



Oaklands School

Newsletter

Headmistress's Message



What a busy last few weeks of our Autumn Term culminating in all things Christmas.

We have spent a lot of time out and about in our local area, posting letters, competing in sports competitions, visiting our elderly neighbours and travelling on the train to watch an orchestra!

The children have conducted themselves admirably on all occasions and members of our local community often comment on the fantastic behaviour of Oaklands pupils.

In the middle of their exam preparation Year 6 found time to make the most wonderful Christmas post boxes, and the younger pupils have thoroughly enjoyed using them.

I am looking forward to seeing what the first few weeks of our Spring Term bring. I wish you all a happy restful holiday.

With best wishes

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

Mrs. Gretchen Copeman

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Lower Kindergarten

Some of the children in Lower Kindergarten had a lovely treat when they caught the bus to Loughton High Street and went to Costa for a babyccino and cookie. The children were very excited going on the bus and whilst walking down the High Street staff encouraged the children to tell them what they could see. One child was very good at spotting a dumper truck. Once in Costa, the children sat beautifully drinking their babyccinos and eating their cookies.



Upper Kindergarten



The children in Upper Kindergarten had lots of fun making some 'Magical Reindeer food'. The children had to follow the recipe and add the oats, dried fruit, sprinkles and of course lots of glitter to their bag. Finally, they had to give their bag a good shake to mix all the ingredients together. The children were very excited to take their food home and are looking forward to sprinkling it in their garden on Christmas Eve.



Reception Robins

In Reception Robins, the children have been enjoying writing their letters to Santa. The children used their phonics knowledge to sound out the words they could hear. The children then walked sensibly to the post box and posted their letters to Santa.

The children have also been practising their fine motor skills reviewing their numbers 0-9 and practising ladder and caterpillar letters. During Topic lessons, the children have continued to explore Autumn festivals. The children have engaged well with our Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations. Well done Robins!



Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers wrote letters to Santa with their Christmas list. We then walked to the post box on Warren Hill to post them. The children are so excited to see what Santa brings them on Christmas morning!



