



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan

Oaklands Primary School

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Newsletter 8th December 2023

Head Teacher's Message

This is last newsletter of the term and the calendar year, and reading each teacher's entry highlights to me how hard the children are working. I have been particularly impressed with writing across the school since the introduction of Literacy Tree, a book-based approach to writing where children are able to use engaging texts as a context for their work. We will put a date in the diary in the new year to invite parents in to showcase Literacy and talk you through the rationale behind it.


I would like to say a big thank you and congratulations to the school choir for their stellar performances in several different settings this festive period. I was very proud to watch them perform at St Mary's Church. I am clearly biased and it was not a competition, but we were clearly the best choir there!

At St Mary's Church we also saw success for Ella and George Bailey and Olivia and Amelia Buckling Wade in the Christmas card competition with Amelia winning the overall prize for best design and subsequently turning on the village Christmas lights.

I hope you enjoy finding out more about what your children have been learning over the last couple of weeks.

Eco-Schools

At our latest meeting, we put our ideas together to collectively make an Eco-code for Oaklands. It is a mixture of a plan as well as a promise to the world around us, the Eco team are currently finalising their posters before the big reveal of our code.

We also picked our winning posters for energy and water but are still waiting on the perfect recycling  one!

Thinking of our school grounds, could we kindly remind you to stick to the pathways rather than using the banks where we have our tree saplings growing, thank you in advance.

Choir

If you have missed the Choir performances so far, we are singing at the Christmas Fair at noon tomorrow. Moving on to Sunday, The North Star along the road have laid on a special treat on this Sunday afternoon. They have Elsa from Frozen coming to see them at 4pm for an afternoon of songs and stories. We are then very excited to tell you that our amazing choir will be singing with Elsa at around 5pm and then singing a selection of their songs for everyone to enjoy. Why not pop down for the afternoon to get into the Christmas spirit.

PSHE Update from Mrs Andrea

Anti-Bullying Week (13th-17th November 2023)

What a week we have had! The theme for this year is 'Make a Noise about Bullying.'



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We were lucky enough to welcome back Bigfoot Education who ran drama workshops across the school. The response from both children and staff was overwhelming, great fun was had by all, as well as confidence levels boosted.

The Oaklands 'Values Ambassadors' (who trained as 'Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, but we have re-branded the name to fit in more closely with our Oaklands Values) led an assembly. They taught the school about the three types of bullying (VIP: Verbal, Indirect and Physical) as well as informing the school of how to spot possible signs of bullying. They finished by teaching the whole school the signs for 'Young People Can Change the World', to emphasise that we all have a part to play in this Anti-Bullying movement.

On Monday, everyone was invited to wear odd socks to school, and to donate £1 to charity (the Anti-Bullying Alliance). In total we raised £80 to this worthwhile cause, well done Team Oaklands!

On Wednesday, it was 'Positive Noticing Day' across the school. This was such a lovely day, as many children passed on positive notes to one another, letting them know how great they really are. Staff also participated and gave/received notes of positivity.

In PSHE, Years 3 and 4 read the text 'Odd Dog Out' and wrote a postcard to the dog, persuading her not to move away just because she is different. We had some brilliant discussions about Diversity and acceptance

PSHE

This current topic is 'Rights and Respect.

In Reception, the children have been learning about the wonderful world around them and what they can do to help care for the environment. Next, they will be learning about money: how we get it, where it comes from and what we can do with it.

In Year One the children talked about their basic needs (food, sleep etc) and then talked about looking after something, such as a pet, and the needs a pet would have. They then role played taking care of an animal (cuddly toys) in class. They were so caring and loving towards their pets, well done Year One. They have also been learning about money and took turns last week being the shopkeeper/buying items using change. Next, they will learn about the importance of keeping money safe and understand the concept of 'saving money'. They will also complete some basic first aid including how to contact emergency services.

In Year Two, the children have been thinking about what it means to feel safe and how their special people help to keep them safe (at home, at school and elsewhere e.g. clubs). We discussed the importance of knowing their address, and how to ask for help (including calling 999 in an emergency). They have also recapped internet safety, including keeping personal information private and only talking online to people they know in real life. They have also learnt about looking after money including making sensible choices and knowing money can be saved to use at another time. Next, they will be looking at our school environment and deciding on their favourite areas and thinking of ways to make other areas of our school even better.



