

March 2023

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Headmistress's Message

What a busy end to the Spring term we have had! The highlight for many of you was, I am sure, the Lower and Upper Kindergarten Mothers' day assemblies. The children sang beautifully and told us their favourite things about their mummies. Similarly, Reception mums visited for pastries and colouring activities and it was clear that everyone enjoyed a few precious minutes away from the usual busyness of daily life.

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed the African drumming workshop and were wonderful hosts to Braeside Year 1 for the activities and lunch a few weeks ago.

We have been very busy in classrooms with a huge variety of activities and of course we have been storming ahead with sporting pursuits too! We have had fantastic wins in tag-rugby, cross-country, under 9's football and of course we took home the winning trophy in the Oak-Tree Swimming competition!

The whole school took part in the ISI Easter Egg competition and we hope to receive news in the next few weeks to see whether we had any National finalists. Next term looks just as busy and I look forward to sending you news of the wonderful activities we take part in.

Have a restful Easter break where ever you are spending it.

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**, **Values** or **Friendship Certificate**. Well done everyone!

| Class | Good Behaviour | Friendship | Values | Merit |
|-------|----------------|-------------|----------|------------------|
| 1C | Gabby | James | Arya | Fionbharra, Maya |
| 1V | Luca | Christopher | Abir | Mikey, Harper |
| 2S | Zuri | Amber | Rabani | Charlie, Sihame |
| 2Z | Margot | Melody | Teddy | Arthur, Vallavi |
| 3C | Bryony | Zack | Rufus | Eddie, Jimmy |
| 3D | Amelia | Thiaan | Kendra | Zikr, Aria |
| 4C | Annabelle | Siana | Ni'al | Denzel, Archie |
| 5Z | Lina | Erin | Prabhlok | Hannah, Max |
| 6G | Ava | Rafaella | Raffy | Henry Co, Chanel |

Oak-Tree Swimming Gala

On Monday 27 February, all 4 schools took part in the Oak-Tree Year 4 - 6 Swim Gala at Loughton Pool. It was great to see so many close races and the pupils demonstrating their amazing talent in the water! The Squadron relay at the end of the programme was a fantastic way to finish the event with all 12 swimmers from each school taking it in turn to swim a length.

Final results were;

1st – Oaklands 206 points

2nd – Coopersale Hall 194 points

3rd – Braeside 132 points

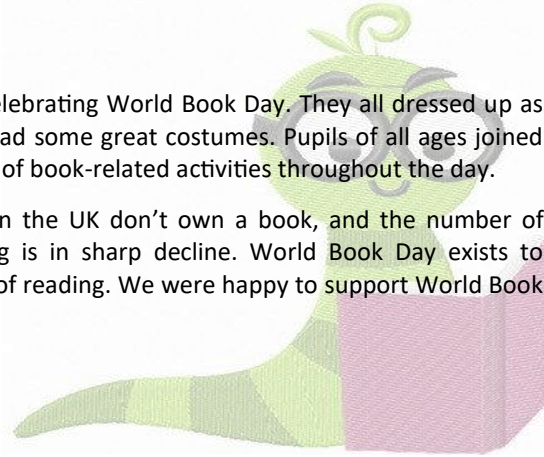
4th – Normanhurst 118 points

A massive well done to Margot, Arriana, Denzel, Jude, Lucy, Erin, Sammy, Ethan, Anastasia, Gabriella, George and Arjun!

World Book Day

Pupils at Oaklands had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day. They all dressed up as their favourite book characters, and we had some great costumes. Pupils of all ages joined in by dressing up and taking part in plenty of book-related activities throughout the day.

This World Book Day, 500,000 children in the UK don't own a book, and the number of children enjoying the benefits of reading is in sharp decline. World Book Day exists to support all children to experience the joy of reading. We were happy to support World Book Day this year!



Lower Kindergarten Mothers Day Assembly

The children in Lower Kindergarten took part in their Mother's Day Assembly. The children performed a variety of songs to their parents including 'It's Mother's Day', 'The Gruffalo' and 'I'm a Little Penguin'. The children did so well to remember all the words and actions to the songs. They showed great confidence on stage and we are extremely proud of all of them!



Upper Kindergarten

Upper Kindergarten children had lots of fun doing a Maths activity out in the paddock. They took turns to role the dice and say the number or count the spots to identify the number. They then thought of an action they could do to match the number on the dice. There were some great suggestions from star jumps, hopping on one leg, jumping and even running up and down the paddock four times! Well done Upper Kindergarten.



Upper Kindergarten Mothers Day

The children in Upper Kindergarten performed amazingly during their Mother's Day Assembly. They all sang beautifully, remembering the words and actions to all the songs and spoke with confidence. The children were very excited to perform to their parents. We hope everyone enjoyed the show as much as we did!



