



Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

I cannot believe that we are coming to the end of another busy half term! This week has seen a very successful 'Green Week'. All the children have been looking at ways of improving and developing a more environmentally friendly world and our motto is "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". The week began with a great assembly by Year 4 who had already researched many ways in which we can help to save water, electricity and reuse and recycle rather than just throw things away! Read on for further details. I would like to thank Epping Forest District Council and the Essex County Council Volunteer Waste Buster Team for the loan of a fantastic display and a large number of resources. Please visit the website www.recycleforessex.co.uk for more information and ideas on how you can help save our environment.

A big thank you to our maintenance team for arriving early on those snowy days to clear and grit the paths so we could open the school. The school always looks rather beautiful covered in snow and the children did have fun making snowmen!

Next week is half term and I hope you all enjoy the break whether you are at home or away for a short holiday. I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 25 February.

Cheryl Macnair

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'Green Week'

Our Curriculum Week began with two assemblies. One for KS1 and KS2, and one for Foundation Stage. Ms Zaidi and the children in Year 4 had researched many topics including global warming, recycling, use and conservation of energy and organic food, which they presented to KS1 and KS2 in short drama sketches. It was both excellent and entertaining. Foundation Stage assembly was lead by Mrs Johnson who needed help sorting out her rubbish into the correct boxes. The children were very willing to assist her!



Forest School Junior Science Competition

On Wednesday 6 February a team of Year 6 pupils went to the Forest Junior School's Science Competition. Their challenges began with 'Detective work', matching chemical solutions to those left at a crime scene. Secondly they were asked to design a burglar alarm using electrical circuits, sponge and tin foil. Finally they identified and drew samples from slides, using microscopes and hand lenses.

The afternoon finished with exciting demonstrations in the Forest Dining Hall, including exploding balloons and a Science teacher setting light to his tie! The Oaklands team performed well in all of their challenges and were each awarded a certificate.

Well done to Charlotte, Isabelle, Ava and Olivia.

Year 2 Stratford and East London Festival

6.30am Monday morning - fling back the curtains and - SNOW! Please! No! Not today! Because, today, Year 2 are competing in the Stratford and East London Music Festival. A first for Oaklands School.

As the snow continues to fall, the children begin to arrive - slowly, one by one... Lunchtime and we are ready to leave for St. Mary's Church, South Woodford and we are only seven 'men' down! On the coach, the children are excited and nervous and ready to do their best.

At the Church we meet three other schools, all looking like veterans of the Festival and we settle to listen and wait for our turn. Now it's time - Mrs Rathbone is smiling and encouraging us and we are off: "My Paddle's keen and bright... Land of the Silver Birch... The School Rule Song... and then it's done. Have we impressed the judge?

Once everyone has sung, Mr Bill Ives, the adjudicator stands and delivers his verdict - "very lively, intricate part singing, smiling faces"... and... no, we did not win. To be honest, we are all disappointed after working so hard, but there can only be one winner and this time it was someone else's turn.

Despite no cup, we were awarded a Merit Certificate with a score of 84% - not bad for first timers and Oaklands will definitely be there next time - preferably without snow!



Explorers

The children's initial disappointment that they would not be camping out in the school field over night soon faded away as they sat beneath the canvas tent enjoying hot chocolate. The 'explorers' were keen to look for mini-beasts and animals, but unfortunately their enthusiastic approach sent all signs of life heading for cover. The children had the opportunity to explore their surroundings, the muddy puddle, leaf pile and secret hidden pond before heading home.

Each week the children will be taking part in planned activities alongside having the chance to explore their own surroundings. The children have had the opportunity to make their own 'tree cookie', which they decorated with their explorer name.

Miss Moore (Badger)



Chinese New Year

In Lower Kindergarten we celebrated Chinese New Year. The children enjoyed taking part in the dragon dance. We made dragon masks and snakes. The children really enjoyed tasting noodles and prawn crackers for snacks. Happy Chinese New Year everyone from Lower Kindergarten.



