



April 2012 Issue 72

Headmistress's Message

Wet weather again and the forecast does not look good. Nevermind, I'm sure summer must be around the corner!!

The Summer Term is always such a busy one and we are beginning to think about next academic year already! We shall soon be sending home letters about instrumental music tuition and extra-curricular clubs and choices to make for next academic year. When completing these on behalf of your children, please remember that the children are making a commitment. We have spoken in assembly about the meaning of the word 'commitment' and most children are now beginning to understand the meaning of the word. They understand that when choosing to learn to play a musical instrument, they will practise hard to improve their performance and not give up even when it might appear difficult. When choosing an extra-curricular club, they need to try it out for a period of time not dip in and out when the mood takes them – they are making a commitment. Please be prompt in replying as places for instrumental music tuition and extra-curricular clubs are mostly on a first come, first served basis! We hope to include Zumba (KS2 only), Karate and Mandarin as possible new clubs. Further information to follow!

Please note that I am off to the Independent Schools Association Conference in Harrogate and will be off site from Wed 16 May until Sat 19 May.

Cheryl Macnair

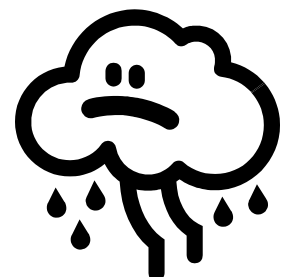
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Rains Stops Play! And Sports Day and athletics

The rain was like a little mouse,
Quiet, small, and gray,
It pattered all around the house
And then it went away.
It did not come, I understand,
Indoors at all, until,
It found an open window and
Left tracks across the sill.

- Elizabeth Coatsworth (1893-1986)



Bancroft's Swimming Gala

A team of girls, ranging from Year 3 to Year 6 competed at the annual inter-school Bancroft's Swimming Gala on Monday 30 April 2012. All the girls swam exceedingly well, with the majority of the relay teams achieving either 1st or 2nd in their heats. The squadron relay team, consisting of two girls from each year group in KS2 reached the final and came 3rd! Special congratulations to Katia Year 6 who came 4th in the butterfly final and Ashleigh in Year 4 who came 2nd in the front crawl final, and Ava in Year 5 who came 4th in the backstroke final.

French Assemblies

This week has seen some wonderful 'French Assemblies'. The children have been able to see what children from other classes have been learning and where their learning is taking them. French here at Oaklands is taught in a very practical and meaningful way. Year 3 taught us the French alphabet to a rap; Year 4 were able to give an excellent rendition of the French equivalent of 'Old Macdonald had a farm'; Year 5 performed some super scenes set in a French cafe and the Year 6 'Fashion show' was great. Tres bien, tout le monde!



2A "The weather"



1T "The hungry caterpillar"



1S "Numbers"



Transition "Our faces"



2C "Months of the year"

Foundation Stage Percussion Workshop

On Friday 4 May, children from Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room and Transition were treated to a lively (and noisy!) percussion workshop. Paul and Mark from "Shake, Rattle 'n' Roll" firstly entertained the children with a show then worked with each age group, giving the children the opportunity to play lots of different percussion instruments. Each group developed a 'composition' with the theme of either the jungle or under the sea and then performed together. Many thanks to the OPA for funding this most enjoyable workshop.

Year 4 and 5 PGL Trip to Hindhead

At the beginning of term Years 4 and 5 went to PGL with Mrs Poulton and Mrs Booth for two nights. The girls had a wonderful time despite the weather and managed to complete some rather daunting challenges. The girls impressed the PGL staff with their good manners and enthusiasm towards all the tasks. They all worked well together showing some great team spirit – helping, encouraging and cheering for each other where necessary. Our days were filled with activities such as abseiling, climbing, the giant swing and Robot Wars. The girls came back to school exhausted and very muddy but with big smiles.



