

May 2023



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Headmistress's Message

What an extremely busy few weeks we have had, the highlight was most certainly our celebration for the Coronation of King Charles. The children thoroughly enjoyed their activities throughout the day and their special lunch of fish and chips and scones with cream and jam and Oaklands was awash with red, white and blue.

Now the weather is getting warmer and the field is drying out the children are spending even more time than usual outside. Upper Kindergarten and Reception have been busy planting beans and sunflower seeds and are very excited to watch them grow over the coming weeks.

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 children have all spent time away from home honing their resilience and problem solving; they have also learnt some fantastic new skills at PGL and Gilwell.

Half term is fast approaching and I wish you all a very enjoyable week and look forward to sharing more news in June.

Lower Kindergarten

The children in Lower Kindergarten have been learning all about the lifecycle of a caterpillar. We started by listening to the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and then the children had the chance to meet our real-life caterpillars. The children were amazed to see how tiny the caterpillars were.

Over the next few weeks, the children shall watch our caterpillars grow and hopefully see them turn into beautiful butterflies!

Within class, the children made their own paper chain caterpillar for our display. The children needed some support to join the strips of paper together to make the caterpillar's body and head. They then added eyes, a nose and antenna.



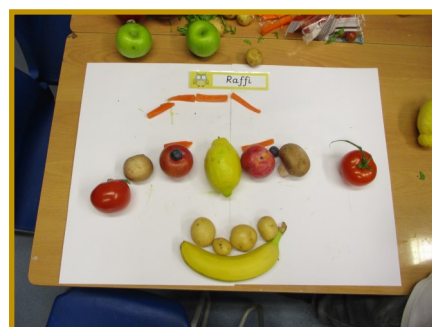
Upper Kindergarten

Upper Kindergarten planted sunflower seeds. The children learnt what their seed would need to grow: soil, water and sunlight. First, they decorated their plant pot using glue and mini beast pictures. Then they spooned some soil into their pot, added their sunflower seed and finally watered it. The children are very excited to watch them grow.



Reception Owls

Reception have been learning about the Italian artist Arcimboldo. He is best known for creating imaginative portrait heads made entirely of objects such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, fish and books. Having looked at a few of his pieces, Owls set about creating their own versions using a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables. It proved challenging at times for some children, as the shapes of some of the fruits meant they did not always remain how and where they were originally placed. Excellent perseverance and resilience were shown at these times as nobody gave up or asked for adult support.



Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers planted their very own runner bean plants. We are excited to watch them grow and we will be tracking their growth using our very own bean diaries.



Reception Robins

Robin class have been learning about changes this half term. We changed bread into toast by heating it and made observations at each stage of the process using all of our senses.



We froze some toast and made predictions about whether it would turn back into bread when cooled down. We checked our predictions and found out that the change was irreversible.

Upper Kindergarten Investigating

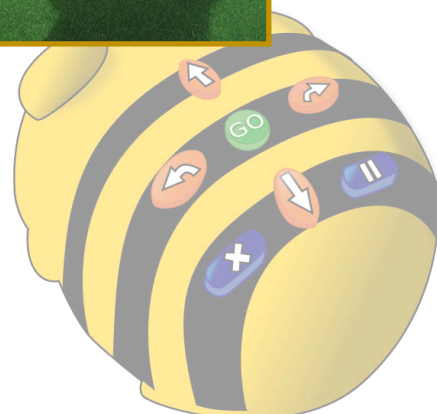
We really enjoyed our investigating activity. Looking at lots of different objects and then sorting them according to what they are made from. For example, wood, metal, plastic and fabric. We have learnt the names of many materials.



UK children having lots of fun exploring which objects sink and which objects float, playing with water outside.

Reception outside Computing Class

Reception had fun outside with Miss Bond during Computing, learning how to program the Beebots. They were then able to continue practising in class.



Year 1C

Year 1C have been having fun learning about time. We are already very good at recognising o'clock and half past but we spent some time exploring exactly how long one second, one minute and one hour are. We did a test to see if we could guess how long a minute was; some of us got it right but some of us were a long way! Then we explored how many activities we could complete in a minute. We all thought of something we could do, like taking our jumpers on and off, estimating how many we could do in a minute, then timed ourselves to see how accurate our estimate was. It turns out, one minute goes a lot faster than we thought!



