



# NEWSLETTER

February 2019

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## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Once again the children have been busy in all areas of the school since the last newsletter.

Congratulations to all our Year 6 pupils for their successful 11+ entrance exam results into a wide selection of schools in Essex and Hertfordshire. Their hard work, perseverance and focus certainly paid off! Congratulations also to some of our Year 2 pupils who entered 7+ exams and have been offered places at some nearby local independent preparatory schools.

Besides working hard and having fun in the classroom and at extracurricular clubs, some pupils have represented the school in a range of sporting events, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience of singing at the Young Voices event at the O2, some year groups have performed spectacular assemblies to their parents while others have participated in educational workshops in school and all the children enjoyed supporting the NSPCC and Children's Mental Health Week as our two charity events during the half term.

You can read more details about all these events in this newsletter.

We have Open Morning on Thursday 7 March, when we hope to welcome new families to have a look around the school. I am sure they will be impressed when they meet your children and see their achievements, both in terms of their work and in their positive, happy and committed approach to school life.

*Sue Belej*

Sue Belej

## Chinese New Year in Reception

Reception Robins enjoyed learning all about the Chinese culture during their Chinese New Year celebrations. They particularly liked the experience of using chopsticks to taste a selection of Chinese food which was all very tasty!





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## Year 3 Roman Adventure



Year 3 put on a fantastic performance on Thursday 7 February where they transported the audience back to the Roman era. They took them on a journey to the colosseum, barracks and Roman baths whilst also introducing the



audience to Roman characters such as the senator, centurion, soldiers and slaves.

Their confidence shone through as both classes sung and danced to Roman themed music, which included an informative song on how to become the perfect Roman dressed in togas and gold leaf wreaths.

## School Council

This half term's School Council meeting saw the class reps sharing the results of class travel survey. Questions ranged from the mode of transport used to travel to school, who crosses the road with the lollypop lady and to access the school site.

The survey also gathered data about the usage of the new school car park at both ends of the school day. It was disappointing to find that only half of those travelling to school by car use the car park in the morning. A slightly higher number used the car park at the end of the day.

The final question asked if the children knew what reasons their parents had for not using the car park. Answers ranged from 'it's too cold' and 'it's too far to walk'.

We discussed the safety benefits of using the car park. The reps vowed to try and encourage more of their class to use the car park on a regular basis.

**We are hopeful that once the warmer weather begins, more parents will use this new facility.**

## NSPCC 'Numbers' Day

On Friday 1 February, the whole school took part in the NSPCC 'Numbers' day. Everybody wore clothes with a number on and the children took part in special maths activities during the day. Years 1 to 6 enjoyed a "Who wants to be a mathionaire" quiz and were challenged to apply their knowledge to answer tricky questions. In assembly, the Year 6 children in Willow house told the children in Key Stage 1 and 2 about the work the NSPCC do to protect children and how Childline has helped many children around the country.

Thank you for your support in raising money for such a deserving charity.



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## Children's Mental Health Week - Healthy: Inside and Out 5Z Assembly

For Children's Mental Health Week 2019, we were all taking steps to be more healthy, inside and out. Through a series of drama sketches, pupils in 5Z showed



Reflection time

to help us stay calm and having a better understanding of our feelings and emotions.

everyone how to look after their physical wellbeing through food, being active and getting enough sleep. They also emphasized the importance of looking after our minds. Children all through the school worked on a wide range of activities which focused on feeling better about ourselves, having a positive outlook and being healthier individuals. This included sharing positive thoughts with others, developing strategies



Year 5Z leading Assembly

## Year 4 Ancient Egyptian Artefacts



Year 4 have been making Ancient Egyptian artefacts for their topic projects. They have made a wide range of projects including sugar cube pyramids, carved sarcophaguses, quizzes, games and Ancient Egyptian houses. The quality of the work was very high and the children



learnt a great deal showing and discussing their work. The children even curated a mini museum when Year 5 came to visit and view the exhibits.

## Year 6 Anglo-Saxon Workshop



The Year 6 children were fortunate to be part of an Anglo-Saxon workshop called 'Portals to the Past', on Friday 1 February. The day was filled with educational information that linked with their History topic.

