

NEWSLETTER



February 2022

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Headmistress's Message

There has been much to celebrate since the last newsletter four weeks ago.

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for their success in various 11+ entrance exams. Many of them are now in the enviable position of deciding which secondary school offer to accept.

We celebrated the NSPCC 'Number Day' on Friday 4 February and it was lovely to see so many of the children dressed in a number or mathematical theme. Well done for your creativity!

Thank you for your donations; we raised just over £200.

The sporting calendar has also been busy, with selected KS2 pupils participating in both local and regional netball and tag rugby competitions.

Year 3C thoroughly entertained their parents on Thursday 10 February with their historical-based performance, 'The Romans'. Well done all!

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

Mrs Belej

KS1 and KS2 Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to all the children who have been presented with either a Merit, Good Behaviour or Friendship award since the last newsletter.

Class	Merit Certificate	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1C	Lennox, Priam, Presley,	Teddy	Naavya
1F	Safia, Zuri, Olivia L, Rabani	Ambar	Harper
2S	Liberty, Delia, Eddie,	Theo	Liberty
2Z	Louis, Samuel, Jessica,	Summer	Aria
3C	Siana, Nhi, Zachariah, Evie	Kasie	Rufus
4C	Zara, Hannah, Abigail,	Lucy	Zara
5Z	Ava, Darcey, Betsy, Georgia	Gabriella	Reggie
6C	Whole Class Merit	India	Alanna
6G	Liberty, Santiago, Whole Class Merit	Samrit	Saffiyah

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

Y5Z French pen pals

The class were very delighted to write their letters to their French Pen pals in school in Paris.

We are expecting to receive their return letters very soon.

Merci beaucoup!



House Points

Congratulations to Sycamore House who won the House Points Cup for Spring Term 1 with the grand total of 342 points; Holly came second with 243 points; Beech came third with 217 points and Willow fourth with 207 points. Besides gaining house points for their academic work, it has been lovely to hear about the large number that have been awarded for good manners, neat school uniform and caring, respectful and friendly behaviour. Well done to all the children!



‘Healthy Me’

This half term, our PSHE topic is ‘Healthy Me’. The children, at an age appropriate level, have started exploring and discussing the following areas:

- What is personal hygiene?
- Understanding the importance of healthy eating
- Maintaining an active lifestyle
- Appreciating why they must get enough rest and sleep
- Safety education – road safety; on and off-line safety
- How to manage risk
- Looking after one’s mental health
- Making healthier choices
- Having respect for myself
- Understanding the dangers of certain substances – alcohol, medicines, tobacco

Year 1 to Year 6 children were captivated during the first assembly they attended this week. Firstly, a slide of a car was shown and the children were asked to consider what is needed to keep the car ‘healthy’ and to make it go. Once the suggestions of using the right fuel, having periods of rest and the need to regularly use, clean and maintain the car have been provided, their next challenge was to identify the link between how a car keeps working to our ways of keeping healthy.

During the topic, the children will be encouraged to identify and make ‘healthier choices’ to their lifestyles.

The London Book Project

The London Book Project is a charity that collects donations of new and gently used children’s books and gives them to targeted schools and organisations. Their aim is for all children to have the opportunity to choose, take home and keep their own books and to develop a love of reading.

From **Monday 21 February to Thursday 24 February**, Oaklands children brought their unwanted books into school; books they no longer enjoyed reading or those that are now too young for them.

The books were not counted one by one but it’s estimated that the school donated over 400 books to this charity. Well done everyone and thank you!

Mental Health Week Assembly

From 7-11 February, pupils celebrated Children's Mental Health week. They had lots of discussions about the theme of 'Growing Together' and how their mind's grow as well as their bodies. They were asked the question 'how do we know our minds are growing if we can't see it?'

During assembly, Pupils were read Nadiya Hussain's book 'My Monster and Me' which was all about overcoming the 'monsters' that hold us back from living life to the full. They learnt that to make our monsters smaller we have to talk to people we trust about any worries we have and spend time with the people who make us happy.

Back in the classroom, they loved creating their 'support bubble balloon' and talking to their friends about all the people in their lives who build them up and make them feel amazing. The children understand that we do not have to be happy all the time but when we want to feel better we are armed with advice about where and who to go to.



