



NEWSLETTER

November 2019

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

October was another busy month at Oaklands, with sporting events, exciting visits, thought-provoking class and specialist assemblies, constructive School Council feedback and lots of engaging and productive lessons.

We held a very successful Open Morning on Wednesday 3 October and we had so many new families visit us to see the school in action. Our Year 6 pupils were great ambassadors for the school and were highly complimented on their smart appearance, outstanding behaviour and confident, knowledgeable and entertaining conversation. Congratulations to our Year 6 prefects!

I hope you enjoy reading about all our activities and events in this newsletter and do please remember to check the website for forthcoming events.

The Christmas season is steadily creeping up on us and seems to get earlier each year. The children are already working hard to perfect lines, songs and performances and I expect you too are looking forward to seeing them 'on stage'. Good luck to all our performers this half term.

Kind regards

Sue Belej

Sue Belej

'Butterflies' Portrait

We have a very original, colourful, special piece of art work above the entrance to our new school hall thanks to the creative work of three of our Teaching Assistants: Mrs Booth, Mrs Davey and Mrs Ahmed.

The inspirational writing underneath the beautifully arranged butterflies says: *'Until you spread your wings, you'll have no idea how far you can fly'.*

There are over 400 butterflies in the display and every single child has a butterfly with their name on it.





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Reception Parent and Child Road Safety Presentation



The reception pupils and their parents had a visit from the Safer Essex Road Partnership (SERP) this term (saferessexroads.org).

The children and parents were reminded why it is important to always stay with their adults, always holding their hand when walking outside.

Parents had the opportunity to look at ways of teaching their child Road Safety from a young age.



KS2 Wild Woods

Key Stage 2 had great fun using their problem solving skills to build dens in the Wild Woods.



They worked as a team to safely use the mallets to knock the poles they needed into the ground.

They also added shelter to the structure by tying material to the poles.



Contact Rugby Coaching

On Monday 7 October our Year 6 boys took a trip to Peter May Centre in Walthamstow to take part in a specialist contact rugby coaching session with Mr Banks and the pupils from Normanhurst School.



They learnt how to tackle safely and effectively, practicing the art of 'rucking and mauling' in the process. This has been a great step up in their development of learning the game of rugby.



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Girls Football Festival in Windsor

On Tuesday 8 October, Year 5 and 6 Girls took part in the LVS Ascot School Football Festival in Windsor. After a very long journey, the team were greeted with beautiful pitches and surroundings on which to play a whole day of football.



In our group of 6 teams, we came up against some tough opposition but managed to finish 4th in our group, qualifying for the trophy cup. We won 2 matches, with some great attacking play resulting in goals for Annabella and Millie.

The midfield comprising of Ava, Maya V and Maya J worked tirelessly throughout, helping the defence and attack on numerous occasions. Freya and Sofia ran their socks off helping to contain the threat from the opposition and Sara stood firm in goal, saving lots of shots.



The girls ended the day with some specialist coaching from the Arsenal ladies coaches and received medals and tickets for an Arsenal Ladies match for all their hard efforts. **Well done girls!**

Y1 Stansted Mountfitchet Castle



Year 1 went off to see Mountfitchet Castle! It is a Motte and Bailey castle which is full of interesting things to see and do! The children saw kitchens, towers, swords and even had lunch with some local peacocks. They learned that life was quite tough for people living inside the bailey, especially for the prisoners.

Everyone loved their trip back in time and were very sad to leave, but quite happy to have a warm bed and some hot chocolate to go home to!





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Awards

Congratulations to all the children who have been presented with an award since the last newsletter.