The day began with a short talk that explored how the Saxons changed the culture of post-Roman Britain, followed by learning more about etiquette and hierarchy of a feast in the Lord's Hall. Then they played the Fox and Geese, a Saxon board game, as well as trying to solve riddles. The children also had to complete a Saxon quiz and needed no support in finding all the answers. The afternoon session was filled with wonderful information linked to Saxon weapons and armour. The children ended the day by listening to the story of how the Normans won the Battle of Hastings. This was a day filled with knowledge that Year 6 can now apply in their forthcoming lessons.





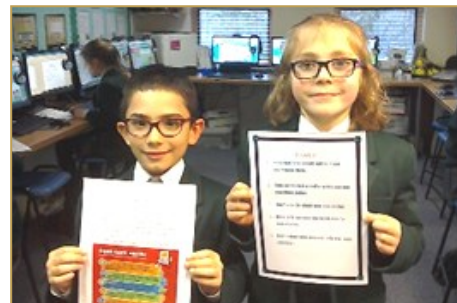


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## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day was celebrated in the UK on Tuesday 5 February, and focused on the theme of: 'Together for a better internet'. Its aim is to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

In computing lessons in Key Stage 1 that week, the children were busy learning the basic rules for staying safe and discussing what they would do if something did go wrong online. They all agreed the importance of keeping personal information away from the internet and the need to behave online just as they would in the real world.



In Key Stage 2, the children spent time reminding themselves of the consequences of inappropriate internet behaviour. They enjoyed role-playing various scenarios and then discussing what the outcome might be if they made a poor choice online. The children very confidently anticipated any problems and issues that may arise and then sensibly came up with ways of rectifying mistakes.

## Art Club



Art club have been creating patterned fabric using tie-dye techniques. They are using sewing machines and hand sewing techniques to turn their material in to bags, cushions, folder, book bags and pillows.



## Year 5 Debate Club

Year 5 have been developing their communication skills in debate club. They have debated whether we should ban the internet from school. All the children spoke with confidence and justified their ideas in great detail.

They have learnt to respond to the oppositions' comments and interjections. The club voted and decided that we should not ban the internet at Oaklands as the positives outweighed the negatives. The club is looking forward to their next debate- 'Should children be allowed their mobile phones in school?'





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## Oak-Tree Summer Ball

Our Parents' Associations from Braeside, Coopersale Hall, Normanhurst and Oaklands have joined together to organise what promises to be a fantastic evening for us all on **Saturday 18 May 2019** in the large marquee at Chigwell Hall (Metropolitan Police Club).

The theme this year will be James Bond's Casino Royale, with a range of entertainment to suit the occasion and keep us going into the early hours.

**The cost per ticket is £70 and includes:**

- Champagne Reception on arrival
- Three course meal including half a bottle of wine per person and coffee
- Jazz band performing at the start of the evening and during the meal
- 'Close Up' magicians performing sleight of hand tricks throughout the evening
- Several fun casino tables after the meal to play for tokens
- The opportunity to bid in the main fund raising auction for some excellent prizes
- Silent auction and raffle prizes
- Top quality DJ to keep us on the dance floor
- Professional photographer throughout the evening
- Well-stocked cash bar



The Summer Ball is a major event in our school calendars and tickets usually sell very quickly. This is a fantastic opportunity for all four sets of parents, staff and friends of the schools to socialise and have some fun whilst raising money.

All profits from the evening (from ticket sales, auctions, raffles etc) will go back to each school's Parents' Association to benefit the children.

The booking form can be found on the Oak-Tree website.



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## Awards

Since the January newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with either a Merit, 'Wow', Good Behaviour or Friendship certificate.

| Class | Good Behaviour | Friendship | WOW               | Merit Certificates |
|-------|----------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1R    | Zara           | Erin       | Teddy, Asya       | Aaryan, Anaya      |
| 1Z    | Julia          | Abigail    | Maxwell, Lina     | Ethan, Millie      |
| 2C    | Sebastian      | Enzo       | Sebastian, Chanel | Avani, Nathan      |
| 2S    | Rafaella       | Betsy      | Arabella, Anayah  | Ava, Ronnie        |
| 3C    | Alanna         | Jusleen    | Class             | Zayan, Holly       |
| 3L    | Sophia         | Asya       | Class             | Libby, Alex        |
| 4C    | Thiago         | Aanya      | Ava, Jamie        | Freya, Keira       |
| 5G    | Amber          | Chloe      | Freya, Amaya      | Alex, Freya        |
| 5Z    | Cailan         | Waiz       | Aminah, Octavia   | Waiz, Charlotte    |
| 6J    | Charlotte      | Babette    | Anna, Afiyah      | Danny, Arjun       |