Chinese New Year Assembly

Key Stages 1 and 2 celebrated Chinese New Year in school assemblies. They looked at how it is celebrated with gifts, fireworks and dragon and lion dances and culminates on the 15th day with a lantern festival. According to the Chinese zodiac, 2022 is the Year of the Tiger so they also had an update on how our WWF tiger sponsorship is helping protect tigers in the wild. Key Stage 1 children re-told the Zodiac Story, using masks, in order to explain the reasons behind the years being named after animals. They acted out racing across the river in order to be the quickest animal to the other side.



Lower Kindergarten

The children in Lower Kindergarten made some delicious spider cupcakes! They helped to mix the mixture and spooned it into the cake cases. Once cooked, they created their spiders by using butter cream, strawberry laces for the legs and edible eyes/marshmallows for the eyes.



The topic in Lower Kindergarten has been the nursery rhyme 'Incy Wincy Spider.' The children were fascinated with our spider web sensory tray and enjoyed using tweezers to try and rescue the bugs from the spider's web!



For Maths, the children were given a sheet with five different coloured spider webs, which were numbered 1-5. The children were asked if they could identify any of the numbers. If they could, they were then asked the question "How many spiders do we need to put on the red web?" and so on. They then had to count out from a large group the correct amount of spiders and stick them onto the corresponding web. If they could not identify the numbers, they were asked "Could you put 1 spider on the red web?" and so on up to 5. This activity helped the children with number recognition, counting out from a large group and counting by rote in a line.



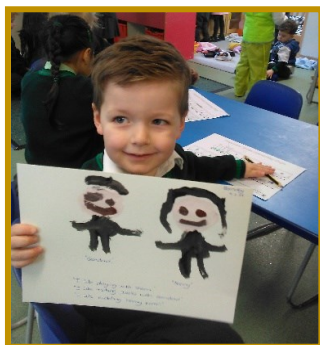
The children were able to try some new foods during their 'Chinese food tasting session'. The children tried noodles, rice, spring rolls, prawn crackers and sweet and sour sauce. The prawn crackers were a big hit!



Upper Kindergarten

The children in Upper Kindergarten have been learning all about 'Caring for our Grandparents'. They discussed what things they do with their grandparents such as cooking and going to the park. They also spoke about how they can be kind and helpful such as helping to tidy up.

The children brought in photos of their grandparents and tried to copy them by painting a beautiful picture. They looked in detail at the photo to see what skin, hair and eye colour they needed. You can see by the children's paintings that their observational skills and control when using a paintbrush or cotton bud are steadily developing.



The children have been participating in a Cosmic Yoga session every other week in Upper Kindergarten. The children really enjoy these sessions and they are a great way to encourage the children to be calm and quiet and to move their body in a variety of ways.



Drop in Sessions

Upper Kindergarten parents were captivated by their children showing them their most recent work.



Reception Owls Name Labels

At the start of each half term, Reception complete one of these name labels; colouring it in and then writing their name in their best handwriting. These are then displayed on the classroom door. Once a new one is completed, the old ones are put in their Literacy books. This will show incredible writing progression by the end of the year.



Reception Robins

Robin Class have been learning about the time of the dinosaurs and made a beautiful volcano from newspaper and modroc. Once it had dried the children painted it and made it erupt using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. It was so exciting!



Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers had lots of fun exploring their topic of dinosaurs this half term. They even finished the half term by making their own volcano and erupting it. The children loved learning about life a long time ago.



Young Writers



KS1 and KS2 entered a Young Writers competition and some of the stories have been chosen for publication.

Congratulations to these KS1 children:

Year 1: Amelia, Ethan, Shiv, Teddy, Priam, Poppy, Ameena, Rabani, Charlie, Ambar, Aaron, Olivia, Sihame, Sartaj, Isabella and Kayden.

Year 2: Aizah, Theo, Victoria, Gisele, Rufus, Isaac, David, Jimmy, Mia, Eddie, Libby, Delia, Isla, Amelia, Alyssia, Louis, Ella, Emily, Sam, Leo, Mila, Louis, Evie, Zara, Lilah, Aria, Anami, Summer, Raffy, Edel, Eashan, Jemima, Bryony, Thiaan, Safaa and Jessica.

Congratulations to these KS2 children:

Year 3: Anais, Sianna and Anabelle

Year 4: Hannah, Lina and Zara

Year 5: Gabriella, Arjun, Anastasia, Raffy Georgia, Henry Compron, Henry Caruso and George

Year 6: Santiago, Samrit, Chanel and Safiaa

Reception Drop in Sessions

The Reception children were very proud to share their work with their visitors.



