

May 2022

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Although we have experienced a mixture of British weather during the first few weeks of the Summer Term, it has not dampened the children's enthusiasm for learning and their determination to work hard in all their lessons and activities.

May has been a busy, fun and action packed month as you will see when you read this newsletter.

Many of our older pupils have already had the opportunity to go on residential outdoor pursuits visits: Year 6 to PGL residential in Liddington, Surrey and Y4/5 to the Young Mariners Base in Cheshunt. A selection of pupils have enjoyed representing the school at football and tennis and some pupils are looking forward to participating in the Oak Tree Group of Schools KS2 Spelling Bee event planned for next week at Coopersale Hall School. Our budding musicians performed superbly at the Y3-Y6 Instrumental Music Showcases.

Do remember to check our website for details of next half term's events, including Sports Day and Prize Giving.

Kind regards

Sue Belej

KS1 and KS2 Certificates and Awards

Class	Merit Certificate	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1C	Melody, Ethan	Amelia	Sofia
1F	Idrees, Harvey	Aaron	Ezra
2S	Theo, Alyssia	Zikr	Aizah
2Z	Jemima, Sam	Bryony	Jessica
3C	Rufus, Kais, Kaisie, Jude	Rufus	Kais
4C	Prabhlok, Lucy, Teddy, Lina	Class at YMB	Class at YMB
5Z	Henry, Georgia, Darcey, George	Class at YMB	Class at YMB
6C	Holly, Annabel	Zayan	India
6G	Saffiyah, Kristina	Libby	Olivia

Congratulations to those pupils who have been awarded a Merit, Good Behaviour or Friendship certificate since the last newsletter.

Computing

The children in Year 1 have been exploring programming during their computer lessons. They have learnt all about algorithms and how we give computers instructions. During our lessons, they have used the outside area to practice being a robot and a programmer. The children thoroughly enjoyed programming their friends using simple instructions to navigate their way around the playground.



Year 6 PGL Residential

Finally, the wait was over! Year 6 had a fantastic adventure at PGL Liddington this year. Not only were they challenged on different levels, they also worked on their team building and their courage was definitely tested in many ways. Although it was difficult being away from their families, they experienced new things, gained confidence and built stronger friendships. The children enjoyed the freedom of being outdoors all day and were without a doubt confronted with different seasons over the five days, from baking in the sun on day one to wearing hats and gloves on day five. The children's thinking and problem-solving skills were tested in different activities such as: buggy building, the trapeze, vertical limb, Jacobs ladder, the giant swing, zip wire, sensory trail and many more.

PGL was definitely a treasured experience that the children will talk about and remember for years to come. Well done to all the Year 6 children. You were all stars coping with a week away from home. Mr Paine, Ms Booth and Miss Dee are all very proud of you. All that's left to say is: "Oggy Oggy Oggy Oi Oi Oi!"



Year 6 PGL Residential



Instrumental Showcase Concert

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 10th May and 12th May, and for the first time since the pandemic, Oaklands held our Instrumental Showcase concert! All pupils from Years 3-6 who learn a musical instrument at school are invited to play to an audience of family and friends. So, at 6.00pm, dressed in their concert finery, the students performed solos and duets on the piano, recorder, violin, flute, drum kit, guitar and ukulele.

A few nerves were visible but all played their very best and demonstrated the fruits of diligent practice. Many thanks to our wonderful peripatetic music teachers who guide and instruct the children and well done to mums, dads, grandparents, relatives and friends who listen and encourage each week.

Earth Day Assembly

We joined the world in celebrating Earth Day on 22 April, to raise awareness of the issues our planet is facing, and of course to promote ways that we can all help. Across the school we looked at various environmental concerns and potential solutions, from climate change to saving water to the degradation of our planet's soil.

