

December 2022



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Headmistress's Message

What a lovely end to our Autumn term. We had spectacular singing and dancing in the Reception and Upper Kindergarten Christmas shows. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was wonderful to see so many family members attending these events. Years 1 to 6 performed in our Christmas service at St Mary's church and I hope you enjoyed this as much as I did. It really was a beautiful mix of traditional hymns combined with modern songs and I don't think there were many dry eyes at the moving performance of 'O Holy Night'.

The children thoroughly enjoyed very entertaining pantomimes, the younger year groups were treated to an in-school performance from Out of the Box theatre company and Years 1 to 6 watched Snow White and the Seven Superheroes at The Millfield Theatre. Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas lunch and wonderful parties, funded by the OPA, took place in our last week of term and luckily Father Christmas returned to the Oaklands Grotto this year.

All that remains this term is for me to wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all on our return to school on 10 January 2023.

Mrs Copeman

KS1 and KS2 Certificates and Awards

Since the last newsletter, the following pupils have been presented with either a **Merit Certificate**, **Good Behaviour** or **Friendship Certificate**. Well done everyone!

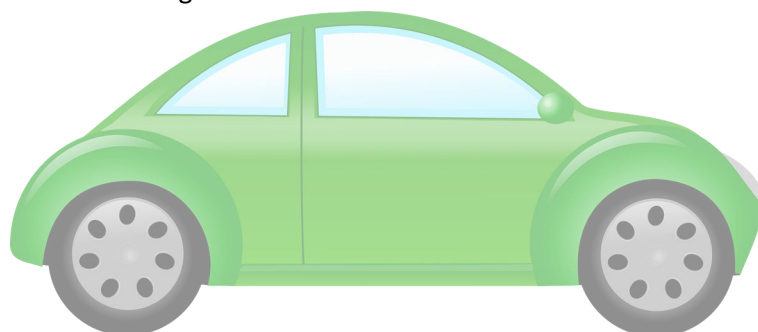
Class	Merit Certificate	Good Behaviour	Friendship
1C	Fionnbharra, Finley	Maya, Harleen	James, Alfie
1V	Rian, Neysha	Harper, Rian	Abir, Brady
2S	Ambar, Aaron	Harry, Olivia	Isla, Carmella
2Z	Lilly, Poppy	Haavya, Poppy	Presley, Sofia
3C	Leo, Safaa	Jemima, Raffy	Evie, Jessica
3D	Lilah, Zikr	Kendra, Mila	Ella, Thiaan
4C	Rufus, Arabella	Kasie, Ni'al	Zachariah, Isabella
5Z	Tasnim, Prabhlok	Alice, Prabhlok	Teddy, Abigail
6G	Gabby, Darcey	Georgia, Chanel	Sienna, Arjun

3PR Cup

Well done to 3D, 6G and 1C for winning the 3PR cup. We are very proud of all the children walking to school.

Thank you to all our Oaklands parents for your support, making sure that we care, that we take caution and that we are considerate when thinking about where to park in the morning.

Which class will win the cup next? Watch this space...



Children in Need



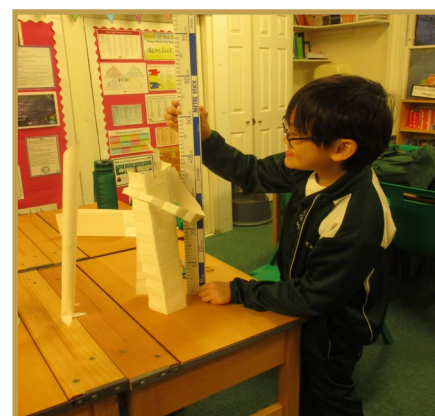
Thank you to all of the parents and families who donated to Children In Need this year. Everyone loved dressing up and learning about how the charity supports children around the UK.



Mathmania

In Mathsmania Club, the children were tasked with building the tallest tower using one A3 sheet of paper. The children discussed lots of different ideas and then made their designs. They then had to measure them and find the tallest tower. The children decided to use a metre rule to measure as the rulers were not big enough.

They used cm and then converted the measurements to mm and metres, ordering them and looking at the differences between them. Rufus commented, "Ms Gardner, I was so close – only 2cm behind you!" A fun time was had by all.



Year 6 Charity Performance

The Oaklands School Year 6 Choir performed a medley of Christmas songs at the London Hilton on Park Lane for a very special charity event. The children sang 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' as well as a selection of other songs, accompanied by hand bells and tambourines.

They even got the whole crowd up singing with them!



