



NEWSLETTER

September 2019

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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, information meetings held for Upper Kindergarten and Reception parents in our wonderful new school hall, inter-school football matches, Year 3 Camp, 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 Wednesday 2 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

Year 1 Music



This term, Year 1 are learning about contrasting sounds in music. They have been listening and moving to loud and quiet, and high and low sounds.

Here they are moving to smooth and jumpy sounds.

Great fun!





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Lower Kindergarten News

In Lower Kindergarten the children have been making the most of the sunshine. They have been taking remote controlled cars for a spin. The first challenge was to switch them on. They were then encouraged to move them forwards and backwards, making sure to avoid high speed collisions! A great opportunity to have fun with new friends and work towards a provisional licence!



They have also enjoyed a 'listening and looking' walk around the school grounds. Everyone had to be very quiet in order to listen carefully to the different outdoor noises. They talked about how the leaves on the trees are changing colour, from green to yellow, red and brown and falling onto the floor. They found lots of wonderful things to put in their baskets, such as different shaped leaves, conkers and acorns with little hats.

They finished the week with Messy Friday! The children changed into spare clothes and were encouraged to explore mark making with paint, using sponges, brushes, hands and feet! It was a great opportunity to strengthen gross motor skills by using big movements without worrying about making a mess!



Upper Kindergarten News

Hedgehogs and Foxes made self-portraits. The children discussed how we are all different and unique. The children looked at themselves in a mirror and were able to paint a very detailed self-portrait.



Rabbits and Squirrels made some really lovely animals. They used a variety of different materials such as cotton wool, paint, pipe cleaners and shredded paper.

For Jeans for Genes Day, the Badgers decorated their jeans picture with denim material. All of this super work by the children in Upper Kindergarten is displayed in their classrooms for their parents to see.





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Reception Woodpeckers 'Wild Woods'



Woodpeckers had their first Wild Woods session last week. On the way to the school's woodland area the children were challenged to count 10 acorns into their egg box; they then used these, along with other natural materials, to make potions in the Wild Woods. Some of the potions turned the teachers into monsters!

The children used their physical skills and explored changes in materials when digging in the mud pits, making mud pies and mark making on the chalk logs. Some of the children also used the construction materials to build a train track. The children have learnt how to keep safe in the Wild Woods and had great fun.



Reception Owls



Owls have settled quickly to their new routines and have had much fun in the first few weeks of term.



During painting activities, Owls have been learning to load the brush correctly with paint before applying it to the paper.



Reception Robins



Children from Reception Robins went on a treasure hunt on their first day to discover locations around the school.

Robins class made rocky road biscuits in cookery. Here they are concentrating hard to measure out three tablespoons of golden syrup.





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School Council

The School Council met for their first meeting of the year on Tuesday 24 September. The importance of their roles as 'the voice' of their classes was explained alongside the format of future meetings. The reps were tasked with returning to class to seek the views of their friends on school lunch in the new hall and fruit at snack time.

Our next meeting will see the reps sharing their classes' ideas before the Chairs arrange a meeting to discuss them with Mrs Belej. The outcome of this meeting will then be shared with the whole school in a future assembly.

World Food Day 2019



For World Food Day, Oaklands celebrated the delicacies of the Caribbean with an array of choices available from jerk chicken to mac and cheese to rice and peas!

All the children thoroughly enjoyed what they had eaten with huge smiles on their faces.

House Meetings

'House meetings' took place for the first time this term on Monday 16 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 – **Children in Need**

Willow – **Sports Relief**

Holly – **Crisis at Christmas and Save the Children**

Sycamore – **Book Aid International**

There are a number of 'House' events planned for this year which will involve all KS1 and KS2 children such as the House Spelling competition!



Open Morning

Wednesday 2 October at 9.15am



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Year 6 Responsibilities 2019 - 2020

I am delighted to share with you our Year 6 roles of responsibility:

NAME	ROLE OF RESPONSIBILITY	PREFECT CLASS
Jayden	Head Boy	2S
Poppy	Head Girl	1Z
Sydney	Deputy Head Boy	4Z
Sara	Deputy Head Girl	3C
Y5G		
Freya	Holly House Captain	2C
Phoebe	Gymnastics Captain	UK
Jeyda	Girls Swimming Captain	LK
Alex	Willow House Captain	Reception Owls
Luke	Holly Games Captain	4Z
Jack	Willow Games Captain	1Z
Sofia	Music Prefect	Reception Woodpeckers
Amber	Netball Captain	Reception Robins
Chloe	Girls Cross Country Captain	1RF
Amaya	Sycamore Vice-Captain	Reception Robins
Y5Z		
Leonardo	Tag Rugby Captain	Office Prefect
Artie	Boy's Swimming Captain	4C
Poppy	Willow Vice-Captain	3C
Inaya	Sycamore House Captain	UK
Maya	Girls Football Captain	LK
Charlotte	Beech Games Captain	Office
Ellie	Sycamore Games Captain	1RF
Octavia	Holly Vice-Captain	Reception Woodpeckers
Cailan	Boy's Football Captain	4C
Aminah	Beech House Captain	LK
Gwilym	Beech Vice-Captain	UK
Muhammed	Boys Cross Country Captain	2C

Prefects and House Captains

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 Office Prefects are being particularly efficient in their morning duties around the school.



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Reading in Year 1F



In Y1F we have reading 'Beegu', a story of a little alien who finds herself far from home. The class acted out the page where Beegu returns home to see her parents again. They loved really thinking about what each character would say and asking Beegu lots of questions about what she has seen on Earth.



Year 1Z Senses

In their Science lessons, Y1Z have been learning all about senses. The children learnt about their sense of touch by feeling different materials in bags, talking about what it felt like and estimating what it actually was.

Practical learning at it's best!



Year 2 Science



In Science, Year 2 have been learning about a 'Healthy body'. They have made a lunch plate to include all the food groups and took part in some activities to see how their bodies can react to exercise.

Year 2 Programming

This term Year 2 have been introduced to programming. Using simple commands they instructed their robot [partner] to move around the adventure playground watching out for different obstacles.

They had lots of fun completing the challenges and exploring different algorithms.





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Year 3 Summit Rocks Adventure Camp

On 19 and 20 September the weather could not have been better for the Year 3 Camp. All of the Year 3 classes from the Oak-Tree Group of Schools joined forces to enjoy two days of fun activities in the sun. Seeing how the weather has now changed, we were truly blessed.



We all know how important it is to connect

with nature and on this occasion the children were treated to a mixture of art, camp fire, sports and team building exercises. It was a testament to our children that they were so well behaved and had the most wonderful time. A big thank you to the instructors and staff who made it happen.



Here's to next year's camp!

St Edmund's College Taster Day

On Thursday 19 September, Year 6 were invited to St Edmund's College for a taster day. At arrival, pupils were warmly welcomed and were given a 'run-through' of the day's activities. Pupils were collected by two Prefects who ushered them to their first lesson. In Maths they were given the task to break various codes. Their mission was to decipher a secret message; this was very challenging but most pupils managed to break the code.

In games, Year 6 played basketball and their fitness was tested. After games, they attended an English lesson where everyone had to use their listening skills. They were given the task to write a description related to the character in the story by using as many descriptive words as possible. Everyone was starving by the end of this lesson. Luckily, a wide selection of hot and cold food, salads and fruit was provided for their lunch.



In the last session they had the chance to meet the Year 7 Form teacher. He described a typical day at St Edmunds and gave an overview of all the fantastic clubs available. They were given the opportunity to ask questions before returning to Oaklands.

This was a really wonderful day and Year 6 want to shout out a big thank you to St Edmunds for organising this spectacular taster day.



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Year 4Z the Tudors

As part of their Humanities topic, Year 4Z have been learning how to examine and analyse portraits of Tudor kings and queens. After studying a variety of portraits, the children had to investigate the clues and symbols which the artists had used to tell us about the subject of each painting.

Pupils developed their observational skills and produced a pencil sketch of one of the monarchs in the style of a Tudor artist. After that, the children worked hard on using oil pastels to complete amazing portraits which are now on display in our own Tudor Portrait Gallery. You are most welcome to come and enjoy these wonderful works of art!

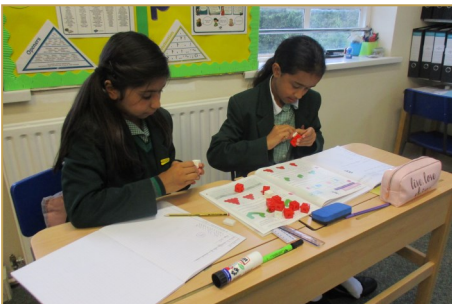


Year 4C PSHE Drama

Y4C worked hard in PSHE as they were acting out different scenarios and how it would affect their moods. They performed what would happen if someone pushed in the line and if someone did not play nicely in the playground. They thought about how they would react and what the correct action would be.

