

March 2022

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Headmistress's Message

The Spring Term has flown past, finishing with some occasional glimpses of sunshine that hopefully indicates that summer is just around the corner!

Throughout the term, I have continued to be amazed by the pupils at Oaklands School. They all have a deeply embedded enthusiasm for learning and experimenting with ideas, together with an outstanding positive attitude towards the activities that make up the daily life at our school.

There has been much to celebrate. Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for their success in various 11+ entrance exams. After spending two weeks revisiting some of the schools, they have all made their decision and accepted one of their offers.

The children and staff had so much fun dressing up as their favourite book character on World Book Day; everyone's costume was simply amazing!

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

During the last two weeks, we have enjoyed entertaining assemblies from Lower Kindergarten and Year 4C and wonderful play performances from Year 2S and Year 2Z. The confidence, speaking and singing ability of the pupils in front of a large parental audience never ceases to surprise me.

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

May I wish you all a happy Easter. I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to School on Thursday 21 April.

Mrs Sue Belej

KS1 and KS2 Certificates and Awards

Class	Merit Certificate	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1C	Vallavi, Naavya, Sofia,	Poppy, Presley	Lily, Sienna
1F	Charlie, Olivia W, Carmella, Isla	Harry, Isabella	Ameena, Kayden
2S	Victoria, Zack, Jimmy, Aizah	Delia, Zack	David, Rufus
2Z	Anami, Jemima, safaa, Raffy	Zara, Emily	Leo, Mila
3C	Arriana, Denzel, Arabella, Ni'al	Anais, Isabella	Arabella, Margot
4C	Alicia, Ayianna, Ethan,	Prabhlok, Lina	Erin, Hannah
5Z	George, Gabriella, Henry C, Rafaella	Georgia, Sienna	Henry, Ava
6C	Holly, Alanna, India, Melveen	Alanna, Annabel	Jusleen, Tyran
6G	Sophia, Joah, Maja, Cleo	Zavier, Samrit	Joah, Olivia

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

Music

This term, Year 5 have been using the keyboards to learn about Blues music. They have all mastered the famous 12 bar Blues sequence and can play the pattern using basic chord formations of three notes. The next challenge has been to play a melody using the blues scale and improvised rhythms. Their final task will be to create the lyrics. Traditionally, the subject of blues lyrics is something that 'gets a person down'.

We wonder if homework might feature heavily!





This year's British Science Week at Oaklands was a roaring success! From the assemblies and classroom-based activities to the competitions and visits – the children have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating all things Science!

Children were introduced to the theme of this year's Science week – Growth - in Key Stage assemblies. We talked in particular about how ideas can grow from a tiny seed of thought into a realised design - that many inventions and technologies that at one point were considered science fiction because they were too far-fetched to ever be possible are now a reality.

Robotics Day

Y3-Y6 rounded off Science Week with a brilliant "Build and Battle" robotics workshop run by Engineering 4 Kids. After an introduction to the world of robotics some brave volunteers raced against the visiting engineer to solve a Rubik's cube. The children then worked in teams against the clock to follow a set of instructions to build a programmable robot and then become expert handlers in time to battle the other teams in a Robot Wars-style game of hockey. A fantastic time was had by all, and the children learned about the ever-expanding role engineering and robotics play in our everyday lives.



Bancroft's Science Fair

Ten children from Year 6 kicked off Science Week with a trip to the Bancroft's Science Fair.

They visited an exhibition with various stalls run by the Sixth Form students and learned about a range of topics; such as how non-Newtonian fluids work and how amniotic fluid protects babies in their mother's womb. The children also got to visit different Science zones marvelling at the chemical reactions that created a rainbow tube and another that made exploding elephant's toothpaste in the chemistry lab, then making and launching their own rockets in the physics lab.



Science Week

Zoology Days

Every child in the school had the opportunity to learn first-hand about the characteristics and life-cycles of different groups of animals. Children in the Early Years and Year 1 were visited by Safari Pete and some of his animal friends. The children were thoroughly entertained by Safari Pete's antics, and learned some fun facts about the animals he brought along, before having the chance to handle some of them, and even watch some of them feed. Children in Years 2-6 were visited by Exotic Encounters and had an incredible session learning about each animal group in detail, asking lots of thoughtful questions, and even having the chance to not only handle all of the animals, but also to have them roam freely about the room around them; feeding, socialising and investigating their surroundings. It was a fantastic, educational experience that all of the children (and staff!) could not stop talking about!



