



# Oaklands School

**Newsletter**

# Headmistress's Message

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Yet again a busy few weeks as we near the end of the academic year. All year groups have been incredibly busy using the lovely school grounds for their learning and going further afield for trips, visits and sporting events.

I was delighted to receive some wonderful email feedback from members of the public commending Oaklands pupils on their conduct both in the local area and on public transport.

Only a few short weeks left of this year and I look forward to celebrating the achievement of the year with you very soon.

With best wishes



Mrs Gretchen Copeman

# Table of Contents

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<b>1 - 2</b>	Early Years
<b>3 - 4</b>	Key Stage 1
<b>5 - 8</b>	Key Stage 2
<b>9 - 10</b>	Extra-Curricular
<b>11 - 12</b>	Sports
<b>13 - 14</b>	Whole School News

## Lower Kindergarten

In Lower Kindergarten the children have been introduced to the concept of 'Floating and sinking'. The children were shown a variety of objects including a spoon, a rubber duck, a peg and a toy cow. They took it in turns to predict whether they thought the item would sink to the bottom or float at the top. The children enjoyed putting the objects in the water to see if their predictions were right.



## Reception Owls

Owls had such fun during their summer trip to Hylands Park. The morning was spent in a fully enclosed woodland area which gave them the opportunity to fully explore the different activities with their friends as only Oaklands were there. Under adult supervision most opted to use a bowsaw to cut a slice of branch before adding a hole using a hand drill and threading string before finally decorating it to make a necklace or medal.

Fallen tree climbing, mud painting, getting in and out of the hammock, playing in the mud kitchen, making a puppet show and performing on the woodland tv were enjoyed but the highlight was definitely toasting marshmallows on the campfire. Yum yum!

Afterwards, we ran across the open parkland to find the Adventure Playground where more fun ensued – climbing, swinging and sliding.

The journey back to school was almost silent as a large number of Owls were asleep almost before we had left the park!



## Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers learned all about reversible and irreversible changes. We watched a video of paper burning and the children were fascinated that it 'disappeared', and through watching, learned that this was an example of an irreversible change. In the cooking room, we cooked some rice, pasta and toast, comparing each before and after to note their changes. We also made predictions, which the children learned was giving 'a good guess', about what would happen to brown sugar if put into water. The children's predictions were brilliant, saying that the sugar would 'melt' and change the colour of the water. We also discussed that whilst ice can melt if left in the sun, if placed back in the freezer, it would once again turn to ice and this is an example of a reversible change. Woodpeckers really enjoyed learning about reversible and irreversible changes, and it was wonderful to hear them using scientific language correctly.



# Key Stage 1

## Year 1W

1W enjoyed a visit from the Reading Ambassadors, who read to the pupils with intonation, expression and enthusiasm. It is a wonderful opportunity for pupils in the older years to get to know our younger pupils. Our class have access to a variety of stories, developing their vocabulary and a love of reading. A big thank you to the Reading Ambassadors



## Year 1C

1C have been reading the sequel to one of their favourite books this year: 'Look Up!' by Nathan Bryant. It is called 'Clean Up!' and this time the main character, Rocket goes to visit her grandparents in the Caribbean, only to be dismayed by the rubbish left on the beach and the pollution in the sea.

The children loved hearing about how Rocket has a brainwave and manages to save the day yet again, by organising a "clean-up-crew" to clean up the beach and save the sea-life. We talked about how we could help prevent pollution and damage to wildlife and the children had lots of ideas.

The children wrote a summary of the story in their own words, picking out the important parts and drew lovely illustrations. Sophia even chose to write her summary in the first person, as if she was Rocket. Well done, 1C!



## Year 2S

Year 2 visited Barleylands Farm and learnt how to make a bread roll using wheat from the farm. We went on a tractor ride around the farm and were lucky to be able to see a bird of prey show and feed some of the animals. We all had a great time.



