

March 2012 Issue 71

Headmistress's Message

We have come to the end of yet another busy term with many highlights here at Oaklands.

Open Morning, which was held on Thursday 15 March, was very successful. Many new families were able to experience the warm, friendly atmosphere and it was good to see some of the parents who will be joining the school in Sept 2012 as well as a few of our current parents. Our Year 6 and Year 5 pupils were superb guides and I am really very proud of them. They received many compliments! I am pleased that the school is full next academic year 2012-2013 and next term we will be looking at numbers for the following year 2013-2014. As many of you are aware, we operate a waiting list, but do advise early registration to avoid disappointment.

In the evening of 22 March at the Hawkey Hall, Oaklands took part in the bi-annual Oak-Tree Music and Dance Festival. It was truly amazing! All the children from the three schools (Oaklands, Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst) gave excellent performances culminating in a combined choir at the end of the evening. Well done to all our performers and thank you to all the staff who helped make it possible.

The term is now ending with a visit from the Easter Bunny, KS2 Swimming Gala, Lower Kindergarten Assembly to their parents and the 'End of Term' Assembly on Thursday. Please remember that there are no lunches or afternoon sessions on Thursday.

I wish you all a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you back at school on **Tuesday 24 April 2012**.

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

Cheryl Macnair

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Knit-A-Square

This term the KS2 and Year 2 pupils have been knitting again for the Sowetto Comfort Club with the challenge to beat our square count from last year of 1500! Can you believe we actually managed it? We have had our friends and family knitting like crazy and we have managed to collect 1835 big squares, 200 smaller squares, 5 jumpers, 6 hats, 2 scarves, 1 blanket, 2 pairs of gloves and 1 teddy. This is an organisation that collects together squares from all over the world, sews them together and the blankets get distributed to AIDS orphans around Southern Africa. At the moment there is an estimate of over 4million AIDS orphans in the area and this organisation plans to help keep as many as possible warm over the coming harsh winter months. We know that our donation will be really appreciated and put to good use. Mrs Poulton would like to extend her thanks to all the people who got involved this year.

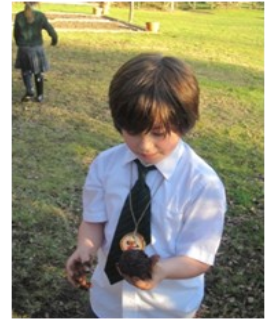


Explorers' Club

Explorers from Year 2 have had great fun this term finding out about Helen Skelton's "explorer trip to the South Pole". They have also completed a variety of activities, including bird house painting, bird cake making and using mud twigs to make a bird's nest. They also drew maps of the school and found out about birds in their natural habitats.

One of the best activities has been consuming the hot chocolate and snack sitting in "our den" in the second field.

Mrs Tear, Miss Moore.



World Book Day Friday 2 March

World Book Day was an enormous success this term, with almost every child and member of staff dressed as a favourite character from a book. Neal Zetter was our Poet-in-School for the day and kept the pupils enthralled with some of his collection of poetry.



Yr 5 & 6 visit to British Museum

Year 5 and 6 pupils were lucky enough to get some of the last remaining tickets to see “Hajj, journey to the heart of Islam”, an outstanding exhibition at the British Museum. The girls followed a KS2 trail shedding light on one of the five pillars of Islam central to Muslim belief, Hajj. By thinking about the journey that Muslims make when they go on Hajj, why they go and what they do while they are in Mecca, our pupils’ horizons were expanded in a most interesting and informative manner by this exceptional display.

Yr 6 trip to Imperial War Museum, Duxford

Dressed as 1940 school girls and equipped with a special WW2 style lunch made by Jim, Year 6 girls were evacuated to Duxford, Imperial War Museum. After exploring the Home Front Exhibition in the morning, the afternoon was spent in the company of Bunty, the Billeting Officer. Evacuation procedures were enacted, Identity and Ration cards were filled in and gas mask drills were practised. An excellent day out was enjoyed by Year 6 to compliment our studies on Children in WW2.