Speech and Drama

This term during Speech and Drama the children have been working towards their LAMDA exam which will take place at school in May.

For the exam the children will perform a poem to an external examiner and will awarded marks for confidence, speech and expression.

Younger children will also engage in a conversation with the examiner about their favourite book, photo or toy which they will bring with them to the examination.

The lessons involve partner work and role play where the children learn from critiquing and correcting each other. They are now beginning to learn their poems without the reliance of the poem sheet. We then build up to the children performing their poem to the rest of the group.



Year 1F Tea Party

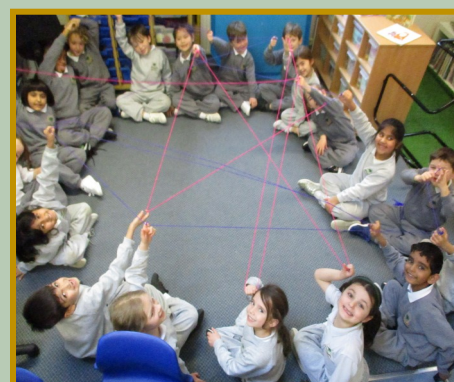
Tea party time! Now 1F have finished reading all about 'Sam's Sandwich' they were finally able to have a tea party to help give Sam some ideas to make up for being so mean to his sister. They loved making sandwiches and discussing how to make it healthier with salad.

Lots of the children tried salad for the first time and said they would have it again! All of Year 1 gathered in the science room to listen to the story, eat their sandwiches and chat with their friends.



Year 1C Friendship

1C have been focusing on Friendship in R.E. this term and wondering; 'Was it always easy for Jesus to be a friend to others?' They made a 'friendship web' by passing a ball of wool to someone they thought had been a good friend to them. Then they had to pass it to someone else and so on until everyone was caught in the web of friendship! It was so tricky not to get tangled up, but they did it. What a great web of friends you are 1C!



Year 1 Football Tournament

1C and 1F had their own little House football tournament to mark the end of football lessons for this year. All the games were played in the right spirit with all the pupils playing with big smiles on their faces throughout all the games. The children have been learning to transfer their ball skills over to small sided games and Mr Paine has been impressed with how they have worked hard throughout the half term. Well done Year 1!

Overall results;

Y1C

- 1st – Beech = 7 points
- 2nd – Holly = 4 points
- 3rd – Sycamore = 3 points
- 4th – Willow = 2 points

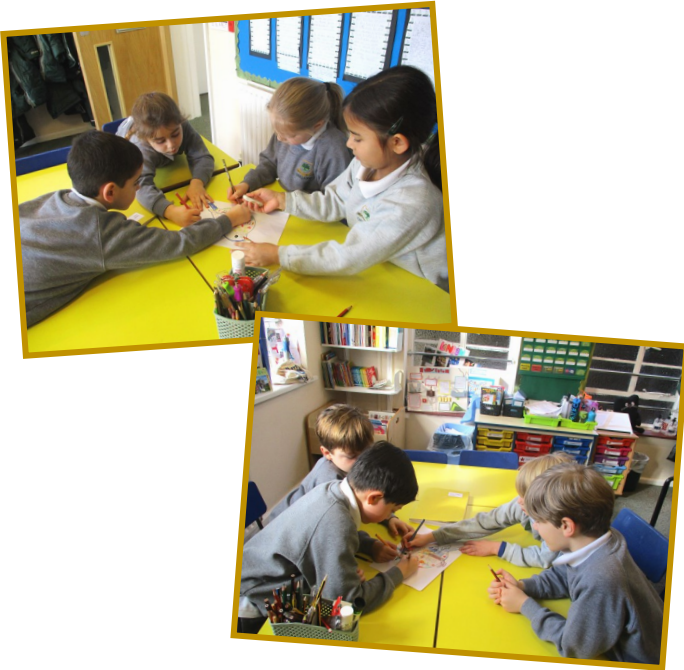
Y1F

- 1st – Beech = 7 points
- 2nd – Sycamore = 5 points
- 3rd – Willow = 2 points
- 4th – Holly = 1 point



Year 2S 'Dreams and Goals'

Y2S have been discussing their 'Dreams and Goals' in PSHE. They had to work together as a team to produce a bird that could be placed in a 'Dream Garden'. They each had a role and then were able to discuss what skills each person in their team had, how they felt about working in a group and what they would do differently to make their group better.



