



Oaklands School

Newsletter

Headmistress's Message



We have had a busy few weeks in school. Throughout the school, we have celebrated and extended our understanding of Chinese New Year, which included food tasting in EYFS. Year 1 children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the London Eye to view and sketching the London landscape, they represented our school extremely well both in London and on their tube adventure. We have enjoyed some wonderful assemblies from classes in school to showcase their learning and understanding of subjects in class. The whole school enjoyed Mental Health Week learning more about *knowing and growing themselves*

and the importance of a healthy mindset, the highlight of the week was a visit from a PAT-accredited dog to teach us how animals can improve our mental health. Computing had a focus on Safer Internet Day which tied well into our online safety, covered throughout the year in the curriculum, our children in Year 6 had a visit from Essex Police to reinforce some of the critical messages surrounding online safety. Our school choir enjoyed representing us at the Stratford Music Festival and were commended for their wonderful singing. Continuing the theme of expressive singing, it was wonderful for all four Oak-Tree schools to come together and join a choir of thousands singing at the O2 for Young Voices 2025.

We have, once again, excelled in sports under the expert guidance of Mr Paine competing in a plethora of competitions this half term, I am always proud of how our pupils conduct themselves at these events.

The final few weeks of the Spring Term promise to be just as busy, and I look forward to reporting on the events to you all in a few weeks.

With best wishes

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

Mrs. Gretchen Copeman

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Lower Kindergarten

As part of our 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' Children's Mental Health Week. Lower Kindergarten designed their own pots ready to plant watercress seeds to grow their 'hair'. They decorated their pot by painting it in the colour of their choice. Once dry they screwed up some blue paper towels into a ball to push to the bottom of their pots. The children then soaked cotton wool in water and placed on top of the blue paper towel. Finally, they sprinkled the seeds on top of the cotton wool.



Lower Kindergarten came to school dressed with a number on their clothes to support NSPCC Number Day. In class they participated in a number of activities, including rolling a large dice and finding the correct number on the chair and for Expressive Arts they used different size circles and dipped them in paint to create dots over their paper.



Upper Kindergarten

The children in Upper Kindergarten have been learning all about the police. They were very excited to meet PC Harrison, who spoke to the children about how a police officer helps others. They also had the opportunity to sit inside a real police car and try on some police uniforms.

During our Wild Woods session, the children pretended to be police officers and searched for the missing animals. They had to listen to the clues and use their magnifying glass or binoculars to find the animals. They had lots of fun!



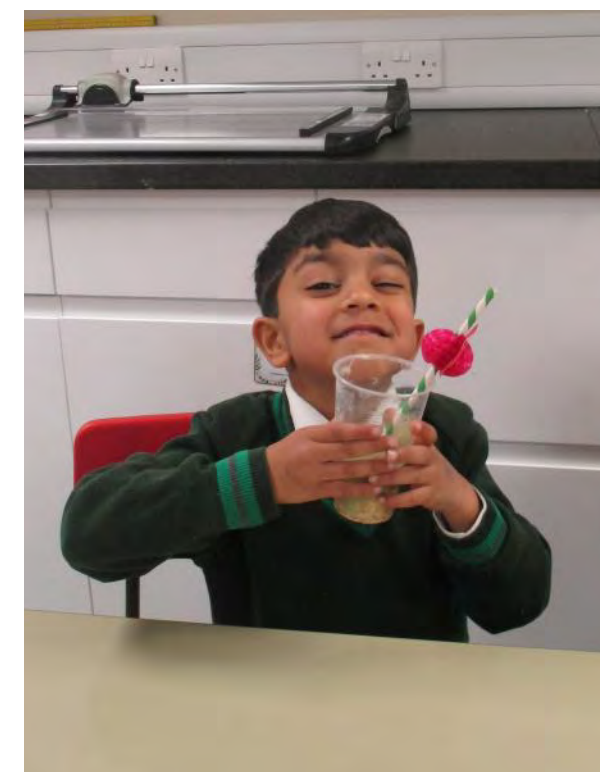
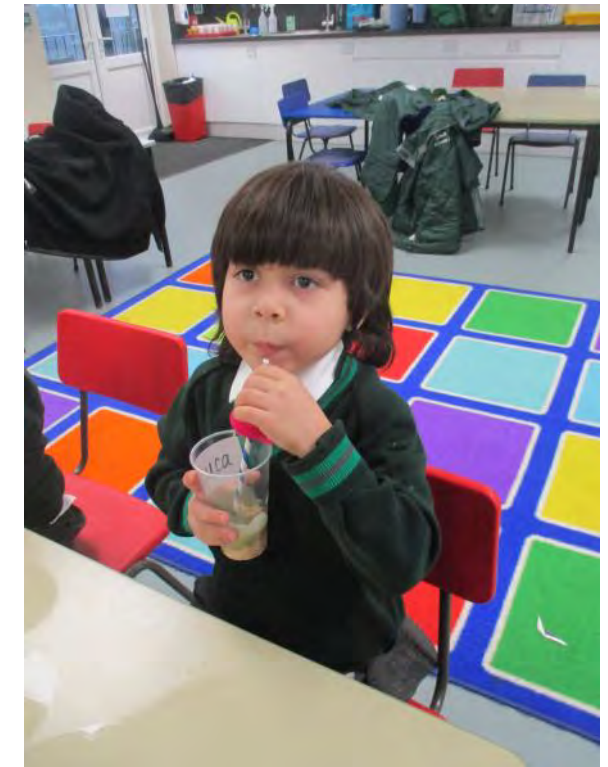
Chinese New Year