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In Year Three, the children learnt about volunteering - what a volunteer is and why a person might choose to volunteer. They have discussed money: understanding the terms 'income', 'spending' and 'saving'. They have learnt that there are times we may need to save up for something special and also considered ways of saving money when purchasing items (looking in charity shops, or online marketplaces for pre-loved items) and helping our environment at the same time. Next, they will be considering our school environment and will be thinking of ways that we can: reduce waste (paper, food), save water, save energy and look after plants/outdoor spaces.

In Year Four, the children learnt about the UN Rights of the Child. They discussed why we have rules and talked about who decides rules in different places, as well as how people can have a say in decision making e.g. voting. They then considered the question: Who influences you? and discussed how the media can report on topics in a biased way. They have also thought about the topic of Bullying, specifically the role in which a Bystander can play in influencing bullying or other anti-social behaviours. They also know they play a role in influencing outcomes of situations by their actions. Next, the children will be defining the terms: 'income tax', 'National Insurance' and 'VAT'. They will look at an example of a payslip and identify the pay and deductions. They will enter a debate in which they will be asked to prioritise public services from most essential to least essential.

In Year Five, the children have learnt about spending money wisely. Using Harry Potter Lego sets as an example, they learnt the costs involved in producing, advertising and selling items and thought about questions that a consumer should ask for before buying a product. They have learnt about borrowing and lending money as well as the terms: 'loan', 'credit', 'debt' and 'interest'. They have had the chance to suggest advice for a range of situations involving personal finance. Next, they will be thinking about local councils and will explain some of the areas that local councils have responsibility for.

In Year 6, the children have been reminded about secrets and surprises (some secrets can be unsafe, whereas surprises are often positive, such as a present) as well as appropriate and inappropriate touch, and the NSPCC's PANTS rule. They have learnt that different jobs have different levels of pay, and the factors that influence this. They have discussed tax and have compared different public services, comparing their value. They have been learning about democracy in Britain and have learnt the terms: 'constituency', 'candidate', 'MP', 'campaign' and 'manifesto'. They have worked in groups to create their own political parties and have prepared for a Mock election. Next, the children will be defining the term 'community' and will be recognising the benefits to mental health and wellbeing of being part of community groups.

Donaldson

Donaldson have been very busy lately. We have been rehearsing our nativity, practising our script and learning our songs! The children are very excited to perform to you on Friday 15th! We hope you will be able to come and watch us. In our phonics we have been learning lots of new digraphs (two letters, one sound) such as sh, ch, th and zz. We have been applying our phonics knowledge to reading different sentences as a class each day. You might challenge your child to read a simple sentence you have written down! We have reached the end of our phase 2 learning and will be recapping all of our learning from autumn term to secure our knowledge.

In maths we have been looking at the numbers 4 & 5 and how they can be made. We used different objects to help us work out what we can use to make 4 & 5. We have used our fingers to show 4 and 5



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and have been thinking about different ways we could show it e.g. 2 fingers on each hand to make 4. We have also taken our counting skills into our play, some children enjoy developing their gross motor skills by throwing balls into a net, they have been counting their scores to see who scores more points!

In class we have enjoyed the cold snap of weather as it has formed lots of ice! We have been finding different ways to melt it, there have been suggestions of using spoons to break it into smaller pieces, pour water onto it and to use our hands! The ice has caused lots of excitement, especially when there was glitter found in large blocks of ice and even some tinsel that the children worked hard to free.

Next week we will be:

- Investigating vehicles and different types of transport. Reading lots of books linked to travel and designing our own vehicle.
- In phonics we will be revising our phonics from autumn term and completing our Little Wandle assessment to cover any gaps there might be.
- We will investigate numbers and think about how many more we might need to reach a specific number, we will be using dice and small world figures to help us in our learning.

Murphy

In Literacy, we have been focusing on the importance of oral rehearsal before writing our sentences. We have been adding conjunctions and adjectives to our sentences as well as working with a partner to give feedback on our writing, for example, the use of capital letters and full stops.

