

March 2012 Issue 70

Headmistress's Message

I hope you like our “new look” newsletter! The theme for my message revolves around the topic of “reading”.

Reading is such an important key to learning, unlocking a fountain of knowledge. A huge part of teaching and learning is devoted to reading; providing children with the tools and skills, and developing their ability to understand the written word. It is important to encourage children to read for pleasure and enjoyment as well as increasing their factual knowledge.

The Book Fair arrives this week—an excellent way to encourage all children to read for enjoyment. There will be a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books to purchase. Don't worry if the book you require is a last copy, we can always order a copy for you. The school do take a commission on the books we sell which is used to supplement our class and school libraries. I look forward to seeing some of you at the Book Fair.



Remember to check our website for more information and follow us on twitter.

Cheryl Macnair

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Curriculum Week



Curriculum week takes place once a year throughout the school from Lower Kindergarten to Year 6 usually during the Spring Term. Sometimes the topic chosen relates to an event taking place, for example in 2011 we chose ‘The Monarchy’ because of Kate and William’s wedding; this year we studied ‘The Olympics’, as this famous sporting event is to be held in London this summer.

In previous years, topics such as ‘Africa’, ‘London’, ‘Egypt’ and ‘Flight’ have been chosen.

Curriculum week provides the staff and the children the opportunity to study a topic in depth for a whole week. It is completely cross-curricular, creative and investigative, and offers huge opportunities for independent research and ideas. Workshops and an educational visit are normally organised to supplement and extend the children’s learning and enjoyment of the topic.

The children are always enthusiastic about the themed Curriculum Weeks. They enjoy the novelty of each day and sharing their newly learnt knowledge with their peers at the end of the week.

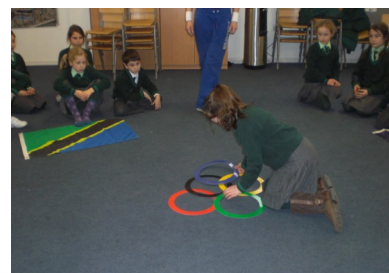


Curriculum Week Monday 6th—Friday 10th February 2012

All the children had a thoroughly enjoyable week learning about 'The Olympics'. The Early Years held their own mini Olympics during their PE lesson, KS1 classes constructed the Olympic village during their Lego Workshop, and KS2 pupils explored the history of the Athenians and the Spartans, made wreaths, flags, vases and emblems and wrote Greek myths. They dressed up in costumes for their 'Greek Day' to taste Greek food and danced to Greek music.

View Tube Education Centre

All the KS1 and KS2 classes visited the View Tube Education Centre at the Olympic Park where they participated in a drama session about the Olympics, and then went on a walk alongside the Olympic Stadium. The guide described the site from a Victorian point of view. The boys were not very impressed to find out that in those days, they might have had to help with basic sewage works!



At the 'sharing' assemblies on Friday, each class presented some of their 'Olympic' work to the other children.

We had such a great time!



'SKYPE' in the ICT Room



As part of the Get Set initiative, Oaklands is helping with the sponsorship of Jonathan Adams, an athlete hoping to take part in the 2012 Paralympics.

We had an exciting time in the ICT suite during Curriculum Week as we were extremely lucky to be able to skype Jonathan. Jonathan was born nine and a half weeks prematurely and he spent the best part of a year and a half in and out of hospital. He was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and also an astigmatism squint in his eyes. Despite all of this, Jonathan has managed to overcome these difficulties and rise to the top of his sport. He spent the entire day talking with each class as he explained the two events he competes in, discus and shot put. The children had lots of interesting questions ready to ask him about his life and his training regime. Jonathan answered each question in great detail and the children learnt a huge amount about what it must be like to be an athlete, including the dedication and perseverance needed to compete at such a high level. They also learnt how to use skype and the benefits of being able to see the person you are talking to. Following this, some of the children have written thank you letters to Jonathan for giving up his time during what is a very busy time in his training calendar.

www.jonathanadamsgb.com

Hi, I'm Jonathan Adams, a GB-funded athlete specialising in Seated Shot Put and Discus. This site aims to bring you all the news and updates as I strive toward my goal of representing my country at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.



