



NEWSLETTER

January 2018

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018; it seems incredible that three weeks have passed already. It has been a busy start to the term with lots of activities happening in the classrooms, workshops visiting the school and children participating in sporting events. All our Year 6 children have been sitting a variety of senior school entrance exams and attending interviews.

Last week I received a lovely letter from the Wynaud Trust thanking us for the large number of shoes we collected at the end of the Autumn Term for the people in Zambia. The Mill Grove Family Centre in South Woodford also sent the School a lovely 'thank you' card for the £230.10 raised at the end of the Carol Service. Many thanks for your kind donations.

Before February half term, we have a Maths workshop in school for KS1 and KS2 classes, Year 2 are performing in the 'Stratford and East London Music Festival,' Y3L are presenting their assembly to their parents and Year 2 are competing in a Multi-sports House competition.

We wish all the children the very best of luck in all these activities.

Sue Belej

Oak-Tree Art Exhibition

On Saturday 20 January the Oak-Tree Art Exhibition took place in Lopping Hall. Art from across the three Key Stages in the school was showcased. It was lovely to see the quality and variety of work the pupils created. Lots of children and their parents came to see the artwork and enjoyed looking at Oakland's display and the art from the other Oak-Tree schools.



Congratulations to everyone who had their work exhibited.



GR Caring for Animals

The topic this half term in the Garden Room has been 'Caring for others'. During the first week Mrs Defoe came into school to tell the class how to care for pets. They also had a visit from the school dog, Dexter, who enjoyed showing the children his tricks and getting a special toy from Mrs Defoe.

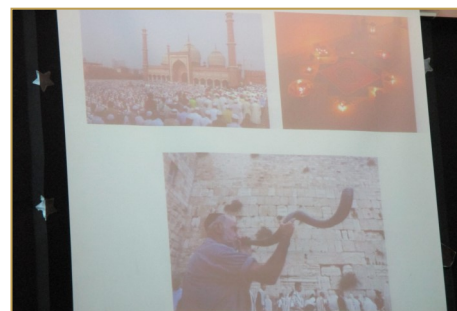


4C Assembly



On Monday 15 January 4C presented a wonderful assembly to KS2 about 'World Religion Day.' They gave a fantastic performance about the 730 religions around the world. KS2 learnt some amazing facts about the four main religions in London: Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. The children enjoyed participating in the

quiz during the assembly which developed their knowledge about these religions.



Forest School Swimming Gala

On Tuesday 16 January, girls from Oaklands School took part in the Forest School Swimming Gala. They each took part in an individual race and the relays.

Annabel had the task of doing the 25m butterfly where she finished 1st in her heat with a fantastic strong, smooth stroke. Maya competed in the 25m breaststroke finishing in 2nd place in her heat with a very accomplished performance.

Emmy was up against a very strong field of swimmers in the 25m backstroke, but still maintained her rhythm to touch the wall in 3rd place in her heat.

Hannah took part in the 25m front crawl and was not far off the girls record finishing in 1st place with an amazing time of 18 seconds. She only had a few minutes to rest before making her way to the starting blocks for the individual medley race where she had to do a length of each stroke. Hannah swam beautifully and kept her composure to finish 2nd in her heat.



After a brief chat about who should swim which leg, the girls were soon competing in the 4X25m medley relay with all the girls pushing themselves to the limits, finishing in 1st place in their heat.

The last event of the gala saw the team take part in the 4X25m freestyle relay. They were tired from their previous excursions but mustered all the energy they had left and produced an exciting finish to come in 2nd in their heat. **A huge congratulations to our swim team, they can be very proud of their efforts!**

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Awards

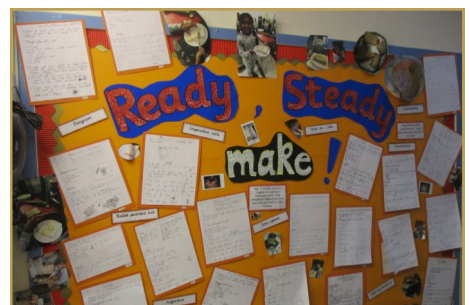
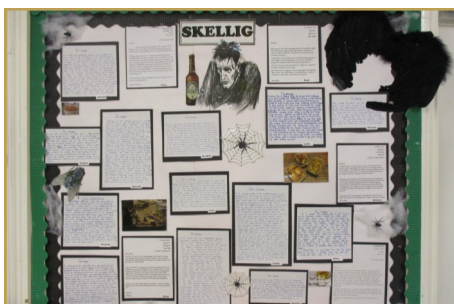
Since the start of the Spring Term, the following children have been presented with either a merit certificate, a Good Behaviour certificate or a Friendship card. **Well done everyone!**

	Merit	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1J	Anastasia, Henry, Siena	Kaazim	Sarah
1R	Sevak, Enzo, Nathan, Nael	Avani	Sebastian
2C	Olivia, Ethan, Cleo, Alexia	Tyran	Samrit
2S	Melveen, Pragnya, Holly, Mya	Dylan	Kiki
3L	Kaylan, Nicholas	KS2 awards to be presented on Thursday 1 February.	
4C	Jack, Amber		
4Z	Ellie, Jayden		
5G	Babette, Lillia		
6J	Maya, Laith		

Displays Around the School

There are a number of new colourful displays of the children's work around the school. Here are some examples.

