



# NEWSLETTER

February 2020

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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 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, the school orchestra thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing at the Stratford and East London Music Festival, some year groups have performed spectacular assemblies to their parents and Year 1 entertained the rest of KS1 and KS2 with a wonderful dramatic celebration of Chinese New Year.

You can read more details about all these events, and many others, in this newsletter.

We have Open Morning on Thursday 5 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

## Orchestra Triumph

On Tuesday 11 February, Oaklands School Orchestra were delighted to win first place in the Junior Small Ensemble Class at the Stratford & East London Music Festival. The pupils, ranging from Years 4-6, played two contrasting pieces: In The Bleak Midwinter by Holst and Tango & Cha-Cha by E Bellwood. The competition from Woodford Green Prep School was tough, but our pupils performed beautifully and were commended for their rhythmic and sensitive playing. A great triumph!





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## Awards

Since the beginning of the Spring Term, the following pupils have been presented with either a **Merit, 'Wow', Good Behaviour or Friendship certificate or a Values badge.**

Class	Merit	Wow	Good Behaviour	Friendship	Values
<b>1RF</b>	Emelia, Isabella, Alex, Esra	Scarlett, Jude	Amber	Aaryan	Evie
<b>1Z</b>	Anais, Archie, Zachariah, Denzel	Annabelle, Winter-Rose	Jamie	Zachariah	Kaitlyn
<b>2C</b>	Aaryan, Basil, Oliver, Surya	Erin, Zara	Anaya	Gisele	Zara
<b>2S</b>	Maxwell, Jessica, Millie, Richard	Lucy, Paolo	Paolo	Ozlem	Abigail
<b>3C</b>	Arjun, Rafaella, Anastasia, Sienna	George, Betsy	Georgia	Gabriella	Betsy
<b>4C</b>	Whole Class Headteacher's Certificate, Sienna, Jusleen	Holly, Dylan	Sienna	Alanna	Alanna
<b>4Z</b>	Whole Class Headteacher's Certificate	Santiago, Kristina	Joah	Santiago	Samrit
<b>5C</b>	William, Aanya, Thiago, Sophia	Sophia, Annabella	Natalia	Maya	Keira
<b>6G</b>	Freya, Sofia, Jack, Sofia	Jeyda, Inaya	Sydney	Freya	Chloe
<b>6J</b>	Jayden, Inaya, Aminah, Maya	Aminah, Inaya	Sara	Poppy	Jayden

**Congratulations to all of them!**

## 2C Investigate Materials

2C have been learning all about how materials can be changed. We enjoyed a Science session exploring how clay could be changed by pulling it, pushing it, rolling it, squeezing it and twisting it.



The children could see how those different actions created different shapes, plus they loved the opportunity to get messy!



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## ISA 5-A-Side Boys Football Tournament



Wednesday 29 January saw our boys football team take part in the London North ISA 5-A-Side football tournament at Power League in Mill Hill. We took along two teams and the boys got to play plenty of football, helping them learn, compete and develop their skills whilst having a fun and enjoyable afternoon. Both teams managed to qualify for the Europa League tournament, unfortunately their journey

ended there but they managed to play some promising football, scoring some great goals in the process. **Congratulations to Normanhurst School who were the overall winners and qualify for the Nationals later this year!**



## Y4Z Class Assembly - William Shakespeare

As part of their History topic on the Tudors, pupils in 4Z gave a fantastic performance of 'William Shakespeare' for their class assembly. The parents of 4Z and children in KS2 were invited to join a company of Shakespearean players both behind the scenes and centre stage at the Globe Theatre, London and discover what life was like for the 16th-century playwright Shakespeare. Our talented actors and actresses thoroughly enjoyed bringing well-known characters from Shakespeare's plays to life with their drama, dancing and singing.



**It was an entertaining performance for everyone!**

## U11's ISA Netball Tournament

On Wednesday 5 February, the girls U11 Netball team took part in the London North ISA Netball Tournament. The girls turned up determined and enthusiastic for the day ahead. Although very cold, the sun was out and the girls showed fantastic team spirit. Their first match was against Dwight school, the girls played excellently and with some fantastic shooting from Ellie the team managed to win 6-1. The second match was also a triumph as they played Park school and won 5-2. In high spirits, the girls played their third match against Maple Walk school and although they started the second half 2-0 down, their pure determination allowed them to come back with a 2-2 final score.

In the next two matches, the girls played incredibly, and although they lost, their positioning and passing were fantastic. Unfortunately the scores did not reflect their strength.

As the team lost two matches, we did not qualify for the next round, however we managed to squeeze in some friendly matches against Coopersale School and also mixed with Braeside and Normanhurst to play an Oak-Tree mixed game with some U13's. The pupils should not only for their Netball skills but also for their sportsmanship. **Well done!**





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## Lower Kindergarten



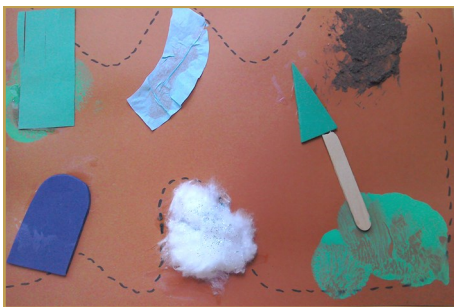
The children used a squirting bottle to help strengthen their hand muscles. They had to squirt the water at the painted faces to make them disappear.

