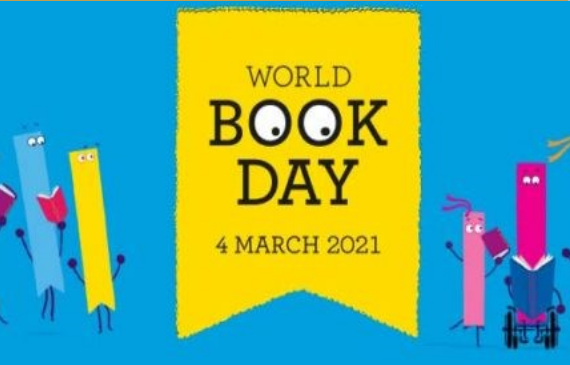




March 2021



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Spring Term has flown past us, including memories of home learning followed by the welcome return to face to face teaching and learning long awaited by both children and staff. The very occasional glimpse of sunshine in the last week or two hopefully indicates that warmer weather may be with us soon!

The pupils at Oaklands School continue to amaze me. They all persevered with the challenges of home learning and have, over the last three weeks, shown their deeply embedded enthusiasm for learning and experimenting with ideas, together with an outstanding positive attitude towards all the range of activities that make up the daily life at our school.

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for their success in various 11+ entrance exams. After spending time revisiting some of the schools, they have all made their decision and accepted one of their offers.

We celebrated World Book Day on 9 March when many of the pupils transformed themselves into Harry Potter, Mary Poppins or characters from a long list of Disney films and continued the 'fun-feeling' by telling jokes to each other on Comic Relief Day!

May I wish you all a happy Easter. I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to School on Tuesday 20 April 2021.

Sue Belej

Headmistress

Lower Kindergarten Musical Assembly

The children in Lower Kindergarten had a wonderful musical assembly on Wednesday 17 March.

They sang lots of songs including 'The Clowns', 'Hickory Dickory Dock' and 'My Shadow Rap'.

They especially loved playing the instruments!



Merit Certificates

Since the last newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with either a Merit, Good Behaviour or Friendship certificate.

Well done everyone!

Class	Merit
1F	Eashan, Jessica, Jemima, Mila, Leonardo, Bryony, Lilah, Thiann
1Z	Kayla, Libby, Delia, Gisele, Victoria, Aizah, Theo, Alyssia
2C	Arabella, Annabelle, Zachariah, Anais, Jamie, Winnie, Rufus, Denzel
2S	Kasie, Arriana, Jude, Isabella, Amber, Esra, Siana
3C	Erin, Abigail, Richard, Zara, Millie, Giselle, Ethan, Alicia
4C	Enzo, Reggie, Gabriella, Darcey, Sienna, Anay, Georgia, Rafaella
5G	Santi, Maya, Santi, Saffiyah, Samrit, Maja, Joah, Olivia
5Z	Dylan, Jusleen, Annabel, Holly, Dylan, Jusleen, Alanna, Ethan
6C	Keira, Kaylan, Oliver, Millie, Riana, Jamie, Thiago

Music in Year 4

Back in school now, Year 4 are excited to continue their Ukulele lessons.

Happily, they could all remember how to hold and strum the instrument and they have now started learning chords.



Computing Classes

Reception children have been working hard to complete 'Izzy Island'. They had to become familiar with the mouse and computer again after all their time at home. The children thoroughly enjoyed negotiating the different sections of the game and preserved to finish the various tasks.



Year 3 have been working very hard too, using the programming software Scratch. Using block coding they made an animation using animals that play hide and seek.



Friendship Certificates

Class	Friendship Certificate
1F	Safaa
1Z	David
2C	Zachariah
2S	Alex
3C	Ethan
4C	Reggie
5G	Santiago
5Z	India
6C	Aanya

Assemblies

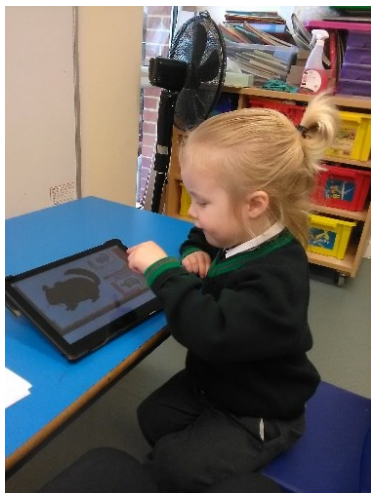
The first assembly of Spring Term 2 chronicled and celebrated special days that had occurred during the busy month of February as Mrs Belej spoke about Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Pancake Day (known also as Shrove Tuesday), Ash Wednesday, National Love Your Pet Day and International Polar Bear Day.

On March 1, the children discovered the importance of daffodils and leeks to Welsh people in the legends of St David.

Monday 8 March was a huge 'Welcome back to school' assembly followed immediately on 9 March by a World Book Day assembly presented by Miss Sandford. Mr Paine introduced the reasons for our fundraising efforts during his Red Nose Day assembly on 12 March and the term finished with the final assembly taken by Mrs Belej.