Our Early Years children celebrated Chinese New Year with a fun food-tasting session! They tried delicious dishes like noodles and spring rolls, exploring new flavours while learning about the holiday's traditions. The children had a great time and loved sharing their favourite treats!



Reception Owls

Owls have been thoroughly enjoying their cooking sessions. Recently they made their own 'beach dirt cups', using different foods to represent the beach. They crushed biscuits for sand and dyed custard blue for the water. They all tried their hand at each element of the process and followed all of the instructions very carefully! They also took great care as they spooned the ingredients into their cup. Owls were very pleased with their finished 'beaches'.



Reception Robins

In Robins we have been exploring extreme weather, looking closely at floods, droughts, wildfires and tornadoes. The children drew on their understanding of water from last week's focus story 'Once upon a raindrop', particularly when learning about floods and droughts. The children enjoyed looking at various pictures and showed great concern for the dangers posed by such extreme weather.



Reception Woodpeckers

Reception have been exploring extreme weather so we have had a 'Weather channel' roleplay area in Woodpeckers. The children were able to use the different props provided and share the upcoming forecast. They used all of the correct language and even shared that a flood was coming to Loughton!



Key Stage 1

Year 1C

1C have been measuring and learning all about longer or shorter. The children had to measure the small world animals using various non-standard items such as cubes, paperclips and multi-link. They chatted about which animals were taller or shorter and which ones were longer or shorter. The children worked in pairs and on their own to measure and compare animals. They then used a ruler to measure 'chocolate bars' in centimetres and order them shortest to longest.



Year 1W

The *Bright Lights and Big City* of London has captured the fascination of class 1W!

The children have been looking at London landmarks, drawing from their word bank, Humanities knowledge and trip to the London Eye to detail London in a travel brochure. The pupils talked about their *Top Tips*, *Foods to Try* and *Things to Do*. One of their favourite facts is that the London underground is one of the biggest and largest public transports in the world. Well done all of class 1W for your hard work!



Year 2S

In R.E the children in 2S have been learning about the Islam religion and the different times of the day Muslims pray. They have designed prayer mats and written their own prayers.



