

February 2023

Item	Page
<u>Certificates and Awards.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>New playground</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Upper Kindergarten Drop in Session</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Lower Kindergarten</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Upper Kindergarten</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Reception Owls.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Reception Robins</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Reception Woodpeckers.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>EYFS Birdwatch</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Year 1V.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Year 1C.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Busy Bees Club.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Year 2S</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Year 2Z.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Year 3D.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Number Day.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Forest School swimming gala</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Year 3C.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Wild Woods Club</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>French</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Mental Health Week.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Wellbeing Club.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Year 4C.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Year 5Z</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Year 6G</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Year 3 St Albans Verulamium</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Year 5 Music Lesson.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Internet Safety Day.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>3PR Cup.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Stratford Music Competition</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>NSPCC</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>House Cross Country Races</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Year 1 local walk</u>	<u>16</u>



Headmistress's Message

What a busy Spring term we have had so far! The children are all enjoying the new Astro at playtime and for sports.

Early Years have spent a great deal of time outside, they have been avid explorers, finding and identifying eggs that were found in the Wildwoods area. They have also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the RSPB Birdwatch, followed by collecting materials and then building an enormous nest on the field. They are looking forward to more adventures outside this term.

On the 3 February we all enjoyed celebrating Number Day to raise money for the NSPCC. There were some fantastic costumes and in total we raised £250 for a very worthy charity that makes a difference to the lives of children and young people.

Mental Health and Anti Bullying week have also been recognised in school and the children have learnt a great deal through assemblies and PSHE about keeping themselves safe online and the importance of being mentally healthy. Year 5 presented a whole school assembly, sharing some very useful strategies to keep ourselves happy and healthy.

A highlight of the past few weeks was the House Cross Country race, pupils from Year 1 to 6 all took part, we had music and fierce competition, but above all it was a fantastic whole school event that embodied the spirit of Oaklands children perfectly.

As the spring approaches we all look forward to warmer weather and the opportunity to stretch our legs on the field during break and lunchtime.

We are all looking forward to the remainder of the Spring term and the numerous events taking place.

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	Finley, Henry	Arya	Maya
1V	Luca, Michael	Aryan	Raef
2S	Isabella, Zuri	Olivia	Harvey
2Z	Sofia, Amelia	Ethan	Margot
3C	Jemima, Raffy	Emily	Jessica
3D	Isla, Aria	Alyssia	Isla
4C	Margot, Kasie	Soransh	Arriana
5Z	Max, Lina	Ethan	Alice
6G	Henry, Betsy	Betsy	Darcey

Certificates and Awards

Well done to all the children who received a 'Merit', 'Good Behaviour' or 'Friendship' Certificate this month. Congratulations to those pupils who also achieved their pen licence. Thank you for being excellent role-models. Keep it up!



New Astro

Everyone has been enjoying the new Astro, running around and playing ball games. When pupils do not feel like running around, they have the option to draw, colour or even read books on the decking. The children love playing with their friends and their teachers are always ready to join in and introduce new games.



Upper Kindergarten Drop In Sessions

Upper Kindergarten parents were invited to drop-in sessions this month. The children excitedly and proudly showed their work and enjoyed sharing their achievements with their parents.



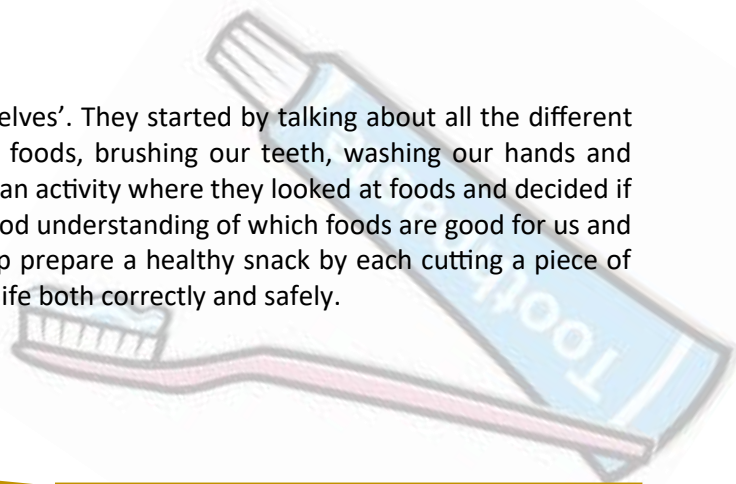
Lower Kindergarten

Over the last few weeks the children in Lower Kindergarten have been learning the nursery rhymes 'Hickory Dickory Dock' and 'Incy Wincy Spider'. They have taken part in various activities including creating shape mice, threading around a clock, drawing a spider by themselves and washing the spider away using a spray bottle. They have also learnt some interesting facts, such as not all spiders create webs and that each web is unique and different, just like all of us. Finally, they all made some delicious spider cupcakes, learning that we must follow the recipe to make our cakes.



