



Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

I hope you all enjoyed the Half Term Break and managed to find the sun and dry weather!

It was a very successful 'Curriculum Week' and the whole School took America as its theme. There was a 'Stars and Stripes Day' for Years 1 and 2 and we had some amazing skyscrapers in 2L classroom! We had an American diner in 1P classroom and we thank Mrs Shea for sharing her ideas and expertise. The pumpkin bread was delicious! Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 made tepees and experimented with sand to create some very unusual pictures. The younger year groups enjoyed the 'Disney and Superhero Day'! Not only does 'Curriculum Week' develop the children's understanding of a specific theme, but it also allows different age groups to mix and mingle, cooperate and learn from each other.

This Half Term will be just as busy with Parents' Evenings, Year 1 plays and the Year 5 'Assembly' to parents, cross country and netball competitions, science and a general knowledge quiz, The Oak-Tree Festival and Open Morning and much more.... Remember to check the back of this newsletter and/or the website for dates and times of all our forthcoming events.

Cheryl Macnair
Headmistress

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Y1 Chinese New Year

To celebrate Chinese New Year the Year 1 children were allowed to dress in red, yellow and gold. The children enjoyed a specially prepared Chinese lunch from James and 1S sent invitations and lunch menus to all the classes.



Y6 Forest School Science Competition

On Wednesday 5 February, Amy, Zoe, Lara and Sophie from Year 6 went to the Forest School Junior Science Competition. Although they didn't win any prizes, the girls had a wonderful time solving Science challenges and watching a demonstration of some very dramatic Science.

The girls had this to say about the experience:

"It was fun making all the different compounds!" Lara.

"I think it was good because when you arrived you could feel the excitement in the air!" Zoe.

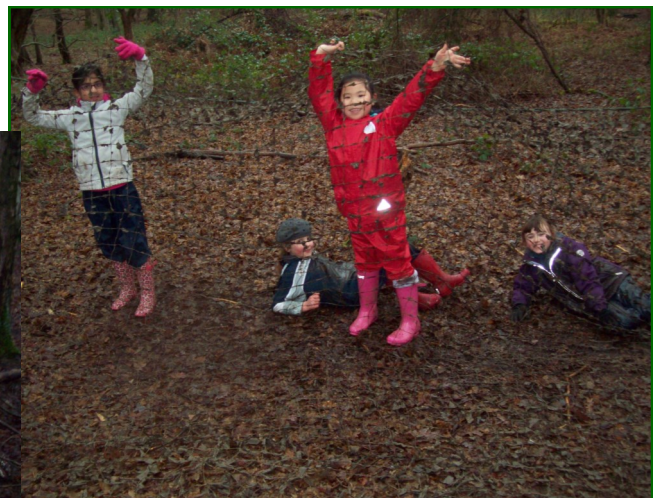
"We found it challenging, but we got there in the end." Sophie.

"I liked it when the teacher breathed fire which made the balloons explode!" Amy.

The girls were all awarded a certificate and a phone sock for participating in the competition.

Y3 Cuffley Camp

On Friday 31 January Y3 went to Cuffley Camp in Hertford as part of our adventure and mystery literacy topic. We went by minibus, with Mr Colley driving and it was an exciting experience. On arrival, we were given instruction for the day and stored our gear. Our first activity was fire building. In three groups (lead by three competitive adults - Mrs Johnson, Mr Colley and Mrs Wilson), we constructed and lit our bonfires. Then the challenge was to keep them going in the light rain! Next we built our own shelters using logs, making sure they were sturdy and big enough for each team to fit into. After a well deserved lunch, our final activity was an adventure course - following a trail, climbing, squeezing, jumping, ducking and crawling through a variety of obstacles. We went through mud, puddles, nets and trees but we all gave it our best effort and had amazing fun.



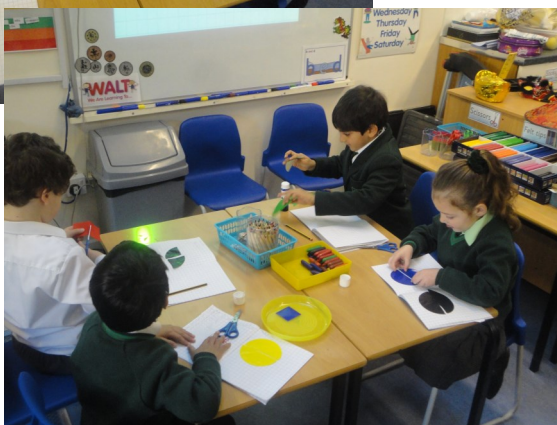
Happy Puzzle Day

On Monday 3 February, The Happy Puzzle Company visited Oaklands School. The company uses practical problem solving activities to engage children's interest and challenge them to think creatively and collaboratively.

Four sessions took place throughout the day, involving Transition; a combined Year 1 and 2 group; Years 3 and 4; and Years 5 and 6. We were also fortunate to be able to hold a session with parents after school. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and the company certainly proved their message that there are "no impossible Maths problems".

Y1 Maths

In Year 1 we try to make maths lessons as practical as we can. This term we have been learning to count in twos and practise the two times table, halve different shapes and double and halve different quantities. We have all worked really hard on these different topics and enjoyed eating the fruit along the way!



Y2 Trip to Chigwell Synagogue

Year 2 visited Chigwell Synagogue as part of their topic about Judaism. The children learnt about the Torah and were able to have a close look at it. Rabbi Davis talked to the children and answered their very interesting questions that they had previously prepared in class. This was a great opportunity for us to gain a deeper understanding of the Jewish religion.



