



# Oaklands School

**Newsletter**



# Headmistress's Message

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As we approach the end of another term, I'm delighted to share the incredible learning experiences our pupils have been immersed in across the school. The energy and enthusiasm radiating from our classrooms and beyond have been truly inspiring.

Our LK pupils have been exploring the fascinating world of symmetry through butterfly painting. This hands-on approach not only develops their artistic skills but also reinforces important mathematical concepts creatively and engagingly.

UK pupils celebrated St. George's Day with a twist, embracing outdoor learning opportunities. This innovative approach allowed them to connect with nature while delving into the rich tapestry of English heritage and traditions.

Key Stage 2 pupils have been harnessing the power of technology, using iPads to research space and different countries. Enhancing their research skills and fostering a global perspective that is so crucial in today's world.

Year 3 have been tackling important social topics, exploring relationships and different family structures. These discussions promote understanding, empathy, and inclusivity – values that are at the heart of our Oaklands community.

Our Year 6 pupils had an extraordinary opportunity to learn about DNA via Skye, with a scientist. This hands-on experience with a real-world scientist not only deepened their understanding of this complex topic but also inspired potential future career paths in STEM fields.

Finally, well done to our Years 4, 5, and 6 pupils who participated in residential trips. These experiences are invaluable, offering opportunities to learn new skills, work as a team, and build resilience. The growth in confidence and independence I've witnessed upon their return has been remarkable.

A busy few weeks of discovery and learning.

With best wishes



Mrs Gretchen Copeman

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## Lower Kindergarten

Lower Kindergarten children made their own symmetrical butterfly. With help from their teachers the children folded their paper in half so they had a line of symmetry down the centre. Then they selected different coloured paint and painted one side before pressing the paper together. Finally, they carefully opened their paper to reveal a beautiful, unique butterfly!



## Upper Kindergarten

It was lovely to welcome the children back after the Easter holidays and to celebrate St George's Day. We learnt all about St George in our EYFS assembly and had lots of activities outside Kindergarten to help the children understand the story. Throw the sand bag into the dragon's mouth, hit the target with our 'swords', pin the tail on the dragon and our puppet theatre show to re-enact the story.

We are now embracing our new topic 'Insects and mini beasts', the children have learnt all about the life cycle of a frog and made some wonderful frog faces! We are finding out lots of facts about spiders and have spent time in our school Wild Woods looking for insects and making houses for them.





## Reception Owls

Before printing with Duplo to create repeating patterns, Owls had to plan their pattern. Would it be based on colour, size, quantity or any combination of the three?

Once dried and on display, the children were challenged to identify whether the display showed repeating patterns and how they knew. The reasons given for their responses varied depending on whether they started from the left or right of the display. It was reassuring to see that everyone correctly identified whether each repeated or not.



## Reception Robins

Robins have been learning about the traditional tale *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The children have fully immersed themselves in the story, using role play to act out key scenes—taking turns being Jack, the Giant and even pretending to climb the beanstalk! It has been wonderful to see the children's imaginations as they recreate parts of the story during their choosing time. We observed a variety of beans, encouraging the children to compare their sizes, textures and colours. We then planted our very own beans using cotton wool. Robins have taken great care in watering their plants and checking them daily, observing and discussing any changes they notice.



## Reception Woodpeckers

Our topic this term is traditional tales and growing. We have been exploring the story of Jack and The Beanstalk and planted our own beans which we are taking good care of, watering them and ensuring they have some sunlight. We hope to have some lovely plants growing soon which we are planning to plant in our outdoor area. We have also been looking at different types of beans, comparing their size, colour and texture.