“Curriculum Week” Garden Room

The Garden Room made costumes out of old newspapers and instruments out of re-cycled boxes.



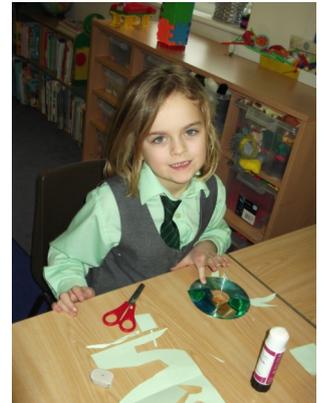
“Curriculum Week” Transition

Transition Owls made underwater fish using magazine paper and a huge octopus made from paper maché, cardboard, straws and detergent plastic bubbles. Transition Robins and Woodpeckers made a variety of posters illustrating ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’, and wonderful hats out of newspaper.



“Curriculum Week” Year 1

For ‘Green Week’ we looked at re-using our rubbish. We read the story of the ‘Rainbow Fish’ and decorated old CD’s with eyes, scales, fins and a tail.



Year 2

During Curriculum Week 2L have been learning about instructions. We followed instructions to make paper aeroplanes. We re-used scrap paper to do this. We then wrote our own instructions to explain how we made a skittles game using old plastic bottles. We really enjoyed making a class collage of a rainforest picture using old magazines.

In 2A we have used aluminium cans, tissue paper, stars and gems to create our own pencil pots. Look how we can re-use our cans.



KS2

During our Curriculum Week we have had many fascinating and informative sessions thinking about Planet Earth and what we can do to make it less polluted and more able to cope with global warming.

Year 4 opened the week with a class assembly based on their research on the environment. The children enjoyed debating environmental issues and writing poems on Plant Earth. Among other activities year 3 examined wildlife conservation. They particularly liked making polar bears.

Year 5 were busy turning glass jars into tea light holders and making new bags, clothes, place mats, belts and head-bands out of old fabric. Year 6 recycled cardboard rolls to make pencil pots. They enjoyed writing poems and studying the Amazon Rainforest.

The children participated in team activities. These included making bags and clothes from plastic bags, designing environmentally friendly towns as well as making paper. They also enjoyed the ‘Perform Workshop’ on protecting the environment.

The week ended with an assembly to share all the work with other classes. We hope that Oaklands’ children will now be more aware and care about the world they live in and will one day pass on their knowledge to others.

Year 1 - Wormery



We have been looking at how worms recycle in Year 1 and made our own wormeries per table. Each day we feed them and check on their composting progress. We also measured worms using cm cubes.



Year 1 - Fortune Cookie and Paper Maché Bowls

As part of our Year 1 topic on China we have looked at Chinese New Year customs. We made our own fortune cookies from salt dough and Chinese bowls from paper maché. Ask us why they smell so delicious!



Perform Drama Workshops (Transition to Year 6)

The Perform Drama Workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. They explored environmental issues through acting, improvisation, dancing and singing. They became “Superheroes” and were given the task of saving the planet by planting trees and flowers. The “Baddie” was finally overcome and recognised the importance of saving our planet. Well done, Superheroes!



Transition trip to Southend Sealife Adventure

On Thursday 14 February, Transition enjoyed a day out to Southend Sealife Adventure. Their topic for the first half of spring term had been all about 'Under the Sea'. The visit enhanced their learning by touring the centre and seeing crabs and starfish up close in a 'rock pool encounter' session.

Niveyditia 'I really enjoyed the trip – I liked having my pack lunch'

Jasmine 'loved seeing the crocodiles'

Ayaan 'I saw three sharks'

Zachary 'My favourite part was seeing the crocodiles'

Amy 'I liked seeing the colourful fish'

Tristan 'It was good'



Fundraising

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2013 Campaign

Active Kids aims to help young people of all ages and abilities lead healthier, more active lifestyles whilst having fun.



