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Group Principal's Message

Here we are again at the end of yet another incredibly busy term. This has been all the more impressive given that we were only allowed to take our Kindergarten and Critical Worker children into school after the Christmas break until the full return on 8 March.

We were delighted by how well the children adjusted to our remote learning programmes at the start of January, and it was lovely seeing the photos and emails sent into school of happy pupils enjoying their online tasks, activities and general learning. Our social media feeds had more than enough material for our continuous posts! This being said, we were so pleased to be able to welcome everybody back a few weeks after half term and we saw some relieved children and parents.

A little more normality seems to be returning as the government's restrictions continue ease. However, as it stands schools will still not be permitted to invite parents to attend events as part of an audience for the foreseeable future. This will have an impact on the normal Summer Term events such as plays, concerts, sports days and prize givings. We're currently working on alternatives and will aim to broadcast smaller events live, uploading them to our websites afterwards. More details will follow once we have been able to finalise the various plans.

I hope you have been able to get something of a break over Easter. There's not long now until we take the children back when the Summer Term starts...

Matthew Hagger

Matthew Hagger

Pancake Day

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos of their tasty pancakes this year. We saw all sorts of styles and toppings, and they all looked delicious!



Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



Welcome Back



Oaklands School



Braeside School

On Monday 8 March we welcomed all of our pupils back to school with big smiles on their faces after several months of remote learning. The children handled the remote learning brilliantly, working together with their peers and teachers in Zoom lessons and online platforms.

Pupils quickly settled back into their bubbles and were clearly excited to be able to see their friends and teachers in person rather than on screen. It took only a short time to re-familiarise themselves with the learning and to resume the social distancing, hand sanitising, one way systems - with COVID testing and face coverings for Seniors. Welcome back everyone!



Normanhurst School



Coopersale Hall School

Lockdown Reflections

During the home learning period, pupils were given many opportunities express how they were feeling during lockdown through a series of wellbeing activities.



Year 3 pupils at Coopersale Hall put on

their 'Positive Thinking Caps', adding lots of encouraging messages on their designs.

At Normanhurst, pupils from Reception to Year 7 were invited to express their feelings, thoughts and ideas in creative ways by choosing from a range of activities which to take part in from 2pm each day. So many pupils embraced the different challenges.

In PSHE at Braeside, Year 8 made posters and 'bottle moments' about what they learned during lockdown and what they wanted to do once



restrictions were lifted. There were lots of heart-warming answers.

Children at Oaklands enjoyed taking part in an 'Express Yourself' day in February, where they could wear anything they liked combined with some very crazy hair.

Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



Kindergarten Activities

Following the updated Government guidelines, our Kindergarten children were able to come back to school in January. They have enjoyed taking part in a huge range of activities.

Oaklands

The Oaklands Kindergarten children enjoyed exploring the sensory tray filled with shaving foam 'snow', ice cubes and even penguins! Upper Kindergarten learned about caring for themselves, which included making their own fruit salad to eat at snack time. Lower Kindergarten children were engaged in a variety of physical activities to help develop their



Oaklands School

balancing and throwing skills, including a tricky balance beam exercise. Within class, the children were supported with their shape and number recognition and counting skills.

Normanhurst

Recently, the children in Kindergarten have been learning about the number



Normanhurst School

5. Children used different resources independently and with friends. They enjoyed taking part in many Science Week activities, with each day bringing a new experiment. The children rose to the challenge of creating a very tall building. They told us they had built not only the Shard, but also the Eiffel Tower too!

Braeside

Kindergarten children at Braeside were able to use their new outdoor play areas, especially as the weather got warmer towards the end of the term. In their topic 'People Who Help Us', they put together pictures of characters and identified those who help us, for example postal workers and firefighters. They also made lovely 'thank you' cards for the NHS. One of



Braeside School

their favourite activities was going on a nature walk around the school grounds with their binoculars looking for signs of Spring.

Coopersale Hall

Children at Coopersale Hall spent time working on their special yoga poses, which looked like the different types of weather. The children enjoyed exploring in the grounds and on the adventure playground, having fun going under and over the grassy hill! Upper Kindergarten children have worked on their topic of 'Life Cycles'. To celebrate St David's Day, Upper Kindergarten C took part in some fun activities such as colouring the Welsh flag, painting daffodils and tasting Welsh cakes! Children in Lower



Coopersale Hall School

Kindergarten celebrated the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore. They have focused on learning shapes, playing turn taking games, having fun outside, having pretend picnics, learning to tap in time to the rhythm, listening to stories, building together and having lots of fun!