As mathematicians, we have been subtracting with the use of a number line and we have also been looking at 3d shapes and making links to our previous learning and starting to think about the 2-D faces on a 3-D shape.

Our scientific skills were used when we explored a carousel of activities where we had to follow instructions to perform simple tests and talk about what we might do or what might happen, we then shared our findings and discussed our results, emphasising the properties we had investigated, such as size, texture, temperature, mass, length and colour.

In PE, we have been as still as a statue working on holding our balances for 5 seconds and squeezing our muscles! We have also been working on challenging ourselves within the tasks we have been set.

A popular mission this week was to create a 'tricky word' chimney for Father Christmas, these are now placed around the classroom to support us with our writing and extending our sentences.

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, we will be: -

- Literacy- Finishing our own sequel to our literacy text 'I want my Hat back!'
- Maths - Looking at patterns within 2D and 3D shapes
- Art - Making self-portraits using the technique of collage

We are really looking forward to enjoying all the Christmas events and celebrating a hugely successful first term in Year 1!



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Dahl

Year 2 have had a very busy couple of weeks! In R.E we have been learning about the Jewish celebration- Hannukah. They have had the chance to explore menorahs and how they are lit. They also made their own Dreidel's and played the game in small groups.

In DT we have continued to learn about reading recipes and this week we had the chance to make Eton Mess using different skills such as cutting, crushing and mixing. They enjoyed making these and were very excited to bring them home to share with you!

In Maths we have finished all of our Autumn topics including shape. They explored a range of 3D shapes and investigated how many edges, faces and vertices they had. They even made patterns using different 2D and 3D shapes. They have all grasped this topic really well and enjoyed learning something more abstract. We have also finished the week by doing some small maths assessments which they all did fantastically well. The Year 2 team are very proud of them!

In Literacy, we have started a new book called 'We are Water Protectors'. This is about environmental campaigns and how we can save the environment. The children are enjoying learning about this and are very passionate about strategies we can implement to improve our world. This week they have written simple sentences about why water is useful, and they created list poems based on the theme of water (rivers and seas.)

We have also been busy learning some Christmas songs to present in the assembly which we are looking forward to presenting to you! The children have decorated some baubles which are now on our class Christmas tree! The children are doing lots of amazing work and we are all getting very excited for Christmas now... with daily countdowns from the children!

In the new few weeks, we will be:

- Literacy- writing environmental campaigns
- Maths- Money (counting pence, pounds)
- Music- Ho, Ho, Ho and Jingle Bell Rock
- RE- Christmas and activities relating to the celebration

Ahlberg

Ahlberg Class have enjoyed reading the BFG as a whole class. We have been basing our literacy work on the BFG exploring character descriptions and improving dialogue by adding adverbs and synonyms for the word 'said'.

In Maths, we have been looking at multiplication and division. The class have been counting in multiples of 2, 5, 10 and 3. We have explored grouping and sharing and writing the matching multiplications. In French, we have looked at colours and the class have recapped learning from the whole term.

In geography, the class have learnt about our carbon footprint and how we can be friendlier to the environment. They have also looked at land use such as farming and residential.



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In computing we have started a touch-typing unit and the class have explored what finger they should use for certain keys on the keyboard. We will continue to explore this, exploring each row of keys.

We have loved wearing our Christmas jumpers this week and have been very excited for the pantomime!

Next week, we will be learning:

- Maths: Times Tables, Multiplying and Dividing.
- Literacy: The BFG - Diary recounts
- D&T: Preparing vegetables - cooking ratatouille and tacos.
- Computing: Touch Typing

Morpurgo

Year 4 have had a lovely 2 weeks. We have showcased our learning in the class assembly and opened the classroom to parents showing off some fantastic work. We will be ending our last two weeks with an amazing trip to the pantomime!

In literacy we have started looking at a new book which the children have been using different skills to work out what they think is going to happen based on the cover. There have also been mysterious metal objects around the classroom and the children have been exploring what they might be and why that may link to the story.

In Topic we have continued to explore the national rail routes and ways of traveling around Britain. In the most recent lesson, we looked at transport links in our local area and why it is important to have a range of ways to travel.

