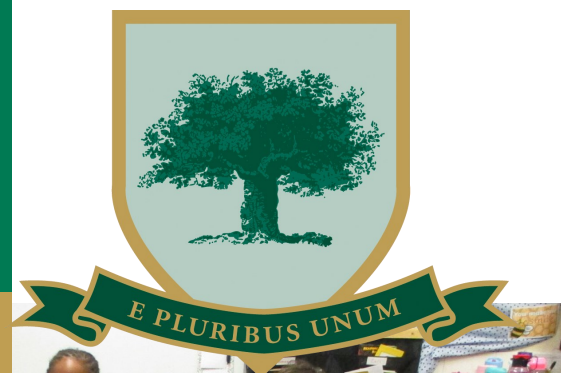


NEWSLETTER



November 2021

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Headmistress's Message

Daily life at Oaklands continues to be busy, enjoyable, and full of different learning experiences for all the children. Whether they are involved in a series of thought-provoking class and key stage assemblies, voicing their opinions during lots of engaging and stimulating lessons, participating in their chosen extracurricular activities or celebrating their achievements and effort with their peers, each individual child is making both academic and personal progress.

We held a very successful Open Morning on Thursday 7 October and it was lovely to welcome in person so many new families to the school. Our Year 6 Prefects acted as ambassadors of the school and spoke knowledgeably and confidently to our visitors.

The four 'Councils' in the school have held their round of meetings (School, Sports, Eco and House) and the representatives are taking their roles very seriously. You can read more about their plans in this newsletter.

Year 1 to Year 6 pupils enjoyed the opportunity to participate in their very own democratic 'Voting Day' on Thursday 14 October to decide which endangered animal the school is to adopt to support the work of the WWF charity; the result is in this newsletter!

I hope you enjoy reading about all the activities and learning your children have been involved in.

Kind regards

Sue Belej

KS1 and KS2 Merit Certificates, Good Behaviour and Friendship

Congratulations to all the children who have been presented with an award since the last newsletter.

Class	Merit Certificate	Good Behaviour	Friendship	Wow
1C	Lennox, Radhe, Shiv,	Poppy, Amelia	Margot, Presley	Poppy, Sofia
1F	Harper, Kayden, Isabella, Ambar	Zuri, Olivia	Charles, Sofia	Olivia, Isla
2S	Mia, David, Rufus, Aizah	Eddie, Aizah	Gisele, Jimmy	Alyssia, Theo
2Z	Mila, Aria, Leo, Zara	Anami, Jemima	Ella, Evie	Summer, Emily
3C	Isabella, Archie, Margot, Anais	Evie, Zachariah	Kasie, Nhi	Winnie, Jude
4C	Millie, Ethan, Alicia, Zara	Hannah, Abigail	Lucy, Hannah	Ethan, Lina
5Z	Sienna, Gabriella, Darcey, Betsy	Darey, Chanel	Sienna, Anastasia	Georgia, Raffy
6C	Alanna, Annabel, Whole Class	Sienna, Dylan	Zayan, Ethan	Ethan, Dylan
6G	Libby, Xavier, Santiago, Samrit	Maja, Joah	Sophia, Samrit	Joah, Saffiyah

House Points Cup

The House Points Cup was won by Holly House last half term. Sienna, House Captain of Holly House collected the cup from Mrs Belej during the first assembly held after half term break. The results were as follows:

1st Holly

2nd Beech

3rd Willow

4th Sycamore

Well done to all the children for their continued effort, hard work and exemplary behaviour!



Assembly Programme

Since the last newsletter, our assembly programme has continued to include a range of topics to interest the children, but also to fundamentally raise their cultural, religious and moral understanding.

Black History Month Assembly

As part of Black History Month, we looked at the life of Muhammad Ali in our KS1 and KS2 assemblies. After an introduction to the greatest boxer of all time, Ethan and Joah helped Mr Paine demonstrate some boxing skills. We learnt about Ali's role as a civil rights activist and how he showed courage sorting out a moral dilemma between his personal beliefs and his boxing future. We enjoyed exploring the different strands of SMSC within our class assembly as well.



Jewish Festival of Sukkot Assembly

In one of our assemblies in October, we learnt all about the Jewish festival of Sukkot. We learnt that Sukkot is a harvest festival where Jewish people show their gratitude to God for all of the things that they have. We found out that Jewish people put up 'Sukkahs' in their gardens and they spend lots of time in there, eating their meals and playing games with their families. We also learnt about the Lulav and the Etrog and even got to see one in real life!

