



## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Autumn Term has started well and the children are now familiar with their new teachers, classrooms and routines.

The Oak-Tree Art Exhibition in Loughton was a huge success. Pieces of work from all age groups were displayed by Mrs Slater, Art and DT Co-ordinator and admired by families and friends. Some of the art work will go forward to the Independent Schools' Association Area Art competition on 11 October. We are hoping that one or two pieces may be selected for the National Art Competition in November.

Open Morning is fast approaching – Thursday 3 October from 9.15am to 11.15am. Displays are going up showing the fantastic achievements of all our children and it promises to be a very busy morning. Both current and prospective parents are welcome to see the School in action. Years 5 and 6 pupils will guide you round the site and provide you with 'inside information'!

You may be interested to know that we have recently updated our policies and procedures. Many of these, including the EYFS Policy, Gifted and Talented Policy, Complaints Procedure and Safeguarding Children Policy can be found on our website. Please do come and find me before or after school if you have any queries about any aspect of the education we provide at Oaklands as any concerns you may have are often easily settled through discussion. This 'open door policy' has meant that no formal complaints were brought to our attention last academic year.

I would like to thank the staff team who are working really hard to ensure the best for your children, many of whom have also given a great deal of time and thought to the various after school activities eg the Oak-Tree Art Exhibition and the Information Evenings for Parents.

**Cheryl Macnair**

**Headmistress**

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### Garden Room News

All of our children have settled into school beautifully and are enjoying our new Garden Room.

Our topic this half term is woodland animals and we have been finding out interesting facts.

We have also been on a walk around the school grounds looking for signs that the season is changing to autumn.

We collected leaves to look at them closely with our magnifying glasses. We then painted them with autumn colour paints to make leaf prints.



### Read, Write Inc Information evening for Transition Parents

We very much believe that education is a team effort and value the help that you, the parents, can give your children. Our last information evening on the teaching phonics was held on Thursday 26 September and again was very well attended. The evening was led by Mrs Slater, KS1 Literacy Co-ordinator. She also produced a very informative and user friendly booklet to accompany the session. If you were unable to attend, please see the School office for a booklet.

### Year 1 Castle Building!

In Year 1 our topic at the moment is castles.

We have been learning about both Motte and Bailey and Stone Keep castles.



We practised drawing our own castles on whiteboards before we painted them and made some out of clay. We have since designed and made flags for our castles.

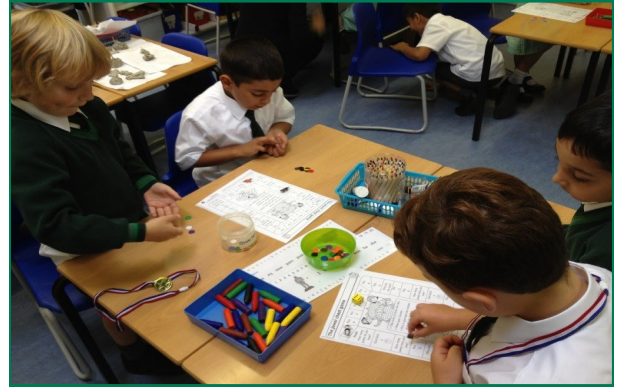
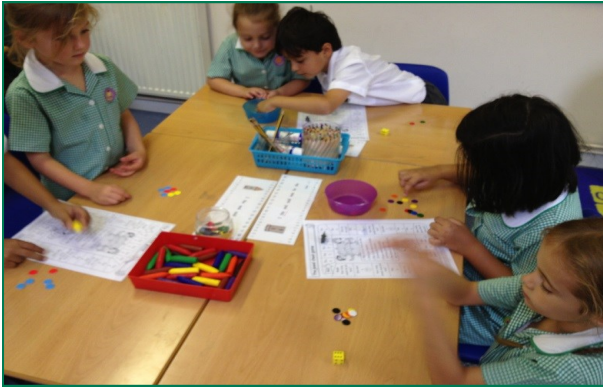
Please come and visit them.