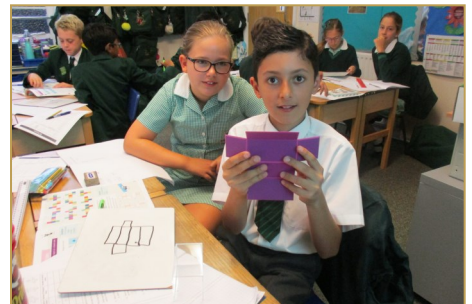


Year 6G Maths



In Maths, Year 6 have been investigating shape.

They had a very practical lesson where they built 3-D shapes from 2-D drawings. Following this, they identified and built different nets.



Year 6J Shape Work



This month Year 6J are looking at shapes in Maths. Pupils had to predict if the given nets were open or closed nets. After their predictions they explored different nets and decided on rules that could help them when working with nets.

This was a great practical activity that successfully challenged pupil's problem solving skills.





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KS1 and KS2 Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been awarded Merit, Good Behaviour or Friendship certificates so far this term. **Well done everyone!**

Class	Good Behaviour	Friendship	Merit Certificates
1F	Evie	Ni'al	Aaryan, Evie
1Z	Jamie	Florence	James, Anais
2C	Zara	Erin	Oliver, Surya
2S	Lina	Siddharth	Elias, Ozlem
3C	Rafaella	Arjun	Anay, Darcey
4C	Kiki	Jusleen	Melveen, Holly
4Z	Olivia	Aleksandar	Kristina, Maja
5C	William	Thiago	Millie, William
6G	Sofia	Phoebe	Headteacher's Certificate
6J	Ellie	Maya	Headteacher's Certificate

SMSC Assembly

Through some of the assemblies this year, we are hoping to raise the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and development of the pupils.

On Monday 16 September, Mrs Belej showed the pupils in KS1 and KS2 a video about Eric Liddell, who won the 400m race in the 1924 Olympics. With the help of the pupils, Mrs Belej established that Eric Liddell had made a 'spiritual' decision to not participate in the 100m final because it was organised to happen on a Sunday, Sabbath day. He did in fact go on to win the gold medal in the 400m final!



Year 5C Study William Morris

Year 5 have been finding out about the life and work of William Morris. They have been really interested in all the nature and symmetry in Morris' paintings. The class are enjoying being able to use their historical knowledge of the Victorians to understand more about the motives for his style. Year 5 have been attempting to recreate Morris' work with their own twists on his designs.





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Football Events



Saturday's Plate cup win at the Forest Schools Football Festival ended three weeks of various fixtures and events in which Year 5 and 6 boys from Oaklands have benefitted hugely.

They started this academic year joining forces with Normanhurst pupils to take part in the Chigwell U11's Football festival. Both teams gelled really well and there were some impressive performances and results, winning against some very strong opposition.

Oaklands School took two teams to play at Forest last Wednesday and it was great to see them happy to just play and learn to apply their skills during a friendly match.

These games have certainly helped our children develop, coinciding with a new training programme they are learning at Football Club.

There were many highlights from Alex scoring 2 screamers after running all afternoon in the sun, Waiz playing his first game for the school displaying a solid defensive performance, Luke and Thiago opening their scoring account for the season with well taken goals and the voice of the team undoubtedly, Sydney our goalkeeper, who is showing excellent potential between the sticks!



Well done to all the children and we look forward to more fixtures soon.

'Jeans for Genes' Day



On Friday 20 September, all the children came to school in their denim jeans, shirts, skirts or dresses to support 'Jeans for Genes' day. Each class had discussed with their teacher earlier in the week what genetic disorders are and how their donations will significantly help to fund essential research and support for affected families.

The school raised £216.39. Thank you to everyone for your donation.

Harvest Festival

We would like to thank all of our Oaklands Families for their very generous donations for the Harvest Festival. The donations were sent to the White Chapel Mission, where they will distribute the food to those in need.

We had a beautiful Harvest Assembly where pupils were challenged to think about how they want to make a difference in the world. They were reminded that we have a unique finger print and we are all special in our own way. The children were given reflection time, thinking about why they are special and important. Thank you to Tony Miller who led the assembly.