Impressive LK Musical Assembly at Oaklands

Oaklands Lower Kindergarten pupils showcased a fantastic selection of songs during their musical assembly recently. Seeing as they had only been back to school for a few weeks, everyone was very impressed with their performance.

Songs included 'The Clowns', 'The Shadow Rap', and 'The Gruffalo Song'



and 'I Have a Little Drum' to name a few!

Well done to our Lower Kindergarten children for performing so confidently.

As parents could not come in to see the event in person, the assembly was filmed uploaded online for parents to watch. You can watch the performance [HERE](#).

Summer Early Years Virtual Open Events 2021

We are hosting Early Years Virtual Open Events at Braeside and Normanhurst in Summer to help give prospective families and insight into our Early Years provision.

Braeside School

Wednesday 9 June 2021

Normanhurst School

Thursday 10 June 2021

Keyworker Children



Although most of our pupils worked from home over the lockdown period, the children of Critical Workers who

were eligible to come to school enjoyed taking part in lots of different activities at their respective schools.

They worked very hard in their lessons with the rest of their classmates, took part in sporting activities to break up the online learning, and were able to make use of the school grounds. Well done to everyone!

A big thank you also to the staff who came into school for these children for all of their help and supervision.



Oak-Tree

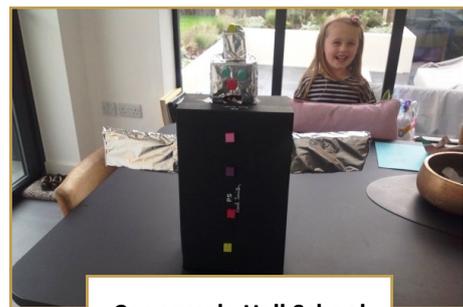
Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



Home Learning Across the Group

For much of the Spring Term, our pupils conducted their learning at home. Although this was a very different learning experience, we have been proud of how both our pupils and teachers were again able to adapt to this temporary new way of life. The children took part in Zoom lessons,



Coopersale Hall School



assemblies, conducted their own research, engaged in practical activities/projects and so much more.

Claire Osborn, Group Education Principal, feels that the latest period of home learning was very successful; "The Oak-Tree Heads and teaching teams created a home learning programme that reflected as closely as

possible the high-quality, personalised learning experience that the children would experience in school.



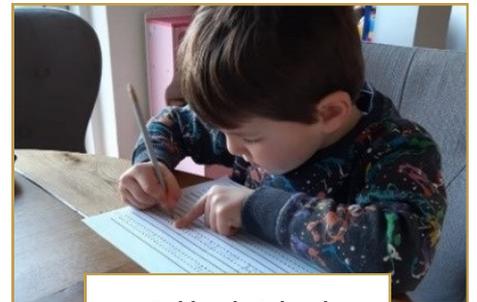
Normanhurst School



Not only were they able to access innovative and purposeful live lessons, but they continued to create opportunities for children to connect with their friends in form times and group work, and provided a personalised experience with one-to-one or small group sessions and daily pastoral support. In addition, special initiatives to support pupils and families have included mental health and wellbeing resources, guidance about internet safety and regular contact and wellbeing calls to families.

In addition to the normal learning, we set tasks and themed days including Homemade Soup Day, exercise

challenges, raised money for charity, enjoyed the 'Big Bird Watch', took virtual visits to the zoo, produced some exceptional artwork and so much more. Despite all of this, it was lovely being able to welcome everybody back!"



Oaklands School



Braeside School



Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



'Express Yourself' - Children's Mental Health Week

Oaklands

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, pupils and staff at Oaklands took part in a themed 'Express Yourself' Day. Pupils could choose to



wear whatever they liked and combined their outfits with crazy hair as well. Everyone looked fantastic and



it was good to remind ourselves to have some fun!

Normanhurst

At Normanhurst, pupils from Reception to Year 7 were invited to express their feelings, thoughts and ideas in creative ways by choosing from a range of activities that they could take part in from 2pm each day. Mrs Prior has collated the emails that so many children sent in, showing the



diverse ways they chose to take screen breaks and do something positive for their mental health.