Year 1 African Drums and Dance workshop

Year 1 had a fantastic workshop session with our visitor; Kwame, who showed us how to play the African drums. We had to hold them in a special way between our knees, so the sound could be amplified through the hollow bottom of the drum. Kwame showed us how to use different parts of our hand on the drum skin to make loud or softer sounds. We practised playing fast and slow beats listening to the rhythm he made on his drums and imitating the sounds of African animals and raindrops pitter-pattering on the African plains. Some of us were lucky enough to have a go on the other African instruments Kwame bought to show us. Later that day, Kwame taught us some dance moves and we put them altogether to perform a routine. We loved meeting Kwame and we hope he visits us again in the future!



Reception Owls

Great excitement hit the Reception classes when mummies were invited in for a Mother's Day treat. It was a perfect opportunity for some uninterrupted time spent colouring, reading or doing puzzles with the added extra of pastries, brownies and gingerbread men treats!



Reception Robins

Robin class enjoyed a morning of cooking. They mashed chickpeas with a fork and vegetable masher, then working with friends, they measured out and added oil, salt, pepper and lemon juice into the mixture to make hummus. They also chopped cucumber and mixed in yoghurt, salt and lemon juice to make tzatziki. Lastly, they tasted the dips with pitta bread – delicious!



Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers were very excited to win the 3PR Trophy as part of the 3PR walk to school scheme. They can't wait to continue collecting more tokens and helping our school.



Year 1V

This term Year 1 have made comparisons between African and Aboriginal Art. They looked at a range of artwork and spotted common colours and techniques and created their very own Tinga Tinga style piece of art. They used red and yellow paint to create a beautiful sunset and black card for the animal silhouette.



Year 1C

1C had fun learning all about capacity at the Monster Milkshake Bar in their class last week. They got to pour the 'strawberry milkshake' into the cups for the monsters to match their orders. They practised using their Mathematical vocabulary such as full, half full, nearly empty and empty, then progressed onto reading the measurements on the jugs and seeing how many millilitres were in the containers.



Busy Bees Club

Busy Bees have been very busy making their own pizzas. They rolled out the dough to their required shape and then spread it with passata. They then chose from a selection of toppings including pineapple, mushrooms and ham before finishing off with grated cheese. Instructions were given for cooking at home and we understand from the children and parents that they were rather delicious with some children asking if we could make more in our next session!



ISA North London Tag Rugby

On Friday 3 March, Oaklands School took a squad of 8 players to the ISA London North Tag-Rugby 7-a-side tournament at Woodford Wells Cricket Club. There were some very talented schools on show, displaying some fantastic rugby skills!

Oaklands won 2 out of their 4 games and progressed to 3rd place out of the group, meaning they qualified for the Plate Competition. From there, they won a very tight game 4-3 against Gidea Park School, progressing to the final.

In the final, another unbelievably tight match saw us win 4-2 against The Grove School and add to our long list of achievements this year! Every single one of the children contributed on the day and congratulations to George, Anastasia, Max, Lucy, Lina, Abi, Sammy and Denzel!



ISA North London Cross Country

On Tuesday 28 February, Pupils from Years 3-6 took part in the annual ISA London North Cross Country Race at Abbot's Hill School in Hemel Hempstead.

After a long drive, we were finally there, and the children were desperate to get going and burn off some of the energy they had. All of the children did incredibly well on a very hard and challenging course and should be proud of their efforts!

A special mention to Alex and Annabelle who came in the top places. They competed in the ISA National Finals at Worksop College on Saturday 4 March.

U9's Boys Football

Oaklands took a team of 8 boys to the U9 Forest School 7-a-side Football Tournament on Thursday 16 March. In Group A, they started well, beating Avon House 1-0 with a lovely goal from Jimmy!

Next up, we had a tough contest with Loyola School and we had our chances but narrowly lost 1-0. Forest A were in our way in game 3 and they had a good team who passed the ball around really well and created chances. We had chances of our own, but just came up short losing 2-0. We had to beat Snaresbrook in our last game and the boys didn't disappoint, winning 5-0 with some great play from the team. Jimmy got another 2 goals, Denzel with a well deserved goal, and Alex was rewarded with 2 goals following excellent perseverance to get into attacking areas.

We progressed to the plate semi-finals and met Forest B who were very well drilled in being defensive. None-the-less, Denzel put the ball into the postage stamp, arrowing the ball into the top corner to send Oaklands through to the final.