Class	Good Behaviour	Friendship	WOW
1RF	Ashika	Isabella	Siana, Alex
1Z	Annabelle	Arabella	Kaitlyn, Kartar
2C	-	-	Basil, Skye
2S	Abigail	Lucy	Millie, Jessica
3C	Gabriella	Betsy	George, Reggie
4C	India	Zayan	Sienna, Holly
4Z	Samrit	Saffiyah	Maja, Aleks
5C	Sophia	Zaid	Whole Class
6G	Amaya	Freya	Sydney, Luke
6J	Charlotte	Cailan	Octavia, Sydney

House Points Cup

Congratulations to Willow House who won the House Points Cup for Autumn Term 1. Mrs Belej presented the cup to Alex, Willow House Captain last Wednesday in assembly.

Willow 738 points

Beech 674 points

Holly 660 points

Sycamore 638 points

Well done everyone for earning so many House points!

Reception Woodpeckers and the Three Little Pigs

The children in Woodpeckers class thoroughly enjoyed all their activities relating to the story of The Three Little Pigs and it was an excellent way to consolidate their learning about materials. The children sequenced the story and also worked as a team to make masks and collages of the houses.

The children were very excited to use these as props to act out the story on our outdoor stage.





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Lower Kindergarten Frog and Fireworks

In Lower Kindergarten, the children have been learning the song '5 Speckled Frogs'. To help reinforce the song, we introduced the children to the 'Frogs' in our sensory tray. The children loved watching the frogs jump into the slimy water. After our carpet session, the children could explore the sensory tray and act out the song independently.

The children have also had the opportunity to create their own firework picture. They used different tools, paint, glue and glitter to produce some wonderful pictures, which we have displayed in the classroom.



Upper Kindergarten 'Drop In' Sessions

Upper Kindergarten drop in sessions were a huge success last week. The pupils really enjoyed having their parents come in and have a look at all the wonderful work that they have been doing in class. It was wonderful to see how proud the children were and how eager they were to tell their family about what they have been learning.



Year 5 Road Safety Activity

Year 5 pupils had a visit from the Safer Essex road safety partnership. The children were reminded how they should behave when they are near the road, including how to cross the road in the safest way. They were reminded why they should always wear a seat belt and the importance of always wearing their cycle helmet.

They were all given a fluorescent bag to remind them to **Be Bright, Be Seen**.

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Extracurricular Clubs



Strategy Board Games

All our extracurricular clubs are incredibly popular with the children and are consistently well attended. Besides providing additional learning opportunities in a wide range of activities for the children, they also help develop each child's personal confidence and social skills as they interact with different children and other staff of the school.



Dance Club

Here are some photographs of some of our extracurricular clubs in action!

Strategy Board Games and Dance are both very popular clubs that take place after



Construction Club

school on a Tuesday. Spanish Club is after school on a Monday and all the children enjoy the chance to learn a new language. Construction also takes place on a Monday. Take a look at all the other clubs available on the school website.



Spanish Club

Cross Country

On Friday 11 October, our cross country team took part in a local run using our beautiful surroundings at nearby Epping Forest footpath. The run started at Earls path and followed the main path going through the woods, finishing at the top of Warren Hill. The children all did fantastically well with all of them completing the 1 mile course in under 10 minutes which represents their hard work and commitment during club training sessions. A massive thank you to the staff and parents for helping marshal the event; we would not be able to host these events without your help so thank you! We aim to up the mileage in the next few weeks and use another section of Epping Forest, so watch this space.



Cross Country



On Friday 18 October, the boys and girls from cross country club took part in a fun, muddy obstacle course for their last session before half term. They enjoyed crawling through cargo nets, speed bouncing and crocodile walking among many other obstacles on their way around the course.

Great fun with lots of coordination skills!





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Year 3 Visit Barleylands

On Friday 11 October, Year 3 travelled back in time to the Stone Age, courtesy of a visit to Barleylands. The children learned how their ancestors began to grow their own food and keep animals. They ground ancient Emmer grain - the first wheat ever cultivated – and baked their own bread, and even made a Stone Age stew with ingredients that were most likely available to Stone Age men and women. As if that was not enough, Year 3 were able to feed the animals on the farm, create their own cave art and try on Stone Age clothing. It might have tried hard to rain, but the weather did not stop the children from having lots of fun!