Year 2Z

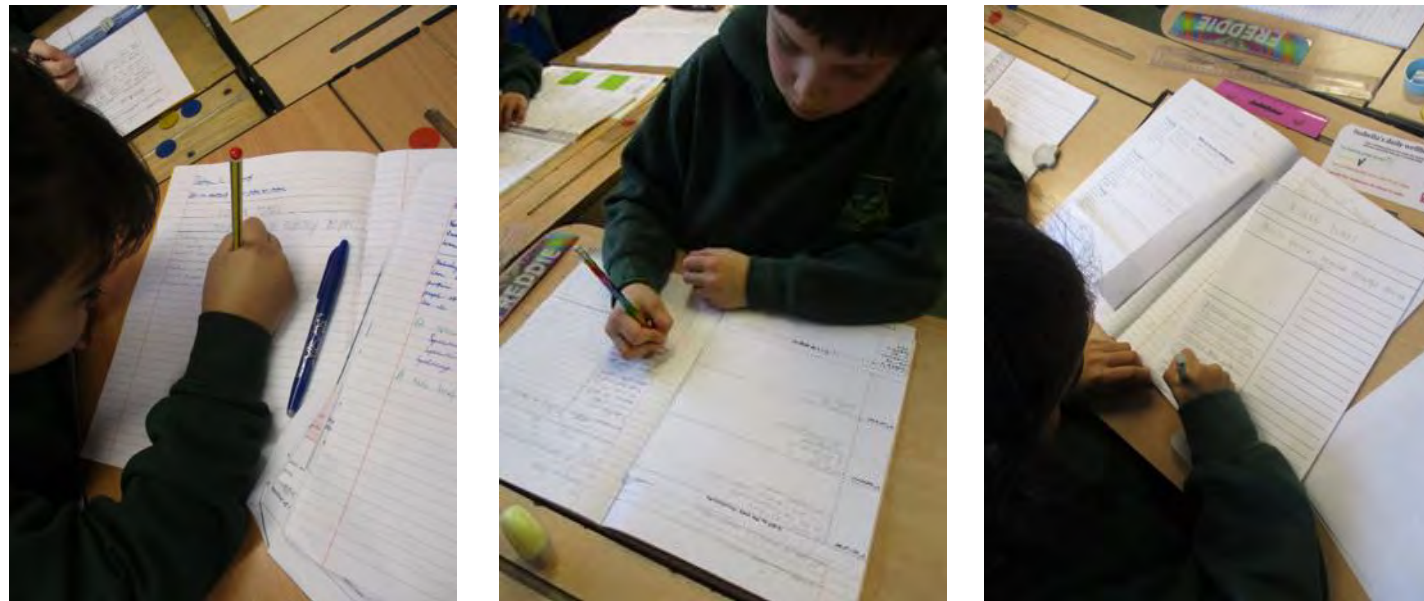
2Z had lots of fun creating salt paintings in Art. They made their designs using PVA glue and covered them with salt. They then used watercolours to paint them and watched amazed as the paint spread magically through the salt. Well done, 2Z!



Key Stage 2

Year 3C

Year 3 have been looking at the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. They have turned on their newspaper reporter hats and have been writing a report about that fateful day in Pompeii. They have learnt about how to use time connectives, writing in chronological order and including capital letters for proper nouns, all whilst writing in the past tense!