Festive Fun at the Reception Christmas Show

Christmas has officially come to Oaklands! Reception started the first of many Christmas celebrations with their spectacular Christmas Show.

The classes performed as a group and in their individual classes, dressed to impress in their festive finery. Their voices filled the hall as they sang Christmas favourites such as 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' and 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas', followed by a spectacular Christmas Conga!

This year the children did not just stop at songs, they had also prepared a number of dance numbers, and everyone did a great job of remembering the steps.



Upper Kindergarten Christmas Show

Families and friends were treated to a wonderful Christmas Show by our Upper Kindergarten children. The elves in the toy shop were very busy this year creating toys for the boys and girls, and everyone loved hearing songs from the trains, teddy bears and dolls. Included in the performance was a beautifully told Nativity story.

We were so proud of our children for remembering so many songs and dance moves, and for being so brave performing in front of such a large audience!



Lower Kindergarten Assembly

The children in Lower Kindergarten took part in their first assembly to parents this term. They performed wonderfully and sang a variety of songs including 'Wheels on the Bus', 'The Rainbow Song' and the class favourite 'Splish Splash'. They also showed their parents good listening skills by following Mrs Rathbone's instructions on playing their shakers fast, slow, quietly and loudly.



Upper Kindergarten Learn About Hanukkah

Upper Kindergarten children have been learning about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. First, they watched a short video on the internet about a little girl who celebrated Hanukkah with her family. The children learnt new vocabulary such as Menorah, dreidel and latke which means potato pancake. The children then had the opportunity to make their own Menorah using strips of card to create the Menorah candles. Finally, they dipped their finger into yellow paint to represent the flame of their candles.



Reception Owls Drop In Session

It was lovely to see so many parents coming to share the children's work with them. We hope that you enjoyed what you saw in the books and on the classroom walls.



Reception Woodpeckers

"I know we are all different but the same in some ways." The children explored a large selection of photos, working in groups to discuss how they could sort them appropriately. The children thought about old/young and boy/girl. We talked about the differences between each other, but also how we are similar in other ways.



Reception Robins

Robins class learnt all about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. As part of their lesson they had a fun time making colourful Menorahs.



Snow Day!

Reception children enjoyed making the most of a real life 'Winter Wonderland.' We had snowball fights, created snow angels and even built a snowman bigger than our teachers!



Year 1V

Year 1 created their very own Van Gogh inspired cityscapes. They tried their very best to replicate 'The Starry Night' using oil pastels and black card. They worked hard to blend the colours nicely and create a swirled line effect.



Year 1C

1C have been learning all about money. They had lots of different coin activities out to try. They practised matching the coins so they could learn which is which and put the money in the piggy banks to make an amount, or buy a toy using the correct coins.

They practised using different coins to make the same amount and counted up 1p's to match the total value on the cards. In this day of using cards to pay for our things so frequently, it was a great opportunity for the children to see and experience using real money.



Year 2Z

2Z have enjoyed their 'Moving Toys' topic in D&T this term. They were each able to design, make and evaluate their own windmill using classroom materials. They were able to stick to a theme and make sure that their windmill 'moved'. Well done, 2Z!



Year 2S

2S loved visiting Santa in his grotto and asked him lots of interesting questions. They were all very excited to receive a Christmas present.



Christmas Jumper Day!



Year 3 Packaging Design

Year 3 have very much enjoyed designing packaging for chocolates, taking their inspiration from the market place and beyond. Skills gained in Maths lessons allowed the children to turn 2D nets into 3D boxes. The children thought very carefully about colour combinations which would appeal to the senses.

Year 3 are now looking forward to making their own version of their favourite chocolate, and will decorate the finished article with all manner of flourishes. Could we be looking at chocolatiers of the future?



Year 4 Christingles

Year 4 looked at, designed and made Christingles! They identified the meaning of the Christingle, linking it to Christmas and explained what each element of the Christingle meant.



Year 6G

Every year the Year 6's are tasked with creating a Christmas themed post box for their prefect class.

This year we had an array of giant snowmen, Scandinavian style gingerbread houses and Santa stuck down the chimney!

These were all beautifully made which the classes were delighted to receive. A huge thanks to Year 6 for their efforts.

A Visit To Santa's Grotto

Oaklands had a very special visitor join them at school on the last week of term! Every class had the chance to meet Santa in his grotto, tell him what they wanted for Christmas and receive a present. Thanks Santa!



Year 1 Snow-dough

1C had fun with snow-dough and Arctic animals in the Tuff Tray.

