

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2022



Issue 19

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Group Principal's Message

It never ceases to amaze me as to just how much gets packed into such a relatively short period of time. The Autumn Term was certainly no exception and you will see here that our pupils had a huge number of opportunities to extend their learning outside the classroom with a variety of activities.

The four schools are coming together more and more for shared experiences, educational activities and healthy sporting or academic competitions, and this is a testament to the teams of dedicated staff throughout the Group who are always so keen to collaborate and enhance the learning.

Coopersale Hall will take senior-aged children for the first time from September 2023 as the inaugural group of Year 7 pupils start with us. This is an exciting phase in the school's history and will provide even more opportunities for collaboration and extended learning opportunities.

Thank you for your continuing support and the immeasurable part you play in helping us to educate your children. I hope you managed to get some quality family time over the break, before the start of another busy Spring Term.

With kind regards

Matthew Hagger
Matthew Hagger

A New Look For Braeside

The new uniform was a big hit with pupils on their first day back at school. The smart new blazers give a fresh and modern look to the uniform and go perfectly with the new winter jumpers.

Uniform has featured heavily in our many discussions and surveys with parents and pupils over the years.

In conjunction with the gradual move towards full coeducation, the views

of our school community have prompted much work behind the scenes redesigning a modern uniform, and we are so pleased with the outcome, as are the pupils!



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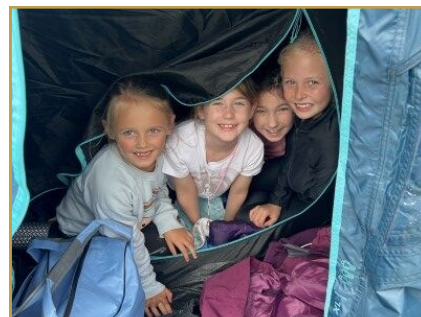
Oak-Tree Camp

Year 3 pupils from the Oak-Tree Schools had a fun-filled few days at the start of term taking part in the annual Oak-Tree Camp. The pupils arrived at the Oaklands campsite in high spirits with their overnight bags. For some pupils, this was their first time staying away from home for the night, and everyone did so well.



They first had to put up their own tents for the night, which was certainly a tricky challenge, before taking part in a range of team-building activities and games. The pupils enjoyed sitting around the camp fire in the evening and tucking into a tasty meal, roasting marshmallows, telling stories and singing songs. There were a few sleepy faces in the morning, but

there was still enough energy left for a few more games after breakfast.



Oak-Tree Football and Netball Tournament

On Monday 10 October, girls from Oaklands, Normanhurst, Braeside and Coopersale Hall took part in the U11's Oak-Tree Netball Tournament, while the U11 boys took part in the Oak-Tree Football Tournament.

There were some very close matches and lots of fantastic sportsmanship from all of our pupils, who all competed for their schools.

Everyone should be very proud of their efforts!

The final results for Netball were;

- 1st** Coopersale Hall
- 2nd** Oaklands
- 3rd** Braeside
- 4th** Normanhurst



Final Football results were;

A Competition:

- 1st** Coopersale Hall
- 2nd** Normanhurst
- 3rd** Oaklands

B Competition:

- 1st** Coopersale Hall
- 2nd** Oaklands
- 3rd** Normanhurst



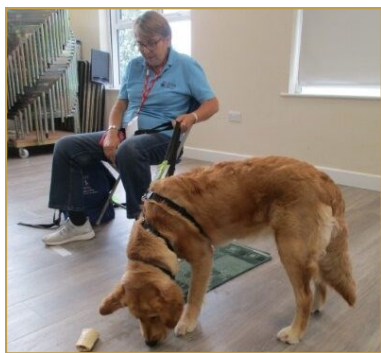
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A Special Visitor at Oaklands

The children at Oaklands have been learning about the role of guide dogs in the community and how they support people who have sight loss. They particularly enjoyed meeting Duffy, who is a puppy being trained to become a guide dog. They were impressed with how well-behaved he was throughout the entire assembly. The pupils learnt about how guide dogs could be trained to navigate a range of different obstacles, access public transport, navigate town centres and help people who are visually impaired to live their lives safely.



