



May 2021



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The children have had a busy start to the Summer Term and with the sunny, warmer weather arriving, many classes have enjoyed the experience of outdoor learning in a variety of subjects.

It has been lovely to hold our weekly assemblies in the school hall, albeit in smaller groups than normal. Year 3 and Year 6 have enthusiastically resumed attending swimming sessions at Loughton Leisure Centre and all the children have been excited to spend their playtimes with their friends on the school field.

All the children are working hard in their lessons and the displays around the school show some of their amazing work.

You can catch up with all the latest achievements and work of the pupils in this newsletter.

Sue Belej

Headmistress

Assemblies

Mrs Belej welcomed everyone back during the first assembly of the summer term and spoke about the new Year 1 to Year 6 Jigsaw topic for this half term: 'Relationships'. The children were invited to think of all the ingredients they needed for a Friendship recipe. Mrs Belej even shared her recipe that she had written:

3 cups of laughter
1 tablespoon of loyalty
A drop of good advice
An ounce or two of thoughtfulness
A bowl of smiles
100g of love, kindness and effort
Stir in sensitivity
Simmer with patience
And ice it with daily smiles, hugs and cheerfulness.

Mix all these up together; no 'use by' date applies, then you will have the perfect friendship that lasts a lifetime...

On Monday 26 April and Wednesday 28 April, the work of William Shakespeare was celebrated with the children. The older year groups recognised some of Shakespeare's famous quotes that Mrs Belej had chosen such as:

'Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo' and 'Parting is such sweet sorrow'.

The open air roof of the Globe Theatre caused some concern to KS1 children who realised that some of the audience could potentially get wet if it rained during a performance!

Values Badges

Since the last newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with a Values Badge.

Well done everyone!

Class	Values Badge
1F	Mila
1Z	Arabella
2C	Anais
2S	Siana
3C	Ozlem
4C	Georgia
5G	Cleo
5Z	Jusleen
6C	Maya

Computing

During Computing, the children in Year 1 have been exploring coding. To start their coding experience the children had to use basic instructions to program a partner [robot] to move around the field. As they became more confident using instructions, the children then had to follow an obstacle course using only the instructions they receive from their partner [coder]. The children thoroughly enjoyed being outside and working together to master the art of coding.



Lower Kindergarten 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'

Within class, we have been learning about the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Some children looked at the story with their keyworker and whilst looking at the pictures were asked simple questions. The children did really well in explaining what was happening in the story and all of them remembered that the caterpillar turned into a beautiful butterfly!



Good Behaviour Certificates

Since the last newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with a Good Behaviour Certificate.

Well done everyone!

Class	Good Behaviour Certificate
1F	Leo
1Z	Mia
2C	James
2S	Arriana
3C	Prabhlok
4C	Chanel
5G	Joah
5Z	Holly
6C	Sophia

Lower Kindergarten Fruit and Vegetables

The children in Lower Kindergarten had the opportunity to try a variety of new fruit and vegetables at snack. They tried pomegranate seeds, celery, pineapple, peppers, mango and kiwi. We are pleased to say that everyone tried at least one of the new foods.



Lower Kindergarten Adventure Playground

The children in Lower Kindergarten visited the Adventure Playground. Most of the children were very confident in moving up the ramp, going across the bridge and down the slide.

Some children attempted to climb the rope wall, while others practised their balancing skills by walking the beams.



Friendship Certificates

Since the last newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with a Friendship Certificate.

Well done everyone!

Class	Friendship Certificate
1F	Ella
1Z	Eddie
2C	Arabella
2S	Emilia
3C	Alicia
4C	Henry
5G	Cleo
5Z	Dylan
6C	Zaid

Upper Kindergarten making biscuits

Upper Kindergarten have been very busy making ladybird biscuits. They used rich tea biscuits, red icing sugar and chocolate chips. They were very excited to take them home to eat!



Reception Woodpeckers

Reception Woodpeckers have been exploring different changes. They enjoyed painting with ice and observed the coloured ice throughout the day, they watched it turn to water as it got warmer. They then discussed how they could make it ice again.



