

September 2021



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to have all the children back at school, enjoying their learning with their new teachers, seeing all their friends again and making the most of playtimes on the field.

We have had a very busy half-term so far, as you will see from this newsletter.

There has been a variety of assemblies; House, Sport and School Council meetings have taken place and we raised money for the 'Jeans for Genes' charity.

In the classroom, all the children have settled well into their new routines and have made a very positive start to the academic year. The children have been working hard in their lessons and the displays around the school already show some of their amazing work.

We are looking forward to welcoming new prospective parents to our Open Morning on Thursday 7 October. An invitation is also extended to our current parents to attend this event.

Sue Belej

Headmistress

'Welcome back to School' Assembly: School Values

Years 3-6 attended a 'Welcome back to School' assembly on Monday 6 September, closely followed by Years 1 and 2 attending a similar themed assembly on Wednesday 8 September.

Mrs Belej based the assembly on the 'School Values' of Determination, Respect, Excellence, Friendship and Courage.

She shared a power point presentation with the pupils that provided a number of examples of how all the members of our school community can follow and put into use these values every day.

To end the assembly, our newly appointed Year 6 House and Vice Captains were introduced to the children. Each House Captain read out their motto which is written on their House shield, for example:

Sycamore's motto is 'Sycamore seeds fly high'.

Holly's motto is 'Being kind is never wasted'.

The assembly served as a real incentive for all the children to make a concentrated effort to practice the school values and to hopefully be awarded the Values badge for their class at the end of this half term.

PSHE - Jigsaw Assembly

For PSHE, we have introduced the first Jigsaw topic of the year which focuses on 'Being Me in My World'.

In assembly, we enjoyed welcoming back the entertaining Jigsaw Friends as well as Jigsaw Jerrie Cat who reminds children to 'stop and think', in order to practise observing their thoughts and feelings.

The scheme, which was introduced last year, has proved to be effective in bringing together Personal, Social, Health Education, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning.



**BEING ME IN
MY WORLD**

School Council Meeting

We held our first School Council meeting on Thursday 16 September in the school hall. The children were chosen by their peers to represent their class, also present were the Deputy Head Boy and Girl.

During the meeting we discussed many interesting topics and decided that our first topic would be about school lunches. Each member of the School Council received their badges and their books.

We are looking forward to our future discussions and debates about areas in school life, representing the views of our peers.



Y6 Prefects and House Captains

Year 6 pupils are proudly wearing their Prefect badges and enjoying performing their prefect duties each day. We are already very impressed with their enthusiasm for their roles of responsibility and their daily commitment to the children and the school.

The Office Prefects are being particularly efficient in their morning duties around the school.



Year 6 Responsibilities 2021-2022

I am delighted to share with you our Y6 roles of responsibility.

Responsibility	Name
Head Girl	Cleo
Head Boy	Zavier
Deputy Head Girl	Melveen
Deputy Head Boy	Dylan
SLT Assistant	Jusleen
Girls Cross Country Captain	Maja
Boys Cross Country Captain	Tyran
Girls Netball Captain	India
Boys Football Captain	Santi
Girls Football Captain	Kristina
Boys Swimming Captain	Ethan
Girls Swimming Captain	Libby
Gymnastics Captain	Annabel
Tennis Captain	Holly
Holly House Captain	Sienna
Holly House Vice Captain	Joah
Beech House Captain	Samrit
Beech House Vice Captain	Lilly
Willow House Captain	Olivia
Willow House Vice Captain	Sophia
Sycamore House Captain	Zayan
Sycamore Vice Captain	Safiyah

KS1 and KS2 Merit Certificates, Good Behaviour and Friendship Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been awarded a merit certificate this term.

