



NEWSLETTER

September 2018

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

This has been an exciting September at Oaklands. We have had a very busy half-term so far, as you will see from this newsletter.

There has been a variety of assemblies, a RWI Information Evening for Reception parents, a 'Ready to read and write' meeting for Upper Kindergarten parents, Year 3 Camp, the Year 4 visits to Harlow Activity Centre and Hatfield Forest, Y5 visit to the Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey, House and School Council meetings and the 'Jeans for Genes' charity day.

In the classroom, all the children have settled well into their new routines and have made a very positive start to the academic year. The children have been working hard in their lessons and the displays around the school show some of their amazing work.

We are looking forward to welcoming new prospective parents to our Open Morning on Thursday 4 October. It is also an opportunity for current parents to see the school at work, especially those of you who have children in KS1. Members of the Senior Leadership team will be available to answer questions about the KS2 curriculum and the preparation for 11+ entrance exams.

Sue Belej

Sue Belej

Harvest Assembly



On Monday 24 September, the story tellers from Loughton Christian Drama Centre visited our Harvest Assemblies. The children were treated to Jesus' parable of the Mustard Seed and some children dressed up to illustrate the story. It was a lovely start to our Harvest Celebrations.

The children in these pictures are ploughing the fields and scattering seeds.





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Y4 Harlow Activities



On Tuesday 18 September pupils from Year 4 visited Harlow Outdoor Activity Centre for a fun packed day. The weather stayed fair and the children enjoyed the activities they took part in. There was archery where the pupils used all their might to pull the bow back to fire the arrows at the board. Some even managed to hit the bullseye! They took part in a 'make your own pizza' competition although the choice of toppings did not fill them with joy. A burnt pizza with tomato sauce was the pick of the bunch.



The pupils then donned their buoyancy aids and paddles to try out canoeing with some very impressive steering from the group. The wind was very strong and the children had to work really hard to paddle against the current and navigate the moored boats and overhanging trees and brambles. 4C also had the hard task of wall climbing and used their grip strength to great effect to scale the wall and reach the top. They all showed very good teamwork in helping ensure the climbers were safe at all times.

As well as this, they can be very proud of their efforts and they have no doubt gained a sense of confidence, courage and determination in completing all the activities. **Well done everyone!**



IPads in the Music Lesson



Year 6 are using the iPads to learn how to use the programme, Garageband. This enables them to learn how contemporary music is created, using smart instruments, loops and drum machines.

This week they have been using the inbuilt microphone to record their own voices.





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Prefect Duties

Year 6 pupils are proudly wearing their Prefect badges and enjoying performing their prefect duties each day. We are already very impressed with their daily commitment to the children and the school.

House Captains and Vice Captains have helped to run the first House meeting of the school year. The Girls and Boys School Games Captains will soon be busy once the first fixtures against local schools get underway. The Office Prefects are being particularly efficient in their morning duties around the school.

Class/Place	Pupils
Office	Danny, Zaamin
LK	Anna, Francesca
UK	Libby, Sophia
Reception Owls	Charlotte
Reception Robins	Amy
Reception W/peckers	Arjun
Y1R	Afiyah
Y1Z	Babette
Y2C	Lillia
Y2S	Isaac
Y3C	Emmy
Y3L	Tristan



Open Day

Thursday 4 October
at 9.15am



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Y3 Overnight Camp



Last Thursday, our two Year 3 classes together with the other Oak-Tree schools; Normanhurst, Coopersale Hall and Braeside, attended the annual Year 3 camping experience. Great fun was had by all, as the children were involved in fun activities and team building tasks. The children managed to erect their own tents and got into the camping spirit by toasting marshmallows, drinking hot chocolate and singing campfire songs. A relatively, peaceful night's sleep was followed by more games and activities the following day.

"Camping was so much fun!! My favourite moments were sharing a tent with my friends and toasting yummy marshmallows!"- Melveen.



House Meetings

'House meetings' took place for the first time this term on Monday 17 September. It was a new and exciting experience for our new Year 1 children who were carefully escorted to their 'House' meeting place in school. Our newly appointed House Captains and Vice Captains assisted the Staff Leader to conduct the meeting.