In the Earth Day assembly, the children learned about the significant role that soil plays in stabilising Earth's climate, and the urgent need to protect and regenerate it. Year 3 performed a poem they helped to write in their Science lesson entitled "SOS - Save our Soil", and everyone left feeling hopeful and determined that we would do our best to ensure the way we live and the choices we make will help rather than harm the Earth. We learned

that by educating ourselves and choosing businesses that work sustainably and solicitously, we can help to protect and conserve our planet.



"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall

KS1 Football Club

KS1 football club have been practicing a number of different football skills including dribbling, passing, shooting and defending. At the end of a session the children play a match to put into practice what they have learnt.

In shooting practice, the children have been doing a mini penalty game to see who can score the most goals!



Lower Kindergarten

This term's topic in Lower Kindergarten has been all about 'The Farm'. The children learnt all about scarecrows and how they scare the birds away from eating all the farmer's seeds. They also learnt the song 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'

The children then had the opportunity to create their own scarecrow using shapes, different materials and felt tip pens.

The children loved exploring our farm sensory tray filled with soil, fake grass and our small world farm.



Maths—Lower Kindergarten were shown a tray filled with different objects including stickle bricks, play food, wooden bricks and flat shapes. They were then shown an object which was shaped like a circle and asked if they could find all the objects which were the same shape. They then moved onto triangle, square and rectangle. If the children found this activity difficult they were asked to find the objects by colour. This activity enabled the teachers to see whether the children could categorise objects in different ways. Well done Lower Kindergarten!



The children in Lower Kindergarten took turns to throw some beanbags into a basket. They then had to count how many they got in the basket and then write down on a blackboard the amount by 'writing' lines. This activity reinforced the children's counting skills as well as introducing the concept of creating marks to represent numbers. The children seemed to love the game, waited patiently for their turn and 'wrote' down their amounts independently.



Author Neal Zetter visit

Oaklands were privileged to host a special guest called Neal Zetter on Thursday 12 May.

It was wonderful to meet Neal in person. He is a well-known comedy performance poet, who has written entertaining and uplifting poetry aimed at children as well as adults.

The children were entertained in his class assembly where he performed a few of his poems. Neal also hosted a workshop for a number of classes, where he focused on different poetic features in his own work followed by the children writing a class or their own poems. Some of the children were given the opportunity to perform their own work to their class. The younger children loved being able to ask Neal questions about his career and his love for poetry.

Thank you to all our parents for your contributions. The children definitely enjoyed meeting Neal and went home buzzing. Last but not least, thank you to Neal for offering his time to remind us that poetry can be fun and entertaining.



Upper Kindergarten practicing for Sports Day

The children in Upper Kindergarten have begun practicing for our upcoming Sports Day. Mr Paine set up a fantastic obstacle race, where the children had to go over, under and through different equipment. They also practised staying in their lanes during a running race and finally, took part in a bat and beanbag race. All the children had great fun, cheering each other on!



Upper Kindergarten

The children in Upper Kindergarten have been taking part in a variety of activities to help develop their problem solving skills. The children were asked questions to encourage them to think about how things might work and what they could do to make things work better. Some children had to try and rescue the dinosaurs by breaking the ice, whilst others used guttering to build ramps to work out how to make the cars move faster. Wonderful problem solving!



Reception Owls

During a conversation about what toys Owls would like to play with the following week, a few children asked for playdough. We decided to allow them to help make some. The children helped to add food colouring and turmeric to create both yellow and red playdough. Glitter was also added to most of them. We also tried to make blue playdough using blue tea although this was not very effective; perhaps we needed a stronger brew!

The children had great fun using rolling pins and different cutters to manipulate the dough. A great success and, at the request of the children, one to be repeated very soon.