ISA London North Cross Country Championships

On Tuesday 11 February 2014, 15 children selected from Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 travelled to Rushmoor School in Bedford in the school mini bus to participate in the ISA London North Cross Country Championships.

We were very lucky that the rain stopped at lunchtime and the sun shone just as the races began. Each race contained approximately 70-75 runners. Despite the muddy and windy conditions, all the children ran extremely well and didn't fall over!

We await confirmation of the official results but the majority of our runners in each of the races (Y3/4 girls; Y4 boys; Y5/6 girls finished between 30th and 50th.

Congratulations to Lindsey (Y3), Charlie, Georgia, Daniele, Rafi, Theo, Elliot, Jake and Sameer (Y4) Natasha, Alexandra, Libby and Maddie (Y5) and Kiera and Danae (Y6) for their effort and perseverance in such adverse conditions.

Y2 East London Music Festival

Monday 10 February saw Year 2 children performing at the Annual Stratford and East London Music Festival. We travelled by school minibus to St Mary's Church, Woodford to compete in the Under 7s Infant Choral Class against five other schools.

We were the fifth choir to sing, so the children had to keep nerves and excitement under control, whilst we watched the other schools perform.



When it was our turn, the Year 2 pupils processed calmly onto the platform and waited for the introduction to our first song: Cockles and Mussels. Singing tunefully and with feeling they told the sad story of Molly Malone and her wheelbarrow of shellfish. The audience applauded appreciatively and we prepared for our second song: Ocean Commotion. Pleading the case of the Hammerhead Shark, the children gave a lively and impressive performance, complete with sharp and effective choreography.

After the final school had performed, it was time for the adjudication from Mr Adrian Goss. He gave us all helpful advice and comments and then announced the results....and.....WE CAME 2ND!! This is only the second time Oaklands has entered the competition and the children are justly proud of their achievement. A lovely shiny cup now stands proudly on Mrs Macnair's desk, to be displayed in the trophy cabinet.

OK, Year 1 – your turn next year – are you ready for the challenge??



KS1 Stars and Stripes Day

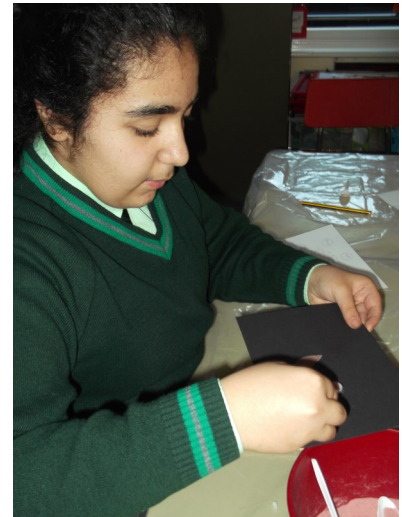
The children in KS1 had a 'Stars and Stripes' day to learn more about America. They came into school wearing stars, stripes and American colours. They had great fun working as a team to create sky scrapers using junk modelling, Statue of Liberty torches and crowns and tie dying their t-shirts in American colours.

Marin and Gracie's Mum came in to help make smores and create an American menu. Miss Lucy showed the children some cheerleading moves and James made us an American lunch of hot dogs and fries.



KS2 Curriculum Week

The focus for key stage 2 has been Native Americans. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 have been busy making dream catchers, sand painting, talking sticks, tepees, flags and pinch pots. They have also produced fact files, poems and stories about the tradition and culture of the tribes of America.



Forthcoming Events—Spring Term

Date	Time	Event
Monday 17 - Friday 21 February		Half Term
Tuesday 25 February	3.30pm onwards	Transition - Year 6 Parents Evening
	3.15pm - 5.15pm	OPA Movie Afternoon - TR - Year 6
Wednesday 26 February	3.30pm onwards	Transition - Year 6 Parents Evening
	3.30pm	OPA Uniform Sale in Studio
Wednesday 5 March	9.00am - 9.30am	Year 5 Assembly to Parents
Thursday 6 March		World Book Day (dress up as your favourite character)
	1.15pm	KS2 Coopersale Hall School Cross Country
Friday 7 March	9.00am-3.30pm	ISA Netball Competition - Redbridge Sports Centre
Monday 10 March	10.00-11.00am	KS2 National Prep Schools General Knowledge Quiz at Forest School
	All day	TR 'Dinosaur Day' at Oaklands
Monday 10 -14 March		Travelling Book Fair visits
Wednesday 12 March		Haileybury Science Competition
		GR to Fire Station
	12.45pm-4.00pm	Netball Squad Bancrofts Tournament
Thursday 13 March	9.15am	Open Morning
Friday 14 March	All day	TR - Y6 Visiting author/workshops
Tuesday 18 March	9.00am	GR Assembly to Parents
Wednesday 19 March	Morning	Oaklands KS2 Swimming Gala at Loughton Pool
	2.00pm	1S Play - 'Stella the Star Fish' to Parents
Thursday 20 March		Bancrofts School Science Fair
	2.00pm	1P Play - 'Stella the Star Fish' to Parents
Friday 21 March	9.30am	GR Assembly to Parents
	11.00am	LK Assembly to Parents
	5.00-6.30pm	OPA Easter Disco at Murray Hall
Tuesday 25 March		Easter Bunny (OPA)
Wednesday 26 March		No Swimming
	12.45pm	St Edmunds Cross Country Races
Thursday 27 March		Oak-Tree Festival at Hawkey Hall
Friday 28 March		Last day of Spring Term