Upper Kindergarten

The children have also been learning about 'Caring for Themselves'. They started by talking about all the different ways we can take care of ourselves including eating healthy foods, brushing our teeth, washing our hands and exercising. To reinforce healthy eating, the children completed an activity where they looked at foods and decided if they were good for our teeth or not. The children showed a good understanding of which foods are good for us and which are better as treats. We then asked the children to help prepare a healthy snack by each cutting a piece of fruit by themselves. The children tried really hard to use the knife both correctly and safely.



Reception Owls

As part of their dinosaur topic, Owls made 3D dinosaurs using plates and tubes. They chose what colours they wanted to use to paint them and carefully cut out the head and tail from the spare half of the plate – no wastage here!

The finished herd are now plodding slowly along although we are not sure where they are heading.

Owls also learned about feathered dinosaurs, although they need further convincing that birds evolved from the same group of dinosaurs as a t-rex! Two children drew a large scale feathered dinosaur and the class worked together to paint and feather each one.



Reception Robins

As part of their 'Dinosaur' topic, Robins made a mask of a dinosaur that was a herbivore or a carnivore. They had fun acting out as a T-Rex or a triceratops.

Reception Woodpeckers

The children had to pay close attention to the fine details when completing an observational painting of a dinosaur scene. They discussed what they could see from all the different angles. Woodpeckers used water colours to complete the painting taking into consideration how much water they needed and how to blend the colours.



EYFS RSPB Birdwatch

The EYFS department took part in a range of activities as part of RSPB Birdwatch. Everyone completed a bird count both at home and school. Lower and Upper Kindergarten made different types of bird feeders, some of which were hung up at school and others taken home.

They then worked in groups across the age ranges to build a giant birds nest from natural resources. Once the nest was completed, Ms Refalo did a mini drama/movement session with each class/keyworker group which involved the children 'hatching' from eggs before flying off to collect food which they ate on their return to the nest.

It was a lovely, fun collaboration.



Year 1V

Year 1V and 1C took part in a cross curricular activity and played the role of Sam in 'Sam's Sandwich'. In the book, Sam puts bugs in his sisters sandwich, so the children in Year 1 decided to throw her a tea party to make up for it. In English, they wrote a set of instructions in chronological order and then in DT, each made a healthy sandwich for Samantha. However, they did accidentally eat them themselves after... oops!



Year 1C

Year 1 enjoyed a Lego Workshop day in their classrooms, as a fitting end to their *Houses and Homes* topic. The children designed and built houses, remembering to add all the features a house needs such as windows, doors and a roof. There was plenty of discussion about the style of house, whether it was going to be a bungalow or semi-detached; a traditional style or contemporary. The children then added extra details such as chimneys, gardens, trees, play equipment in the gardens and garages. Omi even thought to add a security camera to his house! "This is my best day ever!" said Arya and Emily.



The next stage was to join all the houses together to make a street, then working in pairs or groups to create a town. The children displayed excellent teamwork, planning and building what they thought would be a good addition to their 'town'. We had parks, a river with a bridge, shops, cafes, car parks, a library and even a leisure centre complete with swimming pool!

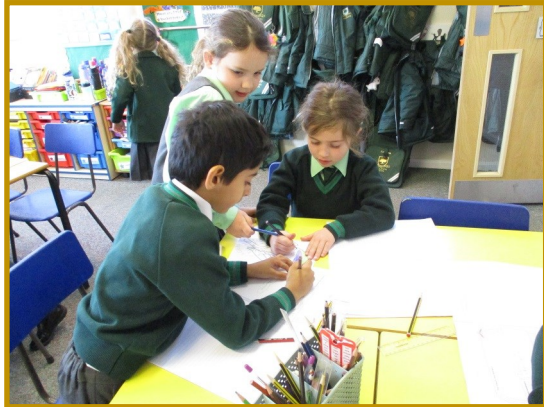
Busy Bees Club

Busy Bees have been very busy creating a surprise for Valentine's Day – there was so much creativity as the children used coloured gems to decorate a wooden heart. They wrapped them in tissue and ribbon ready for them to be given to someone special at home.



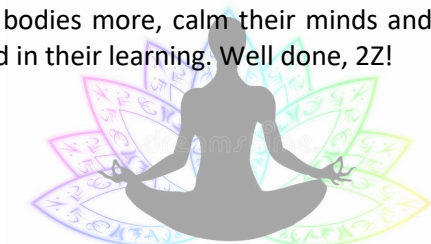
Year 2S

In PSHE 2S have been learning how to work together as a team to achieve their goal. The children designed and coloured in a bird that represented their vision. They all worked really well together and produced some amazing designs.



