



# NEWSLETTER

December 2020

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## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

We have had a very festive end to our Autumn Term. The children have enjoyed a scrumptious Christmas lunch with crackers, party hats and jokes; laughed, sang, danced and joined in with, 'Oh no he didn't' during the virtual panto; and greeted Father Christmas with a smile and a thank you for their presents.

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to invite parents into school or to St Mary's Church to watch the children perform their usual Christmas productions. Instead, Oaklands became "Hollywood" and we have filmed both a Lower Kindergarten assembly and an Upper Kindergarten assembly, created a Reception Christmas extravaganza and produced a Year 1 to Year 6 virtual Carol Service. These productions will be sent to you very soon and I hope you will enjoy watching your children perform in the warmth of your home over Christmas.

As we break for the holidays, may I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and my very best wishes for the New Year. I look forward to welcoming you back to School on Wednesday 6 January 2021.

Kind regards

*Sue Belej*

**Sue Belej**

## Assemblies

Although the children have not been gathering in the hall for their usual EYFS, KS1 and KS2 assemblies since half term, they have nevertheless been discussing a number of interesting topics during their assembly time in their classrooms.

In Y1 – Y6, these have included the PSHE Jigsaw Scheme 'Celebrating Differences', Anti-Bullying, Children in Need, Diwali, Remembrance Day and Christmas around the World.



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## Certificate Awards

Congratulations to all the children who have been presented with either a Merit, Good Behaviour, Friendship or Wow award since the last newsletter.

Class	Merit Certificates	WOW	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1F	N/A	Evie, Jemima	Jemima	Jessica
1Z	Mia, Amelia	Alyssia, Kennedy	Victoria	Gisele
2C	Archie, Winnie	Anais, Kartar	Annabelle	Jamie
2S	Ni'al, Emilia	Aaryan, Kasie	Ashika	Aaryan
3C	Ethan, Zara	Lina, Zara	Gisele	Lucy
4C	Anastasia, George	Anay, Henry	Reggie	Betsy
5G	Zavier, Sophia	Cleo, Olivia	Sophia	Samrit
5Z	Zayan, Holly	Alanna, Jusleen	Lilly	Zayan
6C	Riana, Ava	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Music

This term, the whole school has been busy filming and recording their Christmas assemblies, concerts and carol services. This has been challenging and exciting and a different experience for all! However, we are determined that our Christmas celebrations will be completed and we hope you enjoy seeing the children performing as usual, albeit on your screens this year!



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## Lower Kindergarten's Virtual Assembly



Lower Kindergarten children performed wonderfully during their first musical assembly. They all sat beautifully and were not at all fazed by the cameras! They sang a variety of songs including Incy, Wincy



Spider, Wheels on the Bus and 5 Naughty Teddies, with the help from some very jumpy 'Teddies'. They then showed off their shaker skills by following Mrs Rathbone's instructions. **We were extremely proud of all of the children!**



## Lower Kindergarten Magnets

Lower Kindergarten have been learning about magnets. Firstly, they discovered that they like to stick to one another. But whilst playing, they realised that you cannot always get magnets to touch, no matter how hard you try! They learnt that 'metal' objects love to jump on magnets when near each other and experimented by picking up pins and spoons. Next, they put some paper and paint in a tray and added a few metal split pins. Pupils held magnets underneath the tray and enjoyed watching as the pins danced like magic, making some wonderful patterns.





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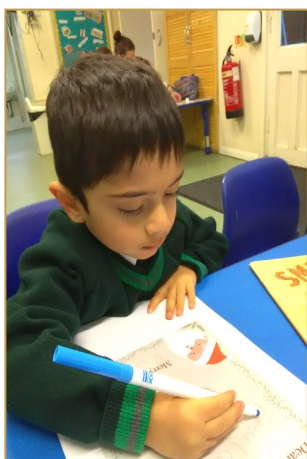
## UK Rabbits

During Wild Woods, Upper Kindergarten Rabbits enjoyed using lots of natural materials such as conkers, acorns and sticks to create many different 2D shapes.

