



# Oaklands School

**Newsletter**



# Headmistress's Message

---



I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful activities the children have undertaken in the past few weeks. Once again, we have used our outside space to explore elements of English and other subjects.

I am extremely proud of the conduct of all children who have ventured away from the main site. Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their adventure to St. Paul’s using the Central line, staying with their nominated adult and listening carefully to instructions on a busy train.

Once again we have entered and played extremely well in a wide range of sporting fixtures.

Well done everyone.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Copeman'.

Mrs Gretchen Copeman

# Table of Contents

---

<b>1 - 8</b>	Early Years
<b>9 - 10</b>	Key Stage 1
<b>11 - 16</b>	Key Stage 2
<b>17 - 20</b>	Specialist Lessons
<b>21 - 22</b>	Charities
<b>23 - 26</b>	Educational Visits
<b>27 - 30</b>	Extra-curricular Clubs
<b>31 - 38</b>	Sports



## Lower Kindergarten

As part of their topic on Birthday's the children in Lower Kindergarten were invited to Mr Ted's birthday party, they had lots of party food and played pass the parcel. The children did very well passing the parcel around the circle and stopping when the music stops. Each child got to unwrap one layer of wrapping and take their chocolate treat. At home time they each had their own party bag.



Lower Kindergarten made some delicious cupcakes. The children followed Mrs Sherrin's instructions, mixing all of the ingredients together and spooning the mixture into a cake case. Once cooked, came the fun part, the decorating! The children chose how to decorate their fairy cake by adding icing and sprinkles.



## Upper Kindergarten

During a recent Wildwoods session, the children listened to the story of 'Stick Man'. The children were asked to go and collect a stick for each member of their family. We discussed whether each stick would be the same size or would our mummy and daddy stick be bigger. Afterwards the children explored the different areas of the woods, including looking for bugs, cooking in the mud kitchen, playing in the digging area and finally, having a go on the rope swing!



During circle time, we discussed what makes a good friend and how we can be a good friend to others. The children also listened to a few songs about friendships and watched a short Sesame Street video on how to be a good friend. The children then had the opportunity to create a picture of themselves and their friends. Each child was then asked to name their friends and to tell us what they enjoyed doing with their friends. The pictures were beautiful and we were given some lovely answers such as "They share with me" and "They give me cuddles".





## Reception Robins

In Reception Robins, the children have started learning about their new topic 'Autumn festivals'. The children learnt about Bonfire night and the story behind Guy Fawkes. The children thoroughly enjoyed making their own fireworks using a range of resources such as paint, leaves, sticks and 2D shapes.



Robins have also been practising their Fine Motor Skills. This week during handwriting they focused on their ladder letters!



## Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers have been working on recognising numbers 1-10. The children collected lots of leaves and conkers and then made their own number line.





## Reception Owls

Having learned about the story of Guy Fawkes and why we celebrate on 5 November, Owls worked collaboratively on this large scale firework picture. Brushes and cotton wool pieces were available to apply the paint which needed to be 'runny' according to one child in order to make the desired splatter effects.

Once it was dry they all had the opportunity to add some more paint effects along with some glitter sparkles! It looks great and will be used as the background for our Autumn Festival display.



Owls were challenged to make a house of sticks for the 3 Little Pigs to live in. A selection of resources such as paper, card, craft sticks, skewers, glue and sellotape were available and children were also able to ask for other things that they felt they needed. The process involved lots of thinking, trying, adapting, persevering and at times for some children, frustration.

The end results were all so different, as the pictures show! Well done Owls for not giving up and producing houses that the 3 Little Pigs would love to live in.





# Key Stage 1

## Year 1C

Year 1 went on a walk around the local area to look at all the different styles of houses we have in Loughton. They looked closely at all the different features and learnt the names of them, such as bungalow, semi-detached and terraced. Lots of the children could identify a house that was the same style as their own. We also looked at what other buildings were on the High Street and what buildings were needed to make a town, such as shops, a train station, supermarkets and churches. The children impressed the staff with their behaviour, even though they were “exhausted” and felt like they had “walked to Australia”!