We recently combined our Understanding of the World and our Communication and Language development. Within our Flower Exploration activity, the children looked at the parts of a flower in detail using a

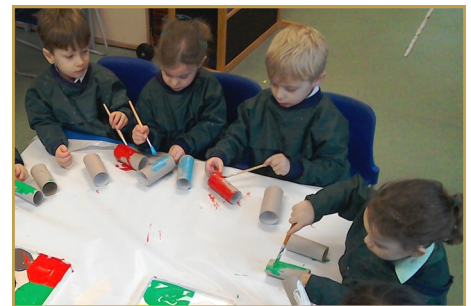
magnifying glass. They learnt new vocabulary such as soil, seeds, roots, stem, petals and leaves. We also discussed what a flower needs to grow, the children said water and the sun.



## Upper Kindergarten



Upper Kindergarten have been learning about the story of 'We're going on a bear hunt'. They have all made their own map and binoculars to help them explore the Wild Woods looking for the bear and his cave.



The children talked about their favourite toppings for their pancakes. Using a variety of different materials, they decorated a pancake template. They all thought their pancakes tasted delicious!

## Reception Robins Model Volcano

Robin Class constructed, painted and then made their model volcano erupt using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.

It was great fun and very messy!





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## Reception Owls



Owls loved sharing all of their hard work with their parents at the recent Drop In Session. They were very proud to show off what they have been getting up to in their lessons.



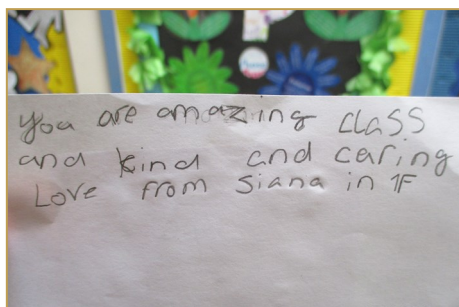
## Reception Woodpeckers Dinosaur Adventure

Reception Woodpeckers travelled back in time and went on a dinosaur adventure on the school field! Before leaving, we prepared by writing a list or sentence about what we would need to pack in our rucksacks. The children then chose to make the items for their rucksack using junk; this was an excellent link to our Maths learning on 3D shape! We saw so much on our adventure, from diplodocus to T-Rex and erupting volcanoes. All the equipment in our rucksack was very useful especially the torches for hiding in caves and binoculars for looking at pterodactyl!

The children's imagination really came to life as they excitedly shared their observations and knowledge with each other. On their return, the children logged their adventure by writing a sentence about what they had experienced.



## Year 1F Mental Health



1F have been talking about ways to support positive mental health! We wrote kind notes to all the classes in the school, had a class party with lots of dancing and went on a nature walk in the field.





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## Year 1Z The Tiger Who Came to Tea



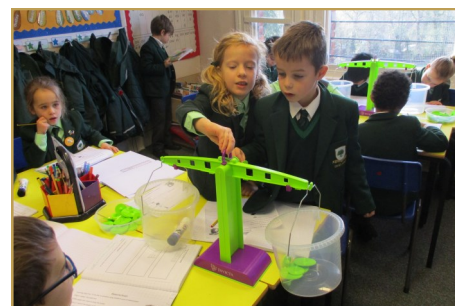
In 1Z, we have been reading 'The Tiger who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. We used our D&T lessons to make healthy sandwiches for our own tea party. We designed the sandwiches first and followed instructions in order to make them correctly.



## 2S Weigh Items



2S have been learning how to weigh items using a scale. They also had to convert grams to kilogrammes and compare different items of weight.



## Year 3 Safety Workshop



A two-in-one superhero recently came to visit Year 3; someone who was a police officer AND a fireman. Imagine that. A crimefighter and a firefighter. We certainly felt safe and enjoyed a number of films, debates and games so much so that Year 3 are all now experts



in keeping safe in the home and the wider world. Go Year 3!

## House Points Cup

The House Points Cup was won by Holly House last half term with 681 points. Freya, House Captain of Holly House collected the cup from Mrs Belej during the first assembly held after half term break. The results were as follows:

- 1st Holly House 681 points**
- 2nd Willow House 656 points**
- 3rd Beech House 589 points**
- 4th Sycamore House 578 points**

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

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## 4Z Art - Ancient Egypt

As part of their Art topic, pupils in 4Z have been learning about how ancient Egyptians used papyrus to make paper. They first learnt about the papyrus plant which is a reed that grows in marshy areas around the Nile River. After examining the characteristic features of Egyptian art, the children proceeded to weave strips of paper to make their own papyrus. These strips were then laid out in two layers, one horizontal and one vertical, and pressed to form a papyrus sheet. Pupils sketched their Egyptian designs and had to use fine paintbrushes for the detailed painting that followed.

**These beautiful and intricate designs with hieroglyphs are on display in our Ancient Egyptian Gallery in class.**



## 4C Budding Egyptian artists...



Year 4 are still looking at the Egyptians and have finished their papyrus paper.

