were delighted to present a cheque for £960 to Haven House following our Festive Feet Danceathon.

The Festive Feet Funday took place in December, with pupils wearing festive socks to participate in the sponsored Danceathon lasting 15 or 20 minutes, depending on age.

Thank you all for your generous donations!





NEWSLETTER

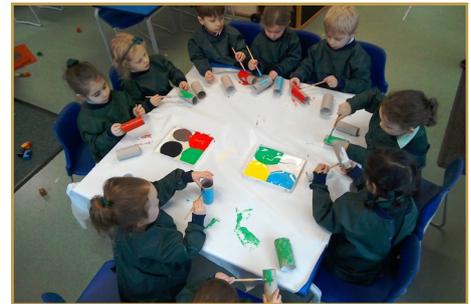
Upper Kindergarten Go on a Bear Hunt



Upper Kindergarten have been learning about the story of 'We're going on a bear hunt'. They have all made their own map and binoculars to help them explore the Wild Woods looking for the bear and his cave.

The children talked about their favourite toppings for their pancakes. Using a variety of different materials they decorated a pancake

template. They all thought their pancakes tasted delicious!



Conserve and Protect with Year 4Z

4Z have taken great interest in the ways we can conserve and protect the natural habitat of wildlife species. They have been busy researching wildlife around the world and enjoyed looking at a wide variety of animals including alpacas, Weddell seals and Chinstrap penguins. The children gave a presentation on their chosen animal and were confident in sharing amazing facts with the class. They had to elaborate on the reasons why we need to protect the wildlife and predict the outcome if the response is too slow.



Sports Relief



On Friday 13 March, pupils and staff joined forces and dressed as their favourite Sporting Hero to help celebrate and raise funds for Sports Relief!

It was fantastic to see so many amazing outfits, happy faces and positivity at Oaklands and the school are so proud of everyone's efforts to make it an enjoyable day.



In the end we raised an incredible £212.95 for Sport Relief which is sure to make a huge difference.

Thank you everyone for your donations!





NEWSLETTER

Cross Country Races

On Wednesday 11 March, pupils took part in the annual Woodford Green Preparatory School Cross Country race. On a beautiful sunny afternoon, it was great to see the pupils having fun and getting extremely muddy! They all ran their socks and shoes off, and finished the 1 mile course in some very good times. In amongst the impressive performances, the Year 4 Girls team managed to finish 1st in the team race with all the pupils finishing in the top places. Well done to all the Cross Country Team!



Science Week Fun

The energetic Professor Sulfa-Nitrate guided the children through a science tour of discovery. They learned about elements, why molecules bond, discovered the magic of lift and the power of pressure as well as experiencing explosions! They looked at gravity, thrust, lift, pressure, chemical reactions, fire, molecules and bonds and of course, bangs and blasts!

The children were engaged in this session with lots of volunteers helping out with various engaging experiments. Thank you to Education Group for entertaining us while we have learnt a lot through laughter and fun. This was truly a fantastic workshop.



Dinosaurs Visit Oaklands

We had a very special visitor at Oaklands as part of Science week. The pupils were very surprised when a huge dinosaur made its way into the hall!

During the morning, pupils across all year groups had the opportunity to take part in a series of workshops where they learnt more about fossils, dinosaurs and more. They even got the chance to dig for their own fossils.

For the afternoon session, the children first said hello to 'baby Jax', a young T-Rex and his owner. The children from Reception to Year 2 could stroke him and learn more about how he lived and what he ate. It was when a huge T-Rex walked into the hall that the children could not believe their eyes! As a very well behaved dinosaur, the children who were brave enough could come and say hello to him as well. What an exciting day.