During the meeting, each house voted for a charity they would like to support. The following charities were chosen:

Beech – Save the Children

Willow – Children's Mental Health Week

Holly – Comic Relief

Sycamore – Crisis at Christmas

**Children's
Mental Health
Week 2018**

**Save the
Children**

**COMIC
RELIEF**

**Crisis
at Christmas**

There are a number of 'House' events planned for this year which will involve all KS1 and KS2 children.

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Y5 Royal Gunpowder Mills



Year 5 had a wonderful day learning about the Victorian period at the Royal Gunpowder Mills. They discovered how the Victorians lived and experienced different aspects of their life. Pupils learnt about traditional games and fun before the computer age and managed to survive in a Victorian classroom.

The children found out what life was like as a working child and particularly enjoyed practical activities including shoe polishing and match box packing. Hands-on activities, re-enactments and workshops made this a

fantastic day of fun learning to be explored further in class.



Reception Woodpeckers in the Wild Woods



Reception Woodpeckers have been busy in the Wild Woods. They enjoyed making hammocks and dens with construction materials, sheets and pegs.

Some of the children took part in activities such as mark making on chalk logs and threading twine into wooden blocks to promote their fine motor skills. They also made mud pies in our mud pie kitchen!



Construction Topic in Reception

As part of Reception's topic on Construction, Owls were lucky enough to watch the bricklayer building part of the wall of the new school hall. The class talked about the tool he was using and how he had made the mortar. On our return to class we watched a program to see how bricks are made. The children were amazed that they were 'cooked' for such a long time!





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Lower Kindergarten



This month the children in Lower Kindergarten have been making the most of our Indian summer. They have been using resistance to strengthen their hand muscles and support fine motor skills.



The children loved being outside, using spray bottles to squirt various things, including the plants, frogs and their shadows!

The children have also been exploring different sensory trays during the 'messy sessions'. They had cold spaghetti, shaving foam and wonderful wobbly jelly. It is a great way to encourage new vocabulary, as the children used all of their senses to discover and learn. Most importantly, it was lots of fun and a great way to bond with new friends in the classroom.



Upper Kindergarten



Pupils have been making the most of the sunny weather and learning a variety of ball skills in the outdoor environment. They have played some fun games which involve dragging and dribbling the ball.



During their music sessions the children have had the opportunity to play drums and shakers as they listen to the soft and loud music. It was great fun!

Oaklands Staff Shine Night Walk

On Saturday 22 September, eight members of the Oaklands Staff participated in the Shine Night Walk. They were some of the 16,000 amazing people who walked together to 'beat cancer'.

Congratulations to Miss Carter, Mrs Booth, Miss Dee, Mrs Refalo, Mrs Bhachu, Mrs Rathbone, Mrs Darcy and Mrs Belej who between them have raised £2,650 for Cancer Research UK.



NEWSLETTER

Reception Woodpeckers Circle Time

As part of their personal, social and emotional learning and development, Woodpeckers enjoyed a circle time activity based on how we can play and help each other at playtimes. They discussed each picture and sorted them into 'right choices' and 'wrong choices' to make at playtime. All the children agreed that they would work as a team to have great inclusive playtimes!



2C Quadrilaterals

This month 2C have been learning more about 2D shapes. They learnt the word 'vertices' and became experts at recognising how many vertices and edges each shape had. The class learnt a new shape word; quadrilateral and practiced sorting shapes using different criteria. We wonder if all the mums and dads would be able to identify as many shapes as Year 2's?!



Year 1 Art



In Art Year 1 painted Stone Keep and Motte and Bailey castles. They started by drawing a castle on a whiteboard before the teachers photocopied them. They then finished their pictures using watercolour paints.



Y6 3D Shapes

Year 6 have had a few practical lessons on 3D shapes and nets. Their first task was to build 3D shapes from 2D drawings. The class were instructed to then work out the least number of additional cubes they would need to change the shape into a cuboid or cube.