Each pupil drew an Egyptian God/Goddess and then painted it. Finally they went over in black marker to show outline definition! They had a lot of fun making them.



## Year 5 Visit Pizza Express



On Tuesday 11 February, Year 5 walked up Loughton High Street to visit Pizza Express. The children took a tour of the kitchen and listened carefully to all the important food safety information and found out lots about how to ensure a commercial kitchen is clean and safe. Everyone enjoyed looking in the walk-in freezer!

The children were very excited to learn the exact way the pizzas are made and everyone had lots of questions about the different ingredients. There was great excitement when the head chef used his enormous paddle to take our pizzas out of the oven. Everyone enjoyed eating their pizza and agreed they were delicious!





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## 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 14 February 2020. 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 and 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 about Saxon weapons and armour and 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 they can now apply in their upcoming lessons.



## Year 3 Play

Year 3 recently performed their 'Rainforest' play to the lower school, and, the very next day, to parents. It was a sizeable undertaking with songs, narration, colourful costumes and Oscar worthy acting taking centre stage. The focus was on the rainforest and delicate balance of life within. Aside from the fun of dress rehearsals, the play carried a serious message.



The aggressive businessman who appeared early on did his best to turn the trees of the forest into wood and paper but in the end it was the forest creatures who stood up to him. More and more we see the natural world is under threat, so it was pertinent the children enjoyed performing as much as they did while delivering a powerful message.







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## Construction Club

Pupils in Construction Club have been busy developing their spatial abilities as they visualise and plan three-dimensional structures including houses, boats, bridges and famous landmarks in London. At the same time, the blocks of varying sizes and numbers add up to hands-on learning for mathematics. With each structure attempted and completed, the children have become more experimental with their designs. Once something works, they have learnt or discovered new solutions to make it better! Engineers spend a lifetime doing this. Even the most brilliant invention is never finished.



## Cooking Club

We asked the children what they would like to cook in Cooking Club this term and they have cooked a wide variety of food including, pizzas, garlic bread, cheesecake, gingerbread and scones. Here they are making cupcakes.



## Football Club

Basil showing his shooting ability during KS1 Boys Football Club. Keep up the good work Basil. Girls from Year 4, 5 and 6 are developing their ability to use their skills in matches during KS2 Girls Football Club.





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## Busy Bees Club



Children in Busy Bees tried very hard to toss and catch pancakes – most agreed it was rather tricky but a number of them were more expert than the staff!



## Athletics Club



Pupils from Years 5 and 6 are pictured here displaying their speed and agility during Indoor Athletics Club.



## Cross Country Club



Pupils at Cross Country have been working hard to develop their running potential during a long distance training run!



## Playtime fun!



A big thank you to Year 6 who have been amazing in helping set up, organise and help the children play fun and exciting games during playtime.







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## Valentine's Day in Reception Owls

After using the cutters to produce glittery playdough hearts, some children created patterns with them or gave them as Valentine gifts to their friends.



A number of children also chose to colour intricate heart pictures – we were very impressed with their neat colouring.



## Oak-Tree Mental Maths Challenge

Oaklands were fortunate to have eight children who represented us in this year's Oak-Tree Mental Maths Challenge. This was a wonderful opportunity to link with all the Oak-Tree schools and compete against each other.

The challenge was held on the 25 February, hosted by Coopersale Hall School. The children were divided into year groups and solved the problems in teams. The four heats were rotated and each year group had a set of Mental Maths questions that they had to complete in a timed test. The children were challenged with a variety of Maths problems.

The results were as follow:

**Coopersale - 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

**Normanhurst - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

**Oaklands - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

**Braeside - 4<sup>th</sup> Place**

All the children enjoyed participating in this competition and we will definitely have another challenge next year! We want to congratulate and thank each of the children who participated in this event. Well done Oaklands.

**We are very proud of you.**



## 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.





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## Reception visit to St Alban's Cathedral

Reception recently visited St Albans Cathedral. They explored measure, shape, pattern and colour through various activities. The children were amazed by the stained glass windows and experimented with mixing colours and shapes to create their own.

Another favourite activity was measuring the height of the cathedral using a balloon! They also used their arms, feet and hands to measure inside the cathedral. The children clearly enjoyed their experiences as they have produced some excellent writing about what they saw, learnt and enjoyed on the visit!



## Year 5 Deepham Sewage Trip

On Wednesday 26 February, Year 5 visited Deephams Water Treatment plant to find out what happens to our water when it goes down the plughole. After putting on a hard hat and Hi-Vis everyone enjoyed the tour of the working site and getting a better insight into the three stages of the treatment. The children were fascinated to hear about all the unusual things the workers had found during the sieving process and were appalled at the amount of wet wipes that were sieved out. In the afternoon the children were challenged to lay their own pipes to supply a community with water.

Everything was going very well until the Environment Agency found badger sets in two locations and the teams had to re-plan their routes. The class had a fantastic day and have been excited to share their new knowledge about sewage with their family and the rest of the school.



## Open Morning

Thursday 5 March at

9:15am