**Congratulations to all of them!**

## St Albans Abbey

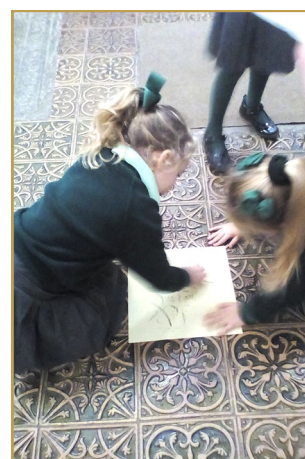


Reception enjoyed a lovely day at St Albans Abbey. The children looked at 2D and 3D shapes in the Abbey before being introduced to non-standard units of measure using parts of their body. Chairs were measured using hand lengths and the circumference of a pillar using hugs.

The children also enjoyed making rubbings of floor tiles, working in pairs.

The children were told the stories behind some of the beautiful stained glass windows and had a go at creating their own. They then used the light box to see the effect of 'sun' on the colours.

Before heading back to school, pupils measured the height of the Abbey from floor to ceiling using a helium balloon. The length of the string was then measured using a trundle wheel – an introduction to measuring in metres.







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## Making Jam Tarts in LK

The children in Lower Kindergarten made some delicious jam tarts. They used a variety of utensils to cut, lift and fill the pastry. This was a good opportunity to reinforce/introduce vocabulary and to remind the children to wash their hands before and after cooking food!



## Upper Kindergarten

The children in Upper Kindergarten have been learning about Chinese New Year. In class they have made Chinese lanterns and with a small paint brush they used their fine motor skills to write 'hello' in Chinese.

During assembly, they all listened to Miss Aston talk about how Chinese New Year is celebrated through different traditions. 2 of the children wore their own traditional Chinese clothing and spoke to the other pupils about how they celebrated with their families.



## Young Voices 2019

On Tuesday 5 February, Years 5 and 6 pupils from all the Oak-Tree Schools travelled to the O2 Arena to take part in the Young Voices concert, in aid of Teenage Cancer. There were over 8,500 pupils singing together, meaning it was the biggest school group in the world to have performed as a choir!

After an afternoon rehearsal, the children enjoyed a quick meal and then the audience were allowed in to their seats. Excitement (and noise levels!) rose as the children looked out for their parents. Then, at 7pm the lights went down and the arena was filled with twinkling lights as the choir all waved their tiny torches and began to sing. It was a magical evening and everyone agreed it was a fantastic experience and a great opportunity for all four schools to get together and just have fun!



## Busy Bees Club

The children in Busy Bees painted heart shapes before decorating them with gems and red glitter. They were wrapped in tissue paper ready for them to give to their parents for Valentine's Day.





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## LEGO Club



Children in LEGO club have been developing their problem solving and mathematical thinking by exploring ideas of symmetry, balance and shape. Their creativity is improving as they use Lego bricks of different colours and sizes to



construct intricate designs. Lego Club encourages team work as the children learn how to share and discuss ideas. They also learn how to negotiate roles and responsibilities and enjoy a real sense of achievement once they have completed their final structure.

## KS2 Wild Woods Club

The Key Stage 2 Wild Woods Club enjoyed den building and exploring the mud pie kitchen in their last session before half term. The session also included a hot chocolate treat!



## Ukulele Club

Ukulele Club takes place at 1pm on a Friday lunchtime and is open to both pupils and staff. It's great to learn together and quite often it is the pupils who are helping the staff members! The club are learning to play and sing at the same time, and have a broad repertoire of songs already, including "Stand by Me", "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Happy Birthday".

Who knows where it will lead ... Britain's Got Talent ...?!



## Netball Club

The Netball club are all keen to try out new playing positions, ready for the forthcoming tournament in March. Everyone has been playing very well and we look forward to seeing the results!







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## Lower Kindergarten Motor Skills

Lower Kindergarten have been having fun in the sunshine! They used a large paint brush and a bucket of water to strengthen arm muscles and improve their gross motor skills.

We now have a very clean wall!



## 3D Shapes



Reception have been hunting the school grounds for 3D shapes. They found a cone, a builder's toolbox, which is a cuboid, and noticed the roof is a triangular prism. In fact, they realised there are 3D shapes everywhere!