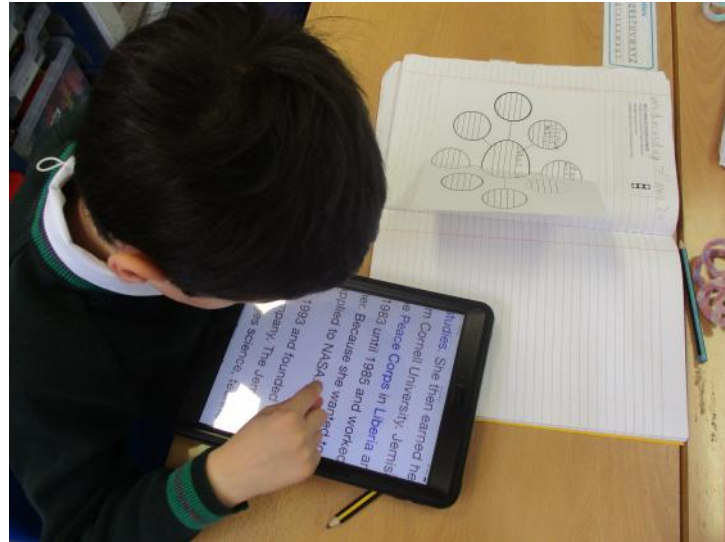




# Key Stage 1

## Year 1W

This month, pupils in 1W *look up* at space. We have explored nebulae, the planets in our solar system and famous astronauts. One well-known astronaut in particular, Mae Jemison, has been the focus of our recent English lessons. Mae Jemison was the first female black astronaut in space. She was inspired by Sally Ride and Guion Bluford, and she loved Science at school! Pupils were challenged to write down some facts about Mae Jemison, that they had learnt or researched, before, writing a biography of her life and achievements.



## Year 1C

1C have been exploring the effects of chalk and oil pastels while creating abstract space pictures. The children have been learning about the planets, meteor showers and nebulae, so we created our own nebulae. We looked at Peter Thorpe's work for inspiration and experimented with flicking various tools and brushes loaded with paint onto our scenes. The children are planning to add imaginative planets and rockets to their pictures next week.



## Year 2Z

2Z have been learning all about the works of LS Lowry. They studied his paintings and used them as inspiration to create their own industrial landscape with watercolours. Well done, 2Z!



## Year 2S

2S have been exploring around the world this term and have been learning about different countries and continents. The children learnt about Brazil, labelling the neighbouring countries and researching the different foods and landmarks.

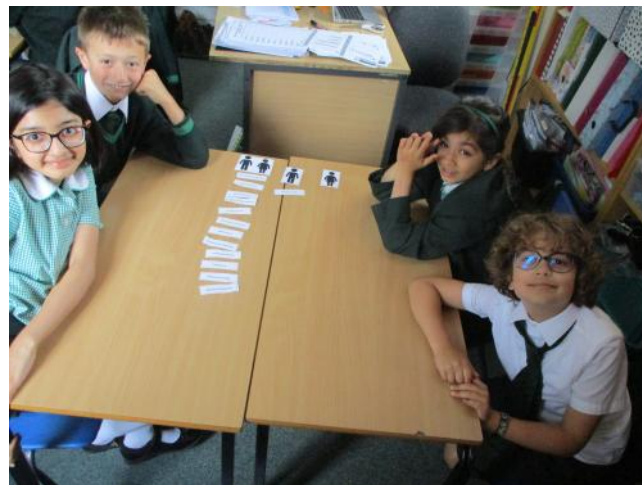




# Key Stage 2

## Year 3V

In Year 3 PSHE lessons, we have been looking at relationships. This week we discussed the roles and responsibilities of each member of my family and how this can reflect on the expectations for males and females. The children enjoyed sorting roles and discussing skills required in a variety of job roles.



## Year 3C

As part of their topic of volcanoes, Year 3 have been reading The Firework Makers' Daughter, within which the main character Lila has to find the Royal Sulphur from Mount Merapi. She faces trials and tribulations along route. Her friends Chulak and Hamlet come to her rescue, stopping on route via Rambashi's Jungle Grill. This is where 3C had to create their own descriptive Jungle Grill style, Asian cuisine restaurant menu.