Class	Merit Certificate	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1C	Teddy, Amelia	Radhe	Poppy
1F	Ezra, Idrees	Carmella	Harvey
2S	Isaac, Isla	Isaac	Mia
2Z	Safaa, Jessica	Emily	Thiaan
3C	Whole Class Award	Margot	Anais
4C	Teddy, Erin	Samuel	Lina
5Z	Chanel, Arjun	Henry	Betsy
6C	Holly, Ethan	Lilly	Melveen
6G	Joah, Sophia	Kristina	Santi

WWF and House Council

Our World Wide Fund assembly for Key Stages 1 and 2 proved to be an exciting event for the children. Pupils learnt about the role of the world's leading conservation organization and decided that they wanted to help with the effort to make the planet a safer place for wildlife. After a presentation by the house captains and vice-captains, the children unanimously voted to help the WWF organization by adopting an endangered animal.

The Captains and Vice-captains of Willow, Sycamore, Holly and Beech houses will help to organize a final democratic vote in our next house meeting, with the exciting results being announced soon!



House Captains and Vice-Captains presenting information about endangered animals in Key Stages 1+2 assembly



British values at work with children voting for Oaklands School to adopt an endangered animal



Children learning more about the role of the World Wide Fund

Lower Kindergarten

The children have been learning about simple concepts. Using different objects, we covered a number of concepts such as hot and cold, top and bottom and big and small. Whilst the children explored the objects, they were asked open questions to ascertain their understanding.



The children loved exploring and playing in our sensory tray. They explored different foods and textures such as crisps, jelly, flour and rice. Some of the children explained how the different foods felt. Frankie said, "crunchie" when describing the feel of the crisps to his teacher.

Decking Area

We are very excited to use our extended decking area during lunch times. This is where we get to be creative, have time to read or do mindful colouring. Each class is timetabled to get their turn during the week and the children are loving this opportunity. We will slowly introduce more activities.

Watch this space.....



The children made some delicious Ladybird and Butterfly biscuits. We spoke about what ingredients we were going to use and how to measure them by using scales. The children helped by mixing the ingredients together, rolling out the mixture, cutting out their animal and finally decorating them with icing.

We are told by the children they were very tasty!

Upper Kindergarten

The children in Upper Kindergarten have been learning about the Sukkot -Jewish Harvest. They learnt why and how people celebrate Sukkot and learnt new vocabulary such as Sukkah, Synagogue, Etrog and Torah. They watched a short video about a boy called Noam who was preparing for Sukkot and they had the opportunity to try some bread and honey for snack, which went down a treat!

The children have also been enjoying the September sunshine playing outside on the paddock. They have been looking at books, pretending to cook in our mud kitchen and build sandcastles in the sand tray.



Reception Owls Drop-in Session, Friday 24 September

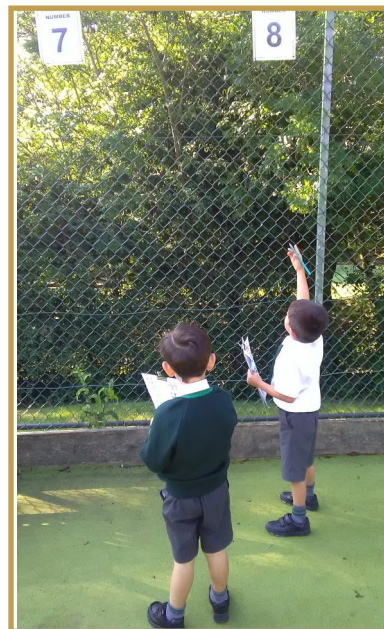


It was so lovely to welcome parents into class for the first Drop In session of the year. Owls proudly showed their parents their morning routine jobs before settling down to do some activities with them. They enjoyed colouring, making shape patterns, doing puzzles, playing with the construction toys and exploring number with the Numicon. During the afternoon Drop In session, parents had a short play before listening to a story with the class.

Reception Robins

In Reception Robins we have started to use Numicon to explore numbers. Here we are on a number hunt around the school, matching the numeral we found with the Numicon shape.

Great mathematical work!



Reception Woodpeckers



In Reception, Woodpeckers have been learning about shapes and using 2D shapes to draw around to create our own shapes. First, we discussed the four different shapes and then traced them onto some plain paper. Woodpeckers displayed amazing cutting skills as they carefully cut their beautifully coloured shapes out. Well done, Maths superstars!