After that, pupils were given the task to construct a cube by using six square based pyramids. This was challenging but everyone did a great job!





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School Council

The first meeting of the year gave the reps the opportunity to meet each other and have their photos taken for the notice board. They were also given their first task of carrying out a class survey on what type of water bottles children are bringing to school each day. This survey follows on from last year's school council's request that Oaklands became more eco-friendly.

The results will be shared to the school in a forthcoming assembly by our Year 6 reps, Charlotte and Libby.

Congratulations to the new School Council reps.

Class	School Council Reps
1R	Zara, Aaryan
1Z	Julia, Abigail
2C	Nathan, Nael
2S	Arabella, Kaazim
3C	Tyran, India
3L	Santiago, Maja
4C	Jamie, Sophia
5G	Jack, Jayda
5Z	Inaya, Ellie
6J	Libby, Charlotte

Class	Merit
1R	Camille, Jude, Skye, Teddy
1Z	Siddarth, Alicia, Julia, Stefan
2C	Nael, Sebastian, Ava-Isha, Henry
2S	Sarah, Henry, William, Anayah
3C	Melveen, Dylan
3L	Olivia, Libby
4C	Kaylan, Konstantin, Nicholas, William
5G	Alex, Sofia, Chloe, Sydney
5Z	Leo, Charlotte, Cailan, Artie
6J	Babette, Libby, Emmy, Zaamin

KS1 and KS2 Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been awarded merit certificates so far this term.

Both the Year 3 classes were awarded a special Headteacher's Certificate for their wonderful participation and effort in all the Year 3 Camp activities.



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Y4 at Hatfield Forest



Year 4C had a fabulous day in Hatfield forest. They learnt how to use a compass and read a map. They put their skills into use navigating the forest to find clues to complete a crossword. Everyone had an excellent day in the forest enjoying the great weather and working in their groups.



Harvest Festival

On Thursday 27 September the whole school took part in the annual Harvest Festival. The stage was overflowing with Harvest goods. Our guest, Mr Tony Miller from the Whitechapel Mission, was amazed by the quantity of gifts given. He gave an inspirational talk about his work at



the Mission, working with the homeless and thanked the children and all the parents and carers who have given so generously.



The Mission relies on donations like these to operate and cares for over 250 people a day. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity to our many charities and causes.

P.E

The pupils at Oaklands have come back and have carried on where they left off last summer term with some very pleasing displays during PE and Games. It has been great to see our younger boys and girls in EYFS develop their confidence to take part in all the activities. They have been enjoying acting as pirates whilst practicing football skills, showing promising ability.

Years 1 and 2 have been learning a gymnastics routine in their PE lessons which will comprise of at least 10 elements in which they will take part in a mini-competition towards the end of this term. They are also practicing and learning how to dribble a football at speed, pass and shoot with power.

Our older pupils are working hard to gain an understanding of tactics and game play during football drills and hopefully this will help them when playing in competitive matches against other schools. The weather has been perfect for the children to take part in cross country fitness lessons and KS2 pupils are showing a determined approach with their running to try and improve their lap times. They are also improving their agility, speed and balance whilst taking part in fun tag games like 'Capture the flag' and 'Ice, sun and lightning'.

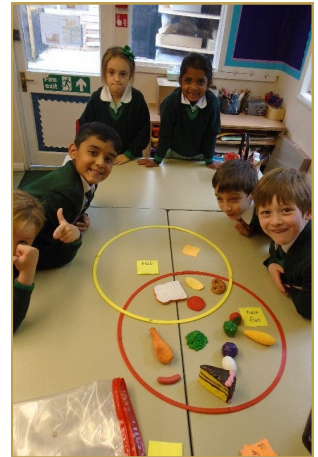




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Science - A World of Wonder

The children across Years 2-6 have been very busy down in the 'Cave of Wonders', investigating, experimenting and learning about the world around them. From the wonders of Space to the marvels of the human body, the children have thrown themselves into the wonderful world of Science, and their excitement about the subject is fantastic to see. They have come up with a range of interesting ideas and are producing some excellent work. I wonder what they were discovering in each of these photos...