The teachers are very proud of the work being produced by the children.





TR Construction visit



The Transition children enjoyed their walk to a construction site this week. They were lucky enough to see a digger in action and were able to speak to the architect and a carpenter. The children were very excited to see some of the things they had been learning about in class.



ISA London North Cross Country

On Wednesday 24 January boys and girls from Oaklands School took part in the annual ISA London North Cross Country race at Bedford. The team comprising of children from Years 3-6 were extremely excited and focused at the prospect of competing against a very large field of schools.

After a traffic free journey and countless calls of 'are we there yet?', we arrived at our destination. The pupils had lots of time to relax and have their lunch, providing them with much needed energy for the long and gruelling course. However, Mother Nature had other ideas and wanted to provide more of a challenge! The heavens opened and after a short walk up to the field, the pupils realised that Mr Paine had actually entered the team into a 'Tough Mudder' race! Well that's what it looked like at least. The pupils took part in a light warm-up around the route to get them accustomed to the conditions and the course and after reluctantly removing their coats and tracksuits, lined up on the start line.



The Year 3&4 girls showed maturity and determination beyond their years with Annabella, Freya, Chloe, Amber, Maya and Sara finishing the race in very respectable places.

The Year 3&4 boys team, comprising of Kaylan, Cailan, Alex, Luke, Artie and Waiz worked extremely hard and can be proud of their efforts against a very strong line up of schools.

Francesca, Emmy, Lillia, Hannah and Annabel from Year 5&6 were magnificent, completing the now swamped course in very quick times and can take heart from their performances.

The Year 5&6 boys team comprising of Tristan, Jake, Issac, Danny, Arjun and Dhanna had the mammoth task of completing 2½ laps, but held their nerve and managed to run 2km and cross the finish line. They should be very proud of their efforts.

Well done to all of our runners! You have done yourselves, parents and the School proud. A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Booth and Chloe's mum in supporting and helping the team (especially the challenge of getting everyone back onto the coach without bringing the mud with them).

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House Poetry Competition

A new House Competition was organised in January: Poetry writing. Every child in KS1 and KS2 wrote a poem during their English lesson. KS2 children wrote poems based around the theme of 'Spring' whilst those children in KS1 wrote descriptive poems. Every child scored a point for their House. The three best poems in each class gained additional points. The final scores were:

1st Beech **2nd Willow** **3rd Sycamore** **4th Holly**

The standard of poetry writing continues to improve throughout the school. You can see some of the poems displayed along the middle corridor in the main school building and in some of the classrooms.

GR Caring for Babies



Week 2 of discovery sessions in the Garden Room has been all about caring for babies. On Monday 22 January the class had a lovely visit from one of the children's 5 week old baby sister! Pupils had a great discussion on what babies need and how we can take



care of them. They then explored a variety of activities including baby food tasting, a baby hospital, also a baby bathing and changing station. Last of all the children had great fun looking at each other's baby photographs and discussing how everyone has grown.

Story time with the Librarians



The Year 6 Librarians had the opportunity to read stories to the Transition children. They had a wonderful time and interacted well with the children. This was a delightful way to build relationships allowing the Transition children to socialise with peers older than them. **We will certainly do**



this again!

KS1 'WOW' Certificates

On Wednesday 31 January the following children in KS1 were presented with a 'WOW' certificate in assembly.

1J Elizabeth and Gabriella

2C Nell and Ethan

1R Georgia and George

2S Annabel and Zavier

Photos of the children and examples of their work are on display near the office. **Congratulations to all the children!**



House Meetings

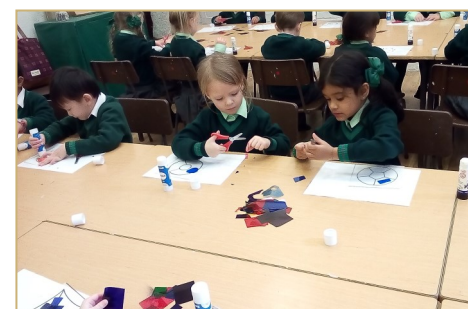
House meetings took place on Monday 22 January. Each House perfected their 'chant' which had been started during their Autumn Term meeting. We hope to hear these at some of the House sports events later in the Spring Term.

