



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan

## Oaklands Primary School

Great North Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 OPX

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### Newsletter 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### Head Teacher's Message

We're only a couple of weeks in to the New Year, but the children have come back from the Christmas break full of enthusiasm and eager to learn. The highlight of the term so far has to be the fantastic choir trip to the O2, where year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Young Voices concert alongside thousands of children from other primary schools. Mrs Morgan and I were incredibly proud of the children and were very lucky to have seats directly opposite them so that we could see how much they enjoyed the occasion.

Thank you to Mrs Murley, Mrs Bell and Mrs Bismire for volunteering their own time to run the choir and for making events like this happen. Also, thank you to Mrs Mohammed who volunteered to join the trip to help supervise (she particularly enjoyed showing off her dance moves to her pupils during the 90s medley).

I hope you enjoy finding out about all of the learning that has been taking place in the Spring Term so far.

#### Eco-Schools with Mrs Bismire

We had our first meeting of 2024 on Monday and had lots to discuss!

Firstly, congratulations to Ellie Y4, Eva Y2 and Pema Y3 for their amazing eco themed posters which have been turned into smaller reminders to switch off the lights, turn off the taps and turn down the thermostat; see how many you can spot around school or if any are missing. We are still in need of a recycling poster.

We have collectively made a school Eco-code in the form of an acrostic poem which is like a promise or pledge to the environment.

*Everybody needs to join in  
Nature needs our help  
Vital that we act  
Impossible to ignore  
Recycle more  
Oceans are full of litter  
Notice the damage we are causing  
Millions are struggling  
Energy must be saved  
Never give up  
There is NO planet 2!*

KS2 Eco members have also got a little trip planned linked to Feeling Good Week in February which will hopefully bring a bit of colour to the school grounds. Watch this space to find out more...



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### **Sporting News from Mrs Morgan**

Despite the cold weather, sports events haven't stopped at Oaklands. Last week, a team of Year 4 children took part in a Curling competition at Welwyn St Mary's school. It was the opportunity for them to try a different sport and the team did fantastically, finishing in 2nd place overall. Well done!



A quick reminder to send your children with a change of shoes on PE days, in case they get muddy during their PE lesson. This will help us to keep the school cleaner while the field is so muddy. Thank you.

We have been told that there are still a few spaces left in the sports clubs that Stevenage FC Foundation are running. Please follow the link below to book on ;

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/stevenagefc/catalogsearch/result/?q=oaklands>

### **PSHE Update from Mrs Andreas**

This half term, our topic is 'Valuing Difference'.

**Reception** The children have been learning about what makes them unique. They painted their self-portrait using mirrors to look at details such as eye colour, hair style, skin tone, freckles etc. They have started to talk about what they have in common with others. They have learned about showing kindness and caring and read a story called 'Harold Shares his Scarf'. Next, Reception will be learning about who helps them at home, thinking about their families and will be reading the text 'The Great Big Book of Families'. Can they spot any similarities or differences and can they talk about what is special about their own family?

**Year One** The children met Harold the giraffe, Kiki the kangaroo and Derek the penguin. They noticed what is similar about these three friends and what is different (both in appearance and hobbies). They have explained the difference between being unkind, teasing and bullying. They know that bullying is



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actually quite rare (but know what to do if it occurs). Next, they will be learning about why we have rules in school, and that a lot of the rules are in place to keep everyone safe.

**Year Two** The children have been thinking about what makes them who they are. They listed their favourite sport, food, teddy, hobby and something about their appearance e.g. eye colour, curly hair, wears glasses etc. They have considered who they feel their special people are, and what makes them so important. Next, they will be considering their behaviour, and how their behaviour can make others feel good, or sometimes not so good.

**Year Three** The children have been working collaboratively and showing respectful behaviours towards others in their group including: active listening, turn taking, negotiating and compromising. They have been recognising that there are many different types of family, and have been learning what is meant by 'adoption', 'fostering' and 'same-sex relationships'. Next, they will be thinking about the term 'community' and will consider what communities they belong to (e.g. Oaklands School, Sports teams, Brownies etc). They will discuss the benefits of belonging to a community in terms of their own mental health.