## Year 4

Year 4 are enjoying problem solving in maths, especially when they are able to work in small teams. The children show great determination and work hard to support one another, drawing upon the skills they learn in class. They should feel proud of the way in which they are increasingly able to 'think on their feet.' It is clear the children are noticeably more resilient than they were in September of last year.

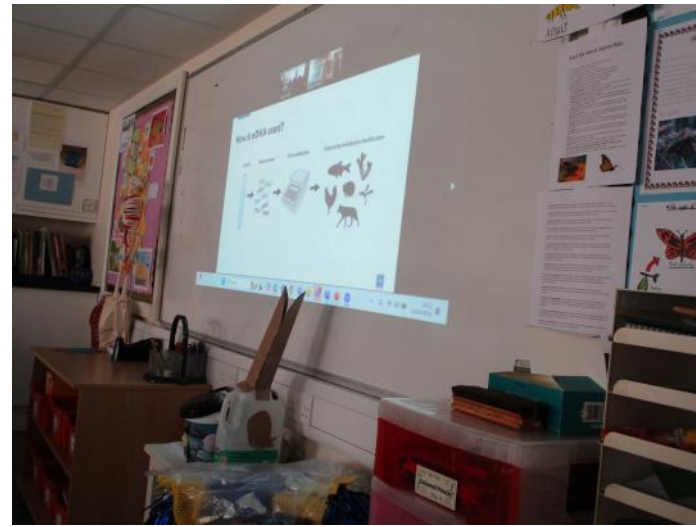
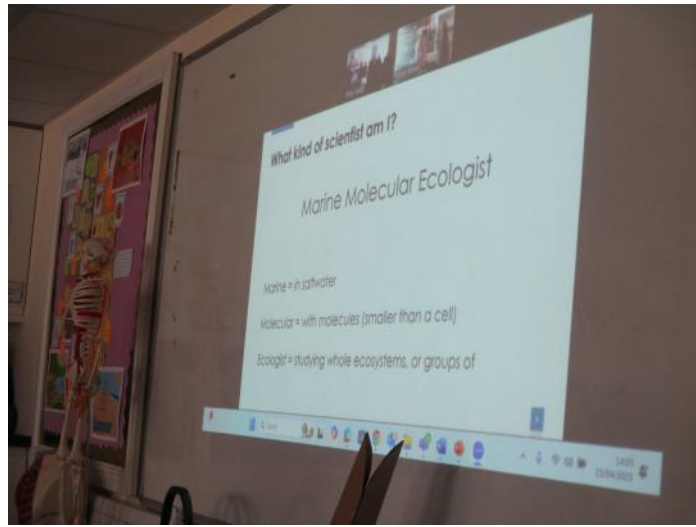




# Specialist Lessons

## Science

Year 6 completed a Skype a Scientist session with Emily Farrell this week, to find out more about the work she does with DNA. They learnt about the work she completes as a Marine Biologist and how her specialist area of eDNA is helping them to track species that might be hard to find and monitor otherwise. They also learnt more about what it takes to be a Marine Biologist and the kind of studies Emily gets to take part in.



Year 6 also completed a virtual workshop with the Natural History Museum. The class were discussing evolution and looked at how the population of animals in a habitat may evolve and changes over time. They discussed key terminology such as adaption and looked at Darwin's theory of natural selection.



Year 2 have worked incredibly hard over the Easter break, creating some fantastic work for their Science homework. Focusing on recycling and the importance of us reusing items, to help protect wildlife from things such as plastic pollution, Year 2 chose to either make an outfit, animal model or presentation on the importance of recycling. As you can see, the models and outfits were a popular choice and all were created using a selection of recycled materials. Well done for all your hard work Year 2.



Year 3 completed two exciting Science lessons last week, within their first lesson, they were learning all about soil and carefully examined what soil is actually made from. They then moved on to find out about plants, dissecting some tulips and carefully removing the different parts to help them learn about pollination.