Braeside's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Junior pupils at Braeside had a fantastic time at the end of term taking part in the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Easter tokens were hidden around the school grounds, and in small groups the pupils had to go and find as many as they could and bring them back to the Senior pupil that represented their House. Some tokens



were worth more than others, so the game really was on as each House tried to collect the most. The Easter bunny was even there to cheer from

the side-lines and reward all the pupils with a tasty Easter treat at the end.



Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



World Book Day

Oaklands

Oaklands pupils celebrated World Book Day together in school. All children came to school dressed as their favourite literary characters, ranging from the Cowardly Lion to Harry Potter, with even the teachers joining in the fun. Throughout the day, the children enjoyed taking part in a various book and reading related activities during lessons.



Oaklands School



Braeside

The Kindergarten children, who were at school during World Book Day, all came to school dressed in their pyjamas for the day. All of the pupils learning from home marked the

occasion by taking part in the 'Get Caught Reading' challenge, where they had to find the most creative place to read their favourite books.



Braeside School



Coopersale Hall

Coopersale Hall pupils also took part in the 'Extreme Reading' challenge, where they came up with some impressive and creative places to read. One of the children even sent in a photo of her reading on a flying carpet over the school! The children enjoyed showing off their costumes to their friends during their Zoom lessons.

Normanhurst

Normanhurst pupils enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters. There were mermaids, tigers, giants, the BFG, the Gruffalo, and a couple of Willy Wonkas to name just a few. It



Coopersale Hall School



was excellent to see so many of the pupils getting involved, even from home!



Normanhurst School



Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



Science Week

Science Week is held each March and our schools usually get involved. This year, pupils from both Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst enjoyed taking part in many Science-based activities. The theme this year was 'Innovating for the Future'.

Coopersale Hall

Upper Kindergarten children tried lots of different experiments, with one of their favourites being making a



rainbow out of skittles! They also planted some grass seeds in a pair of tights to make a hairy caterpillar.

At home, all year groups were set a task to produce a video or presentation of any scientific experiment or topic that they had an interest in. One pupil was selected from each class to receive a Special Science Week Award, for excellent presentation, interesting topic, clear and detailed explanation or enthusiasm and enjoyment gained. Pupils all also made Science posters,

five of which were chosen to be entered into the British Science Week Poster Competition that will be judged at the end of April. Good luck!



Normanhurst

Year 11 students were given the opportunity to sign up for a ten week online careers mentoring programme run by the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Ambassadors and Brightside Mentoring that will run until the end of May 2021.

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 were given a series of four Science Week themed lessons in which they worked collaboratively towards designing an innovation that would help cities in 2050 to better utilise energy sustainably. Following this year's theme and in an attempt to smash stereotypes about scientists, the Year 10 Triple Science students Olivia, Damon, Hamza and Malachi all devised noteworthy presentations about a field of science and scientists whose work inspired them.



The other year groups enjoyed taking part in different experiments during their lessons. All Year 1 pupils entered the Baylab competition and the standard of entries received was extremely high.

Year 1 pupils were awarded their Crest Awards Passport and certificate for completing an amazing ten experiments. Reception children completed various science activities, including exploring what coloured materials they could see the best in the dark and discussed the word 'reflective'. The Junior pupils spent Science Week conducting a huge variety of experiments.



Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



World Travels with Normanhurst's Kindergarten



Normanhurst's Kindergarten children have been travelling around the world! Their travels are based on a story called 'My Granny Went to Market'. In the story, Grandma travels on a 'magic carpet' and the children had fun climbing aboard their own magic carpet and setting off on their journey of discovery. They went to

Thailand first and made mango cookies, explored the temples and then decorated elephants while dressed up in costumes from this part of the world. They even had a go at a still life painting of a beautiful orchid. "Then we headed westwards to the land of Mexico", and just as in the story, Kindergarten made fierce and funny masks. They enjoyed making vegetable wraps, even planting the stone from the avocado to see if it will grow. The children visited the rainforest and had a creative session about the chameleon. They enjoyed dressing up, playing the instruments and dancing at the carnival in Brazil. They then went to China just in time for Chinese New Year. In the role play area everyone was able to explore this

beautiful country with lots of stories, books and activities. They finished their trip in Europe with France, Spain and Italy. The class transformed the 'home corner' into an Italian Pizzeria where Normanhurst's talented chefs made pizzas in cookery. The children enjoyed their pizza oven role play and their daily snack had an Italian theme. They were also visited by Signora Bonbon (aka Mrs Papa!) who has been teaching pupils lots of Italian words.



