



NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Item	Page
Headmistress's Message.....	1
KS2 Beauty and the Beast	1
Remembrance Assembly	2
ISA London North Girls Football Tournament.....	2
Oak-Tree Spelling Bee.....	2
Lower Kindergarten Assembly to Parents.....	3
Year 6 Christmas Party.....	3
Upper Kindergarten Nativity Production	3
Year 1 Learning about London	4
Year 2 Gunpowder Mills	4
Upper Kindergarten Visit to Mellows Care Home.....	4
Reception Christmas Show	5
KS1/2 'Wow' Assembly	5
November Awards	6
Year 3 Barleylands Trip	6
Loughton Christmas Card Competition.....	6
Year 3 & 4 Girls Football	7
Anti-Bullying Week	7
Oak-Tree Athletics	8
Children In Need	8
Stop The Press!	8
Carol Service	9
Christingle	9
Santa's Grotto and OPA Disco for Y3 – Y5.....	10
Year 6 Post Boxes.....	10

Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

We have had an extremely busy end to a very successful Autumn Term. All the children have performed in front of an audience and I have been amazed by their confidence, enthusiasm and good behaviour. Well done! My thanks go to the wonderful staff at Oaklands, without whom none of this would be possible, and you, the parents, for your support and encouragement. It was lovely to have so many parents and friends join us at each of the events.

My thanks also go to the generosity of the OPA, who continue to work tirelessly to ensure that all the children have a super Christmas, with Christmas parties, pantos, and of course, presents from Father Christmas.

As we break for the holidays, I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and my best wishes for the New Year. I look forward to welcoming you back to School on Tuesday 8 January 2019.

Sue Belej

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KS2 Beauty and the Beast

On Thursday 6 December, KS2 went to see Beauty and the Beast at the Millfield Theatre, Enfield. The children were treated to an afternoon filled with adventure and peril as the enormous beast took Beauty and her father prisoner. There was plenty of boo's, hissing and cries of "It's behind you"! One of the best parts was when Fifi and Louis baked a cake and threw an egg into the audience. Everyone had a wonderful time and it was a lovely way to celebrate all the children's success during the Autumn Term.





NEWSLETTER

Remembrance Assembly and Poppy Making

In November, every child in Reception to Year 6 was given the opportunity to make a poppy in Remembrance of all the men and women of the armed forces who died in the line of duty in World War I. Many of the poppies formed part of the display on the door to the Year 6 classroom.



The school also held a wonderful Remembrance Assembly on Monday 12 November lead by Mrs Rathbone. At 11am, we held our 2 minutes silence. All the children were very respectful and certainly made their teachers proud.

Thank you to everyone who bought a poppy, your donations are sure to make a huge difference.



ISA London North Girls Football Tournament

On Friday 9 November, Year 5 and 6 Girls football team took part in the ISA London North Girls Football tournament at Power League Barnet in Hertfordshire. It was a memorable occasion, as for the first time Oaklands School joined forces with Normanhurst School to make up an 'Oak-Tree' team to play in the event. Representing Oaklands School were Emmy, Francesca and Lillia. Making their first appearances for the girls football team were Libby from Year 6 and Maya from Year 5. Making up the rest of the team were Ella, Alicia and Shaunella from Normanhurst school.

The tournament was played in the right spirit with the aim of having fun and allowing the children to play as many matches as they could rather than having an overall winner. We managed to win 3 out of 6 matches with Emmy and Lillia scoring our goals. Considering they had not played with each other before, the girls performed fantastically well, with some excellent football being played. **They can be very proud of their efforts.**

Oak-Tree Spelling Bee

This term the Oak-Tree Spelling Bee was held at Oaklands School. A Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupil from each of the four schools took part.



Pupils were called up in Year groups and had to spell out a series of words related to their age group, with the spellings getting trickier as the competition went along.



The Oaklands team managed to come joint second with Braeside, well done!