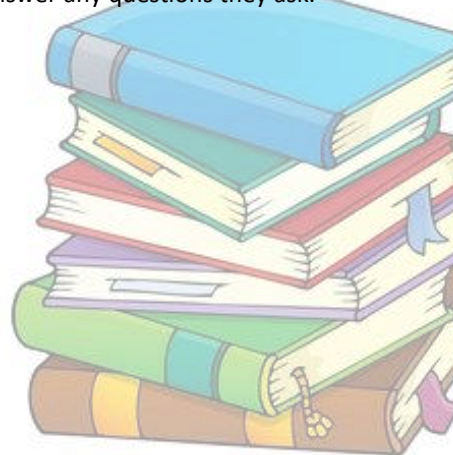
We were up against Avon House once again, this was a fantastic game to watch. Oaklands were resolute in defence and kept attacking when they could. Eddie made some lovely crosses with Jimmy waiting to pounce. Zack and Thiaan, playing in their first football match for the school, did a great job pressing their players with the ball and finding spaces for teammates to pass to them. Alex was everywhere and covered the excellent Archie in defence really well. Archie made some crucial clearances! A free kick behind the half line was no problem for Captain Denzel who found Jimmy with a magnificent pass and Jimmy did the rest! The final whistle went and it brought jubilant scenes, the team should be very proud of their afternoon's work! CHAMPIONS!!!





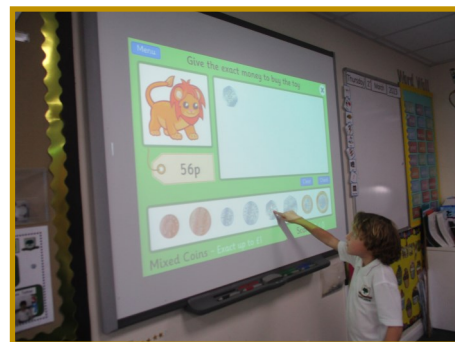
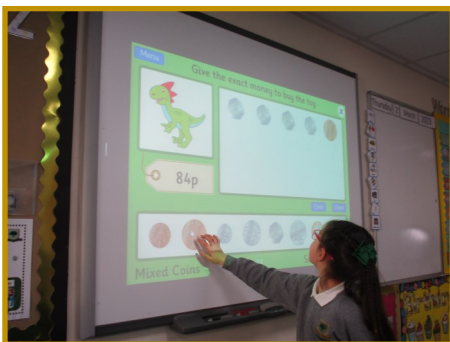
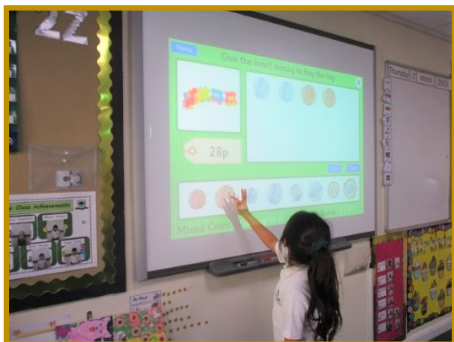
Year 2S

Year 2 have been very lucky to have Year 3 come and read with them. The Year 3 children share books with the children and answer any questions they ask.



Year 2Z

In Maths, 2Z have been learning all about money. They have been identifying different types of coins and have even calculated change. 2Z have enjoyed playing the Toy Shop game on the SMART board where they have to choose the correct coins in order to pay for a toy in the shop. Well done, 2Z!



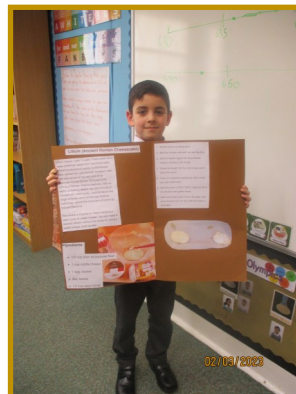
Year 3C

Year 3 are currently in the process of presenting their Topic homework. Some of the children have created wonderfully detailed villas, reminiscent of those that would have existed in Ancient Rome; while others chose to explore mosaics, interpreting ancient designs with their own choice of tesserae. More bloodthirsty entries included swords, shields and ceremonial daggers, worthy of any legion. Of course the Romans loved luxury and used honey in a great many recipes, so it is no surprise that some of the children - in true Bake Off style - tried their hand at baking honey biscuits, much loved by the people of Ancient Rome. I am sure any number of Romans would have enjoyed eating them while playing the game 'Rise of Empires.'



Year 3D

3D have been learning about the Ancient Romans and are thoroughly intrigued with the impact they had on Britain. As part of their research project, children in 3D were able to select an area of Roman life to explore and then present to the class. It was a wonderful day of showcasing all of the learning that has taken place and an opportunity for the children to learn from each other.



Year 4C

Year 4 had a special visitor who time travelled over 6000 years to speak to us about the Ancient Greeks, the Goddess of Wisdom, Athena. In our workshop, Year 4 created images of famous Ancient Greek buildings and mythical creatures. Looking at Greek Gods and Goddesses in a 'Guess the God' drama game. Discovering the myth of King Midas who had everything turned to gold upon his touch and finally competing in a 'slow motion' Olympic Games event!