Coopersale Hall Chicks

Chicks arrived at the school last term as part of a topic on Life Cycles. The Upper Kindergarten class have been fascinated and kept looking carefully for the changes in the chicks since they watched them hatch! Many thanks to FOCHS for organising.



Social Media



[braesidesch](https://www.instagram.com/braesidesch)

[coopersalesch](https://www.instagram.com/coopersalesch)

[normanhurstschool](https://www.instagram.com/normanhurstschool)

[oaklandssch](https://www.instagram.com/oaklandssch)



[@BraesideSch](https://twitter.com/BraesideSch)

[@CoopersaleHSch](https://twitter.com/CoopersaleHSch)

[@NormanhurstSch](https://twitter.com/NormanhurstSch)

[@OaklandsSch](https://twitter.com/OaklandsSch)



[Braeside School](https://www.facebook.com/BraesideSchool)

[Coopersale Hall School](https://www.facebook.com/CoopersaleHallSchool)

[Normanhurst School](https://www.facebook.com/NormanhurstSchool)

[Oaklands School](https://www.facebook.com/OaklandsSchool)

Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



Red Nose Day

Both Braeside and Oaklands took part in Red Nose Day celebrations this year.

Braeside



Braeside School

Pupils at Braeside dressed to impress in their best red outfits on 19 March. The school managed to raise an impressive £412.10 for Red Nose Day this year, which we are sure will make a huge difference to those who are living incredibly tough lives. Thank you all for your generous donations!

Oaklands

Oaklands staff and children could either dress up in red or as a superhero. We ended up with lots of

red superheroes at school for the day, all raising money for this very worthy cause.

Well done children!



Oaklands School

ISA Regional Art Competition Success

Congratulations to those Oak-Tree

young artists who have had recent success in the ISA Regional Art Competition. From Normanhurst, there were five pupils who received 1st prize, two pupils who received 2nd prize and three pupils whose work was highly commended.

Braeside pupils also had some big wins. Two pupils received a 1st prize, nine pupils received a 2nd prize and

four entries were marked as highly commended. We are very proud of everyone's efforts - what amazing achievements!



Normanhurst—1st Place –
Roxy – Contrast



Braeside - Highly
Commended – Year 2 –
Season Tree

#BIGGARDENBIRDWATCH

School Council pupils at Normanhurst supported the work of the RSPB during the last weekend of January by taking part in the 'Big Garden Bird Watch'. The children looked for birds from their windows and gardens, and

even went to local parks on walks. Reception Class took part as well and even made birdfeeders for the event from the helpful instructions given by Mrs Allen.

There was a large variety of birds seen over this time and the RSPB were grateful for our help.





Celebrating Chinese New Year

Across the Group, our younger children have been learning about Chinese New Year, which fell on Friday 12 February 2021.

Oaklands

To celebrate Chinese New Year, Lower Kindergarten created a Chinese restaurant. The children explored role play with noodles, rice and vegetables and created a huge 'stir fry' sensory tray, where they named the different vegetables such as pak choi and sugar snap peas

Upper Kindergarten had the opportunity to try some Chinese food, which they really enjoyed eating. They also used their cutting and creative



Oaklands School

skills to make their own beautiful Chinese lanterns. With a fine paintbrush, they used their fine motor skills to write 'hello' in Chinese characters. They were able to take

turn serving the other children from their 'pop up' Chinese restaurant, which was a fun and educational activity.



Coopersale Hall School

Coopersale Hall

Upper Kindergarten children enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with a range of traditional snacks such as rice, prawn crackers and sweet and sour sauce. The children made lanterns, tried to use chopsticks and learned why each year is named after an animal.

Normanhurst

Year 3 children focussed on Chinese art, looking specifically at the lanterns that are used in the Chinese New Year Lantern Festival Celebrations, which was held on Friday 26 February. Year 3 enjoyed creating their lanterns with Miss Prebble and Mr Grant in their first Art Zoom lessons. Some children even decided to create multiple lanterns, so that they could hang them



Normanhurst School

around their homes. What a creative group of children!

Braeside

Kindergarten children have been learning about Chinese New Year at school. They listened to the story of why each year has a different animal and enjoyed researching the animal for the year they were born. They found out how people celebrate with fireworks and parades, and then made their own Chinese lanterns and decorated them with gems. Well done Kindergarten!