Thank you Miss Zaydner for telling us all these interesting facts!



WWF Assembly & Voting



Following the WWF Assembly in October Ms Zaidi organized World Animal Day. It was a great success and the children enjoyed learning about how we can protect endangered animals and their habitats. Children studied different animals including leopards, orangutans, pangolins, tigers and sea turtles and went on to produce some striking pieces of artwork.

Pupils were particularly excited about Oaklands School adopting an endangered animal and were delighted with the results of their house vote. With tiger populations declining around 95% since the beginning of the 20th century, we hope to support the World Wide Fund for Nature and adopt one of these magnificent animals.

PSHE Jigsaw Celebrating Differences

On Monday 1 November, we introduced the next exciting topic in our Jigsaw scheme in our school assembly to pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2. Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, brings together Personal, Social, Health Education, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. The children are familiar with the Jigsaw Friends as well as Jerrie Cat who reminds children to stop and think, so as to practise observing their thoughts and feelings. We are all enjoying working on our second Jigsaw topic which focuses on 'Celebrating Differences'.



Anti-Bullying Week 15-19 November

In the Y6 Class Assembly, we have discussed the Anti-Bullying week theme: One Kind Word.

We had to think about five occasions, where someone has shown kindness to us. This was a wonderful reflection time and we had lots of positive kind acts displayed in our class. We then shared how these kind acts made us feel. Well done Y6C.



Remembrance Assembly

10 Year 6 pupils helped Mrs Belej to present the message of Remembrance to all the children in KS1 and KS2 on Monday 8 November. Everyone realised that it is important to remember and respect all those people who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world. The prayer and the minutes of reflection helped everyone to prepare for the 2 minutes silence held on Thursday 11 November on the playground at 11am.



Harvest Festival: Early Years/KS1 and KS2

We would like to thank all of our Oaklands Families, for their very generous donations for the Harvest Festival. The donations were sent to the White Chapel Mission, where they were distributed to those in need.

We had a beautiful Harvest Assembly where we were challenged to think about how we should be thankful for all we have. We were reminded what 'Harvest' is all about, and ended the assembly with a beautiful Harvest song lead by Mrs Rathbone.



Dexter

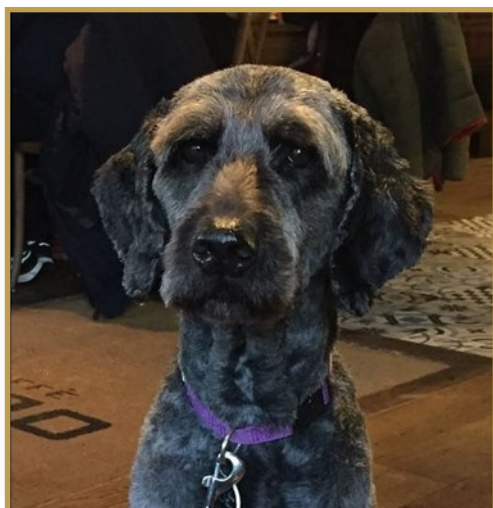
Oaklands School Council have had many democratic votes over the past years to bring certain changes to the school: one of the most memorable was to have a school pet.

In 2015, Dexter, who belonged to Mrs Booth (Y6 Teaching Assistant), became our school dog. He regularly visited the classrooms whilst the children were having lessons. His presence calmed the children, and, over time, helped many overcome their fear of dogs.

Dexter took part in many fundraising activities at school, one being a whole school sponsored walk to the fields at the top of Albion Hill where 'Dextercam' filmed the children having fun. He also very much enjoyed lunch and break time in the staffroom where he would often be treated to the odd biscuit or yogurt pot!

Sadly, at the age of 14, although Dexter was in great health, he suffered a stroke during the recent half term holiday, and unfortunately had to be put to sleep.

Dexter brought happiness to so many staff and children throughout his time at Oaklands. He will be sadly missed by Mrs Booth, her family and the wider Oaklands community.