Year 2Z

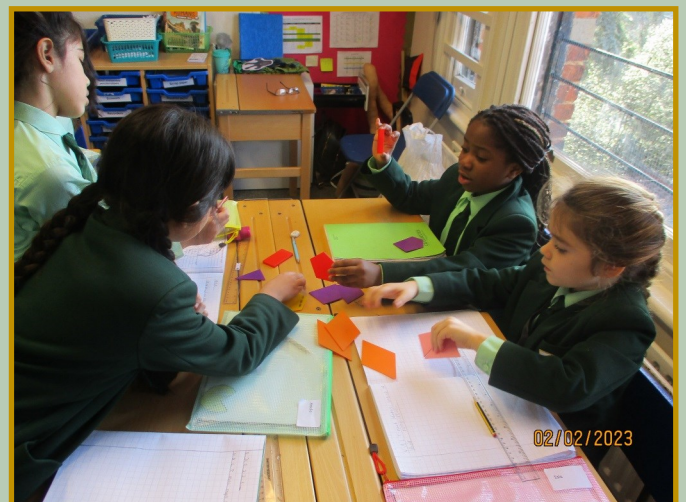
2Z completed some seated yoga activities for Children's Mental Health week. This helped them to move their bodies more, calm their minds and remain focused in their learning. Well done, 2Z!



Year 3D

In Maths, the children in 3D have been learning all about shapes. They were able to identify the properties of 2-D shapes and had fun during their practical lesson, exploring how shapes can be connected to form a different shape. In English, 3D have enjoyed reading George's Marvellous Medicine to inspire their instruction writing.

They have learnt about the features of instructions, remembering a very special, long word, "imperative verbs", which they needed to include. Due to the love the children had for the story, they were very excited to begin writing their own instructions - some of which were wonderfully disgusting!



Number Day

On 3rd February, the Oaklands children took part in Number Day in support of 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 'Greek Maths'. Year 6 were set the 'Battle of the Robots' challenge where they had to build a robot with a pellet launcher and measure how far it travelled. We converted the measurements from cm to m, worked out the total and the mean; there was only 6cm difference between the top two teams! At lunchtime, the children devoured the beautifully decorated number cakes. Thank you for your support, we have raised over £250 which goes towards making a difference to children and young people.



Forest School Swimming Gala

On Monday 23 January, our U10 Girls took part in the Forest School Swimming Gala. There were lots of very strong schools competing, and for 3 of our girls, it was the first time representing the school at swimming! The nerves didn't show though and they performed amazingly well to finish in the top places in their respective heats. As we could only field a team of 4 out of a possible 16, we were unable to compete for the top overall prizes, however a real highlight was the 4X25M Freestyle Relay which we came 3rd in with a fantastic time of 1.28.75. Well done Abi, Lina, Erin and Alicia.



Y3C

Year 3 loved taking part in the Oaklands Cross Country. The children relished the opportunity to be outside and compete against one another. Not only that, the children appreciated how keeping their bodies healthy will help to maintain a healthy mind, which is hugely important; not just during Mental Health Week.



Wild Woods Club

Wild Woods had a fantastic afternoon with campfire stories around the fire with a hot chocolate to warm them up. The children shared their knowledge about campfire rules and loved every minute.



French

Years 1 and 2 were so excited when they had finished their lovely Chinese Portraits in French. They had to compare themselves to different colours, places, animals and more using the French language. They did a fabulous job!



Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics

On Tuesday 24 January, our Year 5 and 6 pupils all took part in the Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics competition at Peter May Centre. It was great to see all the children trying to throw, jump and run for their schools to earn valuable points to add to the overall score. Oaklands can be very proud of their efforts in what was a very close contest throughout the afternoon. A highlight was that both the Oaklands girls and boys teams won the track event round, but narrowly missed out on the 1st place overall with Braeside, Coopersale and Normanhurst performing well in the field events.

Boys Competition				
	Track	Field	Total	Place
Oaklands A	42	3035	3077	4th
Coopersale A	20	3159	3179	3rd
Coopersale B	36	3380	3416	2nd
Normanhurst A	40	3425	3465	1st
Normanhurst B	12	2880	2892	5th



Girls Competition				
	Track	Field	Total	Place
Oaklands A	116	525	641	3rd
Oaklands B	58	458	516	6th
Coopersale A	84	511	595	5th
Coopersale B	92	575	667	2nd
Normanhurst A	80	535	615	4th
Normanhurst B	52	447	499	7th
Braeside A	102	575	677	1st
Braeside B	46	433	479	8th



Mental Health Week

Oaklands recognised Children's Mental Health Week, taking part in various themed activities. In assembly, Year 5 taught us a few practical examples of how to look after ourselves. They mentioned how important healthy eating, exercise, having enough sleep and enjoying nature are, and especially how these things can influence our own mental health. We were all given the opportunity to reflect on how we can improve our own wellbeing. Well done Year 5.