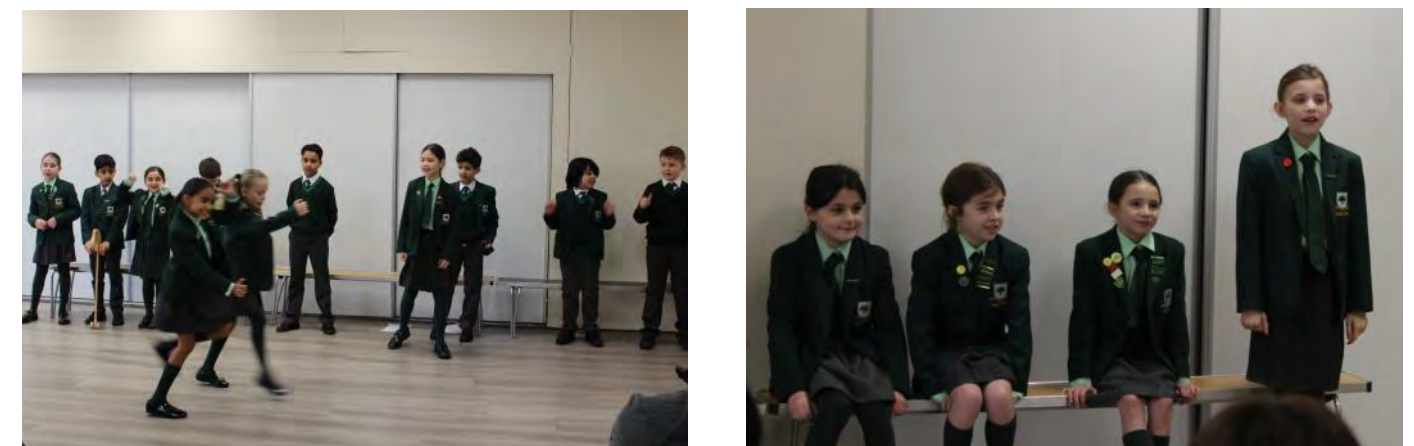
Year 3V

In Year 3, the children have been learning about length and perimeter, including how to convert between different units of measurement, such as millimetres, centimetres, and metres. They discussed which units are most appropriate for measuring different objects and placed various measurements in ascending order. The children also learned how to calculate the perimeter of shapes accurately, linking this to their knowledge of shape properties.



Year 4C

Year 4 were very excited to present their assembly to Year 2 and their partner class and the very next day, to parents. It was a sizeable undertaking with Greek Gods, Olympic athletes, singing and dancing, with an appearance from the venerable story teller Aesop, himself. The focus was a snapshot of life in Ancient Greece. Aside from the fun of dress rehearsals, the play touched on some of the aspects and key beliefs of life in Ancient Greece. The children rose to the challenge, supporting one another to deliver a polished performance that showcased their learning. Well done Year 4!



Year 4D

During Children's Mental Health Week, Year 4 explored the theme *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*. To symbolise their personal growth the children planted and nurtured their own pots of cress, watching them flourish just as they do in their own journeys.

Throughout the week, they engaged in thoughtful activities to help them understand their emotions and develop strategies to manage them. From recognising different feelings to learning ways to overcome challenges, the children reflected on the importance of self-care and resilience.



In class the children have been celebrating some fantastic achievements in 4D! A huge well done to Aarin for being 4D's *English Superstar*, Lennox for being a *Good Reader* and Oscar for his amazing *Handwriting*. Congratulations also to Freya, 4D's *Maths Master* and Carmella, 4D's *Timestable Superstar*—keep up the great work, everyone!



The children in 4D took part in an exciting debating lesson, inspired by our class book *The Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells. The big question up for discussion was: **Should Ivan go on his adventure to rescue his little brother?**

The children embraced their roles as debaters, presenting well-thought-out arguments for both sides. Some passionately argued that Ivan should embark on his journey, highlighting his bravery and determination to save his brother. Others countered with concerns about the dangers he might face, questioning whether the risks outweighed the rewards.

It was fantastic to see the children developing their speaking and listening skills, confidently expressing their ideas and responding to opposing views with respect. They thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and showed great enthusiasm for the debate—who knows, we may have some future politicians in the making!



Year 5Z

As part of their PSHE topic, Dreams and Goals, Year 5 have been exploring different job opportunities available to people. They have shared their future aspirations with the class and considered the skills and experience they might need. The children explained why they valued and appreciated the contributions made by people in different jobs. They particularly enjoyed taking part in job interviews in class. The pupils will also be considering how their dreams and goals may be different to children in other parts of the world.



In Year 5, the children have also been putting their reporter hats on and getting creative with some very exciting newspaper articles! This term, they've been diving into *The Iron Man*, and the children have been hard at work uncovering all the key features of a top-notch article. They used this knowledge to write their own stories, showcasing their amazing skills as journalists.



The children have also been enjoying pottery lessons with Mrs Ahmed where they have learned a new skill and made and decorated some beautiful bowls. Year 5 have been very busy recently!



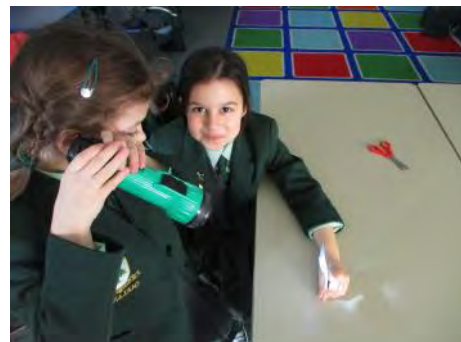
Year 6M

Year 6 have created some amazing geometric patterns in Maths, ready to go on display. We created these with only a protractor, working out different factors of 360 and then measuring extremely carefully. Some of us kept it simple but some of us drew intricate designs by measuring every 10 degrees. They turned out beautifully and they all enjoyed the lesson.