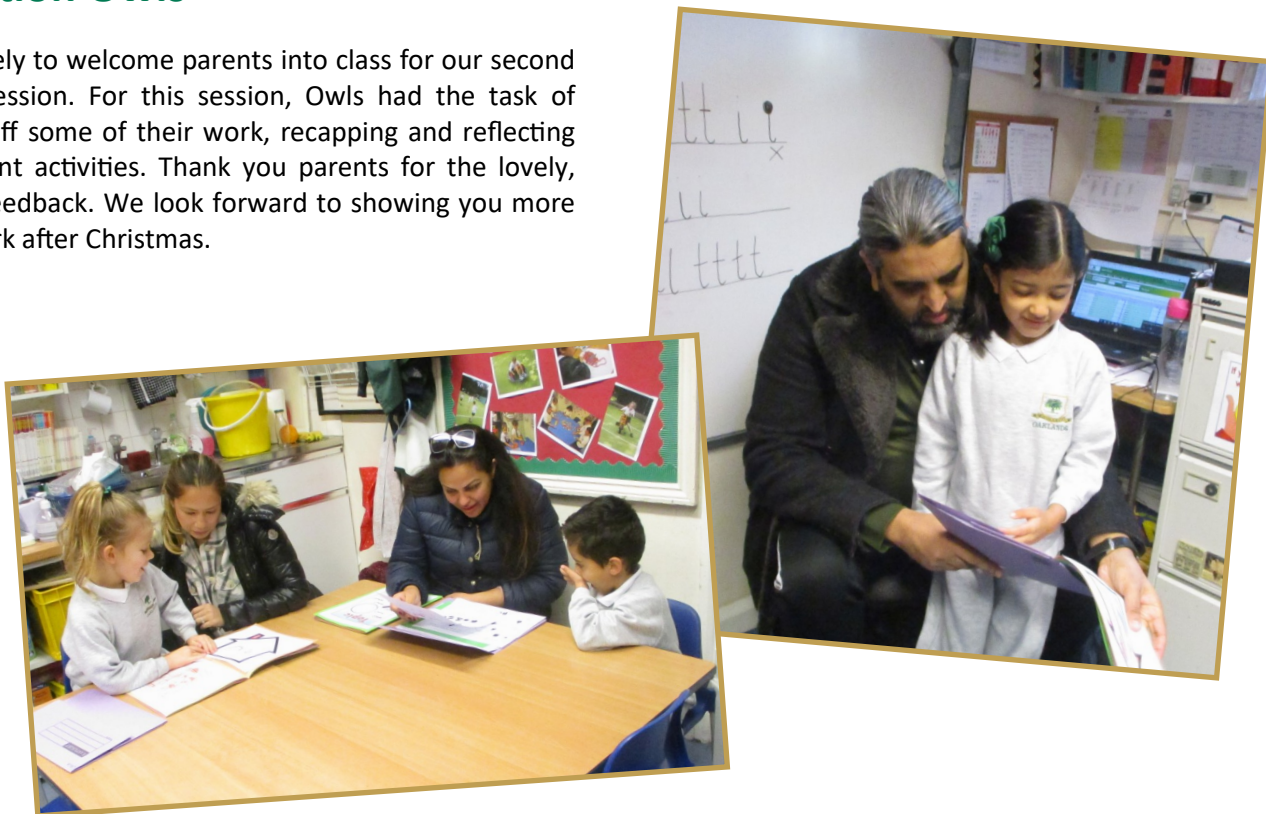


Drop-in Sessions

All parents were invited to attend a Drop-in session for their child's class before half term. It was lovely to see the enthusiasm and excitement of the children as they took their parent/s to their classroom to see their work and the smiling faces of parents as they left. You can see from the photographs how immersed everyone was in the sessions.

Reception Owls

It was lovely to welcome parents into class for our second Drop-In session. For this session, Owls had the task of showing off some of their work, recapping and reflecting on different activities. Thank you parents for the lovely, positive feedback. We look forward to showing you more of our work after Christmas.



Reception Robins

It was lovely to welcome Robin Class parents into the classroom to celebrate the children's achievements. The children were very proud to show their parents the work in their books and on display.



Displays around the School

There are a number of new colourful displays of the children's work around the school. The staff are extremely proud of the quality of the work being produced by the pupils in their class.

Here are some of the examples.



Lower Kindergarten Firework Pictures

Lower Kindergarten made their own firework picture using a variety of different tools to paint with. They rolled their tools into the different paints and then used their tools like a stamp pressing straight down. We spoke about all the different noises they make. Hadi said, "Boom". As you can see the children had lots of fun creating their paintings.