**Year Four** The children have been identifying what makes them different to each other, but also what similarities they have. They discussed homes, families, hobbies, appearance and dispositions. They have also discussed how to sort out differences within friendships, for example: compromising, negotiating, taking turns, being flexible and listening to other people's ideas. Next, they will be thinking about the people they share the world with. They will discuss religions, ethnicities, gender, disabilities, hobbies, families and more. They will then create their own fact file about themselves.

**Year Five** The children have been considering what makes a good friend, why we need friends and how we choose our friends. They have been learning what makes a good listener: keeping eye contact, not interrupting, asking questions to find out more. Next, they will be developing an understanding of discrimination and injustice and will be recapping the story of Rosa Parks as an example of how discriminatory behaviour can be challenged.

**Year Six** The children have been considering the positives of people having differences and similarities. They have also thought about the problems that difference may cause for some people (such as bullying). They recapped both bullying and bystander behaviours. Next, they will be thinking about the importance of showing respect to others, if it is always easy to show respect and why it is important to show respectful behaviours towards people we dislike or disagree with.

### Donaldson

This week we have been learning about the three little pigs and the three Billy goats gruff. As part of our learning we designed houses for the three little pigs and then worked in groups to build them. We enjoyed our stick hunt. We played with the houses on our outside stage and recreated the story. We wrote the story of the three little pigs in our groups and made a story map which everyone contributed to. We discussed how the troll in the three billy goats gruff could have been kind and changed the ending of the story. We also created a river in the hall to try and cross using 'stones'.

In maths we have been thinking about what zero is and what zero is not. The children used visual representations of numbers and worked as a team to sort the pictures into zero and not zero. We also



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looked at adding one more and one less to different numbers and different ways of making numbers e.g. 5 can be made from 2 and 3 or 4 and 1 or 0 and 5.

In our continuous provision we have been working on our hand strength and fine motor skills. We are using play dough to build strength in our hands, bracelet making to develop our fine motor skills through threading and tricky word hunts to develop our phonics knowledge and our hand strength through using tweezers.

Next week we will be:

- Investigating mass & capacity through explorative play
- Reading lots of books linked to our topic of 'once upon a time' and designing our own fairy tales.
- In phonics we will be learning the sounds: ur, ow, oi & ear.
- Thinking about how we are all different and how to celebrate what makes us unique.

### **Murphy**

Murphy class have been busy with our geography topic. We have been looking at landmarks and exploring human and physical features. We have used adjectives to describe some of the famous landmarks in London and shared our experiences of trips to London. We have learnt that London is the capital city of England.

In science we have been looking at seasonal changes. We have learnt about the four seasons and the weather that typically occurs during these seasons. We have also been weather recorders and reporters by recording the weather every morning and afternoon.

In art, we created some brilliant pieces of transient art; art that is non-permanent. We used natural and man-made resources to create weather pictures. We are moving on to exploring textures, lines and shapes.

We have made a fantastic start to our maths unit 'Place value within 20'. We have looked tens and ones and have been using number lines to 20. We have also been learning how to write numbers as words.

Beegu has been very popular and has inspired lots of conversations and writing in our Literacy lessons. We have learnt about verbs, revisited the use of adjectives and we have helped Beegu to learn how to sound out certain words as she uses alien language! We also wrote a letter to Beegu to give her some advice and reassurance about landing her spaceship in the Key Stage 2 playground!

In the next few weeks, we will be:

- Geography - identifying landmarks through the use of aerial photographs.
- Science - Describing, following observation, how plants and animals change over time.
- RE - Exploring Purim, a Jewish festival
- Maths - Comparing and ordering numbers to 20.



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### **Dahl**

It has been a lovely couple of weeks welcoming the children back after the Christmas break! We have dived straight into our learning with a variety of subjects!

