



January 2019

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

We have had a busy first few weeks of the Spring Term. The children have all got back into the school routines very quickly and our Year 6 pupils in particular have been very busy with their 11+ entrance exams.

We have welcomed visitors to the school to present workshops to the pupils including the 'Lego Construction and Materials day' to Year 1 and the E-Safety Awareness to Years 3-6.

The large number of pupils attending our extracurricular clubs and representing the school in sport have demonstrated their developing level of skills.

Assemblies about 'New Year Resolutions', the value of 'Courage' and different authors such as Michael Bond and Eric Carle have captivated the children's interest and initiated further discussions back in the classrooms.

Before half term, our Year 5 and 6 pupils will once again be performing at the annual 'Young Voices' event at the O2 and the two Year 3 classes will be entertaining their parents with their special assembly, 'A Roman Adventure'.

Do please recharge your batteries over half term and hopefully, by the time we return to school, Spring will have arrived!

Sue Belej

Sue Belej

2S Art Lesson

2S were exploring different textures when printing in their Art lesson. They were inspired by the artist Francis Sam Lembark to produce their pictures. It was a messy process, but the results were great!





NEWSLETTER

'Values' Assembly: Courage

On Wednesday 9 January, Mrs Belej presented an assembly about 'courage' to pupils in Years 1-6. Pupils initially enjoyed naming courageous superheroes such as Superman. The assembly helped them understand how men and women in history, such as Florence Nightingale and Martin Luther King showed incredible courage in persevering to achieve their goals, and recognised modern day people such as firemen and doctors displaying courage in their everyday jobs.

However, the message of the assembly was that we do not have to be famous or an adult to be courageous. We can show courage every day by meeting the challenges in our life. The pupils realised that by trying something new in any subject or in any situation means they are being 'courageous'.

Babette in Year 6 completed the assembly by reading a prayer about 'courage' and Libby, also in Year 6, shared the 'Ethos' words for the week with everyone.

Upper Kindergarten

Mrs Defoe came into class to talk about her 'doggy hotel'. All the children were really engaged and listened well. Dexter the school dog also came to visit and the children were really excited to see him and learn about how you care for dogs. Some of the children, who were a little nervous at first, were even brave enough to stroke Dexter.



Reception 'Busy Bees'



Some of the children in Reception have been 'Busy Bees' making monsters. It was a little tricky to fold the paper to create the arms and legs but they persevered and, with a little help, created these funny looking creatures.



Reception Owls Build a Rocket



As part of their topic on travel, Reception have been listening to the story 'Man on the moon', which tells the story of Bob, who gets a job on the moon. Owls have been busy working together to build a rocket to take Bob to the moon which is now on display!



NEWSLETTER

Assemblies: Famous Authors

During the week beginning Monday 14 January, both KS1 and KS2 pupils learnt about a famous author in assembly. Miss Sandford chose to share the work of Eric Carle, who wrote the much-loved children's book 'The Hungry Caterpillar', with KS1 pupils.

In the KS2 assembly, Miss Creedon provided lots of clues for the pupils to help them guess that the author she was describing was Michael Bond, writer of the well-known 'Paddington Bear' stories.

Woodpeckers 'Space Station'

Reception Woodpeckers have been busy learning about space travel! They have been exploring our new 'space station' role play area by star gazing and flying to the moon. The children had an important job to do after receiving a letter from the character Bob in the 'Man on the moon' story; they had to design a rocket to help Bob get to the moon. The children independently selected the paints and brushes they needed and added collage materials to their paintings. Their space vehicles have made an excellent classroom display.

Finally, the children had a go at making their own 'moon sand' by mixing flour and baby oil. The children said it "felt smooth and smelt nice"!



Year 6 Geometry



Year 6 impressed their teachers in a recent lesson with their Geometry knowledge. They were set tasks and games relating to the subject, and then had to work closely with their partners to figure out the solution to the problems. Well done Year 6 for working extremely hard!



We are now on YouTube!

Keep up to date about what is going on at Oaklands School by following us on our YouTube page, which is filling up with videos from school events.





NEWSLETTER

Awards

Since the beginning of the Spring Term 2019, the following pupils have been presented with either a Merit, Good Behaviour or Friendship certificate or the 'Values' badge. Well done everyone!