Science

Year 1 have been learning about the weather and have been investigating shadows. They discussed which weather allows shadows to form and investigated how shadows change throughout the day using torches and shadow puppets. The children realised that the shadows changed size at different times of day and also appeared on the opposite side from morning to afternoon.



Year 1 have also been learning about the seasons and our weather, this included them looking for signs that certain weather is coming, such as a storm. To help with their weather watching skills, the classes made Breeze Buddies, who will wave around to show that the wind is picking up, this could be a sign that the weather is about to get cold or even that a storm is coming. 1W also found some time to take their Breeze Buddies outside and see if they could get them moving.



Year 2 have been investigating what is meant by the term waterproof. The children predicted which materials they thought might be waterproof before testing them. They then investigated how a wax crayon could be used to make paper waterproof!



Specialist Lessons

Music

It has become a yearly event for the KS2 choir to enter this fabulous competition. The choir, made up of over 35 members from Years 3-6, travelled to St Mary's in South Woodford on Monday 10 February to compete against seven other schools for a much coveted trophy. Everyone was exquisitely behaved and performed brilliantly. The adjudicator was particularly impressed with our focus and expressive singing. After our performance the children thoroughly enjoyed listening to the other school choirs and all agreed it was a very high standard indeed; the adjudicator wanted to award everyone a prize! Unfortunately Oaklands did not win, but we are so proud of how well the pupils conducted themselves and they should be justly proud of their efforts. Thank you to all the parents who supported the school on the day and many thanks to Miss Zaidi and Mrs Ahmed who accompanied the choir on the trip. Well done everyone!



Computing

Key stage 1 and 2 attended the Safer Internet Day assembly. This year's theme is 'Too good to be True? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. Louis, Bryony, Safaa and Alyssia explained how to identify online scams, they shared their top tips for staying safe whilst on the internet. Pupils were reminded to always speak to a trusted adult, if something ever worries them whilst online.

For help and guidance at home, please visit: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>



Year 1 Visit to The London Eye

Year 1 went on a trip into London to ride on the London Eye, as part of their Humanities topic. It was a bit of grey and chilly day, but they loved spotting all the famous landmarks of London they had been learning about in class, such as The Houses of Parliament, Downing Street, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, The Shard, The Gherkin and St Paul's Cathedral, to name a few. They ate their picnic lunch in Jubilee Gardens and tried their best not to let the pigeons steal their sandwiches! After lunch, there was time to sit and sketch some of their favourite landmarks or buildings that can be seen along the Thames. All the children were so well behaved and sensible, they made all the staff proud.



Year 5 and 6 Young Voices

Our talented Year 5 and 6 children had an unforgettable experience recently when they took the stage at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices Choir! The atmosphere was electric as they joined thousands of other children from across the country for an incredible night of music.

The children sang a variety of songs, showcasing their hard work and dedication to their rehearsals. From catchy pop hits to powerful anthems, the performance was nothing short of spectacular.

A huge well done to all of our amazing performers for representing the school with such enthusiasm and energy. It's a night they'll remember forever!

A special thank you to Mrs. Rathbone for her incredible support and guidance in preparing the children for this amazing event!



ISA Netball Tournament

Recently, two Year 4, one Year 5 and six Year 6 girls were lucky enough to be chosen for the ISA Netball Tournament to represent Oaklands School, at Redbridge Sports Centre. We have to mention Mrs Booth and Mrs Davey, who have trained us very well and supported us through the whole journey. All the members of the team tried extremely hard and put a lot of effort into reaching our full potential by working as a team. We all tried out new positions and made the dream team!

We had tough competition but we ended up having great fun. Can you believe it! We made it through to the quarter finals, and placed third in our table! Well done to the following players: Margot and Poppy in Year 4, Jemima in Year 5 and Anabelle, Winnie, Kasie, Anais, Isabella and Arri in Year 6. Not forgetting Mrs Booth and Mrs Davey. Well done to everyone who participated!

By Annabelle and Winnie, Year 6



Oak-Tree U11 Tag-Rugby

Oaklands took 18 very excited pupils along to the annual Oak-Tree U11 Tag-Rugby competition at Eton Manor RFC on Tuesday 4 February.