## Year 1W



In class 1W, the children have been exploring Autumn objects. They took their learning outside, collecting conker shells, fallen leaves and tree bark. Children were invited to think about descriptive words for these items, describing the thick, oozy mud and spikey, colourful conker shells. We used our senses and gathered ideas, before writing a poem. Pupils confidently and eloquently presented their poem to the class.



1W enjoyed a visit from the Key Stage 2 Reading Ambassadors. The children picked their favourite books for the Reading Ambassadors to read and listened closely to their stories.

## Year 2Z

2Z have been reading the story ‘The Flat Rabbit’ in their English lessons. After creating their own animal characters, the children then went outside and brought their characters to life using the natural resources that they could find on the field. Well done, 2Z!



## Year 2S

In PSHE 2S have been learning about stereotypes and the assumptions about boys and girls. The children had to listen to the statements and decide if they agreed with them. The children then gave reasons to justify their answers.

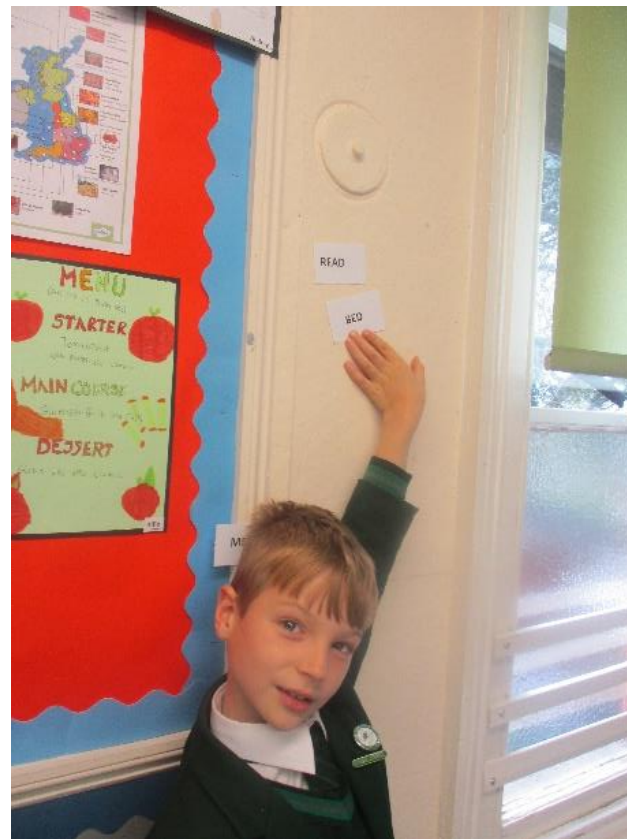




## Year 3C Going on a Pair Hunt!

This half term 3C have looked at different forms of poetry. One of which was looking at rhyming words. The children started off with one word and their matching rhyming word was stuck up in the classroom.

They had to walk around and find their matching partner. It was difficult for some as there were some tricky and similar sounding words they could have matched with. The children found all their partner words and used them correctly in their work!



## Year 3V

In D&T, Year 3 made their very own chocolate in class and topped them with some yummy sprinkles of their choice. They also designed a box with lots of bright colours to appeal to their target audience, after conducting market research.





## Year 4C

In French, the children have been learning how to describe their daily routine, and other people.

Colours and months of the year have also been revised so that the children are able to describe themselves, talk about what they like and don't like, when their birthday is, and when others in their family have birthdays.

All of the children are speaking French with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation.

To continue to hone their skills you could visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty> for a collection of clips covering counting, games, food and drink: [http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/mfl/mfl\\_french.htm](http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/mfl/mfl_french.htm) has activities and games which touch on numbers, letters, colours, the weather and animals.



