



NEWSLETTER

December 2019

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

We have had an extremely busy end to a very successful Autumn Term. During the last few weeks all the children have performed in front of an audience and I have once again been amazed by their confidence, enthusiasm and ability to learn and remember dance movements, songs and their lines. 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; Christmas parties, pantos, and of course, presents from Father Christmas. Members of the committee and class representatives also volunteered their time to help with the OPA disco for Y3 –Y5 children on Friday 6 December. Thank you very much for the support you give the school.

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 7 January 2020.

Kind regards

Sue Belej

Mellows Care Home

Upper Kindergarten had a wonderful time visiting Mellows Care Home. All the residents and staff said how smartly dressed they looked and how well behaved they were. The residents enjoyed joining in singing a few familiar Christmas songs with the children.



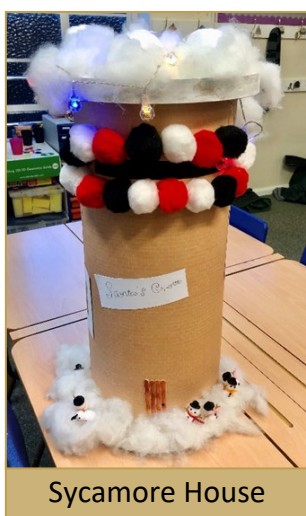
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House Christmas Post Boxes

On Wednesday 20 November, all the Houses gathered together for a team meeting. Their task was to collaboratively design a House Post Box to represent their House. After the meeting, it was the job of the Year 6 children to execute the ideas that were passed on to them. They were given time to construct their post box and then presented it in assembly. These post boxes were strategically placed around the school and the children were allowed to post their Christmas cards into their own House box.



Beech House



Sycamore House



Holly House



Willow House

Well done to Sycamore, Beech, Willow and Holly House for their amazing designs. Thank you to all the Year 6 children who contributed all the resources and their time. Thank you to all the other children for suggesting such brilliant ideas! You did a wonderful job!

ISA Girls Football Festival



Girls from Year 5 and 6 took part in the ISA Girls 6-a-side football tournament at Barnet Power league on Friday 15 November. On a bitterly cold day, they soon warmed up, working tirelessly as a team to win the ball back and attack the opposition.

For some, this was their first appearance representing the school and the in-play coaching and experience will do them all good. Highlights were winning numerous matches

including against Coopersale Hall School as well as Keira and Maya getting their first goals for Oaklands. Annabella also showed her striking instinct scoring 7 goals throughout the day. They can all take pride in their performances going into the new year where we will have more opportunities to play matches.



Well done girls. They all received medals for their efforts.



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Royal Gunpowder Mills



Year 2 had a wonderful time visiting the Royal Gunpowder Mills. They experienced the games that the children would have played at that time, made lanterns, wrote their name using a feather and they watched the story of Guy Fawkes.



NSPCC Fundraising

On Monday 25 November, two representatives from the NSPCC returned to Oaklands to count all the sponsorship money the Y1 to Y6 children had raised from their English activities. They were delighted to inform Mrs Belej that the children had raised a massive **£2,500!** After lunch, a celebratory assembly was held with all the children. Y1F and Y6J were each presented with a special certificate in recognition of raising the most money in their Key Stage. All the children should be wearing their NSPCC badges with pride.

Well done everyone!

A 'Winter Medley'

Reception children entertained their parents during two spectacular performances of their Christmas Show, 'A Winter Medley'. Robins performed a 'Robin Rap', Woodpeckers acted out their version of the 'Jolly Christmas Postman' and Owls sang their rendition of the '13 days of Christmas'. Each class also danced to a range of Christmas musical pieces. Parental participation was needed towards the end singing 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' and 'I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas'.



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Learning About Magnets



The children have been learning about magnets in Lower Kindergarten. The children realised that magnets stick together but sometimes they do not want to touch each other, no matter how hard we try!

They experimented with their magnet wands, touching various objects on the table. They discovered that only metal objects stick to magnets and had lots of fun watching them magically jump onto the magnet! Some children were able to predict whether objects would stick to their magnet or not.

We then put some paper and paint in a tray and added a few metal split pins. They held magnets underneath the tray and watched as the pins danced around.

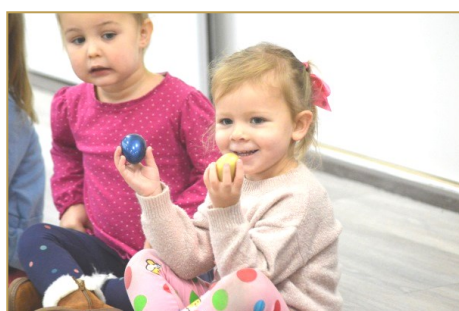


They made some wonderful patterns as the pins mixed the paint together

Lower Kindergarten's First Assembly

The Lower Kindergarten children performed wonderfully during their first musical assembly. They were all dressed in their best to celebrate Children in Need which made the morning extra special. The children sang a variety of songs including 'Incy Wincy Spider', 'Wheels on the Bus' and '5 Speckled Frogs', with the help from some very jumpy frogs. They then showed off their shaker skills by following Mrs Rathbone's instructions, before ending the assembly with their favourite song 'Splish splash'!