Garden Room Assembly ‘People Who Help Us’

The Garden Room children delighted their parents with an assembly based on their topic ‘People who help us’. They spoke up beautifully, drew pictures and sang really well. I think the children particularly enjoyed singing their very special songs about ‘Lollipop Andy’ and ‘John the Caretaker’. Well done children and thank you to the Garden Room Keyworker Team and Mrs Rathbone for encouraging the children and putting it all together. Fantastic!



Year 1 Play

Year 1 Play ‘The toys night out’ was written by the children and staff. Their two performances were a great success and the children all enjoyed performing to their parents and the school.



Cross Country at Coopersale Hall School

On Thursday 8 March some of our KS2 children combined with some Normanhurst children to compete at the Coopersale Hall Cross Country relay race.

The Year 3 and 4 girls came 6th and Year 5 and 6 came 4th.

It was a challenging course and the children should be very proud of their performances and stamina!



Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 28 March, all the children in KS2 swam in the annual Oaklands Swimming Gala. There were some very close finishes to some of the races. Everybody enjoyed participating and representing their team. Congratulations to the Yellow team, who were the eventual winners.

Epping Forest Dance Festival

On Saturday 24 March, Year 3 and 4 dance club entered the Epping Forest Dance Festival. Their dance was called 'Poker Face' and the girls looked fantastic in white costumes, white faces with black lipstick! They danced superbly and came runners up in their category "Junior Jazz Group" with just a single point between them and the winners. Well done, girls!

Oak-Tree Group of Schools Festival

On Thursday 22 March, all the children in KS2 performed in a variety of instrumental, singing and dance items alongside Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst schools at the second Oak-Tree Group of Schools festival. It was a spectacular evening which began with all three orchestras playing the theme tune of 'Titanic', accompanied by the rest of the children singing.

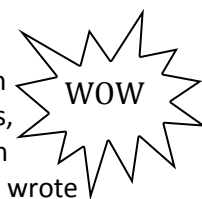
The theme of 'space' in the second half included a number of entertaining and atmospheric items.

The festival ended with all the children singing the well-known song "Don't Stop Believing", with each school singing their own original verse.



'WOW' Assembly for Transition, Year 1 and Year 2

Congratulations to the following pupils who were awarded special Headmistress's Awards in Assembly on Thursday 22 March. In 'Robins', Evie and Jaideep created beautiful Spring pictures, Hannah had re-written the story of 'Goldilocks' and Frank had written his news independently. In 'Owls', Ethan had re-written the story of 'Goldilocks', Edward had written carefully and Gautam wrote about Mother's Day shopping. Bradley neatly labelled parts of a plant. In 'Woodpecker' class, Maya and Harvey were commended for their writing and Will for work in numeracy.



1S had created super number snakes to help them count in 3s (Luke, Anyah and Lucy), and great progress in writing has been made by Caitlin. Alessandra had written some class rules very carefully and Daniyal showed super work in Maths. In 1T, lovely Spring pictures were created by Lindsey and Siyani. Aliya, Kamile and Anya J. were praised for their writing achievements.

In 2C pupils have been busy designing and making vehicles. Well done to Maanvii and Jack M. Also good work in ICT from Charlie and Harleen, based on the artist Jackson Pollock. Bradley was praised for his writing. In 2A Lily had worked very well in Maths and Maisie, Naisha and Amy showed off their neat writing about Mothers' Day.

Year 6 Destinations

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who have all succeeded in their quest for secondary school places.

We are delighted that the pupils have chosen places at Bancroft's, Braeside, Chigwell, Davenant, Forest, Queenswood and Roding Valley.

11+ OFFERS 2012

SCHOOL	OFFERS MADE
BANCROFT'S	1
BRAESIDE	2
CHIGWELL	2
DAVENANT	1
FOREST	2
NORMANHURST	1
QUEENSWOOD	1
RODING VALLEY	1
ST EDMUND'S	2



Fundraising

Thank you to all those who took part in the Readathon. We raised £600.23 for the Readathon charity and Book Aid International.

Following that theme we also ran the Book fair in March and the children loved being able to go and choose a book. – total raised was £1942.00

We would also be grateful for all your Tesco and Sainsbury vouchers to help us obtain more equipment for the school.