## 2C British Isles

2C have enjoyed using the iPads to explore The British Isles with Google Earth. They zoomed in on the tiniest islands up in Scotland and looked for as many different landmarks as they could find. Pupils saw the Angel of the North, the London Eye and Stonehenge to name a few.



The children had an opportunity share their project about a city in the United Kingdom. It was really interesting to look at all the different cities the children had chosen and the information they had learnt. What an amazing country we live in!



## 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.





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## Funky Furnishings Topic in Year 5

The Year 5's have been working on a funky furnishings topic for DT. They have been practising their sewing skills including running stitch, backstitch and overstitch. In addition, they have sewed on buttons and beads and also tried applique work. The children have designed their cushions and are now starting their own creations.



## Year 6 Topic Day

Year 6 have been doing research on the everyday life of an Anglo-Saxon. They had to design their own Saxon home and think about the materials they were going to use. Everyone had to plan, design and label their designs. When all the homes were completed, everyone got together and constructed a typical Saxon Village. The class were challenged to think about water supply, woodlands, farmlands as well as buildings that could be used for banquets and religious festivals. It was a wonderful learning experience.



## Coopersale Hall Cross Country Relay Race



On Wednesday 13 February, Oaklands School took part in the annual Coopersale Hall Cross Country Relay Race against a strong group of schools. On a glorious sunny day our pupils thoroughly enjoyed running the course and passing on the baton to their teammates to complete their races. The Year 3 and 4 girls were first off and led by Annabella, they got off to a flying start and Alanna, Freya and Cleo managed to extend their lead and crossed the line in 1<sup>st</sup> place finishing a whole 10 seconds in front of the next school! The Year 3 and 4 boys were up against some tough opposition but Thiago, Kaylan, Aleksandar and Tyran kept trying to make up the places and were rewarded with a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish for their efforts. Emmy, Francesca, Lillia and Chloe made up the team for the Year 5 and 6's and this was a very close race. With places being exchanged regularly, our girls fought back

from 4<sup>th</sup> place to earn 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall with a fantastic effort all round. Tristan, Alex, Luke and Waiz finished the days' events for the Year 5 and 6 Boys team and again found themselves up against some very strong schools. They all ran their socks off and finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place.





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## Computing Club



Computing Club allows the children time to choose from a large range of activities including programming and coding tasks, problem solving games, producing documents, creating animations, using simulations and researching safe websites for class projects



to name a few. It is a time and space where pupils can have some freedom to build on their computing skills and where they can develop areas they particularly enjoy.

## KS1 Art Club

Key Stage 1 Art Club went outside to find items from nature that caught their eyes. The club collected items in containers filled with water, then left them in the school freezers. When they went back to collect them, they had turned into beautiful ice sculptures! Come and see the display on the KS1 corridor.



The Art Club also painted along to music! Pupils explored different music and how it affected their art work. They looked at work by other artists who had been inspired by music such as Kandinsky and contemporary artist Antonio Russo.



## Tag Rugby and Girls Football Club



At football club, the girls have been working hard to practice skills such as outside hook, drag back and shielding the ball in recent weeks to help them when playing mini matches.

It is great to see all the pupils from tag-rugby club playing together and understanding the rules to play regular matches. The Year 3's are showing their

potential and have managed to score tries against the older children which is pleasing to see!

**Good luck to Year 5 and 6 boys and girls who will be taking part in the upcoming ISA Tag-Rugby event.**







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## Oak-Tree Football and Netball Festival

On Friday 15 February, Oaklands School took part in the Year 3 and 4 Oak-Tree Football and Netball Festival at Peter May centre in Walthamstow. It is the first time the schools have organised an event for this age group and, due to its success, it is likely to continue every year.

The football event was played on the 3G pitch in lovely sunny conditions making for some excellent football being played by all involved. Our team played amazingly and we were so proud of their efforts. In the first game they played Normanhurst B team and won 3-0 thanks to 2 goals from Kaylan and a penalty from Thiago. They then played Normanhurst A and in a close fought match came out



2-0 winners with both goals coming from Zaid. The team then played the final against Coopersale Hall, as they had also won their 2 games. It was a great contest with some promising displays from our boys and we were unlucky not to go in at half-time with a lead. With the help of some long kicks from their goalkeeper, Coopersale Hall managed to get into a 2-0 lead. With minutes remaining, the boys fought to the end and Kaylan was instrumental in the fight back and got a superb solo goal to bring the score to 2-1. We eventually ran out of time but coming 2<sup>nd</sup> to a talented Coopersale Hall team is an achievement they can be proud of.