House Points

Congratulations to Sycamore House who won the House Points Cup for Spring Term 2 with the grand total of 419 points; Beech came second with 311 points; Willow came a close third with 310 points and Holly gained 251 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!

KS2 Commonwealth Day Assembly

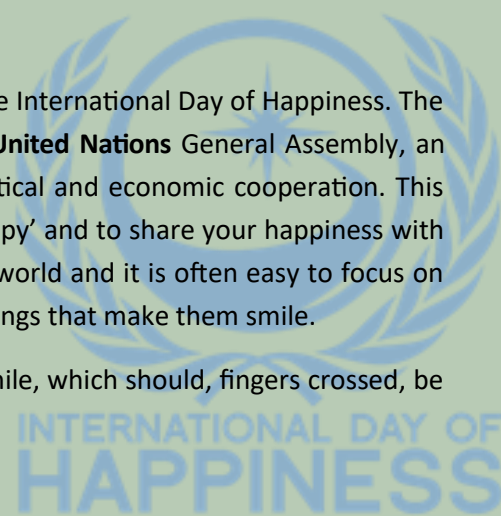
In a recent Key Stage 2 assembly, the pupils learnt about Commonwealth Day. They discovered the different values of the Commonwealth and how they link to our Fundamental British Values in school. The children learnt that the Commonwealth Games is held every four years and this year's Games are being held in Birmingham, England. Some of the children might even be lucky enough to attend the Games!



International Day of Happiness

On Monday 14 March, Key Stage 2 enjoyed an assembly which introduced the International Day of Happiness. The day, marked every year on March 20, was launched ten years ago by the **United Nations** General Assembly, an international organisation of 193 countries that was set up to increase political and economic cooperation. This year, the theme of the International Day of Happiness is to 'pledge to be happy' and to share your happiness with others. Whilst we are all too aware that there is degree of negativity in the world and it is often easy to focus on things that are difficult or sad, the children agreed to think about all of the things that make them smile.

They are also going to try and do at least one thing to make someone else smile, which should, fingers crossed, be successful!



Eco-Council

Our Eco-Councillors have been busy raising the profile of environmental issues within the school and enjoyed helping out with our eco-quiz in our Key Stage 2 class assemblies. The children joined up with David Attenborough and his fun quiz on climate change.

They learnt plenty of fascinating facts about global warming, carbon emissions and deforestation.



House Council and Water Aid

The school House Captains and Vice-Captains led the Key Stages 1 and 2 assemblies on Water Aid. They shared fascinating facts with the children and helped raise awareness of the 2 billion people living without access to safe water.

All pupils voted to support Water Aid which is a charity working to get clean water and good hygiene to everyone, everywhere. The children will be dressing up in blue clothes on the last day of term and bringing in £1 which will be donated to Water Aid.



Comic Relief

The children at Oaklands School enjoyed participating in Comic Relief Day by dressing in red and taking part in a range of activities. All donations will be given to Comic Relief, a major charity which strives to create a just world, free from poverty. The money donated works hard to support some incredible projects making a change to people's lives across the UK and around the world. We would like to say thank you for supporting this worthy cause.



Book Fair

Thank you to all of the children and parents who took part in the Book Fair this term. The children loved swapping books and sharing their favourite books with their friends. Happy Reading!



Lower Kindergarten Mother's Day Assembly

The children in Lower Kindergarten performed in their Mother's Day assembly for parents. All the children were amazing! They sat beautifully, sang the songs with their 'singing voices', and performed all the actions.



Reception Mother's Day

Reception children were so excited to welcome their mummies into the classroom to celebrate Mothers' Day. During the sessions, each child was tasked with painting their mummy's portrait before swapping roles for mummy to paint their child's. There was some fierce competition amongst some of the parents! The portraits will be displayed in the classrooms very soon.

As a final special treat, each child presented their mummy with a rose for Mother's Day.



Lower Kindergarten Easter

During the last few weeks Lower Kindergarten have been learning about Easter.

The children have been practising their understanding of positional language, by placing a spring chick and Easter bunny in certain places, such as on top, under, in between, inside, outside, opposite and through.



As soon as the sun came out, they also enjoyed egg and spoon races in the playground, which was lots of great fun. During carpet time discussions, they have been talking about how people celebrate Easter and enjoyed a hot cross bun at snack time!