Comments from the children

“We had lots and lots and lots of fun” - Amy

“We got very muddy in the mud challenge” - Ashleigh

“We screamed on the zip wire. It was my best” - Alana

“The Giant Swing was really high. I screamed but it was fun” - Ava

“I was a rock spider climbing the Climbing Wall” - Grace

“The mud challenge was awesome” - Danae

“The abseiling was high and scary but it was really fun. I had to do a bum wiggle to get off the top” - Lara

“I got a bull’s eye in Archery. I was really proud” - Kiera

“Capture the Flag was so much fun” - Mizgin

“They looked after us really well at PGL” - Zoe

“I was the first one asleep and Mrs Booth says I was snoring on the second night” - Sofia

Year 3 at Gilwell

On Friday 27 April, Year 3 visited Gilwell Park for the second time this year as part of their outdoor pursuits programme within the KS2 P.E. syllabus. Despite the rainy weather, they enjoyed kayaking, climbing and medium ropes. Miss Ledwith and Mrs Johnson were extremely pleased with the determination and courage of the children to attempt activities which initially filled them with apprehension. The Gilwell instructors were very encouraging and all the Year 3 children should be extremely pleased with their achievements.



Donations Please!

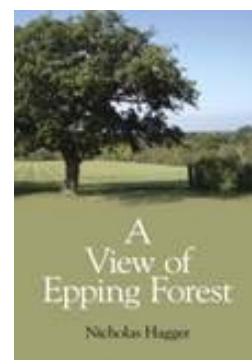
If you are having a 'sort out' or a 'decluttering' session at home anytime please remember that we are always grateful for donations of dressing-up clothes in good condition and lego of any shape/size/colour. Please bring these to the school office. Thank you in advance!

Actionaid

We are raising money for a child whom we sponsor in India, so on Friday 25 May we are having a non-uniform day. We ask that the children wear either red, yellow or gold clothes rather than their school uniform and donate £1 to support this worthwhile cause. Thank you for your anticipated support!

Many of you may know that Nicholas Hagger, co-Principal of the Oak-Tree Group of Schools, is the author of more than 35 books, many of which are marketed internationally. His latest book, *A View of Epping Forest*, which has just been published to coincide with the Olympic Games, is an interesting history of Epping Forest and local places. There are chapters on Loughton, Epping and Chingford, and these include long sections on Oaklands, Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst Schools. Thousands of parents have passed through our schools over the years, and no such authoritative book on local history has even mentioned them until now.

A View of Epping Forest is available at Loughton, Epping and Chingford bookshops, and from Amazon and other suppliers. You can read more about Nicholas Hagger's authorial activities on his website, www.nicholashagger.co.uk.



Forthcoming Events

Thursday 17 May		Woodford Athletics
Tuesday 22 May	6pm	Music Concert (Y2 – Y6)
Wednesday 23 May	3.30pm	Gilwell Y6 Parents' Meeting (Studio)
Wednesday 23 May	6pm	Music Concert (Y2 – Y6)
Thursday 24 May	9.30 – 2.30pm	Garden Room trip to Hayes Hill Farm
Friday 25 May		Non-uniform day for Actionaid Dress in red / yellow / gold
Monday 28 May-Friday 1 June		Y6 to Gilwell
Wednesday 30 May	2pm	Year 2A Play
Thursday 31 May	2pm	Year 2C Play
Thursday 31 May	9.00am	Transition trip to Paradise Park
Friday 1 June		Picnic lunch on playground for Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Dress in red / white / blue
Monday 4 – Friday 8 June		Half Term
Monday 25 June		Revised Whole School Photograph
Tuesday 10 July		Revised Sports Day

NOTE

Tea Time Club Mobile Phone

To help communication between both parents and [Tea Time Club](#), we now have a mobile phone especially for Tea Time Club. This can be used for parents / staff to contact each other after 4.30pm. Occasionally it is difficult to get in touch when the children are playing out in the field and the office staff are no longer on site to man the phones. **Please remember that this phone is for Tea Time Club use only after 4.30pm.** Telephone number is **07928 297868**.



OPA (Oaklands Parents' Association)

The OPA have had a very busy few weeks, with the May Ball now under 2 weeks away. We are delighted to be welcoming over 200 parents and friends from both Oaklands and Coopersale Hall School, for what looks set to be a fantastic evening. A cash bar will be in operation, and cheques and cash will be accepted for any successful auction bids! A few tickets may still be available, so if you have yet to buy yours please get in touch with us ASAP.

The Summer Fete is also round the corner and as a new way of involving the children, each class will this year "own" a stall which they will organise and decorate. Please speak to your child or their teacher for more details.

The children have completed a 75th Anniversary project - please look out for information on how you can purchase their work (mugs, mousemats, teatowels etc...) and help raise money for the children via the OPA.

The OPA