



NEWSLETTER

January 2020

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

We have had an extremely busy start to the Spring Term. The children settled back into the school routines and their work quickly and our Year 6 pupils in particular have been engrossed in their 11+ entrance exams.

We have extended an 'Oaklands welcome' to visitors from The London Book Project and the Lego Construction Planning Company, School Council and House meetings have taken place and a number of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have been busy in the sporting arena.

Before half-term, the pupils in Year 4Z and those in Y3C will be entertaining their parents with their special assemblies. Good luck to everyone!

Sue Belej

Assembly: New Year 2020

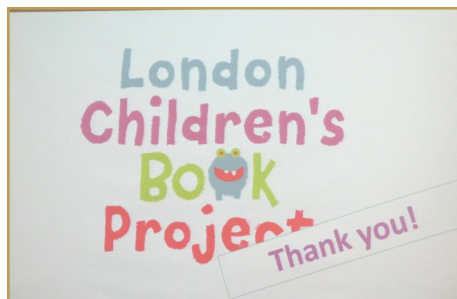
Mrs Belej welcomed all the pupils back to school by holding a 'New Year' assembly on Wednesday 8 January. She showed pictures of how different countries celebrate the start of a new year, many with lots of colourful fireworks! Mrs Belej also encouraged the pupils to reflect on things they had achieved in 2019 and to think of new personal targets for 2020.

The pupils and staff enjoyed having the opportunity to wish their friends sitting around them a 'Happy New Year'!



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The London Book Project



On Monday 13 January, Liberty Venn, the founder of The London Book Project came to school to talk to all the pupils in Years 1-6 in assembly about her charity work. The pupils were enthralled by her aim to provide as many books as she and her helpers can to children and families across London who do not have regular access to reading materials.

On her return to Oaklands the following week, Liberty was amazed to find that the pupils of Oaklands had donated just over 1,000 books. She was speechless and very grateful!



A huge well done to everyone and a big thank you!

Wild Woods Club

Key Stage One thoroughly enjoyed their first session at Wild Woods Club. They were given the challenge to use all the natural resources in the Wild Woods to make a collage.

Some children chose to create an Autumn tree in a photo frame and others created owls and penguins with their nests.



Dexter the Dog in Upper Kindergarten

Upper Kindergarten enjoyed an animal themed session this month.

Mrs Defoe talked to the children about her doggy hotel and how we should all care for our pets.

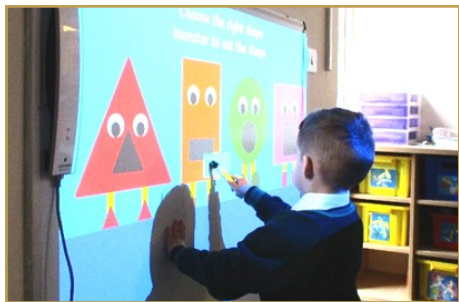
The children also had a visit from Dexter the school dog. All the children were very excited to meet Dexter and some of them even stroked him.



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Lower Kindergarten - Shape Monster game on the interactive whiteboard

This month LK have been using the interactive whiteboard in the classroom. Our existing children had played the Shape Monster game before, so it was an opportunity for them to practise their dragging skills with the special pen.



Our new children also enjoyed their first chance to hold and drag the shapes to the correct monster.



It is a fantastic game as it encourages children to persevere when they find it a little tricky. It is wonderful to see their faces when they succeed and really boasts their self-confidence. It also helps strengthen hand and finger muscles used for mark making, as they have to apply pressure to the board in order to drag the shapes.

Upper Kindergarten - Chinese New Year



All the children in Upper Kindergarten participated in a number of activities to celebrate Chinese New Year. For example, using a fine paint brush they traced over the Chinese characters to write the word 'Hello' in Chinese.

They also engaged in a role play activity pretending to be chefs, waiters, waitresses and customers in our Chinese restaurant. They all created their own lantern using their cutting skills and finally they had the opportunity to sample some Chinese food, such as noodles, rice, water chestnut and prawn crackers.