It is always a very fun and exciting day out, and it didn't disappoint once again.

Oaklands eventually came out winners in the Boys and Girls competitions, and can be proud of their efforts!

Results;

Girls

- 1st - Oaklands
- 2nd - Braeside
- 3rd - Coopersale
- 4th - Normanhurst

Boys

- 1st - Oaklands
- 2nd - Coopersale
- 3rd - Normanhurst



U11 Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented Oaklands at the Oak-Tree U11 Indoor Athletics competition at the Peter May Centre in Walthamstow on Friday 31 January.

The girls team and boys team ran, threw, and jumped their socks off to storm to a well deserved win for team Oaklands, demonstrating their impressive ability in Athletics events!

Final results;

Girls

1st - Oaklands – 12,117
2nd - Coopersale – 11,777
3rd - Braeside – 10,626
4th - Normanhurst – 9,256

Boys

1st - Oaklands – 17,014
2nd - Coopersale – 15,649
3rd - Normanhurst – 13,232



U11 Hockey fixture vs HGHS

It has been a few years since Oaklands School took part in a Hockey fixture, and they certainly didn't disappoint!

We took 27 very eager and excited pupils, armed with their mouthguards and hockey sticks for a fixture against Howe Green House School at Essex and Herts Sports Centre in Bishops Stortford on Monday 3 February.

Well done to all our hockey heroes, who showcased great dribbling, passing, shooting and teamwork throughout.
Results were;

A-Team:

Oaklands 1 – 1 HGHS

B-Team:

Oaklands 6 – 2 HGHS

C-Team:

Oaklands 1 – 0 HGHS



Number Day



The whole school celebrated *Number Day* in aid of the NSPCC, raising an impressive £174.41 for this fantastic cause! The day was filled with exciting maths and number related activities, from number challenges to interactive games, all aimed at making learning fun while supporting a great cause.

Children came to school dressed as either rock stars or in outfits featuring their favourite numbers, adding a lively, colourful atmosphere to the day.

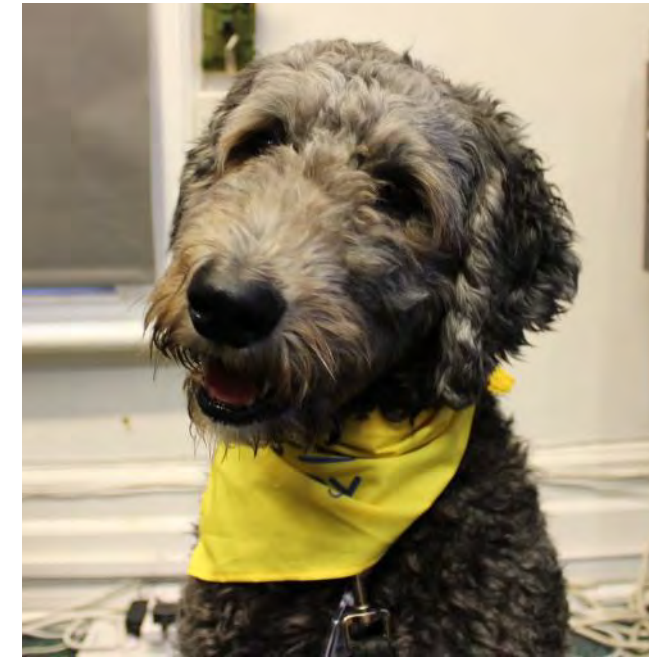
A huge thank you to everyone who took part and donated to help the NSPCC continue their vital work. We're proud of our school community for coming together to support this important charity while having so much fun with numbers!

Arthur Mascot for Leyton Orient



Well done to Arthur who recently served as Mascot for Leyton Orient.

Child Mental Health Week Assembly



As part of Child Mental Health Week, we were thrilled to welcome Huxley, the Pets as Therapy dog, to school for a special assembly. Huxley brought smiles, comfort, and warmth to students and staff as we learned about the positive impact animals can have on mental well-being. The assembly was a wonderful reminder of the importance of taking care of our mental health and the power of kindness, connection, and furry friends in helping us feel supported and cared for. Thank you, Huxley, for making this week extra special!





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