Year 1V

In Year 1 we have been learning about time. In our Maths lesson, we discussed the activities that we thought would take a second, minute, an hour or a week. The children timed themselves using stopwatches to see how long it took them to do basic tasks and compared it to estimations made prior.



Year 2S

This term Year 2 are learning about different countries from around the world. The children have been learning about finding differences and similarities between Norway and the UK. They have learnt to use an atlas, globe and the internet for their research.



Year 2Z

2Z had lots of fun baking their very own 'biscuit bear' based on the story 'Biscuit Bear' by Mini Grey. They decorated them according to the designs that they had made and they turned out really well. Well done, 2Z!



National Skipping Week

During the first week back after the Easter holidays, all of the children took part in National Skipping Week to try and do as many skips as possible.

Children could jump, star jump or skip to attempt to get Oaklands as high on the leader board as possible. From LK all the way to Year 6, boys and girls put plenty of effort and energy into various jumps and should be super proud of their efforts!

In the end they amassed a whopping 38,652 skips in total! Well done team Oaklands!



West Essex Mini-Tennis Tournament

Pupils from Years 3-6 took part in the West Essex School Sports Partnership Mini-Tennis Tournament at Theydon Bois Tennis Club recently. Some of the children had never even played tennis before and the progress they made from start to finish was incredible, when witnessing some of the play on show!

It was a great event with the boys and girls able to play plenty of singles matches against lots of schools in attendance.

Final results were;

Year 3 & 4 competition:

- 1st – Theydon Bois – 20 points
- 2nd – Buckhurst Hill – 15 points
- 3rd – St John's COFE – 14 points
- 4th – Oaklands & Epping Primary – 13 points
- 5th – Alderton Juniors – 0 points

Year 5 & 6 Competition:

- 1st – Theydon Bois – 16 points
- 2nd – Oaklands – 12 points
- 3rd – St John's COFE – 8 points
- 4th – White Bridge – 4 points
- 5th – Alderton Juniors – 0 points



Well done to Arjun, George, Ana, Chanel, Sammy, Max, Alice and Lucy for bringing home the silver medals and a great effort to just miss out on the bronze by a point by Alex, Ni'al, Annabelle, Margot, Thiaan, Jimmy, Evie and Jemima!

Year 3D

3D have been working very hard in English over the last few weeks. They have been learning about stories from other cultures and have enjoyed using drama within their English lessons to bring stories to life. They have also been practising their dictionary skills to enhance their vocabulary further to ensure that their writing is interesting for the reader.

Our new class book is 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' which the children have engaged with excellently. They have thought of lots of interesting predictions and can't wait to start our new writing topic next week.



Year 3C

Year 3 were amazed recently to discover that so much of the clothing we wear is woven, and 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 we will shortly begin weaving on circular looms.

The looms, usually used for embroidery, adapt extremely well to the children creating a warp (a series of spokes) through which it's possible to weave (weft) woollen thread. The process will require a degree of dexterity but once the children become used to the weft (weaving 'up and over' or 'under and through') they are likely to relish being able to create their own designs.



Year 1 and Year 2 Annual House Multi-Sports Competition

All Year 2 Pupils took part in the Annual House Multi-Sports Competition on the school playground and had a great time trying to score valuable points for their houses!

Final Results;

- 1st – Holly - 228 points
- 2nd – Beech - 206 points
- 3rd – Sycamore - 186 points
- 4th – Willow - 173 points



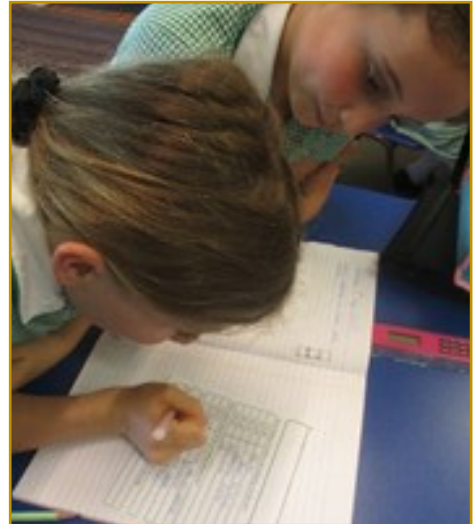
It was great to see so many smiley, happy faces when the Year 1's took part in the House Multi-Sports Competition. They had a great time, trying to score as many points as possible for their Houses in 8 fun sports activities. These included; tennis shot into the bucket, speed connect 4, football dribble and shoot and cricket knockdown challenge!