Reception Owls

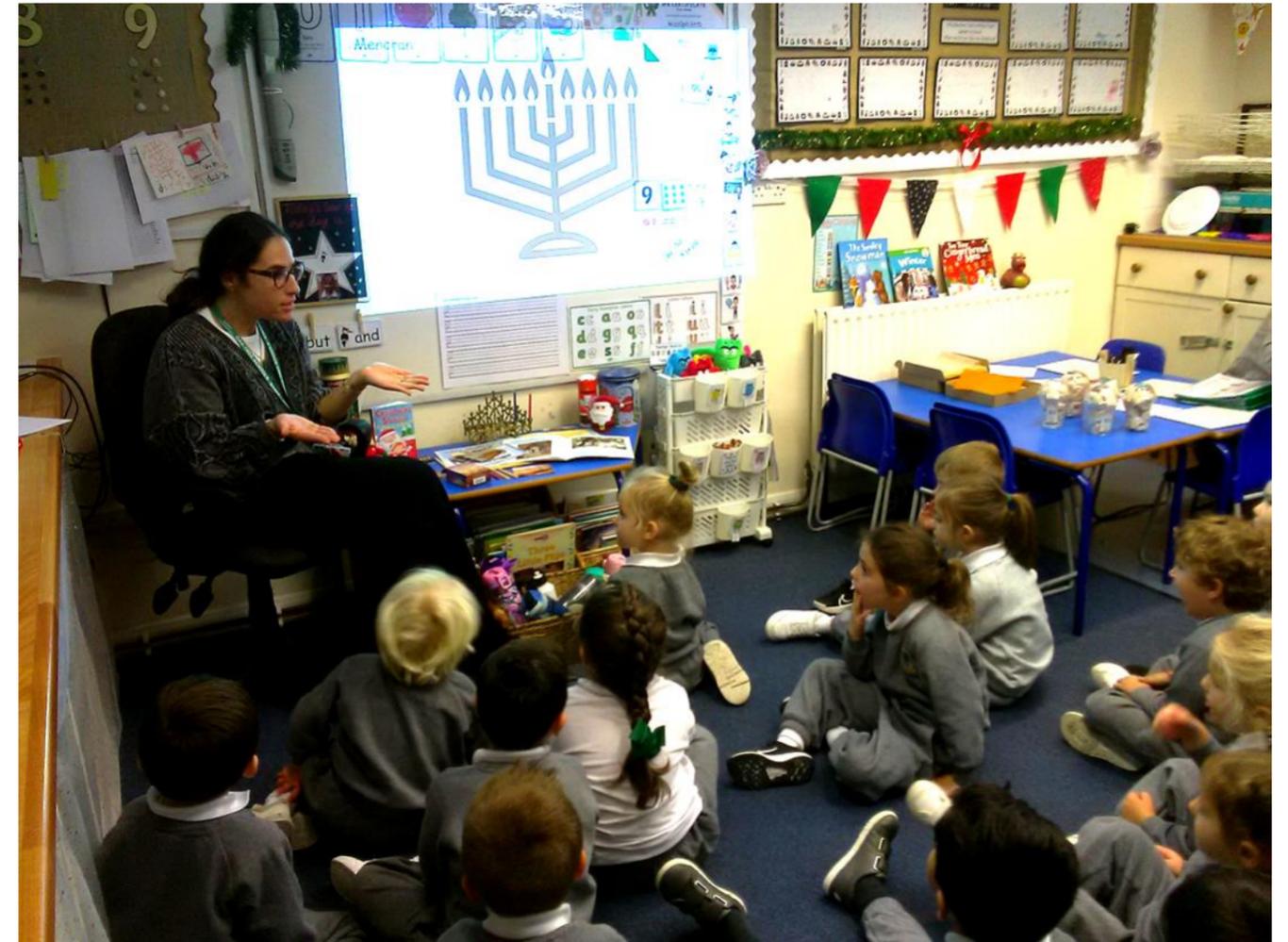
In Wild Woods this week, Owls went on a walk to collect small sticks in preparation for a craft activity. Back in class, with adult help, the sticks were joined to make a Christmas tree shape. Then it was time for everyone to individualise their own tree using wool, ribbons, stickers and pom poms.

Lots of patience was needed, which was tricky at times but everyone loved their finished trees.



Reception Hanukkah celebration

All of Reception shared a lesson about Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of light. They discussed the miracle of the oil burning for 8 days and each year Jewish people celebrate 8 days of Chanukah. Jewish people eat foods cooked in oil such as donuts so all the children got to eat a yummy donut!



Year 1C

1C have been learning and making heraldic shields as part of their Castles topic. We learnt that during Tudor times, important families would have their own crest, or coat of arms that would have been unique to them.

A Herald's job was to ensure every knight had his own shield just for him with his own colour, coat of arms and animals on. Each animal (called a supporter) represented something about that person or their family, for example; a lion represented courage and was associated with royalty, a bear was a symbol of bravery and healing, and a dragon was a guardian of treasure – the bravest of all. The colours chosen symbolised different things too, for example; black was knowledge, green was joy and hope, and red was the colour of wealth or a warrior.

1C carefully chose their colours, designs and supporters for their shield to make sure their shield was unique and represented them. After they had made their shield, the final part was to design and make a handle for the back.



Year 1W

Leading up to Christmas, class 1W have been reading The Snowman. After sequencing the story and creating a story map, they brought their English lesson to life and acted out the story. Pupils were split into groups and each group were given a section of the story to perform. Some pupils chose to use dance, some mime and others song. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing such creativity on display!



Year 1

Classes 1W and 1C listened to Miss Wood talk about Remembrance Day and why we wear a poppy. They discussed how it honours those who fought at that time and the red poppy is a sign of hope for a peaceful future. Pupils were fascinated that jelly babies were initially called peace babies to mark the end of fighting and wowed by pictures of Miss Wood's great grandparents when they were children. After an interactive discussion, pupils wrote a fact about Remembrance Day on each petal of a poppy and coloured it in. Mrs Christofi and Miss Wood displayed the finished work outside the Y1 classrooms.