Collect Active Kids vouchers when you shop at Sainsbury's between 30th January and 22nd May and donate them to us here at Oaklands School. We can then redeem them for active and sports equipment and experiences, and much much more.

New System for Direct Emails to Members of Staff

Parents are now able to email members of staff directly from the School Website by clicking on the relevant link in the Staff area of the website. We hope this will further improve the communication between school and home and make it easier for you to contact staff when you need to.

To navigate from the homepage, click on the 'School Staff List and Contact' option in the drop-down menu on the Staff tab. This will take you to the complete staff list, with the links to open an email. Alternatively follow this link:

www.oaklandssch.co.uk/staff-list

Security

Oaklands has good security procedures in place but they are constantly being reviewed. As part of our review we will be locking the bottom gate to the High Road at 9.00am. The gate will be unlocked for a short period of time over the midday slot when parents of younger children collect and drop off for the afternoon sessions. It will then be locked again and opened ready for collection at the end of the school day.

The lower gate by the Science Room is to be heightened over the half term break by our maintenance team and a new lock fitted.

Please remember to close both gates after use and do not leave them propped open. In this way we can help keep our children safe.

Lunches

We have a new Chef, James who comes to us this term having previously worked at St Cedd's School, Chelmsford and Sevenoaks School, Kent. He is providing delicious lunches for the children and we are encouraging them to have a hot, healthy and balanced meal at lunchtime.

Parking

Unfortunately I have to again remind a minority of parents to park sensibly when collecting children at the beginning and end of the school day! **DO NOT PARK ON THE YELLOW ZIGZAGS AND DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS!** It has been brought to my attention that parents and children have had to resort to walking in the road this week because some parents/carers have parked without care and consideration for the safety of children and adults. If you decide to park your car on the pavement remember that it is an offence if you do not leave enough room on the pavement for a wheelchair user or buggy to pass. If you decide to leave your car in such a position and do not move it, you can be arrested. This was clarified by our local Police Constable at the recent Travel Plan Meeting. Traffic wardens and police will be patrolling the area in an attempt to help keep us all safe when dropping off and collecting at the end of the school day.



“The Electronic Age”

We are moving towards sending our information to parents via e-mail rather than paper copies in book-bags. Trip letters, consent forms, club information etc. will now be sent electronically so we ask you to check your e-mails regularly. If you have recently changed your e-mail address, please make sure the School Office are notified.

OPA

A showing of ‘Rio’ will be held in the School Hall on Tuesday 26 February and Wednesday 27 February between 3 - 5pm.



We are holding a competition to create a logo for the Oaklands Parents’ Association (OPA). We invite you all to draw us a bold, bright and cheery picture, which is also clear and simple so it can be used on our newsletter and all OPA communications. Colour is good, but remember it will need to be printed and photocopied which means glitter and metallic effect ink will not stay shiny. It will need to have the letters OPA included somehow so we can tell whose logo it is! Deadline for submitting your work is Friday 1 March 2013.

Nearly new uniforms sale - on Wednesday 20 March 2013 from 2:30 until 4 pm



Reminder: Easter Bunny will visit the school on Monday 25 March

Forthcoming Events

Monday 18 - Friday 22 February		Half Term
Tuesday 26 February	3.30pm onwards	Trans - Y6 Parents Evening
Tuesday 26 February		KS2 Visit to Cinema - Sammy 2: The Great Escape
Wednesday 27 February	3.30pm onwards	Trans - Y6 Parents Evening
Wednesday 27 February	9.00am - 3.30pm	Yr 6 Trip to Imperial War Museum, Duxford
Friday 1 March	7.00pm	Rotary Club “Youth Makes Music” Concert
Tuesday 5 March	10.00 - 11.00am	National Prep School Quiz at Forest School
Thursday 7 March		National Book Day
Monday 11 March		Travelling Book Fair
Thursday 14 March	9.15am	Open Morning
Friday 15 March		Red Nose Day ‘Own Clothes’