Greek Day



An exciting Greek day was enjoyed by all KS2 pupils during Curriculum week. The pupils prepared for the "first Olympic games" with arts and crafts activities in the morning and a celebratory Greek feast in the afternoon.



Lego Day

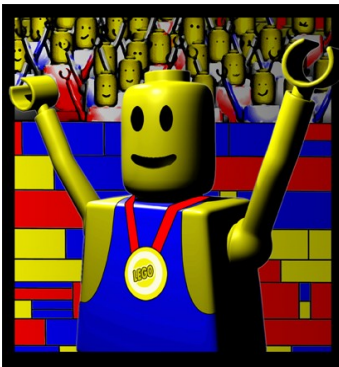
Mr Garside from Primary Workshops brought in huge bags of lego. The pupils in Transition, Year 1 and Year 2 were then asked to create their own Olympic Village. They had great fun experimenting with the various shapes and colours of lego bricks. The results were amazing! We certainly have some potential architects here at Oaklands!

On Monday 6th February we made lego houses, fields, flats, cafés, swimming pools, gates, cars and other things to do with the Olympics. We really enjoyed it and when it was finished it was huge and looked fabulous. We all worked together to tidy up into the big bags.

By Charlie and Bradley 2C



Oaklands pupils building a better future!



Garden Room Mini Olympics



HEDGEHOGS



MOLES



BADGERS



RABBITS



SQUIRRELS



Getting ready



Over the hurdles



Through the tunnel



Balls in nets

We all had great fun and everybody won a medal!

'WOW' Assemblies

A selection of work from Transition to Year 6 celebrated at the 'WOW' assemblies Autumn Term 2011 and Spring Term 2012 is being shown on the notice board near the school office.



'WOW' assemblies take place every half term. The assemblies provide all the teachers with the opportunity to select pieces of work that have been completed by the pupils which show either special effort, perseverance, academic achievement or independent working and learning. They have all achieved the 'WOW' factor.

Key Stage 2 'WOW' Assembly

Congratulations to the children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who received special Headmistress Awards in Assembly on Wednesday 22 February. Georgina in Year 6 had researched Christianity and put together a fantastic booklet with both interesting facts and illustrations. Olivia and Trinity in Year 5 had each written an opening paragraph to a story about Greece – you could actually feel yourself there! All pupils in Year 4 had created a really funny poem using alliteration and Year 3 pupils Riya and Yasmin had written some myths. Well done to all of you!

Assemblies

This term's first assembly had 'respect' as its theme. We had an interesting discussion as to what 'respect' actually means and ways in which we can all show respect. The most important message which evolved was that we need to remember to treat other people the way we would like to be treated and that everyone deserves respect. Here at Oaklands School we have an 'Ethos Tree'. Each class takes it in turns to choose words to add to the leaves on the tree. The words are discussed with the children both in assemblies and the classroom which develops each child's personal social skills. Our 'Ethos Tree' can be found proudly hanging in the school hall.



Loughton Fire Station —Monday 27 February 2012

Garden Room visited Loughton Fire Station. Some of our mummies and daddies came with us. We all had a wonderful time with the firemen. We even got to use the hose!



As part of their topic "people who help us", on Monday 27 February 2012, the Garden Room walked to Loughton Fire Station. Fire Fighter Tim gave an excellent talk on the work of the Fire Brigade. The children were able to try on helmets and gloves. They even got to use the hose! Thank you Loughton Fire Station for making the children feel so welcome and showing the various pieces of equipment needed by the fire fighters. Thank you also to all the parents and carers who escorted them safely on the walk. The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit.



Readathon and Book Aid International

Sponsored reading event for Year 1 to Year 6 from Monday 27 February until Friday 9 March 2012.