Lower Kindergarten made chocolate Easter nests. Ms Aston melted the chocolate and the children crunched the shredded wheat and mixed it all together. They then spooned the mixture into paper cases before finishing the nest off with a chocolate mini egg on the top. All the children were very excited to take them home!



Upper Kindergarten

The children in Upper Kindergarten took part in some fun experiments to celebrate Science Week. They learnt how to create a rainbow using just some skittles and warm water and helped to blow up a balloon by using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. The children were all fascinated and very excited to tell their parents about the 'magic' they had created in class.



Upper Kindergarten began their Show and Tell session in class this term. Each week, two children from each group are invited to bring in something special from home. The children have shown great confidence talking to their peers about their object., whilst the other children have listened beautifully and asked some very good questions.



The Children have been learning about the story 'Handa's Surprise'. They were shown some of the fruits from the story: pineapple, mango, passion fruit, avocado, tangerine, banana and orange. The children had the opportunity to feel and smell each one before the teachers cut them open. They then discussed how some fruits have seeds whilst others have stones. The children enjoyed trying the new fruits at snack time.



Reception Owls Adventure Playground

Owls took advantage of the lovely weather to have fun developing their gross motor skills on the adventure playground. They were so excited to be out there and their laughter and squeals filled the air.

It is lovely to see the children now so confident using each piece of the equipment.



Reception Robins

Robin Class love developing their language skills by dictating 'Helicopter Stories' to be written down. They make a small stage on the carpet and have great fun acting out each child's story.



Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers have loved learning all about Space. They watched a video of Neil Armstrong landing on the moon and the Apollo 11 take off. The children then labelled their own rocket.



Year 1C Palm Sunday

1C have been learning all about Palm Sunday and why is it such an important day for Christians. They made their own palm leaves and wrote messages on them. The children acted out the scene waving their palm leaves and imagined how it must have felt to be part of that crowd welcoming Jesus all those years ago.





Year 1F Planting Seeds

In Y1F we have been busy planting seeds in Science! They have learnt all about how plants grow, the names of each part of a plant and how each part has a special job. They loved getting their hands dirty asking lots of questions such as 'Why are there holes in the bottom of the pot?', Rabani thought it was so that the plant 'doesn't get too full of water' which is exactly right! They also used drama to act out the life of a seedling which was very fun! They are just beginning to see the seeds sprouting which is so exciting and can not wait to take them home and watch them grow.

Year 2 Fractions

Year 2 have been working extremely hard learning about fractions charts and graphs. The children challenged themselves to create their own tally charts by sorting out different coins. They had to work as a team to tally up how many of each coin they had in their pile. Once they had completed the tally chart they then had to work out the value of the coins that they had in each group. Well done, 2Z!



Year 2 Colourful Performances

The children in Year 2S and Year 2Z performed assemblies based on the book 'Mixed' on Wednesday 23 March and Thursday 24 March respectively. Both the performances were colourful, vibrant and uplifting. The children delivered their lines confidently and clearly, sang a collection of songs enthusiastically, including a very popular rap number, performed synchronised actions together and successfully maneuvered themselves around the stage into various positions and groupings.

The children were very aware of the message of their play: that we should all be proud of our differences, whatever they are, but we can still be inclusive and live together to make a happy world.

Well done Year 2!



Year 3C Research the Romans

Year 3 researched Roman mosaics as part of their topic work. The children discovered that the floors of Roman buildings were often richly decorated with mosaics made of thousands of tiny coloured stones (tesserae). Many of these mosaics captured scenes of history and everyday Roman life. Mosaic floors were a statement of wealth and importance. The children took inspiration from their own geometric designs to decorate coasters with ceramic tesserae.

The intricate mosaics took a great deal of patience to create and the grout we will use to seal the tiles, fingers crossed, will ensure the mosaics last as long as their counterparts from Ancient Rome.



Year 4C Assembly Groooove Like an Egyptian!

Year 4 wowed everyone with their Egyptian play! They entertained the audience with new facts, names and information about different Egyptian Gods/Goddesses and shared a range of artefacts. The play ended with the children completing a very fast paced rap about the Egyptians, the Pharaoh Tutankhamun, Gods and Goddesses and Cleopatra.



Year 4C English Rapping!