Merit Certificates

Since the last newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with a

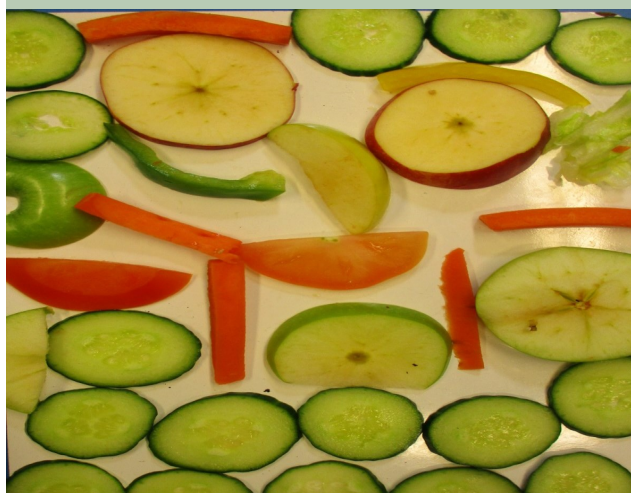
Merit Certificate.

Well done everyone!

Class	Merit
1F	Jemima, Sam
1Z	Louis, Rufus
2C	Rufus, Jamie
2S	Amber, Jade
3C	Ethan, Lucy
4C	Reggie, George
5G	Kristina, Sophia
5Z	Lilly, India
6C	Riana, Ava

Reception Robins

Inspired by the work of artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo, Robin class made fruit and vegetable faces. We thought carefully about what features to include and made sure to make the whole face from fruit and vegetables, just like Arcimboldo did.



Reception Owls

As part of their topic on 'Changes', Reception have been exploring ice making. Owls knew to put pots of water into the freezer to turn them into pots of ice. There was much debate over how long they needed to be in the freezer for – 1 day, 3 days or 10 days were some of the suggestions. They discovered that one day was sufficient. When holding the pots of ice to see the changes, Owls realised that their warm hands were helping to melt the ice and return it to water. They knew that if the pots were returned to the freezer the water would refreeze.



Owls found their next activity very bizarre – trying to paint with cubes of frozen paint. They were amazed that the cubes made marks on the paper as if they were using a brush although someone commented that it looked like they had used a crayon.



(The texture was thicker than with paint). As they 'painted' the colours began to mix – it was a lovely impromptu lesson on colour mixing.

Year 12

Year 1 have been learning all about 'Space' in their Topic lessons and found that a mysterious space ship had crashed in the school field! We took it back up to class for investigation and had lots of fun learning about space.



Speech and Drama

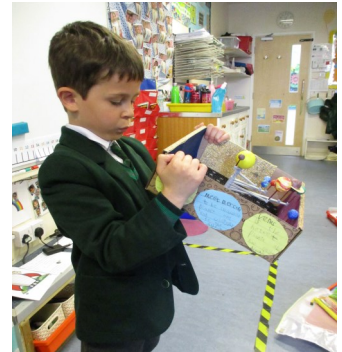
A number of children at Oaklands will be taking their Lamda exam at the end of May. They are busy learning and practising how to deliver their poems and passages with correct pronunciation, expression and dramatic effect!

Good luck to everyone in May!



Year 1F Solar Systems

1F are crazy about the Solar System! They made some amazing projects over the holidays all about the planets and then presented them to the class. The children read their work with clear and confident voices and knew so many facts to tell their friends. Y1F agreed that their favourite planet is Saturn because of it's awesome rings!



Music

Reception children have started to read music! They are learning about the musical family of Grandpa, Mum, Grubby Face and the Twins and have lots of fun playing and moving to the different sounds.



Year 2S

2S have been learning about the British artist 'Lowry'. They painted a picture in his style using watercolours and were even able to add in their own stick men.