Reception Robins



Reception Robins have been learning all about dinosaurs! In a recent lesson they were very excited to find dinosaur fossils in their salt dough!

The children enjoyed this session very much. They very carefully measured out the salt and flour to make the

dough, and had lots of fun getting messy when making it. Once they had their dough ready, they used lots of different dinosaurs to create some footprints.



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Reception Owls Imaginative Play



Dinosaurs came to life in Owls during imaginative play with masks.

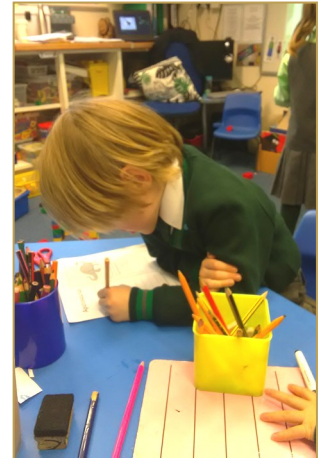
The children also worked well together to build dinosaurs using the large skeleton pieces.



Reception Woodpeckers

Reception Woodpeckers have been exploring the similarities and differences of dinosaurs! They have been looking closely at their features, diets and names through many activities.

Some of the activities have included writing fact files, making dinosaur masks and using the iPads to look at labelled pictures. The children are excited to learn even more about dinosaurs this half term!



Year 1 Lego Town Planners Workshop

Year 1 have been learning about materials for their topic work. An exciting part of this topic was the opportunity to participate in a Lego Town Planners workshop. They learnt how to build houses properly by overlapping the bricks and starting with a strong foundation. Pupils then put their houses into their own town and decorated the surroundings.



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Year 2C Printing



2C have been exploring printing this term. They used their hands and fingers to start with, (but not their faces as some children had suggested!), then the children went on a 'treasure hunt' around the room to find objects they wanted to print.

They came up with some interesting results and we discussed how different parts of the objects create different

shapes when printed. The children discovered how less paint on the object actually produced a clearer image, which is the opposite to what they initially thought would happen.



Year 2S Materials in Science



2S have been investigating different materials in Science. They were exploring different items in the environment and recording which materials they were made out of.



Year 3 Amateur Dramatics



At this time, Year 3 are very much enjoying drama. In RE, they have used freeze-frames to explore the miracles of Jesus, and this allowed them an opportunity to work collaboratively with their peers and gain valuable insight into how people might interpret stories of faith differently.

Year 3 are also very busy rehearsing for our Year 3 play. Pupils' singing, narration and acting has come a long way from the time when they first began our preparations.

We can't say any more at this stage as it will spoil the performance. We hope to see you next week when the children will be performing to their parents!



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Year 4 Art Topic



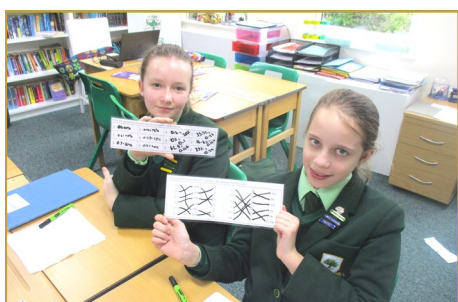
The Year 4 Art topic is linked to the Egyptians. Pupils have been looking at how the Egyptians created artwork and have created our own papyrus paper. Soon Year 4 will be finishing off the project by adding in images of Egyptian Gods, Goddesses, Pharaohs and hieroglyphs.



We are very much looking forward to the end product!

Year 6 Maths Group Work

Year 6 have also got stuck straight into their Maths work in class. Working in partners they firstly solved problems relating to converting fractions, decimals and percentages before then moving on to some teamwork to match fractions and decimal numbers. This was a very good experience to assess pupil progress and understanding, while also having the opportunity to work together.



