

September 2023

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Headmistress's Message

A very busy start to the academic year! Years 1 to 6 started the Year with an assembly highlighting trusted adults in school and who to tell if they have concerns or worries. Our new children in Lower Kindergarten are settling well into school routines and enjoying lots of time learning and playing outside. Reception have also been outside a great deal and some took their mindfulness onto the field to begin their Jigsaw programme last week. Our most exciting news so far this year, has been the appointment of our Crossing Patrol Warden, Kim. We are thrilled this has happened so that parents and children can cross the busy High Road safely. Finally, a huge thank you from me and from the Whitechapel mission for your generous Harvest donations that will make such a difference to the lives of many homeless people across London.

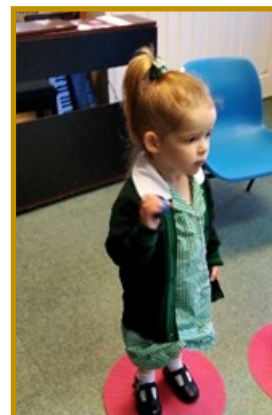
Welcome Back

Welcome back to all our staff and children at Oaklands. We started our day with singing our Oaklands School song and the new Year 6 Prefects were introduced to KS1 and KS2. We wish you all a fantastic term.



Lower Kindergarten

Our new children have begun to settle into Lower Kindergarten. They are beginning to show more confidence in saying goodbye, exploring their new environment and have started to build relationships with their peers and teachers. They are learning our classroom rules and also how to move around the school with their new friends. The children have participated in their first music lesson with Mrs Rathbone and PE lesson with Ms Taylor.



The children learnt all about the Jewish festival 'Rosh Hashanah'. We spoke about how people might celebrate with their families and what kind of food they would eat during the celebration. To reinforce this, the children were offered some delicious apple and honey for snack. The majority of the children tried it with most of them asking for seconds! The children then took part in some apple printing with red and green paint.



Upper Kindergarten

The children have had a lovely few weeks settling into Upper Kindergarten. They have started to settle into their new classroom and learn the daily routines. Most of the children have shown great confidence in saying goodbye, and exploring their new environment. Our new children are being shown how to move around the school with the help of their new friends.

The children have also enjoyed having their lunch in the 'big hall' like lots of their siblings.



Reception Owls

Owls have settled well into the routines of their new class. They have participated in circle times to help learn the names of their new friends, shared and learned facts about owls, worked collaboratively to collage a large owl and enjoyed Music, French, Computing and PE lessons alongside maths and literacy activities. They have also ventured outside on shape and number hunts.



Reception Woodpeckers

After this week's assembly where Miss Francis introduced the school's Jigsaw PSE programme using mindfulness, the children enjoyed their first Jigsaw lesson outside on the grass. We focussed on breathing during Calm Me Time and taking turns speaking during circle time. During the lesson, we discussed how it feels to belong and how we are all similar and different. Each child then identified what made them a special part of Woodpeckers.



Reception Robins

In their first week at school, Robin class explored the school to find different locations. Here they are in the playground, the Wild Woods.



Computing

Our Woodpeckers, Owls and Robins in the reception classes have been honing their computing skills, learning how to control the mouse. They have created some amazing designs using the programme DAZZLE.



Crossing Patrol Warden

Welcome to our new Crossing Warden, who is doing an excellent job keeping our pupils safe. Mrs Ash visited the pupils during assembly to discuss road safety and her new role with Oaklands.



Year 1V

In Year 1, we have been learning about our 5 senses in Science. We tested our sense of taste and described each one. We tasted a piece of lemon, water biscuit, skittles and salty crisp. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experiment and were able to differentiate taste from texture.