2C Maths

2C have been having fun in Maths this week learning all about Position and Direction. They had to make a car travel along the road, write which direction it was travelling in and whether it was turning clockwise or anti-clockwise. The children loved this activity and worked really hard!



Short Tennis Club

“Over the last three weeks, Year 4 and Year 6 pupils have been trying to perfect their tracking of the ball, getting into an optimal position to hit each shot, as well as working on each stroke. They are now consistently having rallies with their partner and in particular enjoy games like ‘Jail-break’ and ‘Round the world’.”

Mr Paine



Year 3C Swimming

It would be all too easy to say that last week, Year 3 took to swimming like ‘ducks to water’, but when you consider how long everyone has been confined by the lockdown, the skills the children demonstrated on their first day were a joy to behold. Clearly it was very exciting to get into the water and we are all grateful for the change to the rules that allowed this to happen. Could we be looking at future Olympians? Time will tell.



Athletics

The children have been working really hard to perfect their sprinting technique in Athletics with the Year 5 pupils running impressive times. They have also practiced and performed javelin throw, tennis ball throw and long jump. On Friday 7 May, they will be competing against each other in a 'mini-quad athletics' event, aiming to score as many points as they can.



Year 4C Mapping

Year 4 have been looking at compasses and mapping in their Topic lessons. We have discovered how to find North, South, East, West, North-East, North-West, South-East and South-West. Looking at a map of England, we found out how to get from one place to another using our geographical knowledge.



Year 5G

During the Easter holidays, the year 5's had the task of designing and making an Easter bonnet. Various techniques were used including felting baby chicks, making pom poms, sewing and painting.

The class used a wonderful array of different resources to create their bonnets and ended up with a fantastic display.



Earth Day and International Space Day

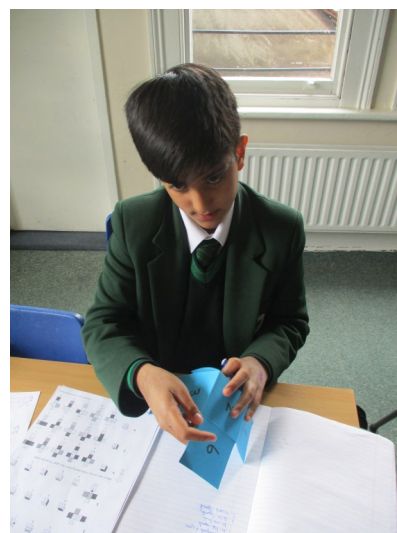
On 22 April, we joined the rest of the world in celebrating Earth Day. This year had a particularly important theme – ‘Restore our Earth’. It has become clear that it is no longer enough to reduce our carbon emissions; we need to actively drawdown the carbon that is already in the atmosphere if we are to make a significant impact on climate change, and this can only be done by restoring the Earth’s soils, plants, and oceans. Across the school we discussed the impact of climate change and were saddened at many of the effects we are already seeing on people and wildlife. We watched a number of documentaries and were astonished to learn about the critical roles of soils and oceans in balancing the levels of carbon dioxide in the Earth’s atmosphere. The children (and staff) were moved by everything they learned across the week and passionately discussed and debated the problems and potential solutions. They made posters, gave presentations and educated people outside school about the impact of human activity and, crucially, what we all need to do to ‘Restore our Earth’.



“Only if we understand, will we care. Only if we care, will we help. Only if we help, shall all be saved.” Jane Goodall

Year 5Z

Year 5Z have been busy working on verbal and non-verbal reasoning each week. They have been developing critical thinking skills like analysis, evaluation and synthesis as well as wider skills like more abstract thinking, creative thinking, information processing and problem-solving. The children have been working in small workshops on practical activities and have recently been investigating nets. With engaging content and challenge, these thinking and reasoning skills are also providing fundamental skills for life and learning.



Cricket Club

"The children in Years 5 and 6 have only had one session so far this term but we can already see some impressive skills on display in cricket club. They are learning the fundamental skills of batting, bowling, fielding and wicket-keeping."