Oak-Tree Exhibition



Lopping Hall in Loughton was full to the brim with parents, staff and pupils on the afternoon of Saturday 18 January. Crowds gathered to admire an exhibition featuring outstanding artwork created by pupils from all four Oak-Tree Schools.

The artwork represented all age groups across Braeside, Coopersale Hall, Oaklands and Normanhurst and displayed work in a wide range of materials including textiles,

painting, ceramics, collage and printmaking. The exhibition was very well attended and visitors to the exhibition were extremely impressed by the high standard and diverse range of artworks on display.

Well done everyone!





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Year 6 English

Year 6 have really got stuck into their English work in their first few lessons of the term. They shared their diary entries and then played a drama game called 'Conscience Alley' practicing using their persuasion skills.

Each pupil was given the opportunity to talk and get their point across to the rest of the class.



Year 4 Saatchi Gallery



The Year 4 visit to the Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh proved to be an awe inspiring day, in which the pupils further improved their understanding of Ancient Egypt.

After an informative city tour of London, the children were

keen to explore the 'hidden treasures' of the pharaoh Tutankhamun. The children were captivated, as they explored the galleries which displayed incredible artefacts that were over 3000 years old. They were able to examine and analyse ancient pottery, gilded shields, impressive statues as well as a wide range of Egyptian relics.

This was an amazing experience which the children will always remember.



Year 5

Year 5 have been busy learning about stories from the Sikh Holy Book, the Guru Granth Sahib. They have particularly enjoyed the story of the 'Bowl of Milk and the Jasmine Flower'. This story has the moral that there is always room for more kindness and wisdom in the world. Year 5 have made their own bowls and decorated them with images of things we think there is room for more of in our world. Some of the main themes that were depicted were saving endangered animals, reforestation and equality.





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Tag Rugby PE Lesson



On Monday 20 January, Year 6 boys from Normanhurst joined Oaklands Year 6 Boys PE lesson and took part in some friendly tag-rugby matches.

With a few boys missing due to 11+ exams and interviews, Oaklands had their work cut out in the afternoon. They played with great spirit and we witnessed some great play which is encouraging leading up to the ISA Tag-Rugby tournament in March. The boys played cooperatively together, with some excellent tries scored by

Alex, Luke, Artie and Cailan. Jack and Sydney also showed their teamwork skills by helping to organise and encourage everyone.

Results were as follows;

Oaklands vs Normanhurst A: L 3-4

Oaklands vs Normanhurst B: W 5-3

Oaklands vs Normanhurst C: D 4-4



LK - Virtual Winter Walk



Unfortunately, the weather has been dreadful recently, so an actual forest walk has not been possible. However, we managed a 'Winter Walk' in the LK classroom!

Children had a discussion on the carpet about which clothes you wear in winter versus summer. Next the children pretended to dress up for their winter walk, putting on their wellie boots, scarf, coat, hat and

gloves. They pretended to put their umbrellas up and walked around the classroom looking for muddy puddles to jump in.

The children displayed their great imaginations and acting skills, especially when pretending to wash the mud off their clothes at the end of the walk!





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Forest School Swimming Gala

A selection of pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented Oaklands at the U11s Forest School Swim Gala on Tuesday 21 January. Against some very strong schools, we witnessed some promising potential from our children, displaying some fantastic, competitive swimming. Jeyda swam magnificently in the 50m Freestyle earning 2nd place in her heat with a time of 38.12. Riana showed her all-round ability swimming the butterfly and the individual medley producing some outstanding times. Annabella came agonisingly close to beating the record for 25m freestyle with a time of 17.82 but was pipped to the 1st place with a record of under 17secs which shows how strong that race was. Amber demonstrated her potential in the water producing a 2nd place finish with a respectable 24.48secs in the breaststroke.

As we were down in numbers for the boys team, Alex had to muster up all his energy and fitness levels to swim in the butterfly, breaststroke and the individual medley. He also finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd in his heats which was a remarkable effort. Cailan came up against some strong swimmers in the backstroke but still finished just behind the front pack showing his competitive spirit. Artie represented the school for the first time in the swimming pool and as swim captain, helped galvanise the swim team, encouraging them all throughout the evenings' races. He swam with great determination, managing to keep up with another strong set of swimmers in the 25m freestyle.