In Science, we have been exploring our own research questions to delve deeper into understanding sound. One of the many experiments we tried was 'Does the tallest person have the loudest voice and the quietest person have the smallest voice?'. We found that this was not the case, after a very loud shouting experiment outside, the children worked out that there is no correlation between someone's height and how loud their voice is. There were a lot of questions that followed so I think this call for another experiment.

In PE, we have been playing mini games in football and using skills that we have learnt previously to play a fair game. In dance we have finished looking at the samba and moved onto a 1960's style of dance - The Twist.

In art we have been exploring different ways of weaving using looms and have created many different wall hangings and bracelet style creations. It has been fantastic to see the children so engaged and reflective in understanding what they have done right and wrong. They have also been able to personalise their creation by adding shapes and changing colours.

Over the next fortnight:

- Literacy - We will be writing a mystery based on our new text
- Science - We will be finishing off our investigations and reflecting on what we know now
- Art - We will be evaluating our work and understanding what we could do to make it even better.



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- DT - We will be creating healthy snacks and making packaging for our food to ensure it stays fresh.

Westall

Over the past two weeks, Westall have been working really hard in all their lessons.

In literacy we have been hooked on our new book 'The Children of The Benin Kingdom' by Dinah Ali. We arrived in the classroom to discover a box containing different artefacts such as leaves, branches, a map of the kingdom of Benin, cowrie shells, a brass armlet and yams. We discussed the different objects as a class and then predicted what the story was going to be about, after reading the prologue. Every day, we have been reading parts of the story and have created some fantastic pieces of work - letters using the future tense, made specific verb choices to show contrasts in emotions and used relative clauses in a survival guide. We are looking forward to reading the ending!

In maths, using our knowledge of equivalent fractions, we added and subtracted fractions with mixed numbers and different denominators. We have now finished our learning on fractions for this term.

In science this week, we started by writing down our observations on post it notes about what we noticed about the moon at night during the month and discussed this as a class. We then watched a presentation and video about the different phases of the moon, before completing questions to consolidate our knowledge.

In art, we have been exploring shades, tints and tones. We looked at features of different landscapes and used this knowledge to create our own landscape paintings based on real or fantasy images.

In French we have been enjoying learning days of the week, months of the year, numbers up to thirty-one and playing French bingo.

In PE, we have been improving our catching, throwing and dodging skills and learning tactics needed to outwit our opponents.

As part of our geography topic 'Investigating our world' we have been exploring different climate zones, vegetation belts and biomes and how they are all linked to one another. We have also been describing similarities and differences in physical and human geography between continents. We named, located and describe major world cities and presented our findings to the class.

In the next fortnight we will be learning:

- Literacy: to use adverbial phrases and discuss thoughts about the story.
- Science: to investigate the formation of 'craters'
- PE: to develop officiating skills and referee a game in dodgeball.
- French: how to ask and answer the question 'C'est quand ton anniversaire?'
- Geography: to describe the relative location of cities, counties in the UK.



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Tolkien

In Literacy we have been researching the destruction of giant kelp forests in Tasmania. We have looked at how these wonderful underwater kingdoms have been affected by climate change and over-fishing. Quick quiz: what is kelp?!

In Maths we have been looking at metric units of measurements such as mg, grams, km, metres, ml and litres. QQ: estimate the mass of a banana.

In spelling we have looked at tricky words such as existence and persuade.

In Geography we have been looking at biomes and climate zones. QQ: name a country than will have a hot Christmas Day!

In French we have been continuing to look at how to talk about pets. QQ: what does this mean. J'ai un chat qui sappelle Heidi.

In Science we have looked at the difference between processed and unprocessed food.

In PE we have been working on finding space when playing football.

Next few weeks:

- In Literacy we will write discussion texts
- In maths we will look at ratio and proportion.
- In computing we will make quizzes on a purple Mash.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Saturday 9 th December – Oaklands Christmas Fair	
Sunday 10 th December – North Star Christmas event	
Friday 15 th December	Reception nativity
Tuesday 19 th December	School Christmas Dinner – please order on the school gateway, and wear Christmas jumpers again just for fun – no donation required
Wednesday 20 th December	Whole school carol concert @ 1pm End of term 2pm
Thursday 4 th January	Return to school



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