Lower Kindergarten - Shadows

The children in Lower Kindergarten have been learning about shadows. They enjoyed some shadow dancing, played a shadow matching game on the iPad and even learnt a shadow rap!



Lower Kindergarten - Maths



This activity was a great introduction to basic addition/subtraction.

First the children practised naming numerals 1-5, then they counted a small number of cogs on the table. Next Mrs ten Houten either added one cog or took one away.

The children were then asked "Do you still have x?" The children did really well in identifying that their number of cogs had changed in quantity.

Lower Kindergarten - Mothers Day

The children made some wonderful Mother's Day cards. Each group created their own card including a handprint flower and a cupcake. Each child drew a picture of their Mummy and 'wrote' their name in the card.



Good Behaviour Certificates

Class	Good Behaviour Certifi-
1F	Raphael
1Z	Arabella
2C	James
2S	Scarlett
3C	Zara
4C	Anastasia
5G	Zavier
5Z	Lilly
6C	Thiago

Upper Kindergarten - Capacity

The children have been learning about capacity in Upper Kindergarten. Lots of language was used such as empty, full, half full, more and less.



Upper Kindergarten - St Patricks Day

The children really enjoyed the activities on offer for St Patrick's Day. They all independently decorated a picture of a Shamrock using green paint, sponges and glitter.



Upper Kindergarten - 'We're going on a bear hunt'

The children really enjoyed our topic on 'We're going on a bear hunt'. They all painted a picture of their favourite bear and using a small selection of different materials, they made a bear hunt map. We had some really good story tellers who remembered the order of the bear hunt and were able to successfully sequence the story through their map.



Upper Kindergarten - P.E.

Upper Kindergarten really enjoyed their first P.E lesson with Mr Paine this term. They all concentrated really hard and listened well to the instructions given. They used their gross motor skills to balance the balls on the parachute before they had to toss them in the air. Great fun!



“Fairies in Trouble”

Way back in December, our budding writer Kaitlyn in Y2C entered the Young Writers competition with a short story she had written by herself called “Fairies in Trouble!”.

On Wednesday, Mrs Christofi received some exciting news that out of over 10,000 entries, Kaitlyn’s story has been selected to be published! All the selected stories will be printed in a book called “A Wander in the Woods – Treasured Tales”. We cannot wait to see the finished story in the book.

Well done Kaitlyn; we are so proud of you!



Wild Woods Club

The children have thoroughly enjoyed being back in the Wild Woods. They have been using their lively imaginations to go on a ‘space adventure’; this has involved digging for moon rocks, making a spaceship with the wooden pallets and making alien slime in the mud kitchen. The children have also enjoyed looking at the changes that have occurred in the woods over the last few months. They have noticed that some of the wild flowers are starting to grow and the forest floor is covered in wild garlic!



Reception Robins - Parachute Games

On our first day back in school, Robin class started with a PE lesson, playing parachute games with Mr Paine. It was great fun!



Reception Owls - Yoga

Owls have loved being back in school as it has meant face to face Yoga with Ms Refalo again. During their lesson they were taught three new positions – The Rock, The Aeroplane and The Warrior 1.



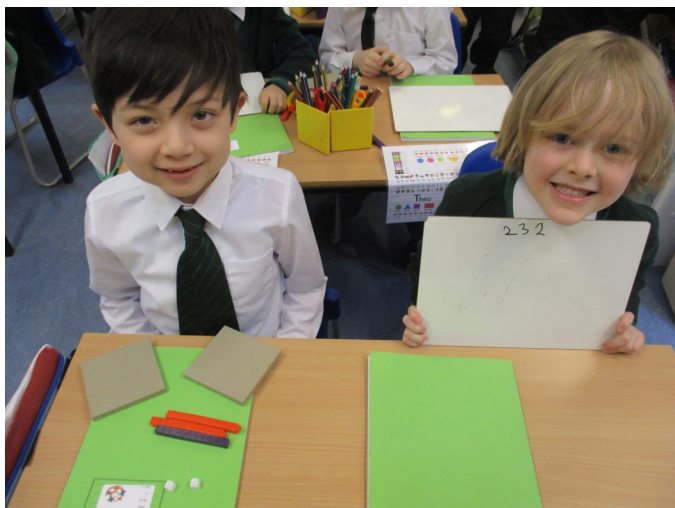
Reception Woodpeckers - Space Mission

Reception Woodpeckers have been busy completing a space mission! They were challenged to construct a spaceship, rocket or flying saucer for their alien that they wrote about during a Literacy task earlier in the week. The children worked so well together, listening to each other's ideas and adapting their own creations to make them stronger. They also added so much detail such as space maps, ladders and a bin to collect things in.



Year 1Z - Place Value maths

This week in maths, 1Z have been learning all about place value. They had fun playing a game where they had to use cubes and dienes to represent different numbers. What clever mathematicians they are!