Year 2Z



In their D&T lesson, 2Z have been designing their own windmill. They challenged themselves to stick to a theme and thought about the challenges that they may face. They are looking forward to seeing their designs come to life when they make their windmills. Well done, 2Z!

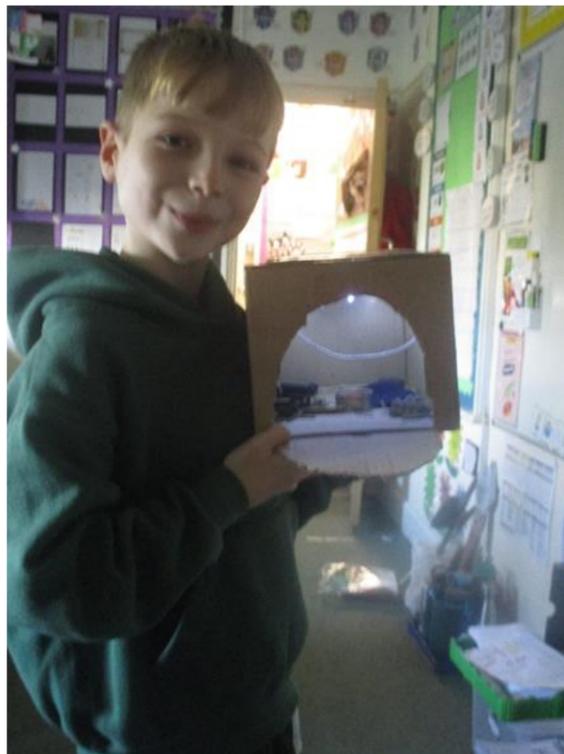
Year 2S

In their RE lessons 2S have been learning all about the 'Christmas story'. The children sequenced the events and added the captions to the pictures.



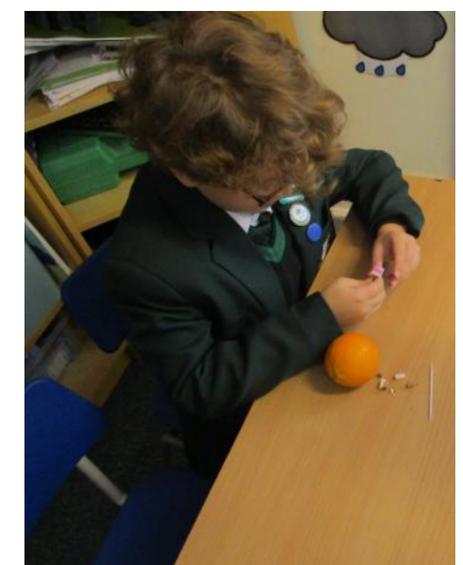
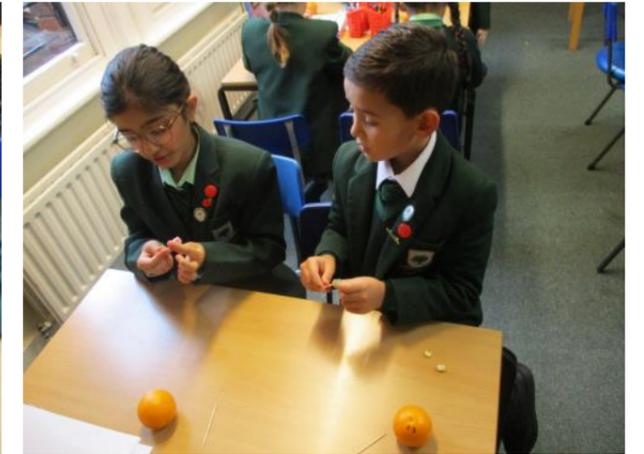
Year 3C

In Topic this half term, Year 3 have been looking at the Stone Age, thinking about how they lived, what food they ate and the evolution of Stone Age weaponry. During this term, the children created wonderful Stone Age projects ranging from a cave, to weaponry to even an item of clothing! They presented their projects really well.