## Year 2Z

2Z have thoroughly enjoyed their D&T project of sewing hand puppets this half term. The children learned how to complete a simple stitch and challenged themselves to conquer any muddled ones! The children decorated their puppets to look like animals and enjoyed performing shows with them when they were completed. Well done, 2Z!



# Key Stage 2

## Year 3V

Year 3 enjoyed using circular looms to create their own colourful weavings. The children carefully swapped strands with each colour using the under and over technique to build simple but effective patterns. It was a great opportunity to develop their fine motor skills and explore creativity through textile art!



## Year 3C

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed an exciting and educational Rainforest workshop delivered by Hertfordshire Zoo. The children had the opportunity to explore real animal skulls and learned fascinating facts about the Amazon Rainforest. They discovered the different layers of the rainforest, the animals that live within them, and the impact of deforestation. It was a fun and informative experience that brought their topic to life!

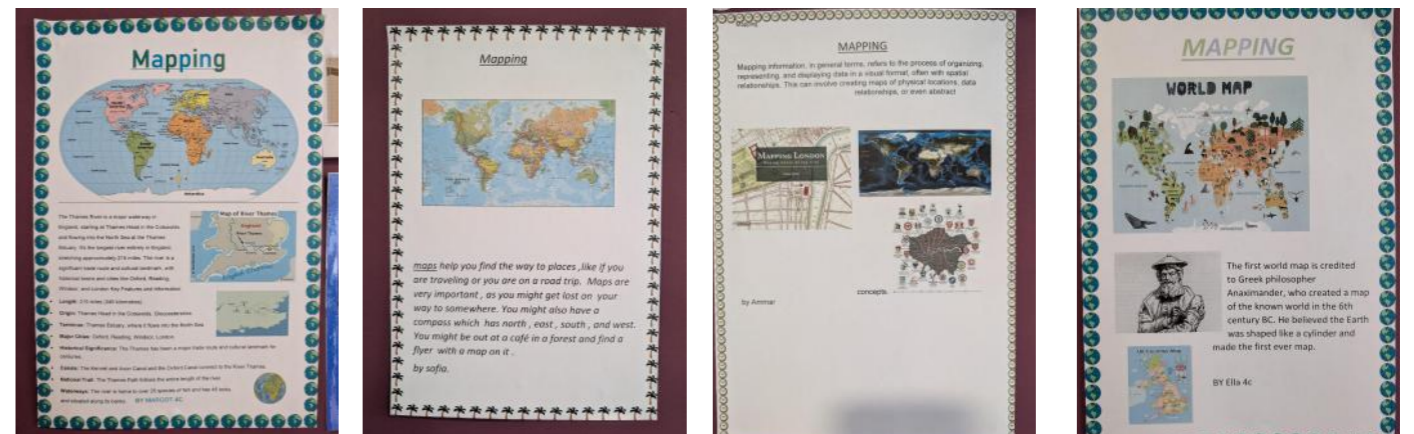


## Year 4D

This term in Geography and Maths, the children in 4D have been putting their mapping skills to the test! They've been learning how to read and use coordinates, recognise map symbols and apply compass directions to navigate their way around different maps. Using these skills, the children worked in pairs and groups to challenge each other with sets of instructions – testing their knowledge and accuracy while having lots of fun. It's been fantastic to see their teamwork and problem-solving shine as they explored maps and developed their spatial awareness. Great work, 4D!



## Year 4C



This term, Year 4 have been travelling the world—virtually! As part of our Topic, we have been using the internet to explore and understand maps in exciting new ways.

Our budding cartographers have been learning how to use online tools like Google Maps and interactive atlases. They've explored continents, countries, and cities, zooming in to discover landmarks, natural features, and even their own neighbourhood from above! We've also discussed the importance of symbols, scale, and compass directions.

After gathering information online, the children designed and created their own information posters about mapping. These colourful posters include maps, key facts, drawings, and even fun trivia. It's been brilliant to see their research and design skills come together to produce such creative and informative work!