In Literacy we have started a new book called 'The Bear Under the Stairs'. So far, they have met a mystery object hidden in our classroom and we are yet to find out what it is! They have been discussing any fears they had when they were younger and writing about these in the past tense. We have also explored different homophones that we found in the story and created our own sentences using these. The children did a fantastic job and spotting these and were experts at using them!

In Maths we have finished our topic of 'Money' by completing the unit looking at 2 step problems. This was a tricky concept to grasp but the children worked really hard and were able to put their skills into use for real life scenarios. We have now moved onto multiplication and division which they have all started to grasp really well. We have been making equal groups, using repeated addition and looking at what the multiplication symbol looks like.

In Science, we have been experimenting with different everyday materials and what properties they have. We went on a material hunt round the school and completed an enquiry to see which materials could be stretched, twisted, squashed and which ones returned to their original form. They had lots of fun looking at these and conducting their own mini experiment.

In Art, we have started our new topic- 'Flowerhead'. We have started by sketching flowers and focusing on the form and shape of them. We have also compared different artist's paintings and sketches to find similarities and differences between them.

In Geography we have been looking at the coastline and where we can find this on a map of the UK. We have started to look closer at the coastal town of Whitby and the physical and human features we can find here. The children created a fact file on Whitby which incorporated their skills of labelling maps, using a key and compass and identifying physical and human features in Whitby.

In the following weeks we will be learning:

- Literacy- writing their own versions of the story
- Maths- using the multiplication symbol and the grouping method
- Art- exploring shape and form of flowers using a variety of art techniques
- Geography- coastal erosion

### **Ahlberg**

Ahlberg Class have had a great start back after Christmas and have been very busy starting new topics and preparing their class assembly! We have started a topic call 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles'. The class have looked at the four layers of the earth, recapped tectonic plates and discussed the properties of each layer. The children have bought in some fantastic models for their homework. They were all very creative and I have been very impressed! Under this topic, we have been looking at ammonites in art. The class have practiced the skill of cross hatching to show darker and lighter areas in their sketches as well as designing simple motifs. We then created ammonites out of clay.



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In science we have explored forces. We started by looking at pulling and pushing forces as well as contact forces. The children sorted images based on whether the contact was pushing or pulling. They have then moved on to frictional forces.

In dance, the class have continued to practice movements in counts of 8, under the theme of Country and Western. Outside we have been practicing skills for handball. The class have been exploring finding space and also passing the ball while moving.

In maths we have continued our topic of multiplication and division. We have been multiplying a two-digit number by a 1-digit number by partitioning it into tens and ones.

In Literacy we have been reading 'The Tin Forest'. The class have been using different tenses to write diary entries as well as wishes for the character.

Next week, we will be learning:

- Maths: Measuring in CM and MM
- Literacy: Summarising skills when reading. writing persuasive leaflets.
- Geography: Comparing rocks. Soil testing.
- Science: Exploring force meters.

### **Morpurgo**

Year 4 have had a brilliant couple of weeks back.

In Literacy we are well underway looking at a book called 'Frindleswyld'. The children have discovered that the King of Winter wants a friend and has gone about it the wrong way. We have discussed the feelings characters are showing each other as well as what they are feeling internally. We are moving on to creating a sequel and exploring different impossible tasks that 'Frindleswyld' could set. We have started a new topic, 'Misty Mountain, Winding River'. So far, we have looked into what sections of the river are called as well as what rivers are around the world.

In Science, we have been exploring solids, liquids and gases. We have started to understand what makes a material either a solid, liquid or gas and why. We have also thought about what materials may fit into more than one state.

In PE, we have started our two new topics, gymnastics and tag rugby. The children are very excited to try out new balances and work on their skills.

In Art we have been exploring landscapes and what artists may focus on when painting or sketching a landscape. We have also had a go at drawing a landscape.

Over the next fortnight:

- Literacy - We will be writing a sequel to 'Frindleswyld'.
- Topic - We will be exploring the uses of rivers.
- Art - We will be trying out different materials and understanding what effect they have when used together.