Year 1F - Celebrates St Patrick's Day

Wednesday 17 March was St. Patrick's Day and 1F celebrated in true Irish style! We listened to Irish music, danced the Riverdance, decorated shamrocks and spoke about the pot of gold legend! A few of us thought we spotted some cheeky leprechauns in our classroom but we had no luck getting a photo.

Wish us luck for next year!



Year 2S - Easter

2S have been learning about Easter in R.E this term. The children used the iPads to research the different Easter symbols and they worked together with their partners to find the correct meanings.



Year 2C - Artists

2C were artists for the afternoon on 19 March. We got into the spirit of Spring by painting still lifes of daffodils using watercolours.

The children loved looking at the details and learning new painting techniques.



Speech & Drama Club

The children are currently working towards their LAMDA Speech exam. We have been practicing their poems and playing some fun drama games.



Year 3C - Reading for Pleasure and Inspiration

Year 3 are finding it very difficult to put their books down, helped in no small part by Mrs. Davey who has introduced the class to 'Little People, Big Dreams.' This collection of books is an introduction to inspiring people from the worlds of history, politics, music, arts, design, science, and sports.

Whether it's a case of exploring the natural world with David Attenborough or taking inspiration from the remarkable life of Harriet Tubman,...how might we want our own biography to read in the future?



Year 4C - Mega Star Rappers

In English this week, we are looking at poetry. A form of poetry is rapping, so it was decided that we performed our own versions of the Mega Star Rap. Thinking about rhythm, rhyme and expression, the children performed the raps with style and confidence.



Year 5Z - English

Year 5 have been working hard in English and have used a wide range of literacy devices and techniques to improve their writing. This has included metaphors, personification, onomatopoeia and alliteration. They enjoyed looking at wild animals and produced wonderful pieces of writing to describe the appearance and behaviour of snow leopards in the wild. The children have also been busy expressing their thoughts and feelings through poetry.

They have explored many different forms which have included free verse, sonnets, prose poetry and narrative poems. Pupils particularly enjoyed continuing a poem using the same style as a well-known poet, as well as producing their own poems on Spring time.



Year 5G Art

In our art lessons, Year 5 have been learning about Paul Cezanne.

Using his ideas as inspiration, we have been working on still life drawings. This week, we have been drawing a bowl of fruit.

We have been observing our subjects closely taking note of the measurements and practising our shading skills.



Year 6 - 1960s

Year 6 have been learning about the 1960s. In Design Technology, they have been exploring 1960's convenience food. This week they made smash and compared it to fresh mash potato that they also made. Everyone was surprised you could make mash from a can and agreed they are glad that they live now when there is more choice in the supermarket and a wider choice of cuisines.

Year 6 Science

We have dived straight back into the magic of Science down in the Wonderlab.

Year 6 have been learning about reflection and refraction, and how these concepts explain many of the phenomena we see around us. They have been experimenting with lots of different optical illusions and their sense of wonder is clear to see!



World Book Day

The children all have the opportunity to dress up in their favourite book character for World Book Day. It was so lovely to see everyone having so much fun, it was almost like the school had turned into Hogwarts as we had so many Harry Potters walking around.

We raised £266.10 which was sent to 'Love for Libby'. Thank you for your support.





Football

Since returning to school, both the boys and girls from years 3 and 4 have been revisiting skills in football and have been able to use their increased ball control and ball striking to play games like 'wall-ball' and 'Wembley singles' to good affect.

It's been great to have them back having fun and feeling part of a club once again!

Cross Country

Year 5 have been dusting off their running shoes and have worked hard in cross country club, running lots of laps to develop their fitness. They have also taken part in 'Capture the flag' which they really enjoy playing and which also helps their agility and movement.



Busy Bee Club

Over the last two weeks, children in Busy Bees Club have been busy making Easter baskets. Cutting them out proved a little tricky but I hope you agree that they look fantastic. The children were very excited when they saw what was going inside the baskets – CHOCOLATE!



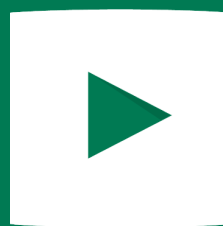
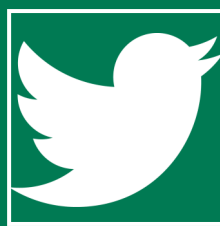
KS1 Art Club

Key Stage One Art Club were inspired by signs of Spring and the artist Damien Hirst's new works; 'The Virtues'.

We studied trees outside, paying attention to their shape and form. Then we used our fingers to add the blossom. The girls loved getting messy and by the end of the lesson, their hands were as colourful as Damien Hirst's paintings!



Getting Social



Red Nose Day

On Friday 19 March, pupils at Oaklands School took part in Red Nose Day to help raise funds for Comic Relief.

We raised £253.68; thank you for your support.



KS2 Art Club

Over the last two weeks, KS2 Art Club will be designing some scratch art. The children are going to scratch design on old CD discs that they have painted with black paint. This will reveal the colourful, rainbow silver shimmer underneath the paint.



Red Nose Day

Staff at Oaklands also joined in with the fun!



We hope you have a lovely Easter break - from everyone at Oaklands School.