In English, the children are looking at different types of poems and poetry. They decided to look at and perform raps! The children listened to a 'school rap' and thought about the beat and music that went alongside it, then performed their own raps to the rest of the class.



Coopersale Hall Relay Races

After a two year absence, it was great to finally enter this event once again. The children were buzzing and could not wait to get their running shoes on to test their speed endurance against other schools. We had amazing support from our parents also and they certainly had a hand in generating added speed for our team!

First up were the Year 4's consisting of Lina, Zara, Abbie and Annabelle from Year 3. Lina got off to a flier and calmly placed the baton into the hands of Zara who raced into a lead to hand over to Abbie. Abbie extended this lead and it was time for Annabelle to bring the baton home for a fantastic 1st place finish for Oaklands! The Year 4 boys were next and Denzel was off like a flash managing to hand over to Kais who did well to stay in 3rd place. Sammy had a great leg and handed over to Alex who did really well to hold onto 4th place. It was then the turn of the year 5/6 team and they had the challenging task of having to complete 2 laps each! Up stepped the Year 5/6 girls and it was a fantastic race to watch. Alanna sped up the hill to set the girls off and handed to Cleo. She did a great job and then it was Annabel's turn to run the 200M course; twice, she produced a fine run to leave Chanel to take the baton home for a well-earned 4th place. The boys, led by Tyran were up against some very quick runners but held their own and he managed to stay in contention to hand over to Arjun. He ran a great leg and we were in 3rd place going into the final two runners. Joah had a great tussle with the Avon House pupil and he just pulled away with about 10 metres to go. Ethan was off on the final leg; we finished a great race in 4th place!

Well done to all the runners and thank you to Coopersale for putting on a great event!



E-Safety Presentation

Year 3 to Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their E-Safety workshop presented by the 'Two Johns' on Wednesday 2 March. The content of each workshop was age appropriate and generated meaningful and informative discussions. The pupils were also actively encouraged to answer and ask questions and to voice any concerns they have about online safety at home. It was enlightening to listen to their experiences and knowledge about the world of technology.

WESSP Sports Hall Athletics

On Friday 11 March, the whole of Year 2 took part in the WESSP KS1 Sports Hall Athletics Festival at King Harold School in Waltham Abbey. They were so excited to be getting on a coach for the first time in two years, let alone taking part in a fun sports event! They had such a good time and worked very hard, taking part in various track and field activities: obstacle races, over/under relay, hurdles, speed bounce, balance beam, high stepper, chest push, javelin and strides. During the event, the pupils had classic Disney theme songs and current pop hits to accompany them whilst they ran, jumped, balanced and threw their way throughout the afternoon! Well done 2S and 2Z!!



Oak-Tree U11's Tag Rugby

On a glorious day on Tuesday 22 March, Oaklands took two teams along to the ISA U11's Mixed Tag-Rugby competition at Woodford Wells Cricket Club. Every single one of the pupils was outstanding as they got better and better as the tournament went on.

The A team finished 2nd in their group showing some fantastic skills and qualified for the semi-finals of the Cup competition. The B team qualified 3rd and were in the semi-finals of the Shield competition.

The semi-finals of the Shield saw Oaklands play against Immanuel School. They were relentless and ran out 7-2 winners, qualifying for the Final of the Shield.

Oaklands A were now in a 3rd/4th place play-off in the Cup and the boys and girls honed their try scoring skills to perfection to run out 5-2 winners!

Oaklands B were ready for their final of the Shield and it was a tough battle with Daiglen B team. It was very nervy at first but their resilience and determination to win, saw the team run out 6-5 winners and bring the Shield trophy home to Oaklands to go in the trophy cabinet!



KS1 Football Club

At KS1 football club, we have been practicing a number of different football skills including dribbling, passing, shooting and defending, usually at the end we play a match to put into practice what we have learnt. In shooting practice, we have been doing a mini penalty game to see who can score the most goals!



Year 5Z Design Technology

5Z have been busy making cushions in Design Technology. The children have been developing their concentration and hand-eye coordination, which also helps with cognitive development and the development of motor skills. They have enjoyed practicing different sewing techniques and exploring a variety of fabrics and patterns.

Their handmade cushions are original in design and come in all shapes and sizes. The pupils have been very creative and are looking forward to enjoying their comfortable cushions during the holiday.