## Year 4D

This week in Year 4, our PSHE lesson focuses on an essential theme: how our actions and behaviours affect those around us. The students engaged in role-playing scenarios that highlighted various interactions, helping them explore the emotional and social consequences of their choices.

Through these activities, children demonstrated empathy and learned to recognize different perspectives. They practiced responding thoughtfully in various situations, reinforcing the importance of kindness and consideration in everyday interactions. It was heart-warming to see them grasp how even small actions can make a significant difference in someone else's day.

Overall, this lesson not only fostered valuable social skills but also encouraged our Year 4 students to become more mindful individuals in their community. We look forward to seeing how they apply these insights in their daily lives!





## Year 5Z

In Year 5 the children have been looking at properties of 3D shapes. They have explored different shapes by using interlocking cubes to build structures with a view from the top, front and side. This was a fantastic practical lesson.



## Year 6M

Year 6 were fortunate enough to have a very special visitor recently. They have been studying World War 2 and were covering the topic of Evacuees. Mrs Booth's dad, Mr Joslin, spent an afternoon telling the children all about how he was an evacuee during World War 2. He described many experiences and recalled many facts, talking about the air-raid sirens, having to blackout the family home's windows, spending time in the Anderson shelter and told us that his father was an air-raid warden, which at the time was a huge responsibility. He brought in many artefacts including a ration book, photographs and a replica gas mask. Year 6 really enjoyed the visit and asked him many interesting questions that he willingly answered. A truly fantastic history lesson!



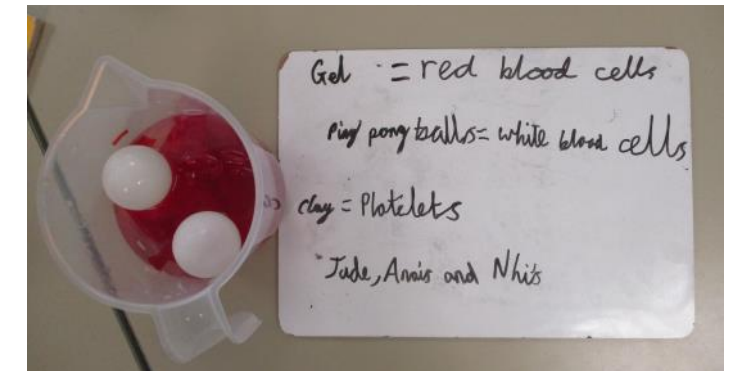
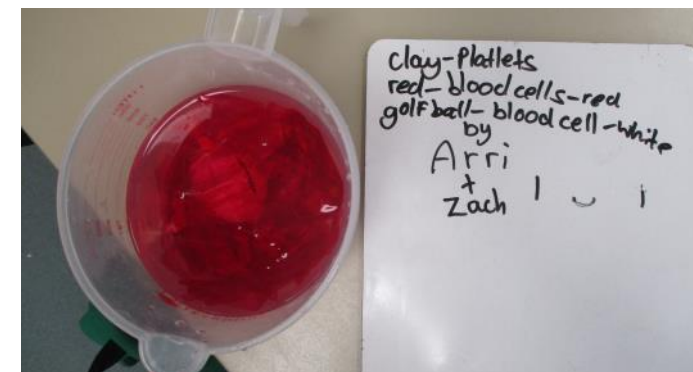


## Science in Year 1



Year 1 investigated what life would be like if they were missing their sense of sight. The class took it in turns to be blind-folded and have to be guided to an object by another pupil. They then discussed why losing one of our senses can make life harder, particularly if it was our sense of sight or hearing. The classes discussed that they felt they needed to walk more slowly and carefully when blind-folded as they were worried about bumping into things.

## Science in Year 6



After learning about the different components that make up our blood, Year 6 attempted to make their own blood mixtures, using a range of different materials. They had to choose which material was best to represent each of the blood components. Those groups who selected well, even managed to create the right colour, using their cellophane red blood cells.