NEWSLETTER

Lower Kindergarten Assembly to Parents

On Thursday 15 November, Lower Kindergarten had their first assembly to parents. The children were very excited to show their Mummies and Daddies what they have been learning in Music with Mrs Rathbone. They started with their good morning song, then said hello to Rat-a-Tat the Squirrel.



The children showed how they now listen carefully to instructions when making sounds with their shakers.

They knew how to play quietly, loudly, slowly and fast and most importantly ... how to stop! We were all very proud of the children for their first performance in front of an audience. **Well done Lower Kindergarten.**



Year 6 Christmas Party

This year the Year 6 children went to All Star Lane Bowling Alley at Westfield, Stratford, for their class Christmas party. It was a wonderful chance to take a break and relax after the mock exams and all the 11 plus revision.

They had a delicious Christmas meal after the game and ended it off in style with a milkshake of their choice. Thank you to the OPA who made this day truly special!



Upper Kindergarten Nativity Production



Upper Kindergarten children did a great job performing the story of the 'Christmas Toy Shop', to a large crowd of family and friends.

It was a fantastic show with the pupils acting and singing confidently on stage. There were some brilliant costumes

too. The Christmas Angel managed to bring all of the toys to life just in time for Christmas, and the Nativity scene was wonderful!

The children and staff have been working very hard to put it all together so well done everyone!





NEWSLETTER

Year 1 Learning about London



This term in their Topic lessons, Year 1 have been learning all about London and its most famous landmarks. The children produced fantastic projects on their favourite landmarks and shared lots of facts that they had learnt with their class.

Year 2 Gunpowder Mills



Year 2 had an exciting day at the Gunpowder Mills in Waltham Abbey. They learnt all about what life would have been like in Guy Fawkes' time.

They spent time in a kitchen learning about the food they ate and how they cooked. Pupils then had a go at playing some children's games that would have been played in the 1600's and made lanterns, just like the one Guy Fawkes would have used when he hid in the cellar under the Houses of Parliament!



"My favourite bit was when we watched the play all about the Gunpowder Plot. It was so much fun!" said Georgia.

Upper Kindergarten visit to Mellows Care Home

Upper Kindergarten had two successful visits to Mellows Care Home. The children all sang beautifully, and shared their letters to Father Christmas with some of the residents. The residents and staff all commented on how polite, well behaved and well-dressed the children were and said they are welcome back anytime. Thank you to the extra staff and parents who volunteered to come with us on both days.



OPA

The OPA have been busy again during this half term. They held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14 November in the Studio and welcomed some new members. Members of the committee and class representatives volunteered their time to help with the OPA disco for Y3 –Y5 on Friday 7 December and to buy and wrap gifts from Father Christmas for all the children at their Christmas parties. Thank you all very much for the support you give the school.

NEWSLETTER

Reception Christmas Show

Reception children presented a selection of dances, poems, raps and rhymes during their Christmas Show.

They looked amazing in all of their costumes and spoke clearly. The dances were set to a wide genre of music from the classics of the Nutcracker to the more modern John Lewis advert from 2017.

The highlight for the children was the sing-a-long with parents, although the parents did need encouragement from Mrs Rathbone to sing louder!



KS1/2 'Wow' Assembly

In the 'Wow' assembly held on Wednesday 5 December, we shared and celebrated some excellent pieces of work completed by a number of children in KS1 and KS2 since half term. They included work from English, Topic, Art and Science. Well done to all the children for their hard work!

Class	'Wow'
1R	Aaryan, Giselle
1Z	Alicia, Millie
2C	Ava-Isha, Reggie
2S	Betsy, Henry
3C	India, Kayden
3L	Zavier, Sophia
4C	Maya, Nicholas
5G	Alex, Chloe
5Z	Maya, Artie
6J	Tristan, Lillia



NEWSLETTER

November Awards

Congratulations to all the children who have been presented with either a merit, Good Behaviour, Friendship or Values award this half term.