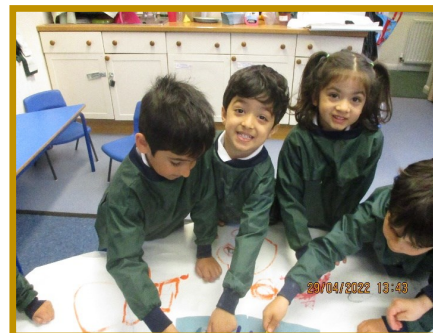
Reception Robins

Inspired by the fruit and vegetable faces painted by the artist Arcimboldo, Robins class used different fruit and vegetables to make their own faces. Then they carefully drew their face and mixed paint to paint their own portrait just like Arcimboldo!



Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers have enjoyed exploring their new topic, 'Changes', by using experiments to identify different changes. They have started to compare reversible and irreversible changes. When investigating reversible changes, Woodpeckers looked at how water can be frozen to ice and then melted back to water. They froze paint cubes and tested what we could do to make them melt, making lovely pictures in the process.



Year 1F Solar System

Welcome to the Solar System! 1F had a blast making all of the planets and as you can see, have some very talented artists in the class. 'Space' has been one of the class' favourite topics.

They have orbited the sun, learnt how we get day and night, wondered about aliens, and even watched a meteor shower!

English lessons taught us all about Mae Jemison, one of many lesser-known space geniuses and even the Y1 play is about 'Space'. Watch out for awesome songs and super cool dance moves. 'Space' is amazing!



Year 1C Animals in the local area

Y1C have been learning about animals that live in the local area. They kept a tally of all the creatures they saw in the woods. They found lots of bugs, like worms and woodlice in the Wild Woods hiding under the logs. They even found some butterfly eggs on leaves! What an amazing experience!



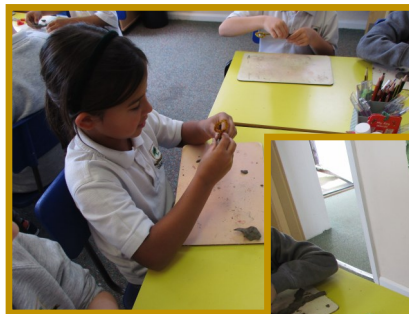
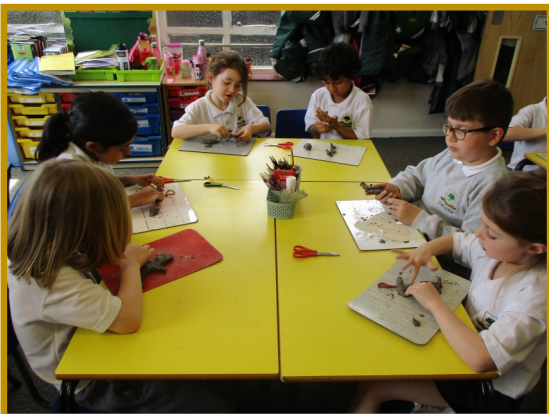
Year 2Z Biscuit Bear

Y2Z had lots of fun baking their very own 'Biscuit Bear' based on the story Biscuit Bear by Mini Grey. They were able to use what they had learnt in Maths about scales to help them measure out and weigh the ingredients and they all worked really well within a team. The children especially enjoyed bringing their Biscuit Bears to life by icing and decorating them once they had cooled. Well done, Y2Z!



Year 2S Lowry

Y2S have been learning about the British artist 'Lowry'. They have made stickmen using modelling clay in his style. They had lots of fun even though it was a bit tricky.