Lower Kindergarten Diwali

The children in Lower Kindergarten have learnt about the celebration of Diwali. They listened to Peppa Pig's story about the festival of light and how families get together and bring special lights called Diyas, which bring good luck. The children designed their own Mendi handprint using lots of different materials and colours to represent henna.



Lower Kindergarten Speckled Frog

Lower Kindergarten have been learning a variety of number rhymes, such as '5 Speckled Frogs', '5 Little Monkeys', and '5 Little Ducks'. These songs allow the children to recite numbers 1-5 and to see that a number changes when something is taken away. To help reinforce the song, the children were able to create either a frog, monkey or duck mask. They decorated their masks using a variety of materials and colouring pens. We then used our masks and sang the songs within the classroom.



Upper Kindergarten

The children in Upper Kindergarten have been taking part in a variety of activities. We recently made chocolate chip cookies; we discussed what ingredients and equipment we would need. The children were shown how to measure out the ingredients by using the scales and then helped to mix the mixture. Finally, they took it in turns to roll out some of the dough and cut out their cookie shape. The children said the cookies tasted very yummy!



Within class, we have been learning all about Autumn. We have been talking about the signs of Autumn and how the leaves change colour and fall off the trees. The children listened to the story of 'Leaf Man' and went for a walk along the school path to collect some big leaves. Once back in class, the children stuck their leaf onto a piece of paper and drew a body with arms and legs and a face to create their own leaf person. They all looked fantastic!



Reception Owls Dough Disco

Receptions dough disco was very different to usual as the children manipulated their dough to create diya lamps for Diwali. They listened to some traditional music as they moulded their dough. Afterwards, they placed a tea light inside similar to the way the villagers had lit their lamps to guide Rama and Sita back home.



Reception Robins Diwali

Robin class learnt all about Diwali for our Festivals topic. We learnt about the Rama and Sita story, made rangoli patterns from numicon; made Diwali sweets in cooking and here we are making our own diya lamps from salt dough. We decorated the dough with patterns using a chop stick. When they were dry, we painted them and covered them in glitter. Namaste!



Reception Woodpeckers: Remembrance Sunday

Reception Woodpeckers worked very hard on their Remembrance artwork making poppies out of tissue paper. They also participated in the 2 minute silence and their artwork is now displayed in class.



Year 1 Stansted Mountfitchet Trip

In Year 1, we went on our first trip to Mountfitchet Castle and we had so much fun! We climbed tall towers to see if any intruders were coming, looking through the arrow slits to get a good view and we armed ourselves with helmets just in case of a sudden attack! We enjoyed a well-earned lunch followed by an exploration of the castle village and met a few people who lived there (being very careful not to wake the sleeping baron!) By the end of the day we were exhausted and full of stories to tell our families. We can't wait for our next trip!



Music



Throughout this term, Year 2 have been focussing on aspects of musical pitch. Their challenge was sort a 'jumble' of different chime bars into pitch order, low to high as quickly as they could. The children soon became experts and were able to listen, identify and sort the chime bars in record time.



Year 1C

1C had super fun during the first week back to school after half-term. Not only did we rescue Halloween spiders from their sticky webs with tweezers on Monday but we also celebrated Diwali on Thursday and on Friday we celebrated Fireworks Night!

The children practiced their fine motor skills by making patterns in the coloured sand and glitter. Then we learnt about onomatopoeia and how we could use it in a poem. We wrote a class poem together, then each child wrote their own second verse, using similes to make it more interesting. We really enjoyed scaring Mr Crane when we shouted "BANG!" at the top of our voices.



Year 1F

We brought Science outside this half term! Now that the weather is definitely turning colder, we wanted to explore our field to see what changes have occurred. We found lots of different coloured leaves, conkers, bare trees and even mushrooms, but unfortunately the cheeky squirrels were too shy to show themselves! Cross your fingers for us that we'll spot them next time...



School Council

KS1 School Council met for a meeting to discuss the topic 'How can we show acts of kindness in school?' The children had excellent ideas which the Deputy Head Boy and Girl will be discussing with Mrs Belej at a future meeting.