We were extremely proud of all of the children and hopefully the parents could see how they are all growing in confidence.





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The Littlest Christmas Tree - UK Christmas Show



Upper Kindergarten did a fantastic job performing to their friends and family the story of 'The Littlest Christmas Tree'. We had trees, stars, kings, angels, rabbits, birds, badgers, squirrels and families all singing and dancing on the stage.



The children have been working hard in rehearsals to put such a great show together and we were all very impressed with the final results. Well done!



Farewell to Staff

We say goodbye to two highly valued members of staff at the end of term. Ed, who has been our caretaker for 6 years is leaving to spend more quality time with his family and Amanda, our Office Manager is planning to return to a more pastoral-based role in a school in the local area.

On behalf of the children, staff and parents, I would like to thank both of them for everything they have done for the school during their time with us and I know you will join me in wishing them every happiness in the future.

Sue Belej

Millfield Theatre

On Thursday 5 December Key Stage 2 went to the Millfield Theatre to see 'Mother Goose'. Everyone had a fabulous time booing and hissing at the villain Dee Dee and cheering on Mother Goose on her quest to rescue her goose, Pricilla. Glitter and sparkles shone from the stage as we all joined in with the singing and dancing.

Gwilym and Jeyda were lucky enough to join Silly Billy Goose on the stage, along with some children from Normanhurst, to help him with the singing. What a fabulous way to celebrate the festive season together.



Chosen for the 'Golden Ticket'

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Reception Embracing the Autumn Weather



Reception have continued to enjoy their Wild Woods sessions this half term, whatever the weather! Activities this term have included parachute games and making patterns and puppets with Autumn leaves. They have also been constructing conker runs with the guttering and wooden planks. The children have really been testing the durability of their all-in-one suits by splashing and digging in muddy puddles!



Recent studies continue to highlight the positive effects outdoor learning has on children's wellbeing. It is clear to see Reception children look very happy, particularly when sipping on a hot chocolate to keep warm!

Fun in Reception Robins



Robin Class made granola reindeer food in preparation for Santa's visit. Here we are chopping dried apples and apricot.

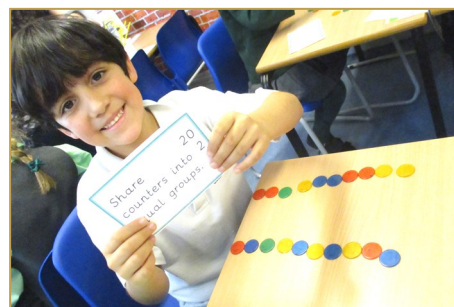
The children also had fun making 2020 calendars by carefully finger painting in bright colours.



Year 1 Maths



In 1Z, the children have been learning to divide by sharing objects like counters into equal groups. The children all worked very hard and should be proud of what they have achieved this term.





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Year 2 Maths

In Maths, Year 2 have been learning to tell the time. They have started on 'o' clock and half past, and will be moving on to quarter to and quarter past very soon.



Year 3 Chocolate Packaging and Chocolate Production



This term in Design and Technology Year 3 very much enjoyed designing festive chocolate packaging, starting with the original packaging as inspiration and using existing Maths knowledge to turn 2D nets into 3D boxes. The children thought carefully about the combinations of colour that would appeal to the senses and attract the eye.

Friday 6 December marked the day when the children were able to make their own version of their favourite chocolate and decorate the finished article with mini-mallows, hundreds and thousands and icing decorations. It is not everyday we get to design and create a sweet treat but we hope you enjoy the finished article.



Year 4 History

As part of our topic on the Tudors, Year 4 have been analysing evidence and examining artefacts to learn more about the past. These skills were further developed at Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, Epping Forest's amazing Tudor grandstand. Immersed in history, the children discovered the royal legacy of this historic building and explored Tudor food, entertainment and fashion. After wearing traditional Tudor clothing, they designed their own personal shields. In addition to this, the children learnt about the history of Epping Forest whilst enjoying breathtaking views during a forest walk.

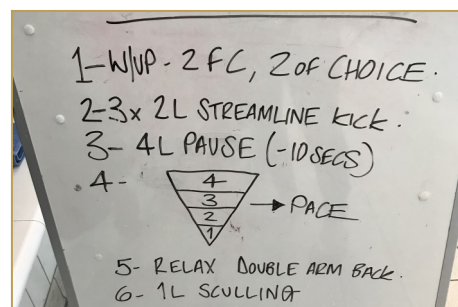


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Year 5 Swimming

Year 5 have been working really hard at developing their swim strokes during lessons and have benefitted from carrying out various drills. These will boost their stroke efficiency as well as making them more streamlined in the water.

Well done Year 5 swimmers!



Year 6 Artwork - Van Gogh

Year 6 have been looking at the life and works of Van Gogh. They were inspired to create their own interpretation of his famous picture 'Starry Night'. The children first explored how to use quick swirling strokes and selected their own use of drawing materials.