Coopersale Hall Tree Planting

Led by Amelia, Head of the Eco Council, the members of the Eco Council, School Council and Year 6 helped with the planting of trees donated by The Woodland Trust.

Helped by the Deputy Mayor of Epping, the children enjoyed planting 30 saplings, including Wild Cherry, Rowan and Silver Birch.

The planting of the trees will count towards The Queen's Green Canopy, an initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites everyone across the UK to plant trees.

Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, and the wishes of His Majesty The King, the initiative will give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour The Queen.

The Queen's Green Canopy will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's remarkable service over so many years. This will create a green legacy, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and the climate now and for the future.

The children chose a tree sapling to be named after them and were given the responsibility to plant and nurture it. They will continue to look after their trees periodically throughout the year.



Normanhurst Parliament Week

The School Council representatives in Years 3 to 6 delivered an exciting and informative assembly about the UK Parliament Week. UK Parliament Week is an annual event to spread the word about what Parliament is, what it does and how you can get involved.

UK Parliament Week runs during the week of 14th-20th November. The School Council representatives informed the Juniors about the details of Parliament Week, The Houses of Parliament, important people to be aware of and reminded them that they can take action and make an impact on the issues they care about.

Well done to all of the representatives involved.



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Harvest Festivals



Normanhurst and Braeside held their traditional Harvest Festivals at their local churches in Buckhurst Hill and Chingford. There were lots of songs and performances from children of all ages and even some lovely solo performances from our seniors.

Oaklands held a special Harvest Festival assembly about why we celebrate this time of year and why it is important to be appreciative of what we have.

Coopersale Hall held three lovely Harvest Festival performances for families, filled with jolly songs and performances.

Thank you to all of our families for your generous donations of food and toiletries, we know they will have been greatly appreciated by the local food banks.



ISA Art Competition

This year at Braeside there have been some fantastic results in the annual ISA Art Competition with the highest number of students being awarded 1st place to date. The awards were much deserved and the winning pieces of artwork were original, highly creative and showed exceptional skill levels.



Well done to all the pupils who had their work selected for entry, the standard of work this year was extremely high.



We are delighted to also announce Normanhurst's success at this year's ISA London North Regional Art Competition. Our amazingly talented students excelled in a broad range of

categories, including painting, drawing and textiles.

Well done to everyone involved!



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Braeside Sports News

On Tuesday 13 September, Year 1 and 2 took part in the WESSA Football Festival at Epping Upper Clapton Rugby Club. The girls had a fantastic time and they all took part in the tournament. They played well and showed off the skills they have learnt in their lessons.



The rain managed to hold off for the annual Braeside House Netball Tournament this year. There was a high quality of netball skills on display all afternoon, and a fantastic atmosphere with lots of cheering and singing.

Congratulations to Nightingale on their win!



On a very sunny day at the start of December, Year 5, 4 and 6 travelled to the Peter May Centre in Highams Park for the highly contested annual House Football Competition. The girls played brilliantly, with Bronte House winning.



11+

1 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

3 INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES

SIT JUST 1 ENTRANCE EXAM TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ALL 3 OF THE OAK-TREE GROUP'S SENIOR DEPARTMENTS

CHOICE OF MONDAY 16 OR TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023

Oaklands House Athletics Competition

150 pupils took part in the House Athletics Competition this term. There were some outstanding scores with everyone trying their absolute best to score vital points for their Houses. Activities included speed bounce, vertical jump, chest push, standing long jump, standing triple jump, javelin, target throw and shuttle run.

Well done to Holly House who were the eventual winners.