Braeside School

Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



Braeside Welcomes Boys

As many of you will already know, Braeside has a very exciting change taking place in the near future. From September 2021, the school will be accepting boys starting from Kindergarten and Reception.

We believe that a co-educational environment is in the best interests of the children and will benefit their learning and development. An important factor is that whole families will be able to become a part of the Braeside experience and educational journey, benefitting from all that the school offers. An increasing number of new Braeside parents are indicating that they would prefer an excellent family school that serves their sons as well as their daughters.

For more information, see the dedicated page on [BRAESIDE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE](#).

A Spot of Pond Dipping

Pupils at Coopersale Hall enjoy making use of the on-site pond for a range of pond dipping Science activities. This term, Year 2 have been exploring mini habitats - firstly identifying various types of habitat, then exploring the animals that live within. Children have learned how plants and animals

depend on each other to survive.



They completed the unit by exploring the pond habitat in the school grounds, where they looked at the plant life, pond weed and lily pads. The children also enjoyed pond dipping to find out what creatures lived in the water. They found many water louse, pond snails and a number of different nymphs.

Virtual Open Events

In March, the schools in the Oak-Tree Group held their second (and hopefully last) set of virtual Open Events.

A large number of prospective families signed up to hear from the Headmistresses and pupils, take virtual tours of the schools and take part in useful Q & A sessions.

Everything has been uploaded to each school's website, which you can see by clicking on the images to the right.



Mrs Moon
Headmistress

March 2021
Speech

Infants, Juniors and
Seniors



Normanhurst School

Mrs Job
Headmistress

March 2021 Speech
Infants, Juniors
and Seniors



Miss Barnard
Headmistress



Mrs Belej
HEADMISTRESS

March 2021 Speech



Oak-Tree Artists

We certainly have some budding artists in the Group, with pupils of all age groups producing some wonderful works of art.

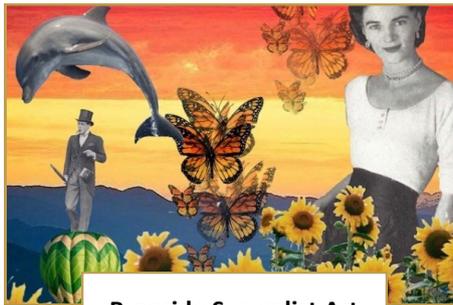
This term, Year 2 pupils at Normanhurst have worked on some silhouette art, creating some superb contrasting animal shapes. Reception children created their own space and stars images that really were out of this world. Year 3 have been studying the work of Lichtenstein, even creating a pop art piece themselves and experimenting with different materials. Year 6 continued with their optical art and collages, with pupils working on different animals and completing their collages with whatever was available at home. The results were very impressive!



Normanhurst Pop Art

Year 9 pupils at Braeside have been looking at Surrealist artists in recent weeks. To expand on their ideas, they explored Surrealist collages using remove, shatter and manipulating to create some bizarre compositions.

Year 7 have been exploring a wide range of skills, materials and techniques to create clown puppets. Years 3 and 4 have been exploring



Braeside Surrealist Art

Neurographic Art, which is a mindful practice that allows them to draw freeform lines and algorithms to transform stress and fear into a beautiful work of art.

Year 1 children at Coopersale Hall have been producing watercolour still life paintings of spring flowers with some beautiful results. Year 3 were asked to complete their own self-portraits. Using half a photo of themselves, they did a fantastic job



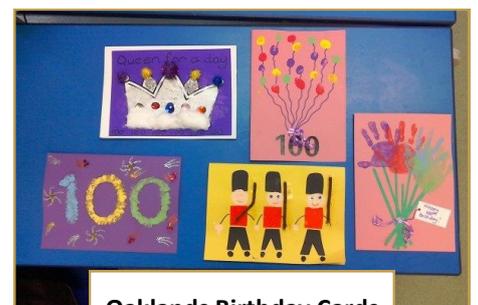
Coopersale Hall Observation Studies

drawing the other half. In their English and Art lessons, Year 4 have enjoyed studying Picasso. They

learned about his life and took a look at some of his famous paintings. After learning about portraits in Art, Year 3 were challenged to create their own self-portraits using any materials they could find around the house. There were lots of creative portraits.

Over the last few weeks, children in the Oaklands KS2 Art Club have been designing some scratch art. The children are going to scratch their designs onto old CD discs that they have painted with black paint. This will reveal the colourful, rainbow silver shimmer underneath the paint. We look forward to seeing the finished results! Upper Kindergarten enjoyed making some birthday cards for a special lady's 100th birthday recently.