Breakfast Club News Item

Breakfast Club continues to go from strength to strength. Unfortunately, the downside of its popularity means that, for the rest of this academic year, the club is **FULL** on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We can only accept further bookings on Tuesdays and Thursdays if there has been a prior cancellation. However, on Mondays we do have the scope to expand our intake by 4 places if we have an additional member of staff working. If you require a space on a Monday please give us at least 48 hours notice so that the extra staffing can be arranged.

Cancellations can occur at any time. If there is no availability when you first enquire either try again or ask the office to inform you if a space becomes available.

To be fair to all parents please let us know if you have made a booking that you no longer require (either directly or via the office) so that the space can be reallocated. This applies to both regular and 'one-off' bookings. Additionally, if you know your child is going to be off sick for more than one day, please remember to ask the office to cancel any Breakfast Club bookings for you.

We can only manage the booking system effectively if we have the appropriate information. In light of our current situation this is more important than ever. Thank you to all those who already keep us informed of any changes to their requirements. It is much appreciated.



Daily from 7.45am
Breakfast with fun and games before School

OPA (Oaklands Parents' Association)



The OPA have had a very busy term with various events taking place. The Easter bunny made his usual visit to the school on Monday of this week, and lots of fun was had hunting for eggs on the field. Over 240 Easter eggs were given to the whole school. Thanks very much to all the Mums that helped.



The Movie afternoons have proved very popular and will raise nearly £300.



The second hand clothing sale raised £172, and the Mother's day cupcake sale raised £200.



Tickets for the May Ball have sold very well with over 180 people set to attend. Thanks very much indeed to all those that have bought tickets; we know it will be a wonderful evening. If you have yet to pay for your tickets, or wish to come to the ball, please can you put your cheques and forms in a sealed and named envelope in the OPA box this week. We will be asking for auction and raffle prize donations after the holidays, so please do have a think about anything you may be able to donate to help raise funds for the children at school.



This term the OPA have funded the Olympic Lego workshop; the Year 6 Epping Forest Museum workshop in school on WW2 and a visit to Imperial War Museum, Duxford with 'Bunty the Billeting Officer'; the Easter Bunny visit, and Transition-Year 6 Poetry workshop in school for World Book Day. The OPA have also agreed funding for a music workshop and several school trips during the Summer Term.

The OPA relies on parental support and the committee would like to thank all those that have helped and supported them in various ways this year.

Have a very Happy Easter!
The Oaklands Parents' Association

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 25 - Friday 27 April	Yr 4 & 5 Trip to PGL Centre, Hindhead, Surrey
Friday 27 April (9.00am - 3pm)	Yr 3 Activity trip to Gilwell Park
Wednesday 2 May	Swimming for Y3, 4 & 6 resumes
Friday 4 May	Music workshop for Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room & Transition
Thursday 10 May	Class photographs
Monday 14 May:- 9.00am-10.15am 10.45am-12pm 1.45pm-3.15pm	Sports Day KS2 (Yr3-Yr6) LK/GR/Trans. KS1 (Yr1-Yr2)
Tuesday 15 May	Whole school photograph
Tuesday 22 May (6pm)	Music concert
Wednesday 23 May (6pm)	Music concert
Thursday 24 May (9.30am—2.30pm)	Garden Room Trip to Hayes Hill Farm
Thursday 24 May	LAMDA exams Yr 1—Yr 6
Monday 28 May	Yr 2 dress rehearsal (2A)
Monday 28 May	Yr 6 to Gilwell Park until Friday 1 June
Wednesday 30 May	Yr 2 dress rehearsal (2C)
Wednesday 30 May (2pm)	Yr 2 play in school hall (2A)
Thursday 31 May (2pm)	Yr 2 play in school hall (2C)
Friday 1 June	Picnic lunch on playground to celebrate Diamond Jubilee

Thursday 29 March

End of term as follows:-

Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room and Transitions	12.00pm
Year 1	12.10pm
Year 2	12.15pm
Years 3 to 6	12.30pm