Year 1C Maths

1C have had a great time learning all about 2D shapes and their properties. One of the groups had to sort out all the rectangles and squares while another group made different types of triangles with the Geo Boards.



Year 1F Creative English Lesson

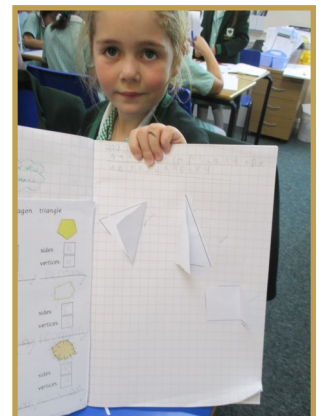
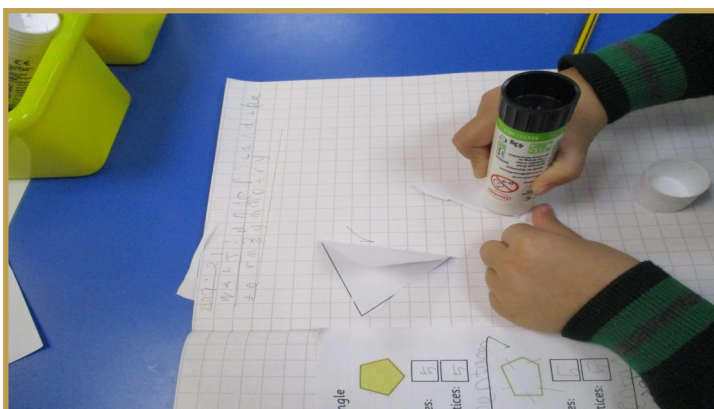
1F have loved learning all about Beegu! We have described her, discussed where we think she may have come from, imagined we were her and created speech for her. They chose a partner and acted out Beegu's journey from Outer space to Earth and back again using facial expressions and actions.



Not speaking was tricky but we loved the challenge! We all agree that though Beegu must have been a little scared, she showed such bravery in making new friends so far from home; just like we have in Year 1! We love Beegu!

Year 2Z 2D Shapes

2Z have been learning all about 2D shapes in Maths this half term. They had a go at finding out if a shape has a vertical line of symmetry or not by cutting out different shapes, folding them, and checking if they were symmetrical on both sides. They learnt that they needed to keep in mind the orientation of the shape, in order to be able to accurately check if the shape was symmetrical or not. Well done, 2Z!



Year 2C PSHE Lesson

During our PSHE lesson, 2S have been learning about rights and responsibilities and how to help themselves and others feel like they belong.

The children worked with a partner to sort out the responsibility pictures in an order from the most important to the least important.



Year 3C Ball Skills

The pupils in Year 3 have been working hard on their ball mastery skills, learning how to dribble with the ball and pass and defend. They were able to transfer these skills over to *number football* where they played one-on-one and then onto a full-sided match. There are certainly some keen footballers in 3C who delight in improving their skills.

In addition, during swimming lessons, the children are enjoying entering the water safely prior to working on their front and side breathing techniques.



Music

In Year 5 Science, the pupils are learning about the planets and the solar system and so to compliment this topic, the class are exploring how space has inspired many composers to write some of the most famous and epic music we know.

In this particular lesson, they listened to Holst's Planet Suite and analysed the different ways instruments are used to create different effects and emotions.

The pupils explored these elements of music using various tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments to create their own compositions. They then had an opportunity to play to each other and evaluate each other's work.



Y4C Computing

Year 4 have been working hard using a simulated program called Granny's Garden. The children needed to persevere to complete various challenges and problem solving tasks. They needed to use logical thinking and learn from previous mistakes.