Class	Good Behaviour	Friendship	Values	Merit Certificates
1R	Eliana	Basil	Zara	Surya, Oliver, Isabelle, Antonio
1Z	Siddharth	Ozlem	Millie	Abigail, Maxwell, Richard, Elias
2C	Chanel	Jack	Sebastian	Sevak, Nathan, Reggie, Ben
2S	Meeah	Ava	Anastasia	Riya, Rafaella, Janvi, Arabella
3C	Annabel	Holly	Jusleen	Alanna, Tyran, Ethan, Sienna
3L	Kristina	Samrit	Samrit	Sophia, Xavier, Saffiyah, Asya
4C	Natalia	Oliver	Freya	Zaid, Riana, Nicholas, Natalia
5G	Freya	Aadi	Poppy	Luke, Amber, Amaya, Phoebe
5Z	Poppy	Sara	Jayden	Octavia, Maya, Ellie, Inaya
6J	Arjun	Isaac	Amy	Danny, Afyah, Tristan, Anna

Year 3 Barleylands Trip



On the 13 November, Year 3 went on an exciting trip to Barleylands Farm. They learnt all about the Stone Age, what Stone Age people ate, how they farmed, cooked and lived. The class made their very own Stone Age stew and bread, went on a bumpy tractor ride spotting Stone Age animals and walked around the farm having a chance to feed the goats and sheep. Finally, they took their Stone Age stew and bread home to eat.



"I loved it when we made the delicious Stone Age bread and scrumptious stew!" By Kristina

"The tractor ride was really fun! We also picked up some lovely smelling herbs to go with our stew!" By Sienna

Loughton Council Christmas Card Competition

This year we had another excellent response to the Loughton Council Christmas Card competition. The children produced excellent entries and it must have been very difficult for the judges to choose a winner. Congratulations to Sienna in Year 3 who won her category. Well done to everyone who entered.



NEWSLETTER

Year 3 & 4 Girls Football

On Thursday 22 November, Oaklands School took part in a Year 3 and Year 4 Girls football tournament at Barnet Power League in Hertfordshire. This event was aimed at participation, good sportsmanship and having fun and the girls had a fantastic experience.

Our Year 4 team have been playing regularly before school at girls football club leading up to this event, so they were eager to play some competitive matches. Representing the school for the first time at football were Annabella, Freya, Maya, Riana, Bebeana, Millie, Ava and Keira. They played 5 matches overall winning 3, drawing 1 and losing 2, which was a great effort. Freya had never played in goal and she showed bravery, agility and skill in saving so many shots. Keira, Bebeana and Riana marshalled the defence really well and kept the attacking players quiet. Millie and Ava showed great skill in linking defence to attack with some excellent dribbling and passing. Annabella and Maya worked tirelessly for the team looking to score when the ball was passed forward. Annabella, Maya and Millie all managed to score 10 goals between them!

Our young stars from Year 3 have only had football lessons in PE to learn certain skills, so considering they have not learnt certain tactics yet, they played amazingly well.

Representing Oaklands for the first time were: Olivia, Cleo, Libby, Maja, Asya, Kiki and Calli. The teachers were allowed on the pitch to help coach the children and with every game they played, they got better and better.



They played with a real determination and their persistence payed off with Kiki, Olivia, Cleo and Calli managing to score goals. One of the many highlights was Kiki scoring a hat-trick in one game. Maja and Libby were also really brave in goal, Asya showed a real understanding of where to play, Calli, Olivia and Cleo ran and ran until they finally got their rewards with scoring goals. The girls all received medals for their efforts and the future for girls football looks exciting!!

Anti-Bullying Week

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2018 was: 'Choose Respect' and it ran from 12-16 November 2018. 5Z worked hard on drama sketches which were performed in our school assembly. Pupils looked at the definition of respect and how we can make a choice to respectfully disagree with each other. They showed pupils how they could all set a positive example at school, in their homes and communities.