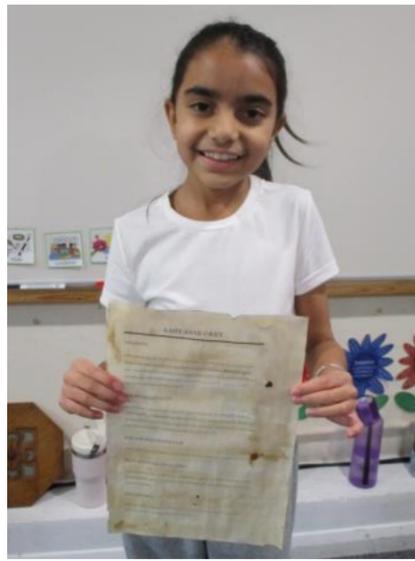
Year 3V

In Year 3, we have been studying Christianity in RE in the lead up to Christmas. We have looked at Christmas traditions and why certain items are related as well as what they symbolise. We began creating our own Christingle this week and now have an understanding of what the candle, sweets/fruit, the orange and red ribbon represent.



Year 4C

Year 4 have really enjoyed presenting their Topic homework. Some of the children created intricately detailed Tudor costumes, in the style of those we know existed between 1485 and 1603; while others explored the life of key figures such as Lady Jane Grey and Anne Boleyn; the threats posed by the Spanish Armada; or made Shrewsbury biscuits which were very much enjoyed by the nobility.



This month, the children in 4D have enjoyed exploring a range of exciting topics. In preparation for the Christmas Carol Service, the children have been learning about pre-Christmas Swedish traditions and the pupils had a great time painting the Swedish flag for the service. In Maths, they've been focusing on area, and the children used sticky notes in a hands-on way to calculate different areas of shapes. In English, they've been developing their descriptive writing skills. Pupils applied what they've learned in their SPaG lessons to write detailed character descriptions. It's been a month full of creativity, exploration, and growth!



Year 5Z

The pupils in Year 5 have enjoyed studying the Victorians this term. They have travelled back in time with their Victorian passports to research different areas including nineteenth century art, architecture, education, literature and the electoral system. The children also worked hard on Victorian inventions and were confident, well-articulated and enthusiastic when making knowledge-based presentations to the class. This process helps pupils to build confidence and develop communication skills whilst exploring a topic of interest to them.



Year 6M

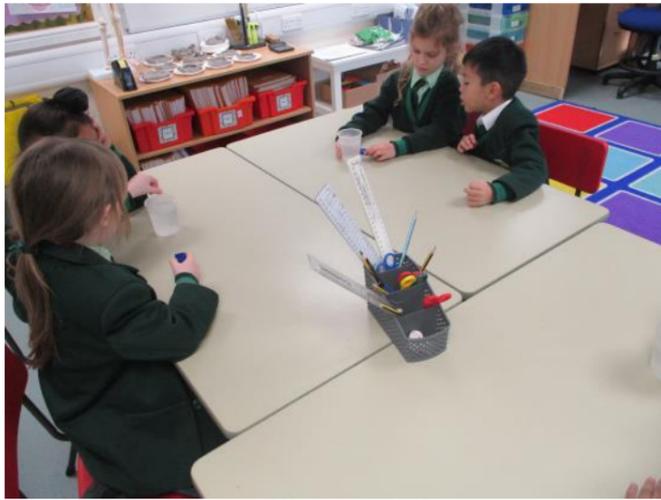
Year 6 brought in their post boxes that they had made for each class to post their Christmas cards. These were completed as a homework project and we had to design, construct and decorate them in a Christmas theme, in line with our Oaklands tradition whereby our prefects make a Christmas post box for their assigned class. We really enjoyed completing the project and hope that they were well received!



Science in Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about magnetic materials. As part of this they were set a challenge of removing a paperclip from a cup full of water, without getting their hands or their magnet wet.