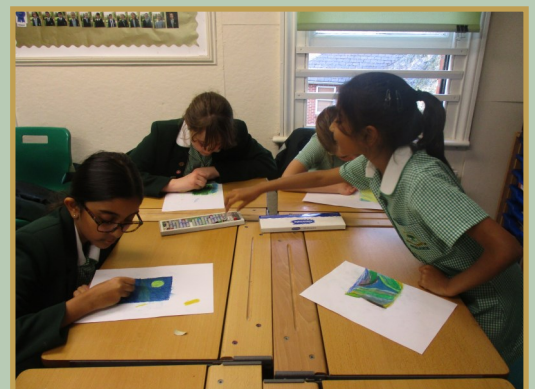


KS2 Art

KS2 Art Club have been learning about different artists this term. We have learnt about two artists so far with very different styles. We have looked at the optical illusions of Yaacov Agam, who created the agamograph and also Vincent van Gogh, the post-impressionist artist.

We are busy creating a group piece inspired by van Gogh's Starry Night. Each member of the Art Club is responsible for recreating one piece of our giant van Gogh puzzle. Van Gogh used oil paints in the original piece, so to emulate this closely we are using oil pastels.

It has been great fun experimenting with smudging and layering the colours and we have made some great spin off pieces of art with our discoveries. We are looking forward to building the puzzle and seeing the final effect.



Year 4C Maths

In Maths, Year 4 have been looking at how to use a mirror to find lines of symmetry within 2-D shapes. They were shown how to place the mirror accurately to ensure how to line lines of symmetry. Some of the shapes were trickier than others, so the children had to use their knowledge of regular and irregular shapes to identify these, to check if each shape had any lines of symmetry.



The next challenge for Year 4 will be to see if they can use their mirror skills to reflect a shape over a horizontal or vertical line of symmetry. Good luck!

Year 5Z - Polling Station

Pupils in 5Z have a better understanding of British Values after participating in School Council and Eco-Council elections this year. The classroom became a polling station and the candidates had to give a presentation on why they were suited to the role of councillor.

The children spoke confidently and used persuasive language to strengthen their argument. After using the ballot box to cast their votes, the results were announced with Henry and Ava being voted as our Eco-Councillors and Gabriella and Arjun being voted as our School Councillors.

Well done to everyone who voted so democratically and maturely!



Year 6G Art

This term the Year 6 are learning about 'A Sense of Place' as our theme in art. We have been comparing ideas, approaches and methods of different artists who have portrayed the environment in a variety of ways.

The class were very animated with their opinions and a very interesting discussion ensued.

The children were encouraged to analyse the line, pattern, colour, texture, style and purpose of the painting.

We considered Turner, Constable, Gainsborough as well as Monet and Dali.



Year 6C Art

Year 6 have been exploring different landscape paintings. They have been looking at the works of a wide range of different artists to analyse the viewpoint that the artist has taken. They have discussed the media that the artist has used and the effects that they have created.

We had a very heated discussion about how the art works made us feel and whether or not we would like them hung in our homes, but everyone was very respectful listening to different opinions. The children were able to articulate lots of different reasons for their likes and dislikes and not once was the class' decision unanimous. It was interesting to explore how different colours and textures made each other feel. The children are looking forward to recreating some of these famous works!



Y4C Science

Year 4 have been taking on the role of Science teacher down in the Wonderlab! As part of their "Where does all our food go?" topic, they each researched a part of the digestive system and became the resident expert on their particular organ. They then had to teach the rest of their team everything they had learned – it's role in digestion, it's size and placement in the body, and of course some interesting facts.

Did you know that we can produce enough saliva in a day to fill up large milk bottle? Or that if you stretched out your small intestine it would be taller than a giraffe?!

For more amazing facts please ask your local Year 4 expert – they would be happy to help!

Indoor Athletics Club

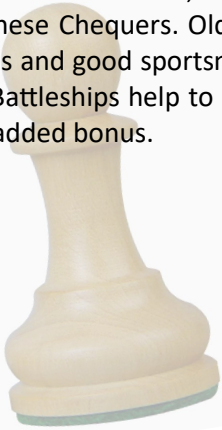


Year 6 have really enjoyed Indoor Athletics Club where they take part in various running, jumping and throwing activities. The pupils have completed sprints, speed bounce, obstacles and throwing with accuracy and are gradually improving their speed, agility and strength as a result. With Sports Hall Athletics competitions approaching, they are working hard to try and get into the team!