Results and Points:

- 1st** – Holly - 12,117
- 2nd** – Willow - 11,565
- 3rd** – Sycamore - 11,464
- 4th** – Beech - 10,895



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House Cross Country

Coopersale Hall held a very successful House Cross Country event for Junior pupils. There were 8 races in total, with boys and girls from each year group competing in different races. The children were encouraged to pace themselves as they lapped the fields and to race their own race. As long as they crossed the finish line, they earned points for their team.



The results were very close this year, but when the points were added up, it was announced that Chestnut House were the overall winners.

We are very proud of our pupils for showing such great team spirit, cheering on their team mates and making sure that everyone crossed the finish line.



Winners, Chestnut House



Braeside Humanities Day

Junior pupils celebrated Humanities by taking part in a Geography themed Humanities Day. Pupils have been finding out all about Japan. Year 1 to Year 6 listened to some Japanese stories, as well as finding out about the culture and geographical features of the country.

In the afternoon, they then took part in a selection of activities from trying out origami to Japanese mindfulness and drawing Manga characters. They even tried to write some words using the tricky Japanese writing system. Meanwhile, in Reception, the pupils created some beautiful finger paintings of cherry blossom trees.

What inspiring and creative lessons!



[braesidesch](https://www.instagram.com/braesidesch)

[coopersalesch](https://www.instagram.com/coopersalesch)

[normanhurstschool](https://www.instagram.com/normanhurstschool)

[oaklandssch](https://www.instagram.com/oaklandssch)



[@BraesideSch](https://twitter.com/BraesideSch)

[@CoopersaleHSch](https://twitter.com/CoopersaleHSch)

[@NormanhurstSch](https://twitter.com/NormanhurstSch)

[@OaklandsSch](https://twitter.com/OaklandsSch)



[Braeside School](https://www.facebook.com/BraesideSchool)

[Coopersale Hall School](https://www.facebook.com/CoopersaleHallSchool)

[Normanhurst School](https://www.facebook.com/NormanhurstSchool)

[Oaklands School](https://www.facebook.com/OaklandsSchool)

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Coopersale Hall Remembrance Day

On Monday 7 November, the whole school gathered for a special Remembrance Assembly on the terrace.

The children learnt about why this day is remembered and what the poppy represents. Each pupil made a poppy to be included on a beautiful display.

The children gathered for a minute's

silence after listening to the 'Last Post' on the bugle.

The Year 6 prefects did an excellent job representing the school at the Sunday morning's Epping Memorial



service, laying a wreath on behalf of Coopersale Hall in front of the local community.

Normanhurst Black History Month Celebrations

During the month of October, as part of the school's Black History Month celebrations, the children have had the opportunity to take part in lots of workshops and activities.

Pupils had enjoyed learning about Gumboot Dancing, where they learnt a few different routines; African Drumming, learning a traditional

Ghanaian rhythm called Kpanlogo; and African food in a tasting and history workshop. The celebrations didn't stop there as more workshops ran throughout the month along with various classroom activities.



Oaklands Shakespeare Performance

Year 4 performed an amazing Shakespearean show for their families on 21 October. The children told the story of William Shakespeare through acting, songs and dances, telling the

audience about his life and some of his famous works.

The audience learnt about The Globe Theatre and all of the different people involved behind the scenes as well as on the stage. Well done on a fantastic performance Year 4!



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Christmas Shows

Coopersale Hall

Kindergarten, Reception and KS1 children put on some fantastic shows for their families filled with songs, dancing and Nativity stories.

The children looked amazing in their costumes and Christmas jumpers. Reception even learnt sign language to some of the songs!

Braeside

The juniors wowed their families with a spectacular Christmas show at St James' Church. The Reception children even flawlessly accompanied Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star on the handbells. It



Braeside School



Normanhurst School



end of the service, which we are sure helped many in need over the festive season.

Thank you to all who donated at the Christmas performances this year - and well done to the children!



Coopersale Hall School



was an afternoon of Christmas cheer and certainly got the audience in the festive spirit!