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- Music - We are very lucky to have someone who is going to be coming in to teach us how to play the Ukulele.

### Westall

What a fantastic start to Spring term. In literacy we have been reading 'The Island' by Armin Greder. This is a story that explores themes of prejudice and hostility as well as exploring the mindset of the island's inhabitants. In our first lesson, we created a guide for a newcomer settling into our class and how to make them feel welcome. We then used question tags to create rhetorical questions and practiced using the passive voice in our writing.

In maths, we have nearly completed our second unit on multiplication and division. We have been using different methods to multiply and divide up to four-digit numbers by two digits numbers.

We have started our next geography topic called 'Sow, Grow and Farm'. In our first lesson, we watched a video on different land uses in the UK and then researched allotments in the local area. In groups we made posters of our findings and presented them to the class.

In RE, we made 3D models of the Golden Temple as part of the Sikh festival 'Guru Arjan Gurburab' and researched facts for our homework.

In the next fortnight we will be learning:

- Maths: multiplying fractions with whole numbers
- Literacy: writing a narrative sequel
- Science : exploring the human lifecycle
- PE: practising balance and flexibility poses in yoga
- French: types of weather
- Geography: seasonality of food grown in allotments

### Tolkien

In Literacy we have been reading a book about the Suffragettes – the group who campaigned successfully for female suffrage. We have written diary entries and speeches; used the passive voice and the subjunctive form; and practiced plural and singular apostrophes for possession. Quick Quiz: In which year did women get the vote in the UK?

In Maths we have been learning about ratio: the multiplicative relationship between two numbers. We have just started an algebra unit by looking at one and two-step function machines. QQ: What is the ratio of males to females in your family?

In Spelling we have been working on the word endings -cial and -tial. QQ Can you think of two words for each?

In Geography we have been learning about Frozen Kingdoms. We have learned about how the earth's tilt affects seasons; what polar day and night are; and what physical features are present in the Arctic and Antarctic, QQ: Name 2 countries that are in the Arctic.

In PE we have been doing tag rugby. So far, we have learned how to pass and tag.



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In French we have been learning about clothes, as well as articles (un, une)

In Science we have been learning about electrical circuits. We have identified components, drawn circuits and we will make our own in the following weeks. QQ: Can you describe what the symbol for a lamp looks like?

In RE we have been learning about Buddhism and the death of Buddha. QQ: Name a country where most people are Buddhist.

Coming up!..

- Literacy – writing discussion pieces
- Maths – algebra
- Computing – online safety
- Geography – explorers and adventurers to the poles

### Oaklands Easter Camp

We will be running an Easter Camp here at school again from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April from 9am – 4pm at a cost of £25 per day. If you wish to book on please email Mrs Murley in the school office with the days you require, and make payment on the school gateway option that goes live tomorrow.

### Spring Term Diary Dates

| Date  | Event  |
|---|--|
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January                                       | KS2 Eco Team trip  |
| Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February                                       | Year 2 class assembly – 9am  |
| W/B Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February                                   | Feeling Good Week  |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February                                     | School nurses visiting for Reception screening.  |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February                                      | Year 1 class assembly - 9am<br>End of term 3.15pm  |
| Half Term: Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February |  |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February                                      | School returns   |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March  | SEND and Pastoral Needs Parent Café - 9am<br>World Book Day - Children can come to school dressed as a book character of their choice. |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March  | Year 4 School Trip   |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March   | Parents Evening – 3:30 – 6:00pm  |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March  | Parents Evening – 4:00 – 7:00pm  |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March   | Year 5 Dance Festival at Campus West   |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March                                       | End of term – 2pm finish   |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April   | Children return to school  |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April –<br>Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April   | Year 5 Residential   |





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# SADA Drop-in Service

Every other Monday from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

**To provide support and advice to victims and survivors, and children living with domestic abuse**

For more information, please call 01438 242666  
and ask for our Community Safety Team  
or email [SADA@stevensage.gov.uk](mailto:SADA@stevensage.gov.uk)