Year 2Z PSHE

In PSHE, Y2Z were tasked with working together in small teams to design a bird to go in their very own 'Dream Garden'. They later evaluated their progress and discussed whether they had successfully achieved working in a group or not. Many of the children were able to comment on how listening to their peers helped them to achieve their goal and were able to give examples of their team mates' strengths.



Year 3C

Recently, Year 3 did an outstanding job with their Topic homework. Some children produced wonderfully commanding villas reminiscent of those that would have stood in Ancient Rome, while others explored mosaics, interpreting authentic designs with their own choice of tesserae. More bloodthirsty entries included swords, shields and ceremonial daggers, which were worthy of any legion. Of course the Romans loved luxury and used honey in lots of their recipes to sweeten them, so it is no wonder that some of the children - in true Bake Off style - tried their hand at recreating honey biscuits, which were much loved by the people of Ancient Rome.



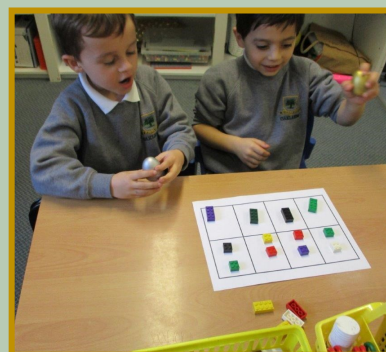
Year 3 Assembly to Parents

Year 3 were very excited to present their assembly to the lower school, and the very next day, to parents. It was a sizeable undertaking with songs, narration, colourful costumes and Oscar worthy acting taking centre stage. The focus was life in Ancient Rome. Aside from the fun of dress rehearsals, the play touched on some of the civilised aspects of life in Ancient Rome, as well as the not so civilised. The children relished their roles, supporting each other to deliver a polished performance that showcased their learning. Bravo, Year 3!



Music

In music this year, Year 1 are learning to read and play rhythms from notation. Using a variety of 'resources' helps the children to understand the concept. In this lesson, pupils used different sizes of Lego bricks for the different length notes. These are then arranged in different sequences and the children clap the pattern while saying the rhythm syllables 'Ta' and 'Taté'.



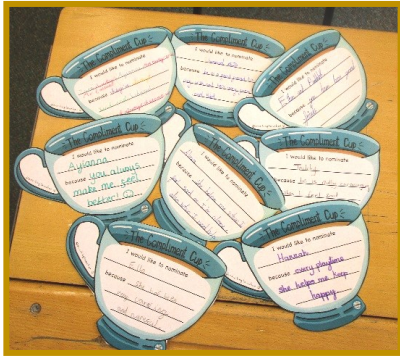
Strategy Board Games

Children are very much enjoying Strategy Board Games. They have particularly enjoyed chess, Chinese chequers, Uno, Mastermind, Battleships and Shut The Box. Although there can be a great many rules to learn in the beginning, the sense of achievement is always worth the effort, and of course, making new friends is in many ways the icing on the cake.



Year 4C

During 7-11 February, the school focused on Children's Mental Health Week. Year 4 thought a lot about what gives them good mental health and how to help others with poor mental health. They completed 'compliment cups' where someone gets nominated and children give a reason why. Y4C also have a 'gratitude jar'; children thought of various reasons for why they are grateful, drawing one reason per box. Finally, the children thought about why they are resilient, how to tackle ways to become more resilient and how to improve their overall resilience.



NSPCC 'Number Day'

On 4 February, Oaklands children took part in Number Day for the NSPCC. The children came to school with some amazing creative costumes as they all 'Dressed up for Digits' and then donated their pennies to a very worthwhile cause. The children played lots of fun maths games and problem-solving challenges such as 'Who wants to be a mathionaire?', 'Fraction Frenzy' and the 'Buddy Challenge'. Thank you for your support; we raised over £250 which goes towards making a difference to children and young people.



ISA London North Netball Tournament

The Oaklands Netball team played in the ISA London North Netball Tournament on Wednesday 2 February. At short notice they had to switch from 7 a side netball rules to the High 5 netball rules meaning our team had to be cut and the girls had to play new positions. Having said that, the girls showed determination from the start. They played their first game with no sign of nerves and very closely lost against The Grove School. They then went on to the win against Beford and St Christophers. They next played a very strong team (who then went on to win the tournament) and unfortunately lost, resulting in coming third in their group.