The children love spending time outdoors and we are very grateful for the lovely grounds that the school is surrounded by.



## UK Hedgehogs



Upper Kindergarten Hedgehogs were very excited to write their letter to Santa! They each wrote what they would like and then sent them off to the North Pole. We were very impressed with the children's writing skills.

**They can't wait for Christmas to come now!**



## Upper Kindergarten's Virtual Assembly

Upper Kindergarten performed a number of Christmas songs perfectly during their Christmas assembly. They all looked the part in a selection of Christmas hats and can't wait to show their parents the final video.

**Well done Upper Kindergarten!**





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## UK Foxes

The children thoroughly enjoyed helping to make Christmas a tree from old boxes. They then made their own decorations and put them on the tree. They wrote letters to Santa, traced nativity pictures and learnt about Hanukkah. They enjoyed counting the candles on their menorah pictures.

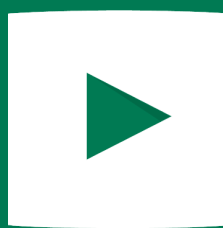


## UK Squirrels

The Squirrels group have been very busy. They have created some beautiful art work such as their Christmas tree decorations, made Christmas cards for their parents and wrote Father Christmas a special letter. Well done Squirrels for all your hard work!



## Getting Social





## UK Badgers

Upper Kindergarten Badgers had lots of fun creating their seasonal calendars. They stuck cotton wool and tissue paper onto their handprint to create a lovely design.

It was as messy as it sounds, but the children had a great time, and the finished results look fantastic!



## Reception Woodpeckers Home Learning

We are very proud of Reception Woodpeckers for completing a fantastic amount of work during their period of home learning. The learnt about the Nativity and completed some reading comprehension, practiced their time telling and handwriting, went on a RWInc. sound hunt, completed some Christmas preparations including making cards, had lots of fun during Dough Disco!, completed some 2D shape colouring and even managed to fit in some yoga! Wow - Well done Woodpeckers.



## Reception Owls Elf Hunt Song

During Wild Woods, Owls practised the Elf Hunt song ready for the Reception Christmas Show. The children cannot wait to see the finished production and hope that you all enjoy it too.



## Reception Robins Obstacle Course

Reception Robins have been enjoying their PE lessons recently. They have been practicing different ways of moving around an obstacle course. Great work Robins!



## Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers have enjoyed making their own books in their lessons. There were so many books that pupils decided to share them with their Talk Partners. The children told some fantastic stories using their lively imaginations while their friends listened.





## KS2 House Cross Country Event

On Tuesday 17 November, pupils from Years 3-6 took part in the annual House Cross Country Run on the school field. The event was run safely with each class taking their turn to run as many laps in their designated time as possible. Every single child ran their socks off to earn valuable points for their House. We even had a special 'Cow Bell' which was clanged every time they passed to give them an extra boost!

The results were unbelievably close, but the eventual winners were Willow and Beech both achieving the same amount of laps. Well done to everyone who took part; the children should be proud of their efforts.

### Results

**1<sup>st</sup> - Willow & Beech – 95 laps**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Holly – 91 laps**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Sycamore – 90 laps**



## Year 12 London

This half term, 12 have been learning all about London! Have a look at the amazing projects that they created all about different London landmarks! **Can you guess what they are?**





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## Year 1F

1F were delighted to receive their beautiful post box from their Year 6 Prefect Maya. They have already filled it with lots of cards ready for Christmas.



## Year 2S Crackers

Before going to enjoy their Christmas lunch, 2S had fun pulling Christmas crackers with their classmates. As you can see they were very serious about trying to win the hat and joke from the cracker!



## 2C Anti-Bullying Week

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, 2C had lots of discussions about what bullying actually means. The children worked in pairs to act out various scenarios to the class, including Cyber Bullying, then they all had to decide if it really was bullying or not. The children had lots to say and had interesting views on the subject.