Year 2S Authors

In English, Year 2 have been reading two books by the same author and comparing them. 'The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch' and 'The Lighthouse Keepers Cat' by Ronda and David Armitage. The children discussed the setting, the characters and the similarities and differences of the two stories. The children then wrote the story in their own words and these were put up on display outside the classroom.

Well done 2S!



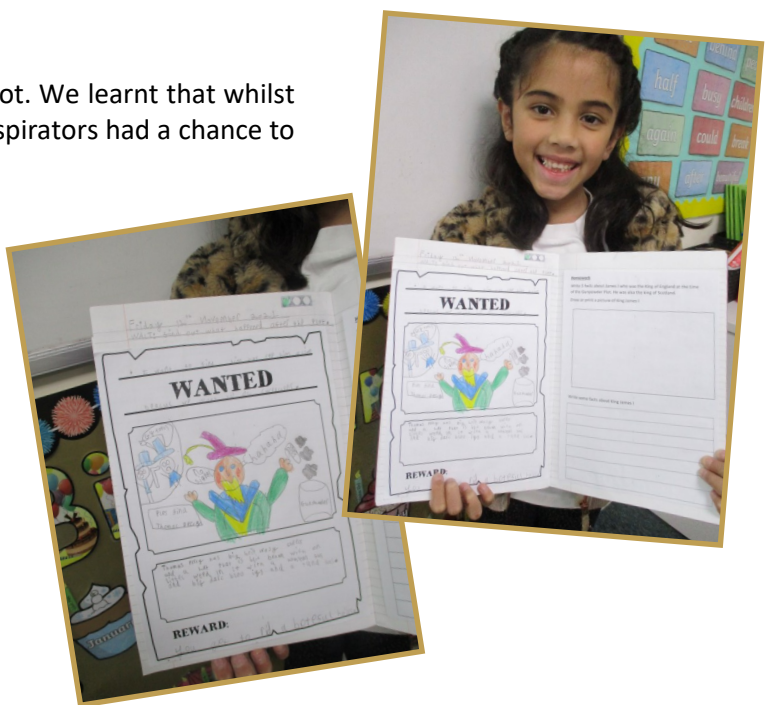
Y2Z The Gunpowder Plot

2Z have been learning all about the Gunpowder Plot. We learnt that whilst Guy Fawkes was being interrogated, the other conspirators had a chance to escape!

We wrote 'wanted posters' in order to find one of the plotters, Thomas Percy, who was actually one of the King's bodyguards!

We used the King's proclamation in order to help us to describe Thomas Percy, so that loyal civilians could help find him and he could pay for his crimes.

Great detective work 2Z!



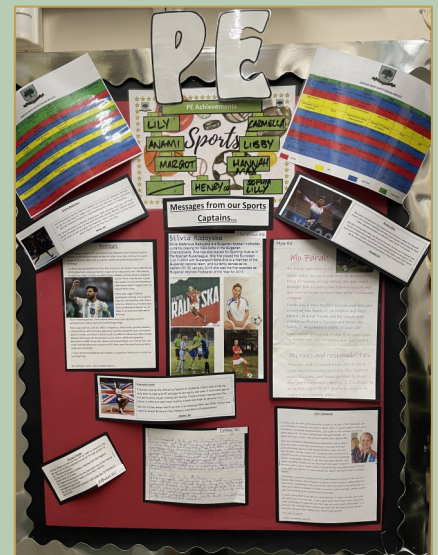
Sports Council

Our Y6 School Sports Captains had a Sports Council meeting recently to discuss all things PE and sports! They are very excited to be part of the School Sports Council and contributed to a really informative and fun session.

We discussed upcoming events, House competitions and new ideas for PE lessons.

They also each produced a piece of work each to say why they are proud to be a Sports Captain with a photo and blurb about their own sports idol and why they inspire them!

Great work Annabel, Libby, Alanna, Maja, India, Kristina, Holly, Ethan, Santi and Tyran!



Y3C Stone Age

The pupils in Year 3 have been working hard to learn all about the Stone Age. Recently, they did a tremendous job in presenting their topic research. Some children chose to investigate, and even make, the items that would be absolutely essential in a Stone Age survival kit. Others produced information booklets on the animals that existed at the time, while a third group created meals based on foodstuffs which were likely to exist at the time.