The girls showed perseverance throughout and were very happy to be going into the plate round. The girls played Abbotts Hill and won 3-1 and qualified for the semi finals. They then played Daiglen which was a close game with two of their boys getting the winning goals. The girls then faced Coopersale in the battle for 3rd /4th place of the plate. With the winning goal hitting the rim in the last 5 seconds they lost, and finished in 4th position. Not only did the girls show great sportsmanship and fantastic netball skills, they kept their heads up and tried their best each game. It was a pleasure to take them and Mr Paine and Miss Bond were very proud to have so many coaches compliment the girls' outstanding behaviour.



Oak-Tree U11's Tag Rugby

Oaklands School took part in the annual Oak-Tree U11's Tag-Rugby tournament on Monday 7 February. It was great to be back at Eton Manor RFC after a 2 year absence and it was an enjoyable day of rugby, accompanied by beautiful sunshine.

The standard of rugby across the four schools was very impressive, with some fantastic tries being scored as well as some sharp tagging! The children can be proud of their efforts!

Overall results:

- 1st – Coopersale Hall
- 2nd – Normanhurst
- 3rd – Oaklands
- 4th – Braeside



Year 5Z Geography

As part of our Geography topic on 'Water', Year 5 have learnt that many birds are closely associated with rivers, streams and lakes. The children know that these areas, particularly those with overhanging vegetation, provide an important food supply for birds and that it is essential to protect these areas. Pupils enjoyed using the iPads to research fascinating facts about herons, moor hens, coots, kingfishers, swans and Mandarin ducks. They then used this information to help them write poems about a wide variety of water birds.



It was an absolute treat when Andy (one of our caretakers) showed his bird sketches to the Year 5 children. They discussed shading, size and the different kinds of pencil strokes. This made the children think critically when sketching their own birds during their Art lesson.



Year 5Z Escape Room

Year 5 solved mathematical puzzles and clues to reveal a code during a game of Escape Room. They worked in groups, helping each other to work out answers to challenging questions.

Fantastic team work Year 5!



Year 6C

In PSHE, Year 6 have been looking at 'Dreams and Goals'. They also discussed the needs of people and the bigger world around them and debated what they could do to make a difference in a world, where we see a lot of poverty and hurt. Their task was to think about a charity of their choice, how they could raise money for this charity as well as deciding on the aim and outcome of this charity. This was a big challenge as they had to work in a team and think about job-sharing. Finally, they presented their projects. This was a wonderful learning opportunity. Well done 6C. Not only did they display fantastic entrepreneurship, their ideas were wonderful and well thought through. They all worked together successfully as a team and will definitely make a difference one day; something the world certainly needs.



Year 6G

Year 6G pupils have been working on a 'carnival' theme in their DT lessons. The children researched carnival masks and headdresses using the I-pads and then designed their own using their research as inspiration. They then used acrylic or spray paint for the background and then embellished them with jewels, lace, pearls, sequins and feathers. We have an amazing array of designs from Marvel inspired designs to monochrome masterpieces to colourful, feathered creations. Cleo said 'Our masks were challenging to make, but the results were very pleasing.'



Year 5 and Year 6 Drop in Sessions

During the last week of Spring Term 1, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed showing their workbooks to their parent/s at their Drop-In Session.



Wild Woods

Everyone was very excited to start the new after-school club at Oaklands in January and welcomed 23 Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils to the Wild Woods in the school grounds every Wednesday last half term. The aim is to build outdoor confidence through connecting the children to nature allowing them to play, explore and discover.

Last term they did lots of running round and hot water bottle hugging between making natural bird feeders and musical instruments. The children discovered how to identify trees in winter from their buds and prepared and sowed a wildflower meadow in the vegetable patch. A favourite session was during the last week of term, Children's Mental Health Week, where everyone laid down in the leaves and enjoyed a bit of guided meditation immersing in the beautiful surroundings. There is always a mud kitchen, hammocks and a den building area alongside an adult led activity to allow children to play and grow at their own pace.



Oaklands School
Loughton



**OPEN
MORNING**

Thursday 3 March 2022

9.15 - 11.15am

Headteacher's
Speech at 9.30am