ISA U10 Boys Football Festival

On Thursday 17 March, Oaklands took a young team of enthusiastic boys along to the ISA U10s Football Festival at Akeley Wood Junior School in Buckingham. After a very long journey, we finally arrived and the pupils were eager to stretch their weary legs! George was our captain for the day and he did a fantastic job leading the rest of the team throughout the day. There were lots of schools in attendance and we held our own against some strong opposition, playing some great attacking football.

Results: Won 4 — Drew 1— Lost 3

Oaklands 1 vs 4 The Grove (George x1)

Oaklands 0 vs 1 Akeley Wood

Daiglen 0 vs 6 Oaklands (George X3, Kais X1, Teddy X1, Denzel X1)

Oaklands 1 vs 1 Norfolk House (George)

The Kings School 5 vs 0 Oaklands

Windrush Valley 0 vs 3 Oaklands (Teddy X2, George x1)

Heathside School 1 vs 3 Oaklands (Denzel X1, George X2)

Oaklands 7 vs 1 Immanuel (Teddy X4, Denzel X1, Kais X1, George X1)



Year 6C Create French Board Games

Y6C designed their own French board game and had to ensure that all the label and instructions were written in French. During the lesson, they had to teach each other their game. Well done to Melveen who designed a French Monopoly game. You did a wonderful job!



Year 6G Maths

Ms Gardner's maths set has been working on a maths project. They were tasked with designing a garden for a client. The children were given a budget of £3000 and had to research the costing of their fencing, patio slabs or decking, flowers and plants and any other extras like water features and trampolines! The children were encouraged to look for the best deal.

Some children decided to reduce the cost by using grass seed instead of turf; some children decided to get bargains off e-bay! The children also had to work out the area and perimeter of defined areas. They then had to put their final costings together and present their designs to 'the client'. Cleo says "It was a challenging exercise making a garden on a certain budget whilst teaching us valuable life skills." Maja added, "It was mathematical fun!"



Year 6 Hockey Lesson

On a beautiful Friday afternoon on 18 March, Year 6 pupils were treated to a fantastic afternoon at Old Loughtonians Hockey Club in Chigwell. We arranged to play against Avon House and all the pupils took part in mini matches to develop their skills. The highlight was taking a while to get the goalkeeper kit on Ethan and Joah who had an armoury on them to go in goal!! Well done everybody!



World Book Day

Thank you to all the children who supported World Book Day on Friday 4 March. You all looked fantastic. Well done for all the creative outfits.

We love reading in our school.



Oak-Tree Swimming Gala

Pupils from all four Oak-Tree Schools took part in the annual Years 4-6 Swim Gala at Loughton Pool on Monday 28 February. Spurred on by fantastic support from their peers and parents, all the swimmers swam amazingly in very close races throughout the morning. The highlight of the day was the squadron relay as the last event, in which Oaklands managed to finish 1st in a very close race with Coopersale! Well done to Lucy, Zara, Erin and Sammy from Year 4, to George, Arjun, Anastasia and Chanel in Year 5 and finally to Olivia, Libby, Santi and Ethan in Year 6. You were all amazing!

Final results;

- 1st – Coopersale 73 points
- 2nd – Oaklands 70 points
- 3rd – Normanhurst 52 points
- 4th – Braeside 46 points



Oaklands Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 16 March, pupils from Years 3 and 4 took part in the Oaklands House Swim Gala at Loughton Pool. It was great to host this event once again after a three year absence and the children all swam amazingly! What was particularly pleasing was how all the children cheered each other on, regardless of what house they are in. After some very close races, Holly were in the lead, followed by Beech, then Sycamore and last, but not least, Willow.

It was the turn of boys and girls from Years 5 and 6 on Wednesday 23 March and there was still all to swim for regarding the inaugural House Swim cup! The atmosphere was fantastic around poolside and up in the gallery as the children showed tremendous courage and potential swimming the 25 metre heats! There were yet again some unbelievable close finishes and every single member of the school should be super proud of their achievements over the last 2 weeks!

The final results were:

- 1st – Willow 206 points
- 2nd – Holly 183 points
- 3rd – Beech 165 points
- 4th – Sycamore 119 points





Oak-Tree Summer Ball 2022

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Oak-Tree Summer Ball! With plenty of entertainment, food and drinks included in the ticket price, it is set to be a great evening. Find your finest 1920s inspired outfit and come and join the party of the year - Great Gatsby style! - [Buy your tickets HERE.](#)