## Year 3 Virtual Dance Workshop



Year 3 recently took part in a dance workshop, live-streamed into the hall on Zoom. It felt like the instructor, Charlotte, was in the room with them. The routine they learned brought to life the Hindu story of Rama and Sita.



Not only did the children get to banish the winter blues through dance, they were also able to express all of the drama and passion of the story through a series of highly choreographed moves. Next stop the West End stage!

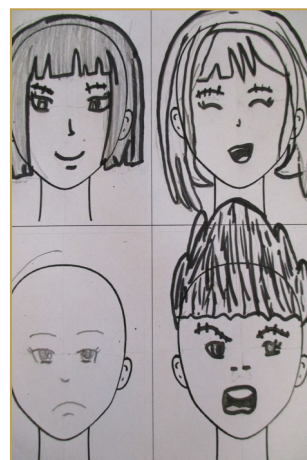
## Year 4 Christingles

Year 4 have been looking at Christingles and the meaning of Christmas. This week, they made their own Christingles, learning about the meaning of each item of food and the 'ribbon' around the centre of the orange.



## Year 5Z Explore Japanese Art

5Z had a great time exploring the characteristic features of Japanese art and looked at the contrast between both modern and traditional art work. After an introduction to Japanese art history and close examination of a wide range of paintings, the children recreated an image of Mount Fuji using watercolours. 5Z went on to produce some distinctive modern art. After being shown how to create a manga character, the children were particularly enthusiastic about creating their own characters with exaggerated expressions to convey mood and emotion and were keen to explore this theme further.







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## Year 5G RE

In RE, 5G have been studying Sikhism. Pupils learned about the 5 K's and then made a short information video using the iPads. They worked well in small teams and their videos were very informative and entertaining. They were also lucky that their teaching assistant, Mrs Bachu, could add some wonderful detail and personal experience to their lessons.



## Year 5 Diwali Dance Workshop

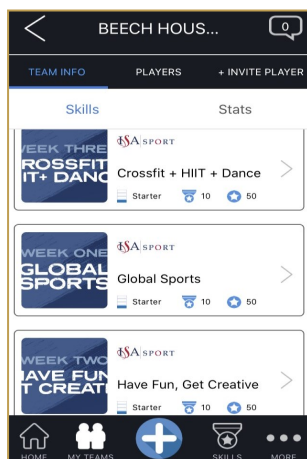
Year 5 particularly enjoyed participating in the Ramayana Diwali Dance Workshop. The session first started with some imaginative movement games. It then progressed to the children learning a dance retelling of The Ramayana from beginning to end through movement. The workshop focused on the importance of imagination and storytelling.

Year 5 worked well in small groups and each created their own dance sequence for different parts of the story. After looking at some of the characteristic features of Indian dance with traditional music, the children in Year 5 felt like they had been transported to a magical place.



## ISA Limitless Skills Series

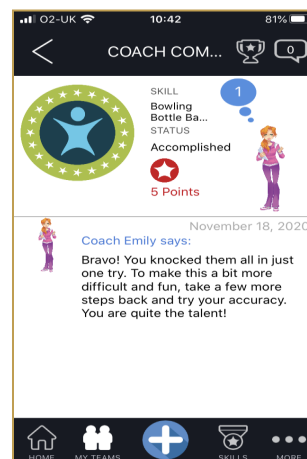
“Calling all Oaklands Pupils in Years 1- 6! The ISA Limitless Skills Series is continuing over the Christmas holidays until January 2021!



It's not too late for parents to download the app 'TopYa!' onto your iPads and phones and register your child onto the competition. This fun competition is into its 4<sup>th</sup> week but anyone can still have a go at ALL the activities, having fun and earning valuable points for their House team. Once the app is downloaded, use the school unique code '28702' and then fill in the relevant details and away you go!

Well done to those pupils already having fun and taking part in the fun skills and I am looking forward to seeing the results when we return after Christmas!”

Mr Paine



## Christmas at Oaklands

Thank you to all our Year 6 Prefects for these fantastic post-boxes!



Happy Christmas  
and  
Best Wishes for the New Year