NEWSLETTER

Oak-Tree Athletics

On Friday 30 November, Oaklands School joined Coopersale Hall, Normanhurst and Braeside to take part in an 'Oak-Tree Schools Indoor Athletics Event' at the Peter May Centre. The activities included shuttle relays, obstacle course, speed bounce, chest push, vertical jump test and standing long jump. The pupils had a great time and really worked hard to score as many points for our school as they could. The highlight for the boys was winning the obstacle course with some very quick and agile performances. The girls were consistent throughout and produced some promising displays of speed and power.

With some very testing competition from the other Oak-Tree schools, our girls team managed to finish in 1st place, which was an outstanding achievement. The boys were also up against some very talented individuals from the other schools but still produced a 3rd place finish which they can be proud of. **Congratulations to Emmy, Francesca, Lillia, Amy, Charlotte, Maya, Sara, Chloe, Isaac, Danny, Arjun, Alex, Luke, Cailan, Jayden and Waiz!**



Children In Need

The School supported the national 'Children in Need' fundraising day on Friday 16 November by wearing an item of clothing with spots on, some even painted their faces with spots! We raised **£263.84p**, so thank you for your support and generosity.



Stop The Press!



Year 4 have been busy designing and making light up Christmas decorations. They have used a huge array of materials including clay, mod-rock, paper and even gingerbread to create their structure. They had to use all their science knowledge to successfully connect the LED circuit and wire in a switch to turn it off and on.

They look fantastic in our classroom and the children can not wait to take them home.



NEWSLETTER

Oaklands Carol Service

On Wednesday 5 December, the children from Years 1-6 walked down to St Mary's Church, Loughton to take part in their annual Carol Service. Traditional bible passages were fluently read by pupils from Years 2 – 6, whilst the Year 6 pupils illustrated the ancient story with poise and effect.

Parents were charmed by delightful carols and songs, including Years 1 & 2, who sang about 'The Noisy Stable', complete with animal noises! The orchestra gave an atmospheric performance of 'We Three Kings', beginning with a lovely solo from Francesca on recorder, Alex on violin and Isaac on double bass. For the first time, we had staff members singing with the children in the beautiful Whitney Houston song 'Who would imagine a King?' Well done to our teachers, Miss Dee and Mrs Refelo.

A collection for Mill Grove Family Centre was taken at the end of the service and a cheque for £175 has been sent to the Centre. Many thanks for your caring donations.



Christingle

Oranges, sweets, cocktail sticks and candles can only mean one thing – Christingle time! It has become a tradition at Oaklands for the children to make a Christingle, and on Monday 3 December Jenna from Lifeworks in Loughton came to school to show the children in KS2 how to do it. Each element of the Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story of God's

love for the world. It was a sticky business and not without broken candles and cocktail sticks, and a few sweets surreptitiously munched, however the children thoroughly enjoyed the activity and all took home their special candle.





NEWSLETTER

Santa's Grotto and OPA Disco for Y3 - Y5

The OPA creative designers worked their wonders again to completely transform the school library into a fantastic, shining and snowy grotto for Santa. He arrived at Oaklands on Friday after school to give every child in Year 3 to Year 5 a wonderful Christmas present at the disco. Rumour has it that he parked his sleigh and reindeer in the new school car park!



The children danced, played games, won prizes, chatted to their friends and ate goodies!

Thank you so much to the OPA volunteers who organised the disco entertainers and looked after the children. Everyone had an amazing time!



Year 6 Post Boxes

Despite working so hard for their 11+ entrance exams, our Year 6 pupils found time to create a collection of superb post boxes to present to their prefect classes.

They included a large sleigh, a Hansel and Gretel cottage, a Barbie and Ken 'home' and many more. They are all totally captivating to look at and admire. Well done and thank you Year 6 for helping make all the classrooms look so festive!



**Wishing you all a Happy
Christmas and best
wishes for the New Year!**