The children are aware that, two million years ago, the first stone tools were fashioned during the Paleolithic period. The Mesolithic period followed and this was a time when tools became more sophisticated. The Neolithic period was relatively recent, and would significantly change the lives of humans, with the emergence of farming.



Oak-Tree Challenge

The Oak-Tree Challenge is a great opportunity for children in Years 4-6 to try new skills and challenges. As well as developing teamwork skills, it also celebrates academic, sporting and musical achievements.

The scheme encourages pupils to think about others and offer help through providing a service in school or out of school. The children have the year to successfully complete their Bronze, Silver or Gold Challenge and will be presented with their well-deserved badges towards the end of the Summer term.

Good Luck everyone in your challenges!



Y6 Computing

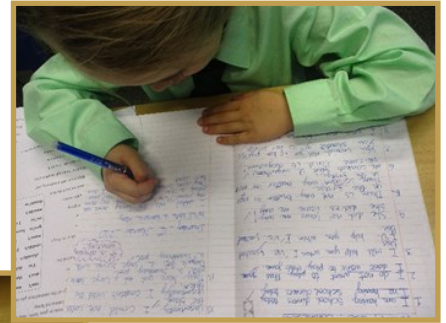
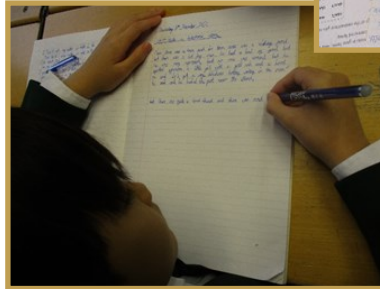
This term the children in Year 6 have been working very hard to create a Christmas animation for the Reception children. They have used the program Scratch and created the animations using block coding. The finished animations will be shared with the children in Reception at the end of term.



Year 4C 'One Man Band'

Year 4 have been taking ideas and guidance from the Pixar short film, 'One Man Band', to create their own dilemma stories. They have learnt about how to structure and create dialogue from a still of the short film. Year 4 have also thought about their own dilemmas that they face and have spoken about them.

To help them think about how one of the characters felt in facing a dilemma, the children created their own 'conscience alley' in order to help them solve one of their own dilemmas.



Y5Z Art Work and Geography

As part of World Animal Day, Y5Z looked at the physical and human geography of India. They looked at the impact of climate change and pollution, as well as the consequences of tiger poaching, the illegal wildlife trade and habitat loss.

Each child produced an amazing piece of artwork with the silhouette of their wild animal set against a dramatic skyline. They used paint to blend the perfect colour tones to good effect.

Great artistic creations!



Y6C Jigsaw

In Jigsaw (PSHE), we have been looking at being different and that we are all unique in our own way. We discussed and shared ideas on what we could do to celebrate and respect our differences. We were given the opportunity to read a variety of books from the series "Little people, BIG DREAMS". We discovered that most of the characters were different from the "normal", but all of them made a big impact in the lives of many people around the world. This was a wonderful lesson linked to celebrating different cultures, ethnicity and religions in our class and school.



Year 6G 'A Sense of Place'

This term's theme in art is 'A Sense of Place' where Year 6 have been studying the skill of drawing in perspective. They used a step-by-step guide to draw a city landscape scene using the horizon and vanishing lines. They also learnt that the diminishing size of objects and shading techniques are used to create the illusion of perspective. After sketching their piece, they used watercolour paints to add depth to their work. Great fun was had by all.



Y3 and Y4 West Essex School mixed Football Competition

On Wednesday 3 November, Oaklands School took part in the Year 3&4 West Essex School Sports Partnership mixed Football Competition at Shooters Football Centre in North Weald. They played so well and gave their all, coming up against some very talented schools. We eventually came 2nd in our mini group which is a great achievement, scoring lots of goals in the process.

Well done to Max, Samuel, Teddy, Prabhlok, Lucy, Lina, Alex and Denzel!



Spanish Club

In Spanish club, KS2 have been learning all about 'La Ropa'. We learnt lots of different vocabulary for items of clothing that we wear every day and tried to match up the pictures with the words we had learnt. We then completed 'una sopa de letras' (a word search) to see if we could find all of our new vocabulary!