Normanhurst

This year, the Nativity had a slight twist, with a 'Superstar' singing theme running throughout. Year 1 and 2 were excellent at acting and narrating the story, while Kindergarten brought to life a Nativity tableau complete with some fantastic costumes.

Oaklands

The annual Oaklands Carol Service was a huge success this year, with children from Years 1 to 6 filling the church with songs and music. St Mary's Church hosted the service, creating a beautiful setting for an afternoon of carols and performances

As per tradition, the collection for Mill Grove Family Centre was taken at the



Oaklands School



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Normanhurst Fashion Week

The school held an incredible fashion show in the hall, complete with catwalk and judge. The judge was past pupil Eden, who took Art at Normanhurst previously and has gone on to do use his talents for work, including modelling.

The theme this year was saving our planet, and every item of clothing had been carefully crafted by the pupils, made purely out of recycled materials. We enjoyed seeing our pupils strut their stuff up and down the stage and hear the cheers of support from the audience. The event ended with the Heads of the Houses taking part in a

very exciting speed costume making competition!



Coopersale Hall Dyslexia Awareness Week

Coopersale Hall celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Week in October. Across the school, children learnt about what dyslexia is, what it means to be dyslexic, the challenges faced and the many associated positives.

The children learnt about various famous people with dyslexia and their many achievements. They even watched a video that Richard Branson made and sent to two Coopersale Hall pupils, Albie and George, telling them

how he shares the same super power as them – dyslexia!



Sir Richard Branson is very passionate about changing the way people think about dyslexia and is involved in many charities, including Made By

Dyslexia, the world's largest community of dyslexic people and allies. Amazingly, Albie and George inspired Richard to write a blog post about how dyslexia shouldn't hold you back in life and how it's actually a superpower that they should be proud of.



Braeside PGL Trip

On Friday 7 October, pupils travelled to East Sussex for the highly anticipated PGL trip.

The weekend was packed with competitive games of netball as well as many other fun activities.

The team scored a total of 40 goals in

the group stage, which was an amazing achievement. They won the semi-final 3-1 and deservedly went into the final. Although the team came a close second in the final, they should be immensely proud of themselves for being runners up in this highly contested tournament.

They also took part in a number of

different thrill-seeking activities over the weekend including axe throwing and an exhilarating high ropes course.



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Snow Day!

As the cold spell hit in December, all four schools were blanketed in a beautiful layer of crisp white snow.

Pupils who managed to make it into school enjoyed taking part in snowball fights and snow people building competitions in the school playgrounds.



Our pupils who could not make it in sent in some fantastic photos of their time in the snow.

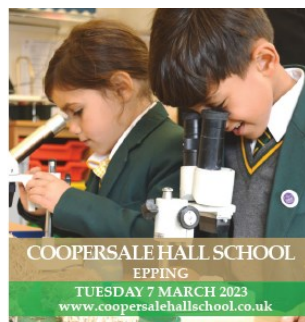
Coopersale Hall Headmistress, Miss Barnard, took some beautiful photos of the school looking like a picture perfect Christmas card.

Normanhurst Big Plant

The Site Manager, Mr Whyte, set himself the arduous task of planting 200 bedding plants in the front garden of the school this year. Armed with a selection of tools and lots of eager helpers, the team set to work on a chilly November afternoon. The flowers are set to bloom from February onwards, and there are hundreds of beautiful bulbs also waiting to flower. We can't wait to see what the garden will look like come spring!



MARCH OPEN DAYS



COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL
EPPING
TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2023
www.coopersalehallschool.co.uk



BRAESIDE SCHOOL
BUCKHURST HILL
WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2023
www.braesideschool.co.uk



NORMANHURST SCHOOL
NORTH CHINGFORD
WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023
www.normanhurstschool.co.uk



OAKLANDS SCHOOL
LOUGHTON
THURSDAY 9 MARCH
www.oaklandsschool.co.uk

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School Trips

Normanhurst Year 6 pupils visited the Duxford Aviation Museum to further develop their knowledge on World War II.