Year 4 Creative Writing

In English Year 4 have been exploring creative writing based on the book "Leon and the Place Between". They have been continuing the story from the part where Leon enters the Abdul Kazam, the magician's box.

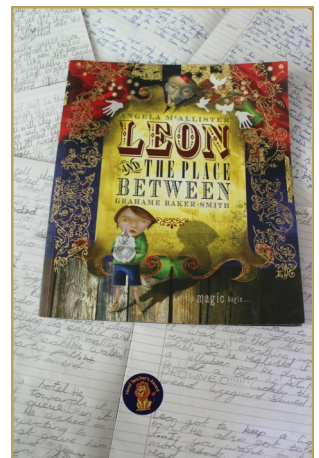
They have been thinking about different ways to start their sentences to hook the reader in as well as using adjectives and adverbs to create as much detail as possible. All the children have created a fantastic story and everyone should be congratulated for their action packed tales. Here are some superb sentences from our stories.

"Abdul Kazam appeared dramatically, everyone clapped, but Leon was the loudest."

-Ava

"Poof! Leon had disappeared into the mist. It was too late, for no one could save him now." -Keira

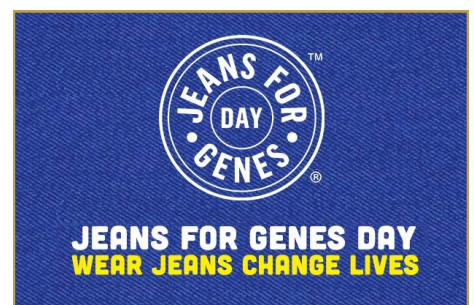
"Nervously, Leon came up onto the stage and stepped cautiously into the box!" -Riana



'Jeans for Genes' Day

On Friday 21 September all the children came to school in their denim jeans or dresses to support 'Jeans for Genes' day. Each class had discussed with their teacher what genetic disorders are and how their donations will significantly help to fund essential research and support for affected families.

The school raised £ 186.53. Thank you to everyone for your donation.



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Year 6 St Edmunds Taster Day

On Thursday, 27 September, Year 6 were invited to St Edmund's College for a taster day. On arrival, we were welcomed by Mrs Dunhill the Assistant Head. She gave us a "run-through" of the day's activities and after her introduction, we were collected by two Prefects who ushered us to our first lesson.

In Games, we did a few carousel activities to test our fitness. These included: sprinting, long jump, shuttle runs and relay races.

After Games, we attended a Science lesson filled with discovery and experimentation. We were asked to complete a "Rainbow Fizz" experiment where we had to measure the chemicals, observe the chemical reactions, describe what we saw and record our findings accurately.

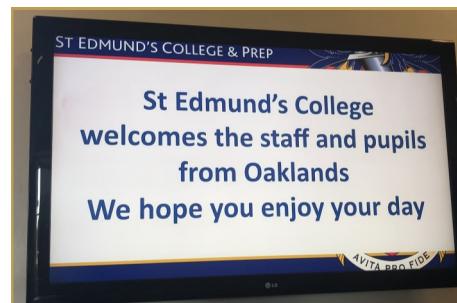
In Period 4, we were greeted by Mr Sargent the Maths Teachers. He challenged us to solve a variety of problems related to coding. Our mission was to decipher a secret message. This was very challenging but most of us managed to break the code. We were starving by the end of this lesson.

At lunch, we were given a selection of hot and cold food. The catering staff at St Edmund's surprised Danny with a birthday cupcake as they had heard that it was his birthday. There were some for the rest of Year 6 too!



In the last period, we had the chance to meet Miss Simon the Year 7 Form teacher. She described a typical day at St Edmund's and gave us an overview of all the clubs available. We were given the opportunity to ask questions before we had to go back to school.

This was a wonderful day and we want to shout out a big thank you to St Edmund's for organising this spectacular day for us.



OPA Macmillan Cancer Cake Sale

The OPA hosted an afternoon cake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care on Friday 28 September from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the studio. Many of you popped in for a cake or two.

We are looking forward to finding out how much was raised!