Well done to all of the pupils who successfully rescued their paperclips.



Computing in Year 5

In Computing, Year 5 have been creating digital stories using CapCut. They have been busy editing their stories by incorporating a variety of images, text, effects, and sounds.

Year 5 have produced some fantastic stories, and they are looking forward to sharing them with the class in the new year.

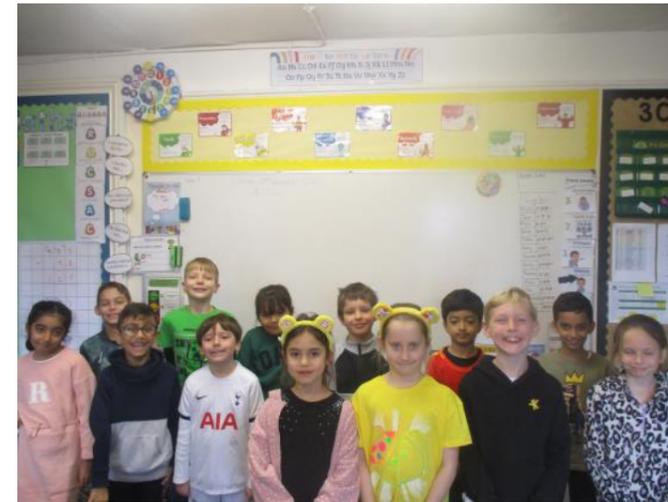


Children in Need

We held a Non-Uniform Day to support the annual Children in Need charity appeal. Pupils and staff embraced the chance to wear their own clothes for the day, contributing to a fantastic atmosphere of fun and generosity. By taking part, everyone helped raise money for this important cause, which supports disadvantaged children across the UK.

We are proud to announce that as a school we have raised £264 with all funds going directly to helping Children in Need. A huge thank you to everyone for their support and generosity!

Let's continue to show how much we care by making a difference, one small act at a time.



Year 5 trip to the Barbican

Oaklands Year 5 had an amazing trip to hear the world famous London Symphony Orchestra play Holst's Planet Suite at the Barbican Centre in London. This piece of music needs a huge orchestra so it was REALLY loud and very exciting! Everyone was blown away by it! Thank you, thank you LSO for your wonderful schools' concert series - brilliant!



Upper Kindergarten visit to Mellows

Upper Kindergarten recently visited Mellows Care Home, where they were greeted by one of the residents playing the piano. He then played alongside the children whilst they sang a variety of songs from their Nativity play, including Twinkle Twinkle, Joseph led the Donkey, Jingle Bells and We Wish you a Merry Christmas. The children then had the opportunity to meet some of the residents and share some of their favourite story books. The children were so well behaved and sang beautifully, we are extremely proud of all of them!



Extra-curricular Clubs

STEM Club

STEM Club have enjoyed various experiments including making 'fireworks' in a cup!



Netball and Football Club

Netball Club joined forces with Football Club for some Festive Fun!



Football Fixture vs Daiglen School

Our year 4 boys and girls football team, recently travelled to Redbridge School for a friendly football fixture against Daiglen school.

We played 3 mini games, in which all the pupils were able to play either in defence, midfield or up front, to help with their game understanding and development.

It was great to see lots of positive play, great goals, smiles, and great support from their parents.

The boys managed to narrowly lose 5-4 on aggregate, but it's great to see a game contested evenly, which will help them moving forward.

The girls won 8-0 on aggregate, and were clearly happy with themselves, after some pupils represented the school for the very first time.



U11 Girls and Boys Football

Our U11 Boys and Girls' Football team played a friendly football fixture against Howe Green House School recently. They played 2 separate games of 20mins each game, with lots of well contested play throughout. The games were played in a combative, but fair spirit, which was great to see. Well done to both teams!