# Specialist Lessons

## French

Madame Goodall has been taking full advantage of the lovely weather and our grounds and the children have been enjoying outdoor learning. The children in Year 2 have been continuing to develop their understanding of the French language with the use of Macaton.



Key stage 1 and 2 children enjoyed a special assembly demonstrating the Macaton they have been learning in French with Madame Goodall.





## Wildwoods club

The children in Wildwoods Club have been having a brilliant time since returning from the Easter holidays! They've enjoyed digging for worms in the muddy soil and relaxing in the hammock.

We can't wait for even more outdoor fun as the summer season approaches!



## Girls Football

The Oaklands U9, U10 and U11 Girls football teams took to the stage at Shooters Football Centre for the annual Oak-Tree Girls Football Tournament – and my, did they perform!

They managed to win all of their games, playing some outstanding football in the process.

Final results were;

### ***U9:***

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Oaklands – 20 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Coopersale Hall – 12 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Normanhurst – 4 points

### ***U10:***

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Oaklands – 15 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Normanhurst – 11 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Coopersale – 7 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Braeside – 3 points

### ***U11:***

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Oaklands – 15 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Coopersale – 11 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Normanhurst – 7 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Braeside – 3 points





# Residentials

## Year 4

Lessons learnt from Lockdown demonstrate just how important it is to connect with nature. With this in mind, Year 4 were lucky enough to enjoy three days at The Hive in Waltham Forest. In 2017 Sir David Attenborough wrote to the centre: 'Congratulations to the staff and the London Borough of Waltham Forest on years of inspiring children with a love of nature and a respect for the natural world.'

We were incredibly lucky to have three days of sunshine. The children delighted in identifying flora and fauna through pond dipping, classroom teaching and regular visits to Epping Forest. Shelters were built, and team games were played, to reinforce friendships old and new. Although we said goodbye to the staff with heavy hearts, the children are happy in the knowledge that they have many more adventures to look forward to.





# Residentials

## Year 5

The children in Year 5 had a fantastic time developing new skills at Lambourne End. They were busy throughout the trip with a range of activities including mountain biking, archery, climbing, caving, raft building and a fabulous farm tour! 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. This certainly was an enjoyable trip for everyone!





# Residentials

## Year 6

Year 6 had an epic adventure at Outdoor Essex in Danbury—and what a week it was! Not only were they pushed out of their comfort zones on multiple levels, but they also put their teamwork to the test and summoned courage they didn't even know they had. Sure, being away from home was tough (we spotted a few tearful bedtime cuddles with teddy bears), but the kids threw themselves into new experiences, built up their confidence, and made friendships even stronger than before.

The great outdoors became their playground—literally! They were spoiled with sunshine and fresh air all day long, and not a screen in sight (we know, shocking). Their brains were buzzing and their problem-solving skills got a full workout with activities like zip wiring, bridge building, caving, vertical challenges, low ropes, the obstacle course, bush craft, and our firm favourite: aerial trekking (yes, we all felt a bit like squirrels up there).

This residential wasn't just a school trip—it was a memory-maker. A week full of laughter and "I can't believe I just did that!" moments. We're sure it'll be talked about for years to come.

Huge well done to all our brave Year 6 stars. You coped brilliantly with being away from home and made us incredibly proud. Mr Paine, Ms Booth, and Miss Dee are all beaming with pride!





## National Stop Food Waste Day

Adam, our school chef gave an insightful talk in assembly about food wastage. He spoke to the children about the impact on the environment from excessive food wastage and explained what we can all do to help reduce our food waste. As a school we celebrated 'National Stop Food Waste Day' with a house competition to see which house produced the least amount of food wastage. The children in Sycamore won the competition and have been awarded 2 house points each.



## Break The Rules Day

The OPA invited the children to come to school and 'break the rules' for the day to raise funds for the committee to spend on resources for school. The children had a fantastic time embracing their rebellious side and raised a mammoth amount of money for the OPA.







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