The pupils' first stop was the 1940s Control Room, which was crucial during the Battle of Britain. There were so many opportunities for pupils to get close to various aircraft. The children visited the D-Day exhibition, watching a short movie that explained how the landings changed the course of the war and about the USA's involvement. They were even able to handle some of the replica items, outfits and weapons that were used during the war.

It was an extremely informative day for all the pupils, and they thoroughly enjoyed their visit.



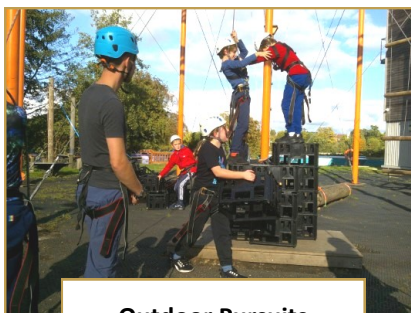
Duxford Aviation Museum

On Thursday 13th of October Coopersale Hall's Year 5 pupils embarked on an exciting school trip to Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

The children took part in a variety of

exciting and challenging activities, including canoeing, crate-stacking and rock climbing.

Everyone worked together to complete each task and really encouraged each other. It was lovely to see how proud the children were of themselves.



Outdoor Pursuits

Year 2 at Oaklands enjoyed their trip to St Paul's Cathedral. In awe of how big the building was and the spectacular ceilings, the children laid down underneath the dome for some reflection time and to admire the architecture. They then took on the task of climbing the 528 steps to the top of the dome, where they were greeted with spectacular views of London.



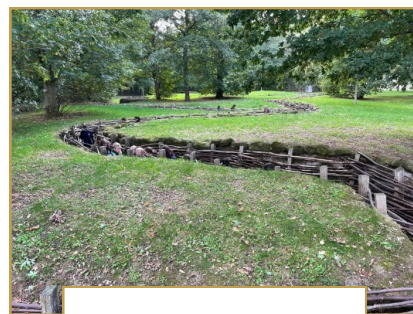
St Paul's Cathedral

Pupils at Braeside had a fantastic flying visit to Belgium. After a long coach journey and boarding Le Shuttle, their first stop was the Hospital Cemetery for a History Lesson.

The second stop was the Bayernwald Trench System. The pupils got a small insight into what life was like in the trenches after exploring the preserved German trenches around the site.

It was then time for a visit to the Museum of Passchendaele. The museum is housed in the historic castle of Zonnebeke and focuses on the physical aspects of World War I.

Despite being a very long day, the pupils enjoyed the trip and expanded their history knowledge.



Belgium Trip



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Normanhurst House Maths Challenge

Mrs Mouslmani, Head of Maths in the Seniors, organised an exciting House Event for pupils in Years 5 to 11 – a Maths House Challenge!

Pupils from each year group were chosen to represent their Houses in either a Head to Head Challenge or participate as part of the team Maths challenge in order to win points for their team.

Audience members were able to

support in the Head to Head round if chosen through the 'ask the audience' option. They also earned points for their House during the interactive Kahoot Quiz and also by completing a



cross-number.

Our pupils enjoyed the experience and seeing the more fun side to learning Maths.



Coopersale Hall Year 6 Orchestral Programme

Year 6 have spent some time learning about, and trying, instruments from each orchestral family. They were then given the choice of what instrument they would like to learn.

The pupils were very excited to see

the music room set up like an orchestra and to learn the first few notes on their chosen instrument in their first lesson. By the end of the lesson, they had even mastered their first piece.

We hope this will give our pupils the chance to learn an instrument they might not have considered before or to try an instrument they have always

wanted to. We look forward to seeing their progression this coming term.



Oaklands Mountfitchet Castle



Year 1 had an exciting trip to Mountfitchet Castle to support their learning of the topic 'Castles'. The children could see the excellent example of a Motte and Bailey structure and got a taste of how life would have been like living inside the castle walls.