"It feels cold, but not as cold as real snow!" said James,

"We're making a snow man" said Gabby.

"All the animals are hiding in the igloo" said Omi.



House Christmas Games

Years 5 & 6 had an exciting afternoon at the Christmas House Games!

The children had a fantastic time playing 'Build a snowman', 'X-mas Tree Design', 'Snowball Catch', 'X-mas Tree Knock-down' and a classic 'X-mas Musical Chairs'.

The results were:

1st – Willow 48

Joint 2nd – Holly & Sycamore 47

3rd – Beech 39



Christmas Activities



Skittle Man joined the children for an afternoon of games, dancing and fun at their Christmas Disco.

The squeals of delight and laughter were a sure sign that the children were having a great time!



The children in Early Years took part in a sponsored Dancathon in the studio. They danced to some of their favourite music and had a fantastic time with their friends. Thank you for your donations!



Pupils were in for a surprise when they entered the hall for their Christmas lunch, Miss Dee and Mrs Copeman were helping to serve!

The children were treated to a Christmas feast with all of the trimmings and Christmas pudding and mince pies with custard for dessert.

Thank you to Chef Ian and the team for all of your hard work this term!

ISA National Swim Championships

Our amazing Erin from Year 5 took part in the ISA National Swim Championships at the Olympic Pool in Stratford on Saturday 3 December. She had an amazing time and helped her team compete really well against the other ISA Regions from all over the country. Well done Erin!



Indoor Athletics

Pupils from Years 1-6 reach impressive numbers in House Indoor Athletics Competition.

The results are finally in across over 150 pupils who took part in the House Indoor Athletics Competition this term. There were some outstanding scores with everyone trying their absolute best to score vital points for their house. Activities included; speed bounce, vertical jump, chest push, standing long jump, standing triple jump, javelin, target throw and shuttle run.

Well done to Holly who were the eventual winners, but of course to all the children who ran, jumped, and threw their socks off....not literally!

Results;

- 1st – Holly 12,117**
- 2nd – Willow 11,565**
- 3rd – Sycamore 11,464**
- 4th – Beech – 10,895**



ISA London North Swim Gala

Oaklands Swim team come out with their heads held high!

What a fantastic event to be part of. The pupils loved the fact they were representing the school and all the pupils competed fantastically against some very talented swimmers. There were 15 schools taking part in the ISA London North Swim Gala on Friday 18 November and every one of our team were at least in the top/middle places, showing our excellent talent across Years 4-6.

A special mention must go to Erin who finished 3rd in her 50M Front Crawl. The Year 6 relay team managed to bring home a bronze medal too which was a fantastic achievement. Great swims by Arriana, Anais, Jude, Denzel, Erin, Lucy, Sammy, Ethan, George, Lucy, Ana and Gabs!



Essex County School Finals

Oaklands do us proud in Essex County Schools finals!

On a very rainy and windy day on Tuesday 15 November, Oaklands took part in the Essex County Schools Finals in Chelmsford. After a long journey, the girls were understandably nervous leading up to the tournament starting. A good lunch to give them energy and a team talk to get them going relaxed the team and we were on our way. Some very tough opposition stood in our way however, and although we played the better football, we just fell short in the group and couldn't progress any further. Out of a pool of 18 girls across Years 5 and 6, we think they did amazingly to get to this stage and we competed in every game. The girls should be super proud of their efforts! Well done to Sienna, Darcey, Gabs, Ana, Chanel, Lina, Lucy and Abi.



Pantomime at Oaklands

Out of the box productions came to Oaklands to perform their festive pantomime Robin Hood. All the Early Years and KS1 children had an amazing time, joining in singing and engaging in all the pantomime fun.



Snow Day!

Pupils and their teachers headed out into the snow for snowball battles and snowman building!





Carol Service

The annual Oaklands Carol Service was a huge success this year, with children from Years 1 to 6 filling the church with songs and music. St Mary's Church hosted the service again this year creating a beautiful setting for an afternoon of carols.

This year, Years 5 and 6 told the stories of the journeys made on the night Jesus was born. From Mary and Joseph, King Herod, the wise men and even the shepherds and their sheep, everyone had a journey to take to get to the stable.

The whole school got everyone truly in the Christmas spirit with 'Ding Dong Merrily On High', and performed a special rendition of 'Oh Holy Night' by candlelight.

As per tradition a collection for Mill Grove Family Centre was taken at the end of the service, which will help many in need this festive season. Thank you for your generous donations.