Final results were;

Girls Game 1: HGHS 2 – 1 Oaklands

Girls Game 2: HGHS 0 – 2 Oaklands

Boys Game 1: HGHS 0 – 0 Oaklands

Boys Game 2: HGHS 1 – 1 Oaklands



ISA London North Gymnastics team

What an amazing experience for the 12 gymnasts who represented the school for the first time at the ISA London North Gymnastics Competition at St Mary's School in Bucks. After a very early start on Thursday 28 November, and a frozen mini-bus, they were on their way, fuelled with lots of very excited girls, asking 'Are we there yet'?

When we arrived, they must have performed 1000+ cartwheels, 300 forward rolls and endless amounts of jumps and bridges....and that was just their warm-up!!

The competition started with the U9's, consisting of Poppy, Margot, Vallavi, Carmella, Gabby and Emily L taking part in the vault. After getting used to the springier springboard, they found their groove, and vaulted well under pressure! They then took part in the set floor routine, and did extremely well to remember the moves, in a dead silent, pressurised hall. They finished 5th overall, and will use this experience, to help them going forward for plenty more competitions in the future.

Arri, Bella, Annabelle and Winnie then performed the musical group routine, and considering they had only just learnt the choreography, they smashed it! The 4 girls, along with Siana and Daniella, then went about perfecting their vault, which they all did so well to nail their harder vaults. The floor routines, were faultless, and they can hold their heads up high after finishing a respectful 5th out of 7 schools!



U11 Tag-Rugby Tournament

Our amazingly talented U11 Boys Football team performed wonders at the recent ISA London North Boys football tournament at St John's Senior School in Enfield.

In a tough group stage we finished 4th, qualifying for the plate competition knockout stages.

Results:

Oaklands 3 – 1 Norfolk House

Dwight 0 – 1 Oaklands

King Alfred 1 – 0 Oaklands

Northbridge 1 – 0 Oaklands

Oaklands 1 – 2 Charterhouse Square

In the knockout stages of the plate, we beat St James School 2-0, and were into the semi-finals. Here we played Westbrook Hey School, and we found ourselves 2-0 down, looking dejected. We weren't beaten though, and Denzel, followed by a last gasp goal by Eddie, took the game to penalties! It is always a lottery in a shootout, and we were very unlucky! Archie performed heroics in goal, but we couldn't quite get the win to take us to the final, but another very respectful outing for their excellent team of; Denzel, Alex, Ethan, Archie, Oscar, Jimmy, Eddie and Thiaan!



Saplings

To celebrate National Tree Month, we were extremely lucky to be gifted around 300 saplings, which the children were allowed to take home and plant. There was a choice of Scots pine or Douglas Fir, with the Douglas Fir proving the most popular due to looking like a mini Christmas tree!



Pupil Report on Pantomime Trip

Yesterday 10 December KS1 and KS2 went on a coach to Millfield Theatre to see Aladdin and the Legion of Genies.

It was a fantastic story about Aladdin getting trapped in the cave of wonders. He met five genies who each gave him a wish. He ended up in Las Vegas with Genie Fear. Then a visit to the North Pole to meet Santa, then for a phone to ring his mum. After that he went on a sleigh. He ended up in the Cave of Wonders. Again, Abanazo then the bad guy got the gold lamp and wished for powers. Aladdin stole the lamp and wished for a washing machine and Abanazo was in it! Princess got married to Aladdin. The dancing was incredible, the acting was out this world. We are so lucky to have gone to see the Pantomime. We loved it.

By Amelia and Naavya



Special Assembly

Children in Years 1 to 6 had the exciting opportunity to hear from Ms Philpot, one of their parents, who gave an inspiring assembly talk about her career in the world of news reporting. With years of experience covering everything from breaking news to feature stories, Ms Philpott shared first-hand knowledge about the importance of storytelling, the challenges of investigative journalism, and the skills needed to succeed in the fast-paced media industry.

During the assembly, pupils learned about the daily life of a journalist, the ethical responsibilities that come with the job, and the power of a well-researched article to inform and influence communities. Ms Philpott also provided valuable advice for pupils interested in pursuing a career in writing, communications, or media, emphasising the importance of curiosity, critical thinking, and effective communication.