## ICT



In ICT Year 4 have been learning about internet safety. Class 4D created a digital footprint, showing all the websites and applications they use. The children learnt that their data is tracked through cookies when online.



## Science Week

Recently, as part of Science Week Years 1 – 6 have been focusing on Space in our Science lessons.

Each class has been finding out about women who have played an important role in space exploration. Year 1 and 2 found out all about Mae Jemison and used this to inspire some art work. Year 1 created images of space, thinking about what Mae might have seen on her journey on the Endeavour Spaceship. Year 2 then drew the Endeavour spaceship itself or



Year 5 were busy during Science week. They have worked on space projects at home, some of the class had a go at creating their own planets, whilst others made models of our own solar system. The level of creativity and effort was fantastic, well done Year 5!



## Art

Mrs Christofi was lucky enough to be able to present some of our Oaklands children's art work in the ISA London North Art Competition recently. The standard of work was extremely high but two of our entrees were Highly Commended for their art work: Harvey in 4C for his volcanic eruption painting and the class of 2Z who won for their "Tin Forest" that they made when they were in 1C last summer. Well done children!





## Harvest Festival



As a school we gathered for our Harvest Festival assembly, celebrating the spirit of giving and community. We were visited by Tony Miller from the Whitechapel Mission, who many will remember from our prizegiving ceremony in July, who shared inspiring stories about the importance of supporting those in need.

During the assembly, the children learned about the impact of their contributions, as we collected donations of non-perishable food items and other essential supplies. The outpouring of generosity was remarkable, reflecting our school's commitment to helping others.

Thank you to our pupils and families who participated in this event. Your kindness will make a meaningful difference in the lives of many.



## Comfy Clothes Day

Our school community came together for a heartwarming event: Comfy Clothes Day in Celebration of World Mental Health Day. Students and staff traded in their uniforms for cosy clothes, all in support of the charity Place2Be, which provides mental health support to children and families.

The atmosphere was filled with smiles as everyone embraced the chance to dress down for a great cause. From fluffy slippers to oversized sweaters, the day was all about comfort and compassion. Our fundraising efforts were a tremendous success, raising over £195 to support Place2Be's vital services.

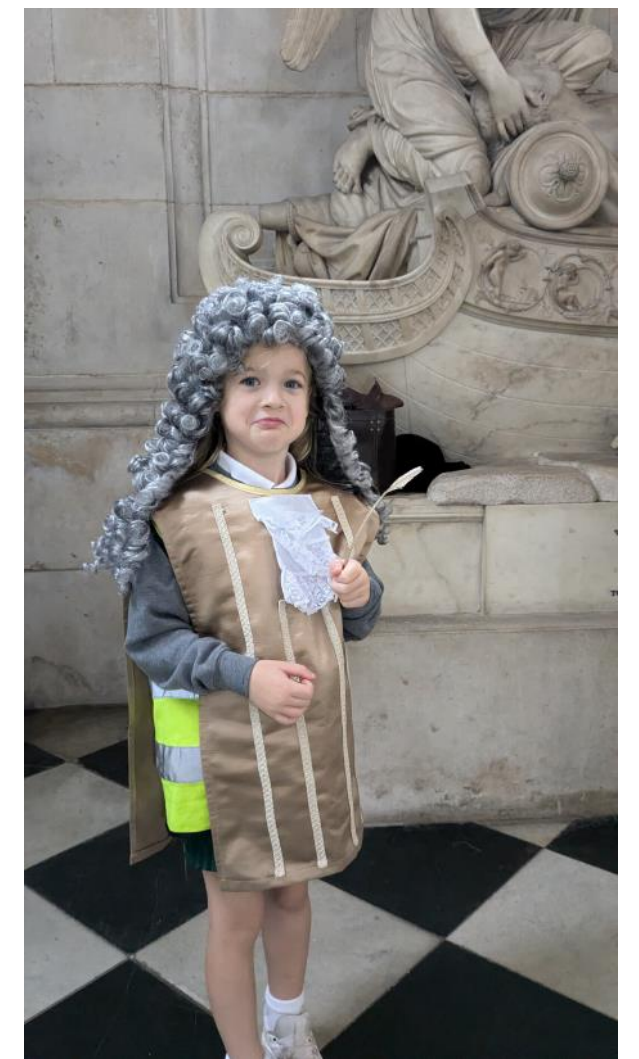
A special assembly was led by Mr Paine, along with our Mental Health Lead and Wellbeing Ambassadors. They shared inspiring messages about the importance of mental health and how we can all contribute to a supportive community.