Some children used their knowledge of pop art to incorporate different colours, whilst others decided to use a monochrome design to very good effect.

Well done Year 6 for the amazing work you have produced!



Indoor Athletics



Pupils from Years 5 and 6 have been using the cold weather to their advantage by taking part in indoor athletics activities as their topic for this term. We have been really impressed with their efforts and concentration to achieve consistency with their techniques as well as improve on their scores each week.

Activities include speed bounce, vertical jump, standing long jump, standing triple jump, coordination test, target throw, shuttle run and chest push.

By challenging themselves in these skills, the children will make further progress in other areas of the PE curriculum.



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November and December Awards

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

Class	Good Behaviour	Friendship	Merit
1RF	Arriana	Ashika	Ashika, Amber
1Z	James	Kaitlyn	Florence, Annabelle
2C	Surya	Max	Skye, Antonio
2S	Maxwell	Millie	Eva, Abigail
3C	Betsy	Chanel	Enzo, Ava
4C	Ethan	Melveen	Annabel, Tyran
4Z	Sophia	Joah	Libby, Saffiyah
5C	Aanya	Keira	Millie, Keira
6G	Alex	Jack	Amaya, Sydney
6J	Gwilym	Inaya	Sara, Gwilym

KS1/2 'Wow' Assembly

In the 'Wow' assemblies held on Monday 9 December and Wednesday 11 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
1RF	Aaryan, Esra
1Z	Aakarsh, Annabelle
2C	Max
2S	Alicia, Richard
3C	Sienna, Anastasia
4C	India, Alanna
4Z	Libby, Xavier
5C	Annabella, William
6G	Poppy, Amber
6J	Jayden, Gwilym



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Oak-Tree Football and Netball Tournament

On Monday 25 November, Normanhurst School hosted the annual Year 5&6 Oak-Tree Football and Netball tournament at the Peter May Centre in Walthamstow. The boys played outside on the astro-turf pitches and there were some fantastic performances from the children and great to see so many develop really well since the start of the year. The overall results were:

1st - Normanhurst

2nd - Coopersale Hall A

3rd - Oaklands

4th - Coopersale Hall B

The netball was played in the hall and for many, it was their first time representing the school and they did amazingly well under the stewardship of Miss Bond. The results were as follows:

1st - Coopersale Hall

2nd - Oaklands

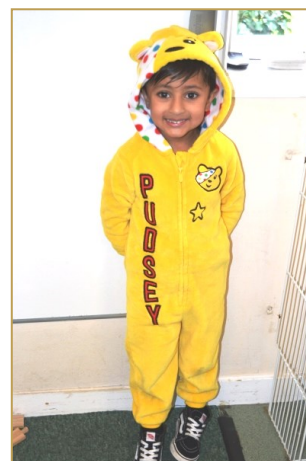
3rd - Normanhurst/Braeside



Children in Need



The School supported the national 'Children in Need' fundraising day on Friday 15 November by wearing an item of clothing with spots on, some even painted their faces with spots! **We raised £263.84 - thank you for your support and generosity.**



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Scones and Tea for Haven House



Year 5 held an afternoon tea for their parents. They baked all the cakes and scones themselves and really enjoyed serving them to their parents. Thank you to everyone who came and supported them. As a class they collected donations for

Haven House and made over £80. Well done everyone.



Lower Kindergarten Messy Fridays



Lower Kindergarten had a lot of fun with paint! After getting dressed into their messy play clothes, they used spray bottles filled with water based paint to make a huge, colourful work of art! Some of the children got really creative, using their spray bottles to spray their feet and make little footprints all over the paper.

Not only was this great fun, but pulling the trigger on the spray bottles also helps to strengthen the finger muscles and encourages the children to work together to make some lovely designs.



An American Inspired World Food Day

This term we had an American theme for our World Food Day event, which are held every three weeks. This meant lots of tasty American inspired dishes such as BBQ chicken thighs, chicken, beef or vegetable burgers, fresh sliced tomato, home made coleslaw and onion rings. For dessert, the pupils were treated to fresh fruit and American waffles with chocolate sauce.

This week pupils also got a little taster of Norse themed food, with the option for them to try smoked mackerel with rye bread and a dill dressing.

World Food Day is a great way to encourage pupils to try the food from different cultures around the world. We are looking forward to the next World Food Day!



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Christmas Carol Service

We had a wonderful afternoon on Wednesday 4 December at the annual Christmas Carol Service. The children from Years 1 to 6 gathered at St Mary's Church Loughton along with a huge crowd of friends and family. The audience were treated to a lovely performance of the Nativity Story, complete with a variety of songs, carols and Bible readings. KS1 gave a lively rendition of 'Knock on Another Door', complete with actions, while KS2 sang 'Who Would Imagine A King?' beautifully. The whole school got everyone truly in the Christmas spirit with 'Born for Us'.

Well done to everyone, it was a truly special way to celebrate Christmas! A collection for Mill Grove Family Centre was taken at the end of the service.



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