Class	Good Behaviour	Friendship	Values	Merit Certificates
1R	Isabelle	Asya	Jude	Gilsele, Max
1Z	Ozlem	Jessica	Lina	Alicia, Lucy
2C	Georgia	Avani	Chanel	Georgia, Isabelle
2S	Gabriella	Darcey	William	Meeah, Ronnie
3C	Ethan	Zayan	Holly	Annabel, Jusleen
3L	Asya	Maja	Joah	Santiago, Maja
4C	Konstantin	Freya	Maya	William, Bebe
5G	Jeyda	Sydney	Alex	Sofia, Poppy
5Z	Inaya	Poppy	Gwilym	Ellie, Maya
6J	Libby	Emmy	Arjun	Afiyah, Lillia

Sycamore House Meeting

Wednesday 23 January was the first meeting of the Houses at Oaklands for the Spring Term. Pupils from Years 1-6 gathered to discuss ideas for celebrating Easter at the end of the term. Everyone was teeming with suggestions from Easter Egg Decorating to Easter Bunny Sack Races! All these ideas will be collated by Miss Creedon, our head of House, and we will wait to see which activities will be picked!



Year 3 Non-Chronological Reports

In English in January, Year 3 have been looking at non-chronological reports. The pupils looked at some non-chronological reports of different animals before successfully highlighting and noting down the features of the reports, while learning about the animals in the process.



NEWSLETTER

Displays around the School

There are a number of new colourful displays of the children's work around the school. The staff are extremely proud of the quality of the work being produced by the pupils in their class.

Here are some of the examples.

Year 6 Creative Writing

Year 6 have been focusing on their creative writing and how to improve and up-level their descriptions of a setting. They looked at Sherwood Forest, the home of the famous outlaw, Robin Hood. All the children did a fantastic job at describing the setting, using their senses, imagination and creative word banks. Please feel free to visit Year 6 to read their amazing descriptions.



Year 6 Display

Key Stage 2 Reading Display



KS2 Reading Display

Everybody loves to read and we have been thinking about famous authors this term. KS1 enjoyed a lovely assembly about Eric Carle who wrote *The Hungry Caterpillar* and *10 Little Ducks*. In KS2 the children found out about the life of Michael Bond and the creation of *Paddington Bear*. The children in KS2 have written some fabulous reviews about books by their favourite authors for our reading display and to share their love of these authors with their friends.

Reception Robins

The children in Robins class made collages showing a scene from 'The Man on the Moon.' They used all sorts of different techniques to get this colourful display and everyone had a lot of fun along the way.

(A Day in the Life of Bob)



Reception Robins Display

Lower Kindergarten



Lower Kindergarten Display

Since September, all the children that have joined Lower Kindergarten have made either a Ladybird, Butterfly or Bumblebee to represent the group they are in. They have used hand prints, scrunched paper and templates to make these lovely, colourful displays.



Lower Kindergarten Display



NEWSLETTER

Forest School Swimming Gala

On a bitterly cold and icy night, pupils from Oaklands School took part in the annual Forest School Swimming Gala. It was probably the best place to be considering the arctic conditions outside.

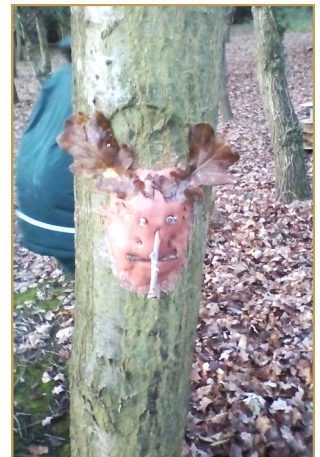
After a thorough warm up and team talk, our girls and boys were all set for their respective races against some very strong schools in the area. That did not curtail their desire to do their best and prove what a great group of swimmers they are.