Mr Paine



Year 6C Swimming

We had a class of very enthusiastic Year 6 children who attended their first swimming session of the year. They all did very well and enjoyed being back at Loughton Leisure Centre. They are already looking forward to their next session. Well done Year 6.



Netball Club



Our enthusiastic Year 5 netballers are up nice and early on a Monday morning to participate in Netball club. The girls have been eager to learn more about the sport and have now become familiar with the basic rules including the different positions and footwork. In the 40 minutes training session, the girls perform a range of drills and set plays and then finish with a match. The girls are working hard in their preparation for when we eventually get to compete in matches and tournaments.

Wild Woods

Reception have been exploring changes in the Wild Woods. We discussed what looked different compared to before Easter and completed a Spring game to find up to nine things on a checklist such as something with wings and green leaves. We also used the iPads to take photographs of signs of Spring; there are so many wild flowers growing in the Wild Woods and on the second field. Super spotting Reception!



Creative Writing Club

In creative writing club, the Y1 children had fun creating their own characters for a story. They spent time describing their character's appearance, personality and drew pictures to share with the group.



Character Profile

Character name
 Personality:
 Snighep is nighs and preup.
 and she is sol
 frever she dux
 mind latching
 the fish*
 What does your character like?
 Snighep likes
 to swim and meet
 fish*
 Appearance:
 Snighep has red hair and she has a rainbow eye

Draw a sketch of your character:

Karate Club

All the children who attend Karate Club having been working hard with their Sensei, learning the moves necessary to take the exam for their next coloured belt.



PE

In PE, the children in Reception have been working really hard on their cricket skills, learning to throw and catch the ball, as well as hitting a ball off the tee cone in '3 tees cricket'. They have also been learning the basic movements in gymnastics including travelling, balancing and rolling. They are now putting these skills together into a little routine moving along apparatus also. Well done Reception!



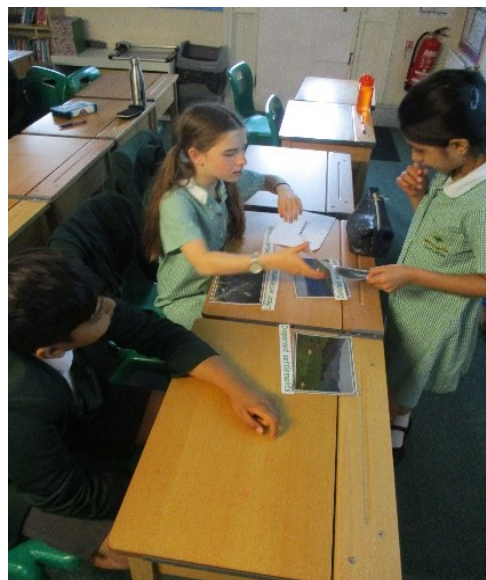
Basket Ball Club

The boys in Years 5 and 6 have been coached how to dribble the ball, being able to keep it from the opponent as well as moving with speed and changing direction. They have also learnt the jump shot as well as the lay-up and are able to confidently play 1v1 matches well. They particularly like playing 'Pac-Man' when they are only allowed to dribble the ball on the lines and escape the chaser!



Year 6 'Settlements'

In Humanities, our topic this term is 'Settlements'. We discussed the four settlement patterns that you can find and after a quick sorting game, we practically had to demonstrate what an isolated, linear, nucleated and dispersed settlement looks like. This was a practical opportunity to see if the children could reveal what they had learnt and discovered in the lesson. Great team work Year 6!



OAKLANDS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION SUMMER RAFFLE!

Winner!

**To be drawn during the week
beginning Monday 21 June**

- Do you have any unwanted birthday/Christmas gifts lurking around in a drawer?
- Do you have your own business that could spare one or two products?
- Do you think your beautician, nail technician or hairdresser would donate a voucher?

**We would welcome any prizes for
the OPA Summer Raffle**

**Please bring your donations to
the School office between
Monday 10 May and Wednesday
19 May**

**They are greatly appreciated-
Thank you!**

Winner!

Winner!