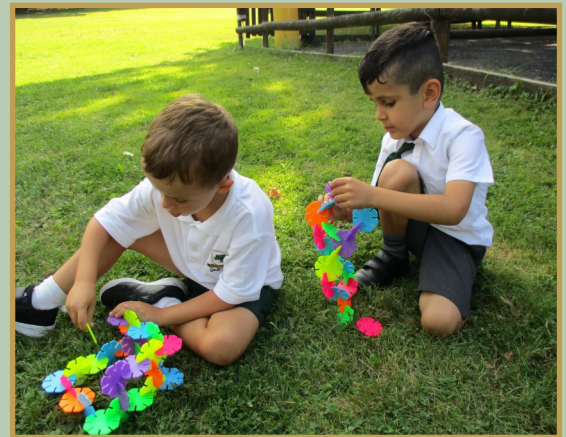
Strategy Board Games

Children continue to enjoy Strategy Board Games. There is a wealth of games to choose from and notable favourites at this time include chess, Shut the Box, Battleships, Mastermind and Chinese Chequers. Older children are keen to teach the younger ones and good sportsmanship abounds. The fact that games such as Battleships help to support an understanding of coordinates is an added bonus.



Construction Club

The children in Construction Club have been working collaboratively as a team and have taken on the roles of architect, engineer and builder with enthusiasm. They have been busy building their spatial abilities as they visualise and plan three-dimensional structures including an adventure playground and a Lego sculpture. 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.



Jeans for Genes' Day

On Friday 18 September, all the children came to school in their denim jeans, shirts, skirts or dresses to support 'Jeans for Genes' day. Each class had discussed with their teacher earlier in the week what genetic disorders are and how their donations will significantly help to fund essential research and support for affected families. Charity days serve as an ideal way to raise the children's awareness about people less fortunate than themselves and provide everyone with the opportunity to support families in need.

The school raised **£254.30**. Thank you to everyone for your donation.



Cross Country

In Cross Country, the pupils have been rediscovering their fitness after returning from the holidays and are gradually improving their stamina and running strength. They have been doing 1 lap intervals of the field with a rest in-between and this week they managed to do 2 lap intervals.

The tasks are slowly getting harder, but we think they are up to the challenge which will stand them in good stead when the running events against other schools take place later this term. They will need plenty of determination and resilience so keep up the hard work troops!



Girls Year 3 & 4 Football Club



The girls have been mastering their ball control and learning how to shield the ball from an opponent. They especially love using these skills during the 'Queen of the Ring' game where they must protect their ball whilst trying to get their opponents ball out of the area. During a game of Pupils vs Mr Paine, they showed their footballing ability and collaborative team work beating me quite comfortably. Well done girls!



Boys Year 5 & 6 Football Club

The boys have been practicing really hard and are making great progress with their skills during football club. They have really enjoyed playing games such as slide-tag, rondos and mini-matches.



Girls Year 5 & Year 6 Football Club

Year 5&6 girls have been working on their striking of a ball as well as their first touch and control during Girls Football club. They are now looking to use these skills during small sided games. Keep up the hard work team!



Speech and Drama Club

During Speech and Drama the children perform a range of games and activities in front of each other which focus on confidence building and speaking. The children play drama games using different aspects of performing such as role play and improvisation. By ensuring a fun and energetic environment in the lessons children feel comfortable to express themselves and their imagination.

Each school year a LAMDA exam is taken where an external examiner comes to the school to assess the children. The children are assessed on a range of pieces all designed to improve elements such as posture, diction and performance. During the lessons the children practice these pieces so they are ready for the assessment. Dependent on the grade, children will perform a poem or passage from a book. Younger children will also engage in a conversation with the examiner about their favourite book, photo or toy which they will bring with them.





OAKLANDS SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021