**Well done to Thiago, William, Zaid, Kaylan, Oliver, Aleksandar, Ethan and Santiago!**

The Netball event was played in the sports hall and like the football team, all the girls were representing the school for the first time. Miss Davey led the team and they all rotated positions to give everyone an equal amount of time in all the positions. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and managed not to lose any games showing their great team work and spirit. The future looks really good for the school with some very promising talent on show. They beat Coopersale Hall 3-1 and drew the other games against Braeside and Normanhurst. The overall winners were Coopersale due to the number of games they won but the girls can be proud of their efforts.



**Well done to Natalia, Freya, Maya, Annabella, Riana, Olivia and Cleo!!**

## 'Wow' Assemblies

During week beginning Monday 15 February, each Key Stage held their own 'Wow' assembly. Pupils were presented certificates for either perseverance, progress or outstanding work in a range of activities such as Art, problem solving, creative writing, a Humanities topic and Design Technology.



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## House Points Cup

The House Points cup was won by Willow House last half term. Afiyah, House Captain of Willow House, collected the cup from Mrs Belej during the first assembly held after half term break. The results were as follows:

**1st Willow 547 points**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Beech 468 points**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sycamore 351 points**

**4<sup>th</sup> Holly 292 points**

**Well done to all the children for their continued effort, hard work and exemplary behaviour!**



## Out of the Box Club

At Out of the Box the children have been working hard to solve mathematical problems by looking at different methods they could use to tackle everyday issues. A pupils worked really well and can't wait to apply their new found skills in all their lessons!



## Oaklands School Values Assembly: 'Excellence'

On Monday 25 February, Mrs Belej presented an assembly to KS1 and KS2 pupils about one of our school values: 'excellence'. The message of the assembly was that we do not have to be amazing at everything but we should always give our best. The pupils realised that by giving the maximum effort to achieve their goals, they are likely to exceed all expectations.



Charlotte in Year 6 completed the assembly presentation by reading a prayer about 'excellence' and Francesca, also in Year 6, shared the 'Ethos' words for the week with everyone.



'Values' badges were then presented by Mrs Belej to pupils who have been trying particularly hard to display the five Values of the school including Respect, Friendship, Courage, Determination and Excellence'.

**Congratulations to Anaya 1R, Alicia 1Z, Jack 2C, Betsy 2S, Dylan 3C, Cleo 3L, Natalia 4C, Jeyda 5G, Sara 5Z and Emmy 6J. Well done to all these pupils!**



# NEWSLETTER

## ISA London North Cross Country Championships

On Tuesday 26 February, 24 of our KS2 pupils travelled to Bedford for the Annual ISA London North Cross Country Championships. We could not of asked for better conditions for our pupils to run in, being accompanied by clear blue skies and warm sunshine (in February?!?)

The Year 4 boys' team consisting of Thiago, Kaylan, Oliver and William were first off and after a lot of pushing and shoving to jostle for places, they found their rhythm and managed to finish the 1 Mile course in good time. Tyran and Aleksandar have already represented the school in the Coopersale Hall Relay before half term and they used their experience to finish in the top 50.

The Year 4 girls were next to run the course and they all did fantastically well, all finishing the course in under 8 minutes! Annabella went off and held the lead and was closely followed by another girl but managed to sprint clear and finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place with a remarkable run. She will now represent London North in the Nationals later this year. Freya just missed out on the top 10 and a place in the team but still completed a fantastic run in 7 minutes to finish in 13<sup>th</sup> place. Not far behind was Riana and our Year 3's consisting of Maja, Cleo and Olivia who also displayed their potential.



Year 5 and 6 girls competed in a field of over 100 girls. Chloe, Sara, Emmy, Lillia, Francesca and Libby can be proud of their efforts considering the unseasonal sub-tropic temperatures on the course!



Last to go were our Year 5 and 6 boys and after a long wait at the start, they were finally off. Again they seemed to be in a race with an awfully large number of pupils and found it hard to get in their stride in the early stages of the race. Once the field opened up, they found their race pace and again all finished very strongly and

managed to finish the 1.2 mile course in under 10 minutes. Well done to Alex, Leo, Jayden, Tristan, Cailan and Gwilym!



**Well done to everyone on a long and tiring day of running and travelling!**



## Open Morning

Thursday 7 March at 9.15am