The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and learnt lots of new and interesting facts about the Ancient Greeks.



Year 5Z

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 practising 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 cushions once they are completed.



Epping Forest Food Bank

As part of PSHE and SMSC, the children at Oaklands decided they wanted to help out in the local community by supporting the Epping Forest Foodbank. We invited Amy, from the foodbank, to our school assembly and learnt about the vital role of the centre in our local area. The children asked great questions and were well-informed about important issues regarding poverty and hunger in the UK. Afterwards, Year 5 designed fantastic posters with persuasive language, to encourage others to donate food for the charity. We are delighted to announce that Oaklands School's generous donations weighed 327.7kg!

The children at Oaklands school are good citizens who show that they genuinely care about their local community as well as the wider world. We would like to say thank you to the children, parents and staff who helped make this project a great success.



Wild Woods

In Wild Woods we have really thought about our feathered friends. We set up a bird feeding station and bird hide where we have been monitoring visitors for the RSPB's Big Bird Count. Pupils made different bird feeders and topped up the ones the birds enjoyed the most. We also played lots of running round games learning about the different birds and what they do in winter.

Our wild play area got an upgrade when we added a low balance rope for everyone's enjoyment and of course there was always time for a swing in the hammocks. We rounded up the end of term with hot chocolate around the campfire and made natural hearts with messages about what we love about Wild Woods. There was lots of love for the low ropes!

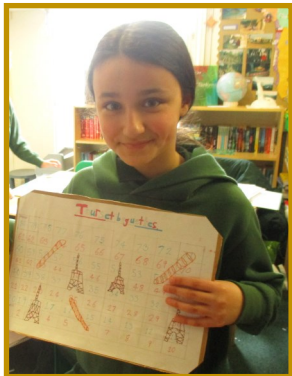
Year 6G

The Year 6 have been working on a 'carnival' theme in their DT lessons. The children researched carnival masks and headdresses using the iPads and then designed their own mask 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 and monochrome masterpieces to colourful, feathered creations. Betsy and Sienna say, 'They were so fun to make – best art lesson ever!'



French

Year 6 created impressive French games that they played in class. Arjun created a French game called “La question” with pictures and his own French quiz questions. Rafaella designed a “guess who” game in French with images and boxes. The children had to guess the characters in French. Their French teacher is very proud of all their hard work.



Red Nose Day

Pupils and teachers wore their best red clothes to school in support of Red Nose Day. **£35,310,407** was raised by the public in the UK this year, which will help people who are facing the toughest times of their lives and help them to break free from poverty, both here in the UK and across the world. School donations are an important contributor to the total, so thank you to everyone who donated.



House Cup

Well done and a huge congratulations to Sycamore House who won the House cup this term.



3PR

Congratulations to Year 5Z who won the 3PR cup then the last week of term. Thank you for doing your 3PR duty every morning, handing out tokens to all the children who are following our new parking rules. You are all doing a wonderful job!

Science Week

To celebrate Science Week the children in Lower Kindergarten visited the Science room for a 'Dinosaur Workshop' with Mrs Georgiou. The children listened to a story and had to help find the dinosaurs in the jungle. They learnt some new vocabulary, whilst sharing their own knowledge by telling us some dinosaur names: Spinosaurus, Stegosaurus, T-Rex and Brachiosaurus.

The children were then invited to participate in some activities, including a dinosaur shadow matching game, using clay/playdough to add something to the dinosaur, digging for dinosaurs in the sand and finally, going on a dinosaur hunt outside. The children were so excited and engaged, with one little boy saying "This is a great morning".



Easter Bunny

The amazing parents from the OPA organised a very special visit for all of the children this term, the Easter Bunny! The bunny paid a visit to the school bringing chocolate eggs for everyone with just one condition, a song from every class. Who knew the Easter Bunny loves to dance?!



Easter Egg Competition

Oaklands children from Reception to Year 6 took part in a competition to design a fun and exciting Easter egg. The Easter egg had to be the size of a real life egg and the children were allowed to decorate them with any materials they liked. The children were encouraged to be as creative as possible, as the first place winners will be entered into the ISA Easter Egg competition against other ISA schools. This was a brilliant competition as it enabled the children to showcase their artistic talents. Well done to everyone who took part!

| Year Group | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Reception | Luca & Charlotte | Daniel | Annabelle |
| 1 | Henry | Harleen | Christopher |
| 2 | Arthur and Charlie | Eashar | Sartaj |
| 3 | Mila | Isla | Jemima |
| 4 | Ni'al and Anais | Kasie | Annabelle |
| 5 | Ethan | Abigail | Alice |
| 6 | Gabriella | Arjun | George |