KS1 Art Club

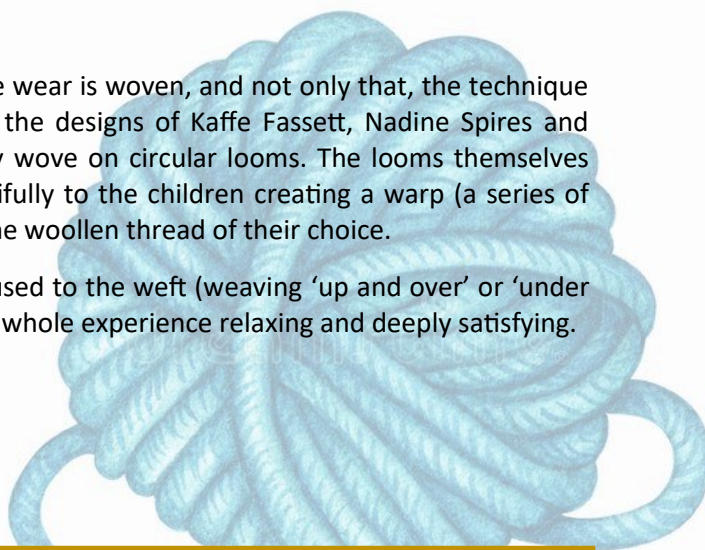
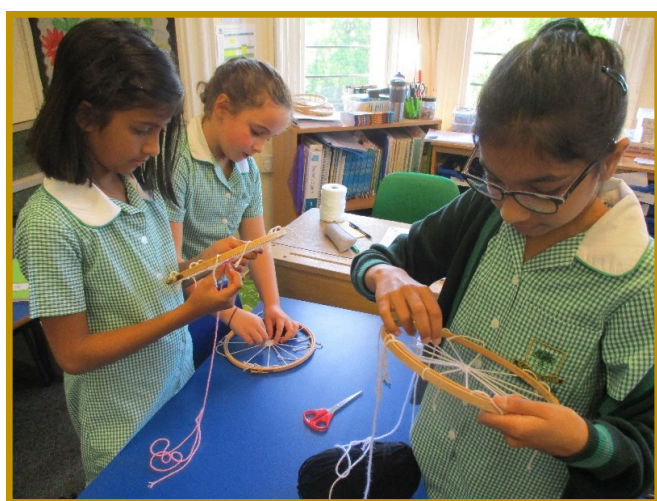
KS1 Art Club had great fun creating Jackson Pollock-style 'action art'. They used old CD's with a pencil in the hole as spinners, spooning paint on the CD then spinning it on the paper. It was very messy, but a lot of fun, even though they had quite a few splattered socks and feet – mostly Mrs Christofi's! The children worked in pairs choosing their colours. The spinning took quite a bit of practice but they got the hang of it towards the end.



Year 3C Weaving

Year 3 were amazed to discover that so much of the clothing we wear is woven, and not only that, the technique goes as far back as the Stone Age. The children marvelled at the designs of Kaffe Fassett, Nadine Spires and Anneke Kersten, before designing their own patterns that they wove on circular looms. The looms themselves would usually be used for embroidery but they adapted beautifully to the children creating a warp (a series of spokes) through which the children were able to weave (weft) the woollen thread of their choice.

The whole process was rather fiddly but once the children got used to the weft (weaving 'up and over' or 'under and through') they relished creating their designs and found the whole experience relaxing and deeply satisfying.



ISA U7s Boys 5 a side Football

On a glorious sunny day on Thursday 12 May, Oaklands School took part in the ISA U7's Boys 5aside tournament at PowerLeague Barnet. They played some outstanding football throughout the day, reaching the Quarter Finals where they just fell short against the eventual winners of the tournament, Gatehouse School. They managed to win 3 games in their group on the way to securing a place in the knockout stages, scoring some fabulous goals Mr Paine and Mr Caunt were extremely proud of their efforts! Well done to Jimmy, Eddie, Sam, Theo, Raffy, Louis and Leo!



Epping Forest Food Bank

We would like to say thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Epping Forest Foodbank. As the cost of living crisis forces people into impossible decisions such as heating or eating, the Foodbank continues to play a vital role in reaching more people with the food and support they need.

The children have learnt about citizenship and how they can make a positive difference within the local community. This has been a great team effort from everyone!



Year 4C Mapping

Year 4 have been studying mapping as part of their Geography topic. They have been looking at a variety of maps, made their own contour maps and are currently looking at compass points.