There were so many positives to take out from the event including Jeyda and Alex swimming well in both their front crawl and individual medley races. They both finished in the top places in their heats. Emmy and Ellie also won their heats showing wonderful technique. Cailan and Arjun were representing the school for the first time at a swimming event and they too showed courage and spirit against some strong opposition. Annabella, Danny and Tristan swam very well, also finishing in the top places in their respective heats. Lillia showed her promising potential in the pool with a great breaststroke leg of the medley relay in the girls team, who finished in top position. We are so proud of them all and how they competed and conducted themselves at the event. We managed to finish in 6th place out of 12 schools, which is an amazing achievement! **Well done Team!**

KS2 Wild Woods Club

Key Stage 2 have been getting messy with clay in the Wild Woods Club. They enjoyed molding clay onto the trees to make monsters, using the book 'Where the Wild Things Are' for inspiration.



Netball

Even the freezing temperatures cannot dampen the enthusiasm of the girls in Netball club. Over the past two weeks they have been practising their dodging, marking and passing skills. They have all shown great potential. Let us hope they continue to improve ready for the oncoming season.



NEWSLETTER

A Chilly week in Lower Kindergarten!

A sensory tray is an excellent opportunity for introducing new vocabulary and encouraging communication.

As part of the 'Winter' theme in Lower Kindergarten, this week's sensory tray had a very chilly feel to it! It was filled with ice cubes and penguins! The children said the ice felt "Very cold" and some knew water turned to ice, which is fantastic! Other



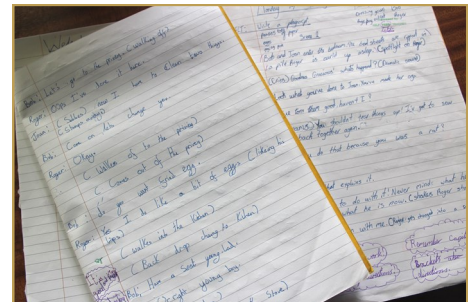
wonderful comments included "Penguins like to slide on their bellies" and "Penguins don't fly as they have arms, not wings". They discovered that penguins do not live in a forest but like swimming in the water and eating fish. The class talked about how water turns into ice when it gets very cold and melts when it gets warmer. Well done Lower Kindergarten!



Year 4 English

In English, Year 4 have been writing playscripts based on our class novel 'I was a Rat!' by Phillip Pullman. Pupils wrote the second scene in their play, where Bob and Joan find that the lost boy they have taken into their home has chewed up their best bed sheets. The children wrote with lots of expression and really captured the feelings of the two old people.

The children acted out their plays and were very pleased with how the stage directions that they wrote helped the actors interpret the play.



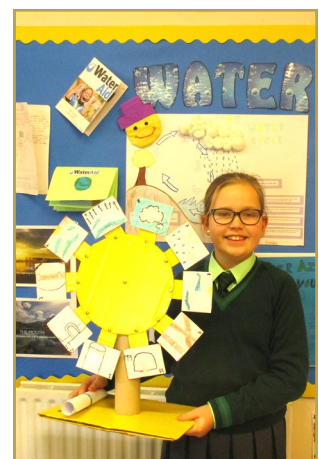
Year 5 Geography



5G Work

Year 5 have been independently researching water as part of their Geography topic. This included the water cycle, features of a river and availability of water in the wider world.

The children presented their findings to the rest of the class and spoke clearly and confidently about their project. Pupils are aware of how we can conserve water in the school and are beginning to take an interest in the impact of water pollution on the environment.



5Z Work



NEWSLETTER

E-Safety Training

On Wednesday 16 January, Year 3 to 6 pupils attended an age appropriate workshop in the school hall about E-Safety. The workshop was expertly delivered by The 'Two Johns', John Woodley and John Staines, who are well-qualified Online Protection Ambassador trainers.

The trainers reinforced, and brought up to date, the online safety messages that we provide to the pupils during Computing and PSHE lessons. With the rapid expansion of their access to social media websites and apps, all the pupils realised the need to act responsibly when they are online and how they should always communicate any concerns that they might have to their parents.



Year 1 'Lego Town Planners' Workshop



On the 21 January both Year 1 classes had a 'Lego Town Planners' workshop. They learnt about different types of houses and discussed the different buildings they would find in a town.

The children had step by step instructions about how to create a strong building including foundations, walls, windows, doors and a roof. Everyone made their own building but worked together to make sure they had included all the important things every town needs such as a hospital, a school and a police station. At the end of the workshop each class named their towns.



1R named theirs 'Happy Town' and 1Z created 'Rainbow Town'!