They also tried on some iron helmets, chain mail and practised their aim with the catapult and archery targets.

All of the staff were impressed with how engaged the children were during the trip and how much they learnt from the experience.

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Oak-Tree Goes Green

Today, there is more emphasis than ever on the importance of looking after our environment and 'Going Green', and pupils at the Oak-Tree Group have been working hard to ensure they do their bit.

Braeside has formed its own dedicated 'Green Team' who regularly meet to discuss how they could improve the environmental impact of the school. Many pupils are part of the Gardening Club and Forest Club, which are in charge of the upkeep of the school's plants and trees. They have recently been awarded a Level 1 and 2 Gardening Award from the RHS. Braeside is also the proud owner of the Eco Schools Bronze Award, awarded for the school's active eco-committee for completing a school Environmental Review and for producing an eco-action plan.

Headmistress of Braeside School, Chloe Moon, comments, "We are all aware of the need to make changes to protect our planet for generations to come, and many of our pupils have taken it upon themselves to run projects to help turn the school, and the world, into a better place."

Normanhurst has set itself the task of turning the school's front garden into a lush, green oasis. Site manager Mr Whyte has already made a start with

some help from the pupils. Together, they planted thousands of bulbs and 200 bedding plants as part of the schools 'Big Plant Project'.

Pupils at Normanhurst have also taken part in 'Chingford Fashion Week'. The theme for the week was 'Saving our Planet' and saw every item of clothing created for the finale fashion show made purely out of recycled materials.



Fashion Show

The Eco-council and School Council at Coopersale Hall School helped plant 30 wild cherry, rowan and silver birch saplings, which were donated by The Woodland Trust. Even the Deputy Mayor of Epping joined the pupils to lend a hand. The planting of these trees counted towards Queen Elizabeth II's Green Canopy, a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. This will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and woodlands in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's service and the legacy she built.

The Eco-Council has also been proactive in encouraging other members of the school via a 'Let's Go

Green Challenge'. The idea is that the pupils do as many eco-friendly activities as they can at home. So far, it is proving very successful, with pupils taking recycling seriously, planting in their garden, going a day with electricity and collecting fruit from their gardens.

Oaklands School is taking part in the 3PR parking scheme, which encourages walking to school and parking considerably to help the environment. Children are encouraged to walk to school if possible and earn tokens for their school Houses. The scheme is already proving to be very successful, with many children persuading their parents to consider the locality and environment when travelling to and from school.



3PR Aliens

Mrs Gretchen Copeman, Oaklands School Headmistress, comments "We are so pleased with how the scheme is going, and the pupils and I have lots of other green ideas to implement throughout the school year. The children understand that even the smallest change can collectively have a big impact."

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Charity Fundraising

Last month, Oaklands supported Jeans for Genes Day. The day is all about raising money and awareness to help some of the most vulnerable people in the UK affected by a genetic condition. Thank you to all of our families who donated!



Jeans for Genes



On Friday 18 November it was the BBC Children in Need charity day. Once again, Braeside excitedly joined in with others around the United Kingdom to fundraise for this good cause. We are pleased to announce we raised an incredible £646!



Children in Need

An amazing £746 was raised for St. Clare Hospice by Coopersale Hall pupils on Christmas Jumper Day.

Pupils and teachers donned their festive jumpers for a fun day of Christmas activities.



Christmas Jumper Day

Two Normanhurst pupils, Sofia and Nicolas, volunteered to help Street Kind UK, a charity that provides food and essentials to homeless people in Central London. We are always amazed by the kindness and generosity of our pupils.



Oak-Tree Schools Parents' Associations

Thank you to our wonderful parents associations for your continued

support last term. The children have enjoyed lots of fun Christmas activities and events organised by the parents, such as visits from Santa, discos and

gifts. If you are interested in joining your schools Parents' Association this term then please do get in touch.



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