Mrs Belej also asked each House to propose a name for our school mascot, which is a cuddly grey coloured teddy bear. **The teddy bear has been named as 'Oakley'.**



TR St Albans Abbey

Transition spent a fun filled day at St Albans Abbey learning about shapes and measuring. Following a shape hunt they took rubbings of the patterns in the floor tiles. Non-standard units of measure were explored by counting strides to determine the width of the Abbey and hugs to find out the circumference of a pillar. The highlight of the measuring was using a helium balloon on a string to measure the height from the floor to the ceiling. The string was then measured using a trundle wheel – an introduction to standard units of measure.



After lunch the children looked at some of the many stained glass windows before creating a mini version for themselves. The windows can be viewed in the classrooms. **A number of children were heard commenting that this had been the best day of their lives!**



GR visit Mellows Care Home

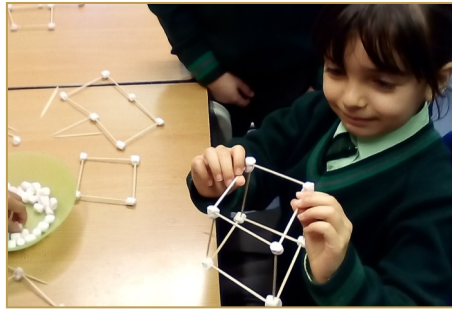
As part of our topic 'Caring for the Elderly', the children in the Garden Room visited Mellows Care Home. The children sang some of our favourite songs with the residents happily joining in. The class took a selection of traditional stories with them which the children shared with residents. The Mellows staff commented on how wonderful it was to see the children and the elderly folk interacting together and are excited to see the rest of the Garden Room children on Friday. **The staff who accompanied the children all agree that it was a really worthwhile experience for both the children and the residents and one that we would like to repeat again!**



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Shapes

Transition have been learning to distinguish between 2D and 3D shapes. Using marshmallows and cocktail sticks the children worked both independently and with partners to construct squares, rectangles and cubes.



Portals to the Past - Anglo-Saxon Workshop



Year 6 had a wonderful day on Monday 29 January. They had the opportunity to dress up as Anglo-Saxons and explored the everyday life of a Saxon. The whole day was filled with facts, fun and lots of laughter.

The day began where the children explored how the Saxons changed the culture of post-Roman Britain, followed by a session on the etiquette and hierarchy of a feast in the Lord's Hall. They were then taught how to play Fox



and Geese, a Saxon board game.

In the afternoon session the children listened to the legendary story of Beowulf followed by a display of weapons and armour. At the end they looked at why the Normans won the Battle of Hastings.

Quotes from the children:

"I have learnt amazing facts that I will remember forever. The board game we were taught to play, was the best part of the day for me. I had a fun-filled time and the dressing-up gave me a picture of what the children wore in those days." **Livvy**

"I can most definitely say on behalf of the Year 6 children that this workshop was a very enjoyable day" **Estel**

"Fantastic! We learnt so many new facts during this workshop. I loved the stories we were told about Beowulf! I would absolutely recommend this workshop!" **Hannah**



OPA Re-cycled school uniform sale

A re-cycled school uniform sale took place on Friday 12 January, 2.30-4.30pm in the studio. Thank you to the OPA members who organised this event.

The OPA will be holding another re-cycled school uniform sale before the end of the Spring Term, likely to be on Monday 26 March. The date will be confirmed after the February half term break. The main items available at this sale will be summer dresses, jumpers and blazers.



2S Class Assembly

2S took part in a class assembly. The children told a story about getting on and falling out and how important it is for us all to be friends. At the end of the assembly the children finished with a very important quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson - "The only way to have a friend is to be one."



Year 1 Lego Workshop



This week Year 1 took part in a Lego 'Young Town Planners' workshop. The workshop instructor, Ms Sheila, led a discussion with the children on the different types of buildings they would expect to find in a town, including different types of shops, houses, eateries and essential amenities such as schools and hospitals. She then showed them how to make their buildings strong and steady by creating a strong foundation and by overlapping the bricks. Each child constructed their own building complete with eaves and a pitched roof and then they decided what their building would be within the town. There was a MacDonal'd's, a KFC, a vet, a chocolate factory, a hospital and even a prison! They then linked their buildings together to create a town: 1J called their town 'Rainbow Town' and 1R had 'Oakfields Town'. Everyone had a great day of busy building and the hands on workshop really helped to bring our current topic of 'Homes and Houses in the local environment' to life.



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Karate Club

A number of children who attend the weekly Karate club have successfully completed their grading for their next coloured belt. Sensei Nick congratulated them all for their perseverance and determination, particularly the new yellow belts, who realised how much of a step up this test was for them!

Well done everyone!

Yellow

Alice - Year 6
Leo - Year 4
Jayden - Year 4
Tyran - Year 2
Bethan - Year 2

Red

Thiago - Year 3
Kristina - Year 2
Zayna - Year 2
Kiki - Year 2
Annabel - Year 2
Janvi - Year 1