Thank you to everyone who participated and donated. Your generosity will help ensure that children facing mental health challenges receive the support they need. We're proud of our school community for coming together and making a positive impact!





## Year 2 trips to St Paul's Cathedral



Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful trip to St Paul's Cathedral in London for their Humanities topic 'The Great Fire of London'. They were able to see models of the previous versions of the Cathedral before they were burnt down and some statues that were destroyed in the Fire. The children also looked up into the dome and had a tour of the Cathedral. One of the highlights was the whispering gallery although they had to climb over 200 steps! Year 2 were fantastic ambassadors for Oaklands when travelling on the London Underground and had a fantastic day out.





## Year 5 trip to Royal Gunpowder Mills



Year 5 enjoyed discovering what life was like in Victorian Britain and explored how changes to work, education and leisure shaped the world we live in today. Through an exciting and interactive performance, pupils met Henry Gaunt, a Victorian employee at the Royal Gunpowder Mills.

The learnt about why this place was a site of local, regional, national and international significance. They examined historical objects, explored the site and investigated what Victorian buildings, structures and artefacts could tell us about the past. It was an enjoyable visit and the children did exceptionally well as history detectives.



## Year 4 trip to the Hunting Lodge



We are thrilled to share the highlights from our most recent trip to the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge in Year 4. The children had an incredible time immersing themselves into the fascinating world of the Tudors.

Dressed in Tudor costumes, the children felt like they had stepped back in time as they explored the beautifully restored Tudor house in Chingford. They discovered the unique features of each floor, learning about the different activities that took place in the various rooms. From the kitchens where meals were prepared to the living spaces where families gathered and hosted grand dinner parties, the children really gained a deeper understanding of Tudor daily life.

The trip also included engaging discussions about the types of food consumed during the Tudor period, sparking curiosity and lively conversations among the children. This hands-on experience truly brought history to life, enriching our classroom studies.





## Netball Club

In Netball club the children have been practising with a combination of drills and short games. The children have been spending half of the time working on drills before they swap and play in their positions on the court. The children have been enjoying developing their Netball skills.



## KS1 Football Club

Over this half term, Football club have been practicing their skills of passing, dribbling, shooting and tackling. This is then put to practice in their match scenarios at the end of most sessions. The children are enjoying learning these skills and looking forward to learning a lot more as the weeks go on.