Lilian is currently in a nursing home in Birmingham and, as she unfortunately doesn't have any close family, her nursing home asked the public if they would send her a card. Lilian's favourite colour is purple and she loves anything royal, so UK had lots of fun designing some themed cards.



Oaklands Birthday Cards



Charity Work Across the Group

Despite the circumstances, the schools and individual pupils still found time to fundraise for a variety of charities this term. We are very proud that our pupils have shown such an active interest in raising money for good causes, often coming up with ideas for charitable events themselves.

Braeside and Oaklands both took part in Red Nose Day this year, dressing up in their favourite red clothing and



Oaklands' Teachers

accessories. Pupils and teachers at Oaklands took this even further and

dressed up as red superheroes, all bringing in a donation for this worthy charity. Red Nose Day is part of Comic Relief, a charity committed to supporting those that are living incredibly tough lives. It has never felt more important to turn laughs into lasting change.

Some of the pupils from Normanhurst took it upon themselves to raise money for charity individually. Diana



Diana's Fun Run

in Year 3 supported the National Literacy Trust Charity and took part in the Where's Wally Fun Run. She ran 10K around Lee Valley and has managed to raise £200 to support the

literacy and learning of all children across the UK. Malachi collected donations of Easter eggs to give to children who have been affected by domestic violence, collecting a massive 123 eggs in total.



Malachi's Easter Eggs

Earlier in the year, pupils, teachers and families at Coopersale Hall School worked up a sweat by doing Joe Wick's fitness videos every week day. For all their hard work, they collected sponsors to raise money for the Red Cross, who recently appealed for help to make a difference during the pandemic and beyond.

Snow Day

For the first time in a few years, we had heavy snow at the start of term! This caused much excitement from our pupils, both at home and in school. Children at home sent in photos of them enjoying the snow in their gardens, while the children in school loved playing in the grounds.



Coopersale Hall School



Braeside School



Fancy Dress Friday at Coopersale Hall School



On Friday 15 January, all pupils and staff at Coopersale Hall were encouraged to dress up as superheroes and take part in a Joe Wicks workout. Joe had left a personal



message to the pupils and staff at Coopersale Hall earlier in the week, encouraging them and their families to get active and have fun. So many photos were sent in to the school of whole families dressed to impress and ready to work out!

You can see the full gallery of images and Joe Wick's video message [HERE](#).

The school ran a very successful charity campaign where pupils worked out 5 days a week to raise money for the Red Cross Appeal, and raised over £500 for the charity. Well done to everyone who took part.

Braeside's Lockdown Dance

In order to spread a little cheer to the Braeside community, many pupils took part in a lockdown dance, showing off their very best moves. This was then put together into one feel good

Braeside dance that certainly put a smile on everyone's face. In response to the children's dances, the teachers decided to record a lockdown dance of their own...

You can watch the dances [HERE](#).



A Proud Moment for Kaitlyn

Back in December, our budding writer Kaitlyn from Oaklands School entered the Young Writers competition with a short story she had written by herself called 'Fairies in Trouble!'.

Mrs Christofi received the 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 can't wait to see the finished story in the book. Well done Kaitlyn, we are so proud of you!



Oak-Tree

Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



Easter Celebrations

Easter this year had to be celebrated a little differently, but that did not stop our pupils from getting creative and having a lot of fun.

The Junior pupils at Braeside had a fantastic time taking part in the annual Easter Egg hunt, collecting points for



Easter Cards



Braeside Easter Egg Hunt



their Houses with lots of chocolatey rewards.

Coopersale Hall and Oaklands children impressed their teachers with a range of colourful Easter cards. They used a selection of advanced techniques to create the cards, which they then took home to their families.

Some of the junior children at Normanhurst made their PE lessons a little more Easter-inspired by taking part in 'bunny runs', complete with rabbit ears and other Easter accessories.

We hope everybody enjoyed their time at Easter.



Normanhurst Bunny Runs



Oak-Tree Schools Parents' Associations

Due to the restrictions that this year has brought, our usually busy

parents' associations have been unable to run their calendar of events. They were, however, still able to arrange some nice treats for our pupils along the way, as well

as a few virtual meetings and events! We look forward to restrictions being relaxed so they can arrange the usual lovely events again.



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