Year 4C Tudor Class Assembly

4C had a Tudor-ific time learning about the Tudors for their class assembly. They went back in time 500 years to the time of Henry VIII and his six wives. The children learnt many new facts about the Tudor monarch and his wives. Learning facts and new songs about each wife and The Mary Rose Warship.



Autumn Term Assemblies

We have covered a range of topics in KS1/2 assemblies during October and November which has included celebrating Black History Month, understanding SMSC: Perseverance and Support, and reflecting about the significance of Remembrance Day.



The four Year 6 House Captains helped Mrs Belej present the Remembrance Assembly last Wednesday.

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Oak-Tree Fireworks



The Oak-Tree Parents' Association Fireworks Display went off with a bang last weekend, with around 1000 people in attendance. There were numerous stalls and activities to keep the children entertained such as biscuit and mask decorating in the new Science room at Oaklands, lucky dip and hundreds of glowing toys. The hot mulled wine went down a treat with all the adults and the hot dogs and hot chocolate were loved by the children! Everyone also got to enjoy listening to some live music from the Normanhurst Band. The fireworks themselves were spectacular as always, and overall it was such a successful evening.



A huge thank you to the four Parents' Associations for arranging and running such a popular event.

African Drumming Workshop



To celebrate Black History Month, children from Reception to Year 6 took part in an African Drumming Workshop. They had a visit from the Education Group and the children learned how to use traditional African djembe drums, creating sounds and music from the African continent.

Every child immersed themselves in the culture whilst in the drum circle and were taught a variety of new skills.



They even had fun doing some African dancing whilst the other children created a fantastic beat.

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Oliver's Vegetables



Lower Kindergarten have been reading the book 'Oliver's Vegetables' and one morning took some inspiration from the book by playing with a vegetable patch!

The children had lots of messy fun, talking about the different vegetables and which ones they enjoy to eat.

They followed up with some musical play. A very exciting start to the day!



A Very Victorian Experience for Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic day at the Ragged School Museum. First, Colin showed the pupils around his Victorian kitchen where they explored the Victorian home and family through object handling, role play and storytelling.



Miss Perkins then taught everyone their morning lesson. She was terrifying! The lesson was taught in a classroom restored as it was in the 1870s and was equipped with authentic school desks, slate writing boards and even dunce hats!



Year 5 finished their day on the canal banks thinking about the horses that would have pulled the barges in Victorian times.

A Celebration of Great British Food

A recent theme for World Food Day was 'British' and there was some delicious foods on offer. The children had the pick of lamb and vegetable pie, chicken pasty, buttered mashed potatoes and more. The decorated hall helped to add to this theme and made for a very enjoyable lunch time. We look forward to seeing what the theme will be on the next World Food Day.





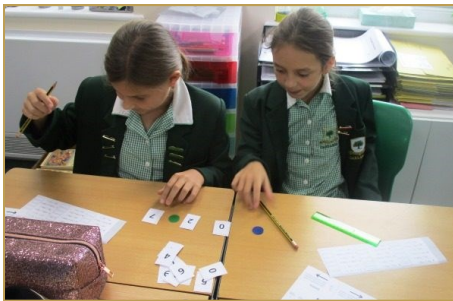
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The Earth and Beyond

This term, 5C are studying The Earth and Beyond in their Science lessons. They have been looking at the effect of the Earth's rotation and they made themselves into a human sundial to show how the shadow moves as the earth rotates.



Year 6 Problem Solving



Year 6J have been working very hard in their lessons this term. They have all put their thinking caps on and have been solving problems in a practical way, both individually and by working together.



PSHE and Playground Behaviour

Year 4C have worked well in PSHE recently. They acted out different scenarios and how the scenarios would affect their moods. They acted out 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. These were some serious topics and the children put a lot of thought into their reactions.



We are 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.

