



July 2025



Oaklands School

Newsletter

Headmistress's Message



As we approach the end of another academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding time for our school community.

The Summer term has been particularly vibrant, with our annual Prizegiving ceremony celebrating the outstanding achievements of our pupils. It was a pleasure to witness the pride and joy on the faces of both pupils and families as we recognised academic excellence, sporting prowess, and contributions to school life.

Our Sports Day was equally successful, with pupils demonstrating remarkable sportsmanship and enthusiasm. The weather was kind to us, and our school field provided the perfect setting for a day of healthy competition and celebration. The atmosphere was wonderful, and I was delighted to see so many families joining us for this special occasion.

Our fields have been put to excellent use throughout this term, hosting numerous activities that have enriched our pupils' educational experience. From outdoor learning sessions to various sporting events, these spaces have truly come alive with the energy and enthusiasm of our school community.

As we prepare to close this academic year, I would like to extend congratulations to all our pupils for their dedication and hard work. Their commitment to their studies, their participation in school activities, and their positive attitude towards learning has been exemplary. Each pupil should feel proud of their achievements and the progress they have made.

I hope you all enjoy a restful and rejuvenating summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for what promises to be another exciting academic year.

With best wishes

Mrs Gretchen Copeman

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Sports Day

Well done to all the children for their excellent participation in Sports Day again this year. It was lovely to see such great sportsmanship and determination from all of our pupils. Well done children!



Lopping Hall performance

Our talented Year pupils in Year 4 to 6 took to the stage at Lopping Hall with their spectacular production of *Let the Games Begin*. The play was a vibrant celebration of teamwork, determination, and fun, brought to life through energetic performances, catchy songs, and colourful costumes. The children captivated the audience with their confidence, humour, and enthusiasm, making it a truly unforgettable evening. A huge thank you to the staff, families, and everyone behind the scenes who supported the production — your encouragement helped make this performance such a resounding success!



Celebration of the Year

Our Early Years children delighted families and staff with their joyful Celebration of the Year performances. Each child shone with confidence and enthusiasm, showcasing the incredible progress they've made throughout the year. A celebration filled with laughter, proud smiles, and a wonderful sense of community; a truly memorable occasion for all.



Prizegiving

Our annual Prizegiving ceremony was a joyful celebration of Oaklands pupils' talent, hard work, and community spirit. The event featured wonderful performances by our talented pupils, an inspiring speech from the Pearly Queen of Clapton and the presentation of well-deserved prizes to students across all year groups. It was a heart-warming occasion that highlighted the achievements of our school community and left everyone feeling proud and inspired. What a lovely afternoon and a special way to say goodbye to Mrs Rathbone who retires this year after 24 years at Oaklands!



House Tree Planting ceremony

The children took part in a special tree planting ceremony on the lower field. This event was not only a celebration of nature but also an opportunity to deepen the children's understanding of Fundamental British Values, particularly democracy.

Earlier in the year, each house voted for a fruit tree they wished to see planted, contributing to the enhancement of the school's natural environment. The results were as follows:

- **Beech House** selected a *Cox's Orange Pippin* apple tree
- **Holly House** chose a *Brown Turkey Fig*
- **Sycamore House** opted for a *Victoria Plum*
- **Willow House** picked a *Comice Pear*

Through this initiative, the children learned about the vital role trees play in supporting the environment. Trees absorb harmful pollutants such as carbon dioxide and release oxygen, improving air quality and creating a healthier atmosphere for both students and staff. They also help combat climate change by storing carbon in their biomass.

In addition, trees contribute to flood prevention by absorbing rainwater and reducing surface runoff. Their roots stabilize the soil, preventing erosion and degradation. Beyond their environmental benefits, trees provide food and shelter for a variety of birds, insects, and other wildlife, enriching biodiversity and offering opportunities for nature observation.

The shaded areas created by these trees will serve as outdoor classrooms, play spaces, and quiet zones for reflection—enhancing the overall learning environment. This hands-on experience has helped students appreciate the importance of **environmental stewardship** and inspired them to make more sustainable choices.

Moreover, the new trees will beautify the school grounds, creating a more welcoming and tranquil space. Research - and lessons learned from Lockdown - shows that spending time in green spaces can reduce stress, boost mood, and encourage physical activity—benefits that will support the well-being of the entire school community.



End of Year Discos

A huge thank you to the OPA for organising discos with Skittleman for the whole school. The children had a fantastic time dancing with their friends and playing games on the field in the marquee. What a lovely way to round up another amazing year at Oaklands!



Year 6 Leavers Assembly



Our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly was a touching celebration of the children's time at Oaklands. With a mix of laughter and a few tears, the pupils shared their favourite memories, performed heartfelt songs, and presented a slideshow of photos capturing their journey from Kindergarten to Year 6. Each child proudly received their leavers' hoodie and wore a graduation cap, marking the end of one chapter and the exciting beginning of another. It was a truly special occasion, filled with pride, gratitude, and hope for the future. We wish our Year 6 leavers every success and happiness as they move on to their next adventure!





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