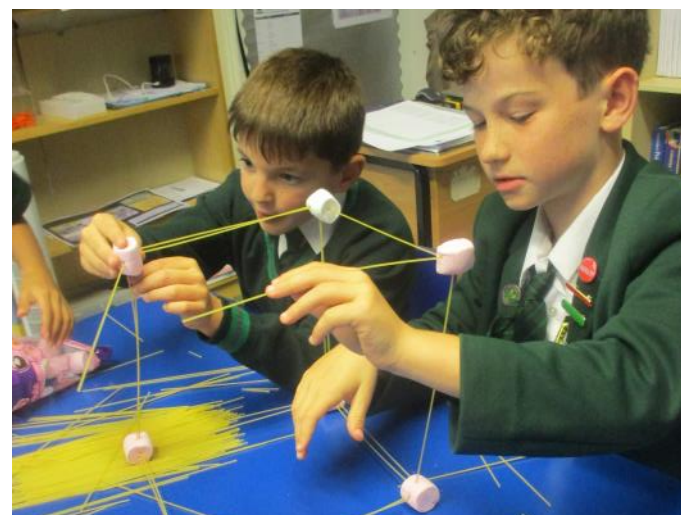
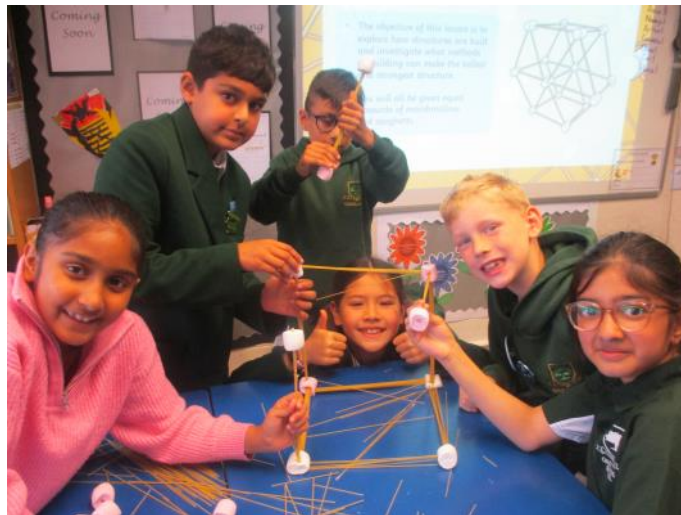
# Extra-curricular Clubs

## STEM

This month, our Year 3 to 6 children in the afterschool STEM Club engaged in an exciting tower building challenge! Working in mixed small teams, they competed to construct the tallest and sturdiest towers using only spaghetti and marshmallows, all within a 10-minute time limit. Each team approached the task with unique strategies, experimenting with different designs and tactics.

As they faced the challenge of fragile spaghetti snapping under pressure, the children discussed potential improvements for next time, such as using sturdier materials like sticks from the field or match sticks. This hands-on activity not only sparked creativity and teamwork but also encouraged critical thinking about structural integrity.

We invite parents to ask their children what strategies they think could enhance the strength of their structures in future challenges



## Smart Raspberry Cookery Club



Our young chefs have enjoyed preparing, and tasting, a variety of different recipes in Smart Raspberry Cookery Club.





## Oak-Tree U9 Football Tournament



Pupils from Years 3 and 4 took part in the first ever U9 Oak-Tree Football Tournament on the Oaklands playing fields on Wednesday 25 September.

There was some excellent football on show, with Oaklands displaying the vast array of talent that the school has throughout the year groups, by winning the tournament.

Final results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Oaklands – 10 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Coopersale – 6 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Normanhurst – 2 points

A massive well done to Arthur, Lennox, Oscar, Sartaj, Ammar, Archer and Jovan from Year 4, as well as Denim, Brady, Ethan and Alfie from Year 3!

## Oak-Tree U9 Netball Tournament



Pupils from Year 4 have been honing their passing and receiving, movement and marking and shooting skills since joining Netball club, practicing for the first ever U9 Oak-Tree High 5 Netball Tournament on the Oaklands playground on Wednesday 25 September.

In some very close matches; the Year 4s learnt the game as the afternoon went on, improving their game play, and can be proud of their performances!

Final results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Braeside 15 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Coopersale 9 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Normanhurst 9 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Oaklands 3 points

A huge well done to Poppy, Amelia, Rabani, Harper, Isla, Sienna, Margot, Freya and Zuri.



## Year 2 Football



Our young heroes did Oaklands proud in West Essex School Sports Partnership Football Festival!

Pupils from Year 1 and 2, made the very exciting and noisy mini-bus trip to Shooters, in North Weald for the WESSP Football Festival on Friday 27 September.

There were goals galore, tackles aplenty, and amazing sportsmanship and fun had by all our incredible children.