Oak-Tree Football Tournament

On Friday 5 November, Oaklands School took part in the annual Oak-Tree U11's Football tournament at Goals Football Centre in Chingford. We were greeted with glorious sunshine and the boys were really excited to be playing in their first sports event for a long time. We were up against some very talented Coopersale and Normanhurst pupils but every single one of the boys put their all into each game and can be proud of their efforts. Eventually we came up short, but to represent the school and be with their friends playing football on Fireworks day, what a fabulous morning they had.



Eco-Council

Our new Eco Council members from KS1 and KS2 are getting ready to accept The Action Pack Recycling Challenge! This is a national schools' competition open to teachers and primary schools in England and Northern Ireland and aims to raise awareness of recycling at school and at home.

The Council members from Years 1-5 are tasked with creating innovative and eye-catching posters while the Year 6 pupils' challenge is to create a short film using recycled materials.

The deadline is the end of November, so everyone is working hard to complete their entries.

Good Luck!



Oak-Tree Netball Tournament

An excited and determined group of netballers took part in the first external netball tournament in almost 2 years. India, Annabel, Sienna, Holly, Melveen, Cleo, Olivia, Maja, Kristina and Sophia put on an amazing performance and made the staff who went along with them incredibly proud.

For almost all of the girls it was their first time representing the school in a netball match, and they certainly rose to the challenge. Their first match was against Coopersale, and although they lost 6-3, the Coopersale coach was very impressed by their debut. After a 3-1 loss to Braeside (the eventual winners) the girls came back fighting in their final match against Normanhurst and narrowly missed out on a win when a blinding goal was scored in the last minute of the match, resulting in a 3-3 draw. The standard of play was fantastic for such a new team and the girls all did themselves proud.

They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are all chomping at the bit to get to another match!



KS2 Art Club

In KS2 Art Club, we have been focussing on cloth and patterns used in African Wax and Indonesian batik. We made our own oil pastel batik pictures. First we drew a picture in oil pastels. Then we screwed up the paper several times to form creases. We then painted a thick layer of black paint over the oil pastel picture. Lastly, we washed off the black paint, only leaving paint in the creases to create a batik-like effect.



Y6 St Edmunds College Visit

On Wednesday 10 November, Year 6 were invited to a taster day at St Edmunds School. The children had a wonderful time learning 'lacrosse' in their P.E. lesson. They realised how tricky it was scooping up the ball and passing it. Following this, they had a geography lesson where they worked together in teams to run the rescue and evacuation operation for the volcano erupting in Montserrat.

Each child had a responsibility such as: collating information, plotting the details on a map and the crisis manager had to make a decision as to the course of action that they were going to take. After this, the children had a science lesson using Bunsen burners and discovered which chemicals made the different colours in fireworks. This was all topped off with a delicious lunch with far too many desserts to choose from! A fun day was had by all.



Library

Lucky Year 3 were invited to the opening day of the library. They really enjoyed looking through the array of new books, reading the blurb and sharing their findings from our 'Little people big Dreams' collection.

They were so excited to be a part of the new opening that they were still talking about it the next day.

"I loved coming to the library yesterday!"

"I can't wait to read my new book."

"Can we come today as well?"

"A little magic can take you a long way." Roald Dahl



KS1 Football Club

In KS1 football club, we have been learning about passing and dribbling skills and how these will help us in a match situation.

We have also been practicing our shooting as attackers and defending as goalkeepers, eventually putting these into practice each week for a mini match.



KS2 Karate Club

Members of the KS2 Karate Club are put through their moves every week by Sensai Nick. Many of the children will be attending their next grading session later in the year.

Good Luck!



Forensic Science Workshop

Just before half term Years 5 and 6 took on the role of Crime Scene Investigators when they took part in a forensic science workshop. After learning about the legal system and the processes of investigation, arrest and potential conviction, the children got the chance to work first hand with some genuine police equipment themselves. They looked at and sampled different types of evidence, including DNA, footprints, fingerprints and tool marks. All of their knowledge was put to the test at the end of the day when they walked into a shocking crime scene and had to use their new forensic detective skills to solve the case! A fantastic time was had by all, and we may well now have the next Jethro Gibbs from NCIS at Oaklands!



Dance Club

During Dance Club, the children have been working with partners, sharing their ideas to make up their own choreography. At the end of the lesson they show their dances in front of each other. This helps to build their confidence and motivate each other.



Children in Need

All the Oaklands pupils dressed up for Children in Need on Friday 12 November to raise an amazing £249.78

The children all looked great, well done for raising so much money!