Well done to everyone. Results were as follows;

- 1 Bancrofts 133
- 2 Forest 125
- 3 Gatehouse 101
- 4 Daiglen 99
- 5 Canonbury 88
- 6 WGPS 66
- 7 Oaklands 60
- 8 Wells 41
- 9 Avonhouse 41
- 10 Loyola 40

Year 6 Drama

Year 6 enjoyed some drama and role play in English recently, pretending to be the villains plotting on how to finally catch Robin Hood. They acted out some fantastic scenes! **Well done.**





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House Meetings

On Wednesday 22 January pupils held House meetings to discuss our next House art project; creating murals to depict the London skyline. We discussed what landmarks we would like to create and what materials we could use to do this. It was amazing the variety of buildings that were suggested and the children were able to share their knowledge of different areas of London with each other. It was great to hear both modern and historic buildings being suggested for the project; from the Cheese Grater to St Paul's Cathedral. We even thought about some iconic green spaces like Victoria Park. We are all very excited to create these pieces of art and see the final product on the wall.

KS2 Art Club

The KS2 Art Club have been busy creating a felt wall hanging in the style of Kandisky's 'Squares with concentric circles'. They have chosen their colours carefully to create a striking effect.



Busy Bees



Reception children have been very 'Busy Bees' during their weekly club. In recent sessions they have been magnet making, enjoying split pin dinosaur egg crafts and creating face cakes.

They look very tasty!



Maths Club

In Mathsmania club pupils have fun working as a team to solve problems such as building cubed pyramids and working out the patterns. This term they have looked at geodesic domes and made their own models using midget gems and cocktail sticks. In addition they also built the tallest and most stable tower. In the latest session they worked together to find a way to get the hen, fox and corn across the river without anyone getting eaten!





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Oak-Tree Swimming Gala

Monday 27 January saw the very first Oak-Tree Swim Gala held at Loughton swimming pool and it was a great success. A selection of pupils from years 4-6 took part in various individual races and relays, ending with an exciting 12 team front crawl relay. The children were fantastic and competed in a very fair and enjoyable environment, watched by lots of proud parents which added to the atmosphere.

There were too many outstanding performances to highlight and the whole Oaklands team did magnificently well, representing the school extremely well, doing themselves and all the staff and pupils at Oaklands extremely proud.

The overall results were:

1st – Oaklands – 84 points

2nd – Coopersale – 65 points

3rd – Normanhurst – 54 points

4th – Braeside/Normanhurst – 37 points



Year 6 Music



Year 6 have been using Garage Band in their Music lessons and composing film themes that explore different moods and atmospheres in music. Everyone is thoroughly enjoying this project!



Year 6 Maths



Thursday 23 January, our Year 6 children were working on collecting data for a class survey.

They then had to solve problems related to the data they collected.

This was a very good lesson

where the children learned how to present data in different ways by illustrating the results in a bar graph. Good work Year 6.

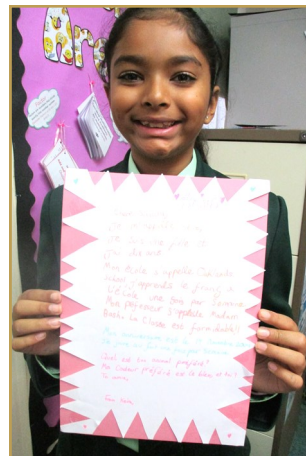




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French Pen Pals

The children in Year 5 were excited to write their own letters to their French Pen Pals in Paris. They were asking questions about their personalities, hobbies and favourite subject at school. We can not wait to hear back from them.



Year 3 and 4 Netball PE Lessons



Year 3 and 4 have been working hard during Games, learning the rules of netball and putting them into good practice during small sided games.



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.