Our Year 2 team consisting of; Taylor, Raeham, Luca, Mikail, Hayden, Daniel and Avi managed to finish runners-up after scoring an unbelievable 21 goals in their previous 4 games, winning all of them on the way to the final.

Our young Year 1 team, have only just started their football journey, and Avlok, Zaydan, Joshua W, Diyen, Aidan and Ethan played very well as a team, and finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall, with plenty of highlights shown in their matches.

Well done to all of our football heroes!

## U11 Tag-Rugby Tournament



On Wednesday 2 October, Pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in a Triangular Tag-Rugby Tournament along with Coopersale and Howe Green House School. HGHS kindly hosted us, and all of our amazing pupils removed tags, defended unbelievably well as a wall, and jinked and twisted their way to the try line scoring some great tries!

Final Results:

A team –  
Oaklands 9 – 9 HGHS  
Oaklands 11 – 4 Coopersale  
Coopersale 6 – 8 HGHS

B team –  
Oaklands 5 – 6 HGHS  
Oaklands 6 – 4 Coopersale  
Coopersale 7 – 6 HGHS

Very well done to Denzel, Alex, Rufus, Archie, Ethan, Annabelle, Winnie and Daniella in Year 6, as well as Jimmy, Eddie, Thiaan, Oscar, Jemima I and Alyssia in Year 5.



## ISA London North Cross Country Championships



12 of our most talented cross-country runners showcased their talent at the recent ISA London North Cross Country Championships at Abbots Hill School in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

They all must have had their Weetabix, or an equivalent, as they all ran their socks off, in what was a very tough course indeed.

Every single one of them finished in the top half of their field, which is fantastic, seeing how many talented runners there were across over 20 schools competing.

Special praise to Annabelle, Jimmy, Margot, and Alfie who all finished in the top 12 places, and qualify for the National Finals, which take place next year!

Well done to Alfie, Denim, James, Margot, Poppy, Jimmy, Eddie, Alex, Jude, Annabelle, Winnie and Daniella.

## ISA National Sailing Regatta



Jude from 6M represented Oaklands yet again in the recent ISA National Sailing Regatta at Draycote Water. Jude was awarded “Most Impressive Capsize” as he managed to turtle the boat before race 1 but still endured the cold, being wet, for all 4 races - as well as staying upright when it mattered!

Jude showed his tenacity and unwavering (no pun intended) potential in this sport, and everyone at Oaklands couldn't be more proud! Amazing effort Jude!





## Oak-Tree U11 Netball Tournament



The U11 Oaklands Netball team took part in the annual Oak-Tree U11 Netball Tournament on the Oaklands Astro. There was some great play throughout, with all the girls playing some excellent netball.

Winnie, Anais and Kasie were great in the shooting areas, scoring plenty of goals. The marking, defending, passing and teamwork from Annabelle, Isabella, Arri, Evie, Alyssia and Jemima was also instrumental in how the team performed, and they all went home very happy after an exhilarating afternoon.

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Oaklands 13 points (scored 14, conceded 2)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Braeside 13 points (scored 8, conceded 3)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Coopersale Hall 7 points (scored 6, conceded 11)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Normanhurst 3 points (scored 2, conceded 14)

## Oak-Tree U11 Football Tournament



Pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in the annual Oak-Tree U11 Football Tournament on Tuesday 15 October.

The boys were off first against Coopersale Hall, and it was a great game, contested very evenly with lots of good play on show. It was Oscar who got the winning goal, nodding in from Alex's pinpoint corner. Next up was Normanhurst, and the team play was magnificent, as every player was involved in good build up play, attacking and defending as a team! They managed to win 7-0 and took the trophy back to Oaklands. Alex scored a great hat-trick, Archie with a thunderbolt, Ethan with a lovely goal from a well-worked move, Eddie from distance, and Denzel with an overhead bicycle kick in the top corner!

Well done to Denzel, Alex, Ethan, Archie, Jimmy, Eddie, Thiaan and Oscar!





**Tap and give us a follow on our  
social media accounts**