They decided that they would explore this further by walking around the school starting at the Y4C classroom and ending with one group at Reception Robins and the other group ending at the Science room.



Oak-Tree U9 and U11 Girls Football Tournament

Girls from Oaklands School finished a busy few weeks of sport by taking part in the Oak-Tree U9 and U11 Girls football 5-a-side tournament at Shooters Football Centre in North Weald. There was some great football on show throughout the morning and they came away from the event full of pride and confidence which was great to see.

A huge well done to the amazing team: Kristina, Cleo, Olivia, Alanna, Melveen , Lilly, Gabriella, Sienna, Betsy, Ava, Lucy, Lina, Zara, Abi, Ayianna and Hannah!

Final results;

U9:

- 1st – Oaklands
- 2nd – Coopersale & Braeside
- 3rd – Normanhurst

U11 B:

- 1st – Oaklands & Coopersale
- 2nd – Braeside

U11 A:

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



Book Fair

Thank you to all our children and parents for your contributions to the Book fair. The children were all very excited to 'dive' into their new books.

Happy reading everyone!



ISA Tennis

What a fantastic day the tennis team from Oaklands had on Tuesday 17 May. It was the first time the school had taken part in the Essex Independent Schools Tennis Cup and it was great to see the children compete and enjoy their tennis. Zara and Lucy took part in the U9's Girls Hibbitt Cup and started to find their groove early on in the competition. They managed to oust Brentwood B in the Quarter Finals and went on to reach the final by getting past New Hall School A. It was an amazing achievement to even reach that stage and they just came up short, eventually being beaten by Brentwood A, finishing in Runners-up position.

George and Arjun played beyond their years in the U11's Boys Wallace Cup playing mainly against teams a year up above them. They competed extremely well and worked great as a doubles pair.

Holly, our Tennis Captain was paired together with Olivia, competing in the U11's Girls Kannon Cup. They also had Cleo (Oaklands Y6 Pupil) and Ava from Braeside partnered together in the same group.

They all came up against some very tough opposition including Brentwood who hosted the event and have a Tennis Academy set up at the school which tells you the vast talent they have there. Our girls can be very proud of their efforts and Cleo and Ava managed to reach the final, playing some great strokes in the process. They were up against New Hall School and outplayed them, winning 6-0 giving Oaklands and Braeside the inaugural Kannon Cup to keep for a year!

Well done to Zara, Lucy, George, Arjun, Holly, Olivia, Cleo and Ava!



Young Voices

Having been postponed in 2021, and then again in January this year, it was amazing that the day for the Young Voices concert had finally arrived! On Friday 6 May, pupils from all the four Oak-Tree Schools travelled down to the O2 Arena to join with 7,500 other pupils to sing their hearts out.

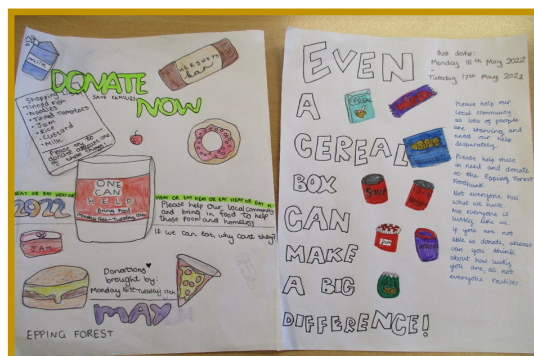
After an afternoon rehearsal, the children had their packed dinner and then the audience were allowed in to their seats. Excitement (and noise levels!) rose as the children looked out for their parents. Then, at 7.00pm the lights went down and the arena was filled with twinkling lights as the choir all waved their tiny torches and began to sing. It was a magical evening and everyone agreed it was a fantastic experience and a great opportunity for all four schools to get together and just have fun! Well done Y5 and Y6 for being such enthusiastic participants!