Year 4C

Year 4 have been looking at 4-figure grid references on Ordnance Survey Maps. They soon realized that these types of maps and grid references are similar to completing co-ordinates in Maths.

Once all the destinations were found, the children had to unscramble a hidden word and find that within the map. This proved tricky for some, but satisfactory for all when they found the hidden destination.



Year 5Z

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their Geography field trip to the River Lee Country Park. They were able to consolidate their learning by examining the natural features of the meandering river. The children had a great opportunity to observe and record both river features and birdlife within their natural habitat. They completed some detailed field sketches and used fair testing skills to measure flow rates. They recorded their findings using labelled diagrams and tables. The children developed their geographical skills using fieldwork to observe and measure the human and physical features in the local area by a range of methods. The children particularly enjoyed bird watching and made the most of the good weather whilst exploring the outdoors.





Coronation Celebrations



Year 4 and Year 5 Gilwell Residential visit

Year 4 & 5 pupils enjoyed the trip of a lifetime to Gilwell Adventure Centre, where they enjoyed countless fun activities. The sun was shining for the majority of the trip, and the days consisted of raft building, aeroball, low ropes, den building, archery, karting, climbing, assault courses, bug hunting, team-building and evening games.

Everyone had an incredible time, got on so well together, and made memories that will last a lifetime. Where to next?



On the last day of the trip, the pupils even got to take part in a fun coronation party, complete with props and party hats! 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.

Year 6 Residential PGL

Year 6 had the time of their lives on their recent residential PGL trip.

For some of the children it was the first time staying so far away from their parents, but the children made sure that every one of their friends felt comfortable and settled in.



The days were filled with fun, yet challenging activities that brought the year together and helped them develop teamwork skills. It was wonderful to see the children cheering each other on when it came to the more nerve-racking tasks!

Everyone got the chance to try fencing, archery, raft building, canoeing, high ropes, shelter building and fun group challenges like tower building and blindfolded walk.



Some children even braved the cold river water for a quick swim to shore after their canoeing!

It was a wonderful way for Year 6 to spend time together as one of their last trips at Oaklands School. It's safe to say that everyone made memories that will last them a lifetime!



ISA U7 Football Tournament

The recent U7 Football Tournament was a amazing day out for some of the Year 2 boys and they can be so, so proud of their efforts!

They won their 'Champions League' group comfortably, scoring a whopping 25 goals, qualifying for the Q finals! There, they showed their class once again winning 6-0. In the semi finals they won 2-1 to progress to the finals against Gatehouse School! They were fired up and ready but just fell short in the end, finishing runners up is magnificent achievement considering they haven't all played together before!

A big thank you to Mrs Davey, and all the Year 2 parents who made a great difference cheering on the team!

Last but not least, a massive well done to our super team of; Presley, Lennox, Arthur, Ethan, Teddy, Charlie, Aaron and Harry!



Upper Kindergarten Ladybird Biscuits

Upper Kindergarten made beautiful ladybird biscuits in class. First, they spread icing over their biscuit using a spoon, then gave the ladybirds their details. They looked so delicious; it's no surprise the children couldn't wait to take them home to eat!



Oak-Tree Festival

WOW - WHAT AN EVENING!

The Oak-Tree Festival 2023 was held on the evening of Tuesday 16 May, and what an event it was. All four of the Oak-Tree Schools came together for what is always one of the biggest events in the Oak-Tree calendar. Pupils, teachers and parents have been eagerly awaiting this ambitious project held at the City Pavilion in Collier Row, and it was a great success.

All children from Year 3 to Year 8 took part, as well as a few other senior musicians, making a total of around 370 pupils.

The programme was lively and varied, with singing performances, an orchestra, samba bands, soloists and much more. The children loved performing in front of such a large audience of around 600 parents and friends, even though it may have been slightly daunting at first!

It was a fantastic evening that helped to showcase the varied talent of the pupils from the Oak-Tree Schools. Well done everyone!