### Year 1 Maths

In Year 1 Maths Classes, we play games to help secure number facts.

To help with counting to 20 we played a game in pairs where we had to take turns, share counters, and count .

We were all very careful with our counting and played well together.



### Maths Information Evening for Y1 and Y2 Parents

For the third successive year we held a Maths Information evening for KS1 parents. Mrs Poulton, Y5 teacher and KS2 Maths Co-ordinator, led the session which gave parents valuable information on the teaching techniques we use for Maths here at Oaklands and how you at home can support your child's learning. Parents found the booklets helpful too. If you were unable to attend and would like a booklet, please pop in to the School office or speak to your child's class teacher.

### SENDCo

Mrs Chernoff and Mrs Donoghue's support room/department is always open for advice or a chat .

### Autumn Uniform

When we come back after the half term break the children will wear winter uniform.

Individual school photos are being taken on Thursday 7 November. Please ensure that if your child is in the Garden Room, he/she comes to school wearing winter uniform on that day. Thank you.

### 'Jeans for Genes' day

Well done to everyone who participated in 'Jeans for Genes' day on 20 September — we raised an amazing £236.85.

Thank you all.



## Harvest

Harvest was celebrated in assemblies on Wednesday 25 September led by Andrea and Fiona from the Christian Drama Resource Centre, Loughton. Your very generous gifts of food and toiletries have been collected by Tony from the Whitechapel Mission, who provide meals for the homeless and needy of London.





### Year 3 World Challenge Camping Experience

On Thursday 12 and Friday 13 September, Year 3 from Oaklands, Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst schools embarked on an exciting camping adventure. We carried out many exciting activities and camped on the school field overnight in tents.



In small groups, we used our listening and teamwork skills to successfully put up our own tents. We were responsible for our own possessions and equipment and were really good at looking after each other! Meal times were met with relish – all that outdoor work built up our appetites. We had a BBQ with lots of delicious food and there was even time for hot chocolate, marshmallows and songs by the camp fire before bed.



Friday was a little wet, but it didn't dampen our spirits. We enjoyed lots of fun team building games and sadly took our tents down. We went home muddy, tired and soggy, but we all had a great time with friends and teachers.



### Years 5 & 6 Trip to Harlow Activity Centre

The children in Years 5 and 6 went to Harlow Activity Centre on Wednesday 18 September as part of the KS2 PE Outdoor Pursuits Programme of Study.

Everyone participated in climbing, canoeing and archery. The instructors were excellent, making sure all the children understood the skills and the safety precautions for each activity. They encouraged everyone to 'have a go'.

Some children were a little hesitant about the climbing wall, but grew in confidence as the session progressed.

Luckily no one fell in while canoeing although lots of canoes initially went round in circles! Once the children learnt to work together in the canoe and their paddling technique improved, the canoes went in straighter lines down the river.

All the children managed to hit the target in archery, with a few scoring a bulls eye!

The weather stayed dry and everyone returned to Oaklands knowing they had had a great time trying the new outdoor activities.

*On the 18<sup>th</sup> of September Years 5 and 6 went with Mrs Johnson, Mr Arrowsmith and Ms Kassira to the Harlow Activity Centre. We were divided into three groups with children from both classes in each one. We all got to try archery, canoeing, and rock climbing. Each group got sent off with a teacher and an instructor to help us with each activity. We all loved the day and it only took 45 minutes to get there!*

**Report by Mizgin**

### Year 6 'Taster Day' Session at St Edmund's School

*On Thursday 26 September Year 6 went to St Edmund's College in Ware and we really enjoyed everything we did there.*

*At 8.10am we left Oaklands School and travelled on a coach for one hour. When we arrived we had an ICT lesson and then played three games of Basketball. Following a break for flapjacks and water, we had a French lesson. Then it was time for Science, where we made Rainbow Fizz. Lunch was delicious and was devoured quickly. Then we saw the chapel and learned about Tom Byles, a priest from St Edmund's who travelled on The Titanic and refused a place on the lifeboats so that he could stay to comfort those left behind.*



*Afterwards, a pleased and tired Year 6 returned to Oaklands feeling very positive about moving to secondary school.*

**Report by Danae**



## Oak-Tree Group of Schools 'Celebration of Art' Exhibition

Pupils' art works from the Oak-Tree Group of Schools were featured at a special exhibition at Lopping Hall, Loughton on Saturday 21 September.