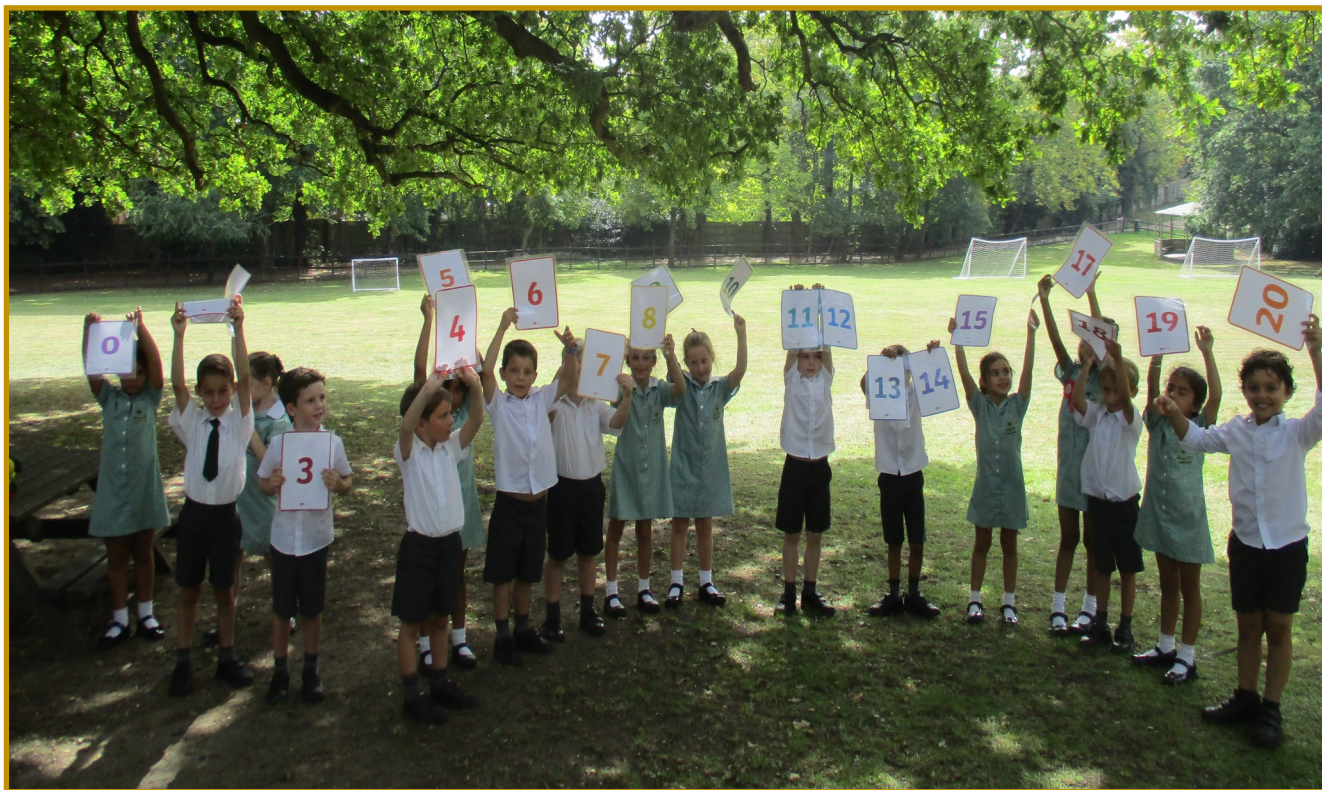
Year 1C

1C have had a week of amazing addition and super subtraction! We practised using different methods to add and subtract to 20, such as counting objects, using our fingers or using number lines. We also learnt how to write ordinal numbers and put the children in order in the queue at the 'bus stop'; from 1st to 20th! It's just as well 1C are getting so good at lining up in order; it meant we could count ourselves much quicker and check we were in the right place.



Year 2Z

2Z enjoyed outdoor learning with their Maths lesson



Year 2S

In our PSHE lesson 2S were learning about rights and responsibilities. The children worked in groups to decide the different responsibilities each picture showed and then they ranked the cards in order of importance. They all worked well as a team.



Year 3 Camp

Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic couple of days with Summit Rocks Camp, completing fun, enjoyable and also challenging activities over two days. Activities included a treasure hunt, learning how to use flints to start a fire, code breakers, putting up their own tents and most excitingly for the children, night-time hot chocolate and marshmallows around a camp fire.

The pupils were in mixed groups alongside Normanhurst, Coopersale Hall and Braeside, making new friends and making memories along the way! Well done to everyone who completed both days and those who stayed overnight in their tents. All the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and some even want to do more camping in the near future!



Year 3CA

In Year 3CA, we have been thinking about democracy and how we can use that to put in our votes for school and eco council reps. Any child who wished to be put forward gave a 30 second speech as to why they should be considered. Lots of excellent ideas and thoughts went into each speech. A huge congratulations to the four children who were elected into school and eco council roles.



Year 3CO

In English, Year 3 have been reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and inspired by the book have invented their own chocolate to be sold in Willy Wonka's Factory. They have worked hard to include lots of powerful vocabulary and find synonyms for their word choices. They used real chocolate so that they could think of adjectives for each of the five senses. At the end of the lesson, Year 3 were very happy as they were able to eat some chocolate!



Year 4C

At the end of the last academic year the children did a tremendous job exploring the different types of volcanoes that exist around the world; why it is they form and how they function. Some members of Year 4 chose to construct their own volcano models which they were keen to erupt on their return to school. You will be pleased to hear that no children or animals were harmed by lava flows or falling rocks.



Year 5Z

Pupils in 5Z have a better understanding of British Values after participating in School Council and Eco-Council this term. The classroom became a polling station and the candidates had to explain why they were suited to the role of councillor. The children spoke confidently and used persuasive language to strengthen their argument. After using the ballot box to cast their votes, the results were announced with Sianna and Arianna being voted as our Eco-Councillors and Jude and Annabelle being voted as our School Councillors. Well done to all our candidates and to everyone who voted!



Year 6G

The Year 6 class have just started studying a graphic novel called, 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan.

As a cross curricular activity, the children learnt all about the art of origami and then practised their skills by making an origami dove in their art lesson. The significance of the dove will become apparent as we continue studying the novel in our English lessons.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Whitechapel Mission. The whole school enjoyed learning about the role of this organisation which has been serving the homeless in London since 1876. As part of SMSC and PSHE, Tony Miller led a fascinating assembly explaining the importance of this charity and how we can all make a difference in the wider world.



Extra Curricular Clubs

Extra Curricular Clubs have got off to a flying start and everyone is settling in and enjoying all their activities