The money raised from Readathon will support seriously ill children and also Book Aid International who supply books for poor children in various countries of the world.

We really value your support.

Thankyou



Wear your daffodil this March and help us continue caring for people with terminal cancer and other illnesses.

Raising funds in aid of



Each March, the Great Daffodil Appeal aims to get everyone to wear a daffodil in support of our Marie Curie Nurses and raise money to help us provide more free care to people with terminal cancer and other illnesses.

But for those who have been touched by the work of Marie Curie, wearing the daffodil has a special and personal meaning. Daffodils are available in the school office for those wishing to donate.

FUND RAISING

This month we are helping to support Marie Curie Cancer Care, Sainsbury's Active Kids, Readathon and Book Aid International.

The Oak-Tree Group of Schools Music and Dance Festival—Thursday 22 March 2012

Many children in each of the Oak-Tree Schools are busy rehearsing their items for the second Oak-Tree Music and Dance festival to be held on Thursday 22 March 2012 at 6.45pm at Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green. Information regarding the purchasing of tickets will be sent home with the pupils who are performing in the festival on Friday 9 March. From Year 3 to Year 10, it promises to be a very enjoyable evening of entertainment.

OPA (Oaklands Parents' Association)

The OPA will be selling May Ball tickets from next week. This is our biggest fundraising event of the school year and in conjunction with Coopersale Hall School, we have organised a fantastic evening of fun and entertainment. Tickets cost £65 and include a 4 course meal, Champagne reception, wine and great entertainment. Further information and order forms will be going into book bags next week. The OPA greatly appreciate parents' support and hope that you will attend what is set to be a great night. The ball will take place at the Metropolitan Police Sports Ground in Chigwell on Saturday 26 May 2012.

On Friday 16th March, the OPA will be selling fancy cupcakes for the children to buy for Mother's Day. We will issue a reminder nearer the time, but children that wish to buy a cake are asked to bring £1 to school on the day.

Coffee morning next Wednesday 7th March at Costa Coffee, Queens Road Buckhurst Hill. Everyone is welcome, first coffee on the OPA!

The OPA can be contacted by leaving a message in the OPA box outside the front office.

Mrs C Williams
Chairman

Mrs Russell
Chairman



Forthcoming Events

Monday 5 – Thursday 8 March	Book Fair in the ‘Art Room’
Thursday 8 March (1.15pm)	Coopersale Cross Country Relay (KS2 team) at Coopersale Hall School
Wednesday 14 March (2.00pm)	1T Play in school hall
Thursday 15 March (2.00pm)	1S Play in school hall
Thursday 15 March (9.15am—11.30am)	Open Morning—current and prospective parents welcome
Friday 16 March	Mothers’ Day Cake Sale in ‘Art Room’
Tuesday 20 March	Y5 & Y6 to British Museum to visit Hajj Exhibition
Thursday 22 March (6.45pm)	KS2 Oak-Tree Festival at Hawkey Hall, details to follow
Friday 23 March (9.10am)	GR Assembly in School Hall
Saturday 24 March (12.30pm)	Y3 & Y4 Epping Forest Dance Festival at Roding Valley High School
Monday 26 March from 9.30am	Easter Bunny to visit
Monday 26 March	LK & GR Parents’ Evening
Tuesday 27 March (11.00am)	LK concert in school hall
Tuesday 27 March	Y5 to National Gallery
Wednesday 28 March (9.30am—12pm)	Swimming Gala (KS2) at Loughton Pool
Thursday 29 March	End of term as follows:-
	Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room
	and Transition 12.00pm
	Year 1 12.10pm
	Year 2 12.15pm
	Years 3 to 6 12.30pm

CHANGE OF DATE—Sports Day

Please note that Sports Day has been changed to **MONDAY 14 MAY** and not Thursday 17 May as previously advertised!!



NOTE

Due to the fact that the Book Fair will be in the ‘Art Room’ from Monday 5 March until Friday 9 March, siblings and children whose parents are late will be in Woodpecker Classroom.