Wellbeing Club

During lunchtime, Wellbeing Club had the chance to reflect on different emotions and how they might feel at certain times. The children were given colours to use and they all expressed themselves by listening to a variety of music genres. This was a lovely session.



Year 4C

To link to their Ancient Greek topic, pupils have been planning, designing, making and painting Greek pottery. The children have thought about what is included in Greek pottery designs, the patterns and what was seen on the pottery. We are looking forward to seeing the end results!



Year 5Z

As part of their PSHE topic, 'Dreams and Goals', Year 5 have been exploring different job opportunities available to people. They have shared their future aspirations with the class and considered the skills and experience they might need. The children explained why they valued and appreciated the contributions made by people in different jobs. They will also be considering how their dreams and goals may be different to children in different parts of the world.



Year 6G

Year 6 have just started their new topic for this term on South America. They were tasked with researching five interesting facts as part of their holiday homework. This week they identified the countries and territories of South America as well as the capital cities. They used their map skills to annotate their South American maps.

In future lessons, they will be looking at physical features such as rivers and mountains; human geography such as population and exports as well as cultural aspects such as foods, traditional costumes, languages and festivals.



Year 3 St Albans Verulamium

Year 3 recently visited St. Albans Verulamium Museum to look at the exhibits in the gallery, attend a market workshop and marvel at the beautiful mosaic in the grounds. The day began with a visit to mosaic in the grounds of the park. It was hard to believe it was over two thousand years old as the colours were so vibrant. They saw first-hand how the hypocaust (heating system) would have worked. The tunnel where the fire would have been lit by servants was clearly visible, and it was easy to imagine the heat from this spreading under and across the floor. How unusual, then, that wealthy Romans enjoyed underfloor heating two thousand years before we did!

Year 3 also donned authentic costumes and handled everyday objects similar to those that would have been used by Romans all those years ago. They had a fantastic time and the site is definitely worth making a visit to if you are in the area.



Year 5 Music Lesson

Year 5 had a wonderful music lesson creating a pentatonic tune, using a pentatonic scale based on a Chinese Poem. Pentatonic scales are often used in traditional Chinese music, linking very well with the Chinese New Year celebration. Ethan and his friends had a chance to show the children what a Chinese Dragon looks like.



Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday 7 February Oaklands celebrated Safer Internet Day. The theme was 'Let's talk about it'. Pupils read an amazing story called Hanni and the Magic Window and the children from Year 1- 4 created their own magic windows, exploring things they see on the internet and some of the magical places the internet can take us.



3PR Cup

Congratulations to 2Z for winning the 3PR cup. Well done for walking to school and using our school car park. Thank you to all our parents for your continuous support as well.



Stratford Music Competition

Well done to our school choir and Mrs Rathbone, we came an amazing 2nd place in the Stratford Music Competition.



NSPCC

Oaklands, thank you.

Dear Oaklands,

We're so grateful you've chosen to help children by raising £267.91 on behalf of Oaklands School.

You're joining a movement of people who believe every child has a right to be safe. Your gift will help change children's lives, helping fund our direct services protecting children.

Your support is vital. We are around 90 per cent funded by public donations, so it's only thanks to people like you that we can be here for children. Thank you. Together, we can protect children and prevent abuse.

Caroline Appleton
Head of Fundraising
NSPCC

House Cross Country Races

On a beautiful sunny Monday afternoon, the school field was marked out, freshly mown and ready for the annual Oaklands House Cross Country Races for Years 1-6. It was a fantastic atmosphere with music playing, children cheering and teachers dancing! Well done to Willow House who came first. They ran a total of 213 laps, which is equal to 22.6 miles. Holly House came in second with a total of 193 laps. Sycamore ran 192 laps and Beech ran 183 laps. Altogether the houses ran a total of 97.7 miles. We discovered that the miles we covered equalled the same distance to Birmingham Airport. Well done to all of you



Year 1 Local Area Walk

Year 1 went on a walk around our local area to look for different styles of houses. They found semi-detached houses right opposite the school and some detached houses. There were traditional houses, modern houses and some bungalows. The children then went to look at Reggie's house which is very old and Reggie's mummy very kindly invited everyone in for a closer look. Year 1 spotted dragons on the roof (luckily not real ones!) which gave them a clue as to the name of the house: 'Dragons'. They saw some very old wooden fireplaces, a coat of arms on the front door and even had a go at ringing the old servants bell! They noticed lots of interesting features on the building outside, such as the clay animals in the wall. Legend has it that if you feed the dragons in the gate before you leave, it will bring you good luck, so that is exactly what we did!