Ranging from individual and collaborative pieces from pupils at Oaklands School and Coopersale Hall School to some of the 100% A\*/A-graded GCSE Art pieces from Normanhurst Senior pupils, the Art Exhibition was enthusiastically received by parents, friends of the schools and the local community.



## WGEL Schools Cross Country Competition

Our cross country team is taking part in the Woodford Green Essex Ladies Schools Cross Country Competition and our first meeting was held on Thursday 26 September.

Future dates are Thursday 3 and 10 October at 4.30pm.

We wish the team good luck for the series.

## The Oak-Tree Group of Schools join together for Fireworks Night Sunday 10 November 5pm onwards

Exciting times as Oaklands School and Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst Schools celebrate Fireworks Night together for the first time. The venue is Oaklands School on Sunday 10 November from 5pm. Tickets will cost £10 per adult and £5 per child, or £25 per family of 2 adults and 2 children. The ticket price will include the organised display plus food and refreshments.

Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst Schools are eagerly looking forward to sharing this event with us.

More information to follow shortly on how to purchase your tickets. So do please put this date in your diary and come along and support all three school's parents' associations.

## Oaklands Parents' Association (OPA)

### Uniform Sale

The OPA uniform sale held on Wednesday 25 September was a great success! We made £590 which is by far the most successful one to date. Thank you all for your support.

We are looking at the possibility of a pre-ordering system in the future, and hope to give you more news on this fairly soon.

A big thank you to Miss Michaels for letting us take over her room (we hope we didn't leave it too untidy!), the caretakers for all their help in moving the boxes, and to Mrs Clark in the office for her help with price lists.



### Future Events

#### **OPA Coffee Morning—Wednesday 2 October at 9am—Costa Coffee, Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill**

Please come along to meet other parents, and especially to welcome new parents to the school and the OPA. Everybody welcome.

#### **Cheese & Wine Evening, combined with the OPA AGM—Tuesday 8 October—7pm to 8.30pm in the School Hall**

Another chance to come along and meet other parents, and because it is an evening event, we hope to include those parents working in the day. This is a social event followed by the OPA AGM where the committee will be officially elected, and details will be given on the OPA accounts and future plans discussed. Everybody welcome.

#### **Parents' Evenings for Transition to Year 6—Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 October**

The OPA usually arranges 'Movie Afternoons' to keep children entertained whilst parents meet their teachers. More details to follow.

#### **Fireworks Display—Sunday 10 November—5pm to 7pm**

This is always a really popular event with Oaklands families and we are keeping our fingers crossed for nice weather! There will be a fireworks display, food and drinks, glow in the dark items, lucky dips, and much more. Please put the date in your diary and bring along your family and friends. Everybody welcome.



## Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event
Thursday 3 October	9.15am to 11.15am	Open Morning
Thursday 3 October	4.30pm	WGEL Schools Cross Country
Tuesday 8 October	7pm to 8pm	OPA Cheese and Wine Evening , and AGM
Wednesday 9 October		Years 3 and 4 to Gilwell Park
Thursday 10 October	4.30pm	WGEL Schools Cross Country
Tuesday 15 October	3.30pm to 7pm	Transition to Year 6 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 16 October	3.30pm to 7pm	Transition to Year 6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 17 October	all day	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop

## Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November

Date	Time	Event
Thursday 7 November		Whole School individual photographs
Sunday 10 November	5pm to 7pm	OPA Fireworks Display
Wednesday 20 November	2pm	Year 4 Play
Wednesday 27 November	2pm	Transition Play
Thursday 29 November	2pm	Transition Play