# Key Stage 2

## Year 5Z

Year 5 have been very busy working on Maths, English, Reasoning and plenty of assessment tests. The children have developed their problem-solving skills by working in groups to solve a wide range of challenges. Grasping the idea of different approaches to a problem has helped pupils appreciate other views and has taught them to listen to other children who may have a better way of reaching a solution. The children are also showing excellent team work in drama and music rehearsals in preparation for their exciting performance of Let the Games Begin. Well done for all of your hard work Year 5!



## Year 6M

Year 6 planned and organised a Young Enterprise Initiative whereby they had to take out a loan, budget, order and plan how they were going to make a profit/loss. We are so proud that they worked in teams, made sure everybody played a part and all generated a profit from the different activities they organised for Years 3, 4 and 5. We all had a fantastic morning and were thrilled that we all made a profit. We will keep you posted as to how much we raised and the charity that it will be going to. Year 6 would like to thank you all for your support.



## Chatty Maths Workshop

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils recently participated in a stimulating workshop courtesy of 'Chatty Maths!'. They engaged with 'Stock Market Master', an activity that skilfully integrated teamwork, strategic thinking, and mathematical application as they constructed portfolios within a simulated trading environment.

The children gained valuable insights into concepts such as 'buying low and selling high' and observed how real-world events can influence investments – all whilst enjoying an interactive session. Their engagement was commendable, and the session was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## Wildwoods



Our Wildwoods Club had a wonderful start to the summer term!

From crafting with natural materials to cooking up messy fun in the mud kitchen, the children have fully embraced the great outdoors.

This time spent in nature is so valuable, helping them build connections, spark creativity, and appreciate the world around them.



## STEM

This month in STEM Club, the children had a fantastic time exploring science through two exciting experiments! First, they designed and tested their own flying paper helicopters using simple materials like paper, card and paperclips. They investigated how different forces-especially gravity-affect flight and discovered how small design changes could alter the way their helicopters fell.

They also recreated the *Magic Milk* experiment, using milk, food colouring and soap to explore the science of surface tension and density. By testing different types of milk, the children observed how fat content can affect the movement of colours in the liquid—an eye-catching and educational way to learn about chemical reactions and density differences.

The children loved getting hands-on with these experiments and showed great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout!



## WESSP Swim Gala

We are incredibly proud to share that our school placed 4th out of 13 schools at the recent West Essex School Sports Partnership Swim Gala – an outstanding result!

What makes this achievement even more impressive is that many of the other schools competing were 3- or 4-form entry, with over 100 pupils per year group to select from. Despite being a smaller school, our swimmers rose to the challenge with exceptional technique, determination, and team spirit.

Every single swimmer gave their all, showing not just skill in the water but a fantastic attitude throughout the competition. We couldn't be prouder of their efforts – well done, team!



## Oak-Tree Tennis

We are delighted to announce that Oaklands has won the Year 4–6 Oak-Tree Tennis Tournament for an incredible fourth year in a row! Our talented team delivered fantastic performances throughout the day, demonstrating excellent skill, focus, and sportsmanship on what was a glorious day for tennis.

The competition was strong, but our players rose to the occasion and can be extremely proud of their achievements. A huge well done to all those who took part – your hard work and teamwork truly paid off.

We'd also like to extend a massive congratulations to the pupils who represented the Braeside team – also made up of Oaklands pupils – who secured an impressive 3rd place finish.

Final Results:

1st – Oaklands – 76 points

2nd – Coopersale & Normanhurst – 68 points

3rd – Braeside – 64 points

Well done to everyone involved for making it another memorable tournament!



## Sports Day 2025

We had a wonderfully sunny Sports Day at Oaklands School on Friday 20 June.

The Early Years children were all very excited to take part in a variety different activities this year, including Football Shoot and Water Cannon Cone Knockdown, putting their motor skills to the test.

Reception and Key Stage 1 were next, taking part in fun track events like the Obstacle Course and Hurdles.

The day finished with a brilliant Key Stage 2 sports event, where the House Relays were an exciting, fast paced watch! Well done to Sycamore House who were victorious in lifting the House Cup this year.





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