Year 5Z PSHE

As part of PSHE and SMSC, Year 5 decided they wanted to help out in the local community by supporting the Epping Forest Foodbank. The children worked collaboratively, sharing ideas and feedback with each other in a respectful and mature manner. They designed fantastic posters and used persuasive language to encourage others to help donate food for the charity.

Year 5 were keen to present information about the food and cost of living crisis in a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assembly. The audience was captivated by their drama sketches which highlighted important issues regarding poverty and hunger in the UK. The children in Year 5 certainly are good citizens who show that they genuinely care about their local community as well as the wider world.



Year 6G 1960s

Year 6 are excited to be starting a new history topic on 'The 1960s'. The first lesson involved researching the music, food and fashion from that era and designing a party invitation. The children were a little surprised to find out that the most popular party food of the time was cheese and pineapple on a stick!

Interestingly, a few of the children did know a few of the top 20 hits and were able to sing along to 'Ob-La-Di Ob-La-da' by the Beatles.

They are now really looking forward to learning about the 'space race' and conspiracy theories.



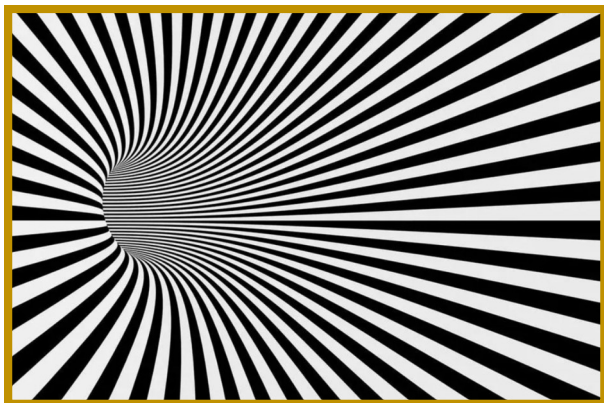
Cookery Club

So far this term Cookery Club have baked jammy biscuits, apple turnovers and cheese and courgette muffins. Everyone gets involved in cooking something delicious each week and then they all wash up and clear up afterwards too!



Y6C Optical Illusions

Year 6 have been looking at optical illusions in art this term. They have looked at lots of different artwork that have illusions in and have learnt about the special techniques artists use to create perspective, such as the vanishing point. They are working towards creating their own optical illusion artwork and putting all their knowledge to use.



Science

There has been lots of hands-on learning down in the Wonderlab this half term. Year 5 have been investigating mixtures and using various techniques to try and separate the mixtures back into their constituent parts – covering the lab in flour in the process!

Year 3 made edible models of soil horizons using Oreos, strawberry laces and chocolate pudding! It took every inch of their will power not to eat their creations! And Year 4 completed their electricity topic by investigating electrical conductors and insulators. Never a dull moment in the world of Science at Oaklands!



Young Mariners

The children in Years 4 and 5 had a fantastic time developing new skills at Young Mariners Base. They were busy throughout the trip with a range of activities including canoeing, kayaking, archery, stand-up paddleboarding and sailing. From teamwork to leadership, to communication and social skills, each activity gave the children an opportunity to learn more about themselves, grow in confidence, and discover new interests and talents. This certainly was an enjoyable trip for everyone!



Year 5 & 6 Basketball Club

Girls and boys from Year 5 and 6 took part in various drills to help them transfer skills over to games. They practiced dribbling at speed, lateral dribbling, feint and dribble as well as learning the lay-up and jump shot. They then played a game with some impressive play throughout!



Year 5 & 6 Athletics Club

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 honed their running and throwing techniques to take part in the 3min netball court length speed endurance test, 60M Sprint and tennis ball throw. They all did very well considering the heat and are working towards future events on the athletic calendar.



Year 3 & 4 Athletics Club

The pupils from Years 3 and 4 have been working hard to streamline their running technique to take part in 60M sprints and relays! Keep it up and remember, it's great practice for the upcoming Sports Day!