We thank Ms Philpot for taking time to speak with the children and for offering a behind-the-scenes look at the dynamic world of journalism.



Pupil Report on Year 5 Trip

Year 5 went to the Barbican on the 14 November. We got on the train at Loughton in the morning and took the Central line to Liverpool street and the Circle line to Moorgate. We had a whole carriage to ourselves and everyone had lots of fun. It was a shame we had to get off, but what was to come was going to be much more fun.

We got off the train and had a short walk to the Barbican Centre where we had a rest and a biscuit! We then walked through the Barbican, seeing all the sights. Soon, we found the entrance to the theatre. We walked in and saw the concert hall was gigantic! We had to wait for around 5 minutes but it was not that bad.

Next, the concert started. We heard the Royal Symphony Orchestra playing the piece Jupiter by Gustav Holst. Then, we sang the song we had been learning, M Vem Juh Sun. The Orchestra proceeded to play the rest of the Planets Suite and we all enjoyed it very much.

When the concert ended, we all ate lunch in the main hall. There was a delicious packed lunch and everyone really enjoyed it, including me. We came back on the train and it was as fun as the journey there. We just got back to school in time for science. It was a great day! Thank you to Mrs. Rathbone for organising it. Also, thank you for the brilliant staff who looked after us during the trip.

By Rufus



Lower Kindergarten Assembly

Our Lower Kindergarten children delighted parents with their very first assembly performance. With bright smiles and eager voices, the children performed fantastically. We are very proud of our youngest pupils.



Upper Kindergarten Nativity

The children in Upper Kindergarten took part in their Christmas Nativity. All the children were amazing! They sat beautifully and sang the songs with their 'singing voices' including their favourite song 'Go Away'. They also performed all the actions and danced on stage. We are so proud of all the children for showing so much confidence and performing in front of such a big crowd!



KS1 Nativity



Our Key Stage 1 children wowed us with a magical Nativity play, bringing the Christmas story to life with vibrant costumes and cheerful music. The children captivated the audience with scenes of the journey to Bethlehem, the birth of baby Jesus, and a visit from the shepherds, wise men and the police! The entire production was a beautiful reminder of the spirit of Christmas, showcasing the hard work of our young performers. A big thank you to Mrs. Rathbone and all the teachers and staff who helped make the show a success!



KS2 Carol Service

This year saw another successful Key Stage 2 Carol Service at St Mary's Church. The children gave a beautiful performance, filling the church with festive cheer and showcasing their hard work and talent. Thanks to the generosity of our families, we raised an incredible £413.81 for the Epping Forest Foodbank. This money will go a long way in helping those in need during the holiday season. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and contributed, and of course, to our talented pupils for their wonderful performances.



More Festivities

The festive season has been filled with fun, laughter, and a sense of giving at Oaklands. We've had a fantastic time celebrating Christmas together, with a range of exciting activities for all our children.

Our youngest children in Early Years were treated to a magical performance by Skittleman, whose tricks and illusions left them amazed. All of our pupils had the chance to visit Santa's Grotto, where they shared their Christmas wishes and received a special gift from the man himself.

The children in Years 1 to 6 went on a trip to Millfield Theatre to enjoy a traditional pantomime; Aladdin. The children joined in with the fun, laughing and cheering along with the show.

As part of our commitment to giving back, Kindergarten and Reception hosted Festive Feet to raise money for Haven House Children's Hospice, with everyone wearing their most festive footwear to show support. In addition, our Christmas Jumper Day raised £210 for Crisis at Christmas, helping provide vital services to those in need during the holiday season.

Our Oaklands Parents Association hosted a special Christmas Movie and Pyjama Day, where pupils and staff came to school in their cosiest pyjamas to watch festive films together – a perfect way to relax and enjoy the holiday spirit.

Finally, our Christmas Lunch Day was a highlight for everyone, with pupils enjoying a delicious festive meal with their friends. A huge thank you to everyone who took part in these activities and helped spread the Christmas cheer.



Merry Christmas



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