



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan

Oaklands Primary School

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Newsletter – 24th November 2023

Head Teacher's Message



A huge congratulations to the Year 3 and 4 boys football team who yesterday won their tournament which took place at Ridgeway School. They finished unbeaten, having topped their group with 5 wins and a draw, before overcoming a strong Templewood team in the final. The boys showed excellent resilience as the game went to penalties and was won in sudden death! Thank you to Mr Stenning for preparing and coaching the team, to Mrs Morgan for organising logistics and to all parents who helped out with lifts. The team will come up in assembly on Monday to show off their medals.

I hope you enjoy finding out what has been happening in your children's classes in the rest of the newsletter.

PTA

The Oaklands PTA was pleased to be able to fund the recent Bigfoot Workshops held at the school for Anti-Bullying week as well as the coaches for the upcoming panto trip. Thank you for supporting our events, which make the above funding possible. With regards to fundraising, £305.50 was raised from our Christmas Card project with IQ Cards and £173 (and many donated sweets) from Be Yourself Day!

Please see below for our upcoming events:



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Advent Calendar Raffle: Ticket sales for the raffle are now closed and the winners for each calendar will be drawn on Monday 27th November during assembly. Good luck to all the children!

Pre-Loved Christmas Jumpers: There has been interest in having another Christmas jumper sale. We are collecting jumpers between now and next Friday the 1st of December and will sell after school on Friday, 1 Dec, Monday 4 Dec, and Tuesday 5 Dec. Please drop off any donated jumpers in office reception.

Christmas Fair: Saturday, December 9th from 11-3pm. The choir will be singing at 12.00, Santa will be stopping by to read a story, a face painter will be attending, and we will be hosting a festive Cheerleading/Yoga workshop with Emerald Skye Cheer. We also have a Quest 2 VR Headset worth £400 (generously donated by Lava Wholesale) being raffled off!! This is in addition to all sorts of games and activities. We hope you can make it!


Tombola Bags: Related to the above, your child should have come home this week with a small paper bag for the tombola stall at the fair. This bag can be decorated by your child and filled with sweets or small toys. These bags will be given as prizes at the tombola, which is always a hugely popular stall. Please return your filled bag by Friday 1st December. If you have any questions don't hesitate to email us.

Please don't forget that you can vote for Oaklands at local Tesco shops as part of their Community Grant program. The grant money will be used toward a covered firepit to use for Forest School. Voting is going on now and will run until mid-January at the following shops: Broadwater Stevenage (SG2 8DT), Stevenage Extra (SG1 1ES), Woolmer Green Express (SG3 6FP), Old Stevenage High Street Express (SG1 3EF), Stevenage Che Ph Express (SG2 0LU), Hitchin St Lyon Express (SG4 9SP). The charity with the most votes receives £1,500, 2nd place £1,000 and 3rd £500. Please help us by voting whenever you visit one of the above shops!

Finally, just a reminder as Christmas is coming up that you can do your online shopping with Easyfundraising to raise money for the school. All you need to do is sign up and remember to use Easyfundraising whenever you shop online. Every little bit helps, so please consider signing up at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oaklandswelwyn/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n1 Thanks as always for your support.

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.

From the School Office

FYI Milk ordering information for the Spring Term has been sent out today.



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Donaldson

Donaldson class have been working hard and getting up to lots of exciting learning. Last week we focused on Diwali, as part of our learning about different celebrations. We created diya lamps, paper lanterns, Rangoli patterns and looked at different mehndi designs. We also learnt some traditional Diwali dance moves and created our own dances! We created lots of colourful potions!

In maths we looked at different 2D shapes and created pictures using them. We also looked at positional language and used Barnaby Bear today to talk about where he was. E.g. ON the chair, IN the blue tray, BEHIND the cushion....

This week in phonics the children have been really enjoying their learning, trying their best to write the tricky words: on, no, into and go. We've also used our phonics knowledge to learn the spelling of: can, back, run, had and sun. The children used their whiteboard packs to use their letter formation phrases to write these words. Some asked for help and received dot-to-dots for letter formations to support their phonics understanding. Some children went the extra mile and wrote other words they thought of using their phonics knowledge.

In maths we have moved onto investigating the numbers 4 and 5. We have been working to subitize (instantly recognise and amount without counting), finding different ways to make 4 and 5 and finding one more and one less. The children have been accessing measuring tape and meter sticks as part of their maths environment and have enjoyed measuring each other and finding out who is tallest! We have also been using our counting skills outside by counting the balls in a life size game of hungry hippos.

On Monday we investigated how shadows work, this develops understanding the world and the children were amazed to find that they could create shadow puppets out of their hands. We made butterflies, dogs, rabbits and compared hand sizes when the lights were close and far away from our hands. We then had a visit on Thursday from the 'Wonderdome'. This was very exciting and we really enjoyed the experience!

Next week we will be: -

- investigating different machines and how they work. We will be designing our own machines and thinking about using our phonics knowledge to record the sounds machines make.
- In phonics we will be looking at new digraphs (two letters, one sound) see if your child can tell you what a digraph is! Whilst you're out and about you could challenge your child to decode some simple words that you might see on signs e.g. stop, shop and hall.
- We will continue to investigate the numbers 4 and 5, you could practice spotting these numbers by collecting natural materials outside e.g. can you find 5 leaves on our walk today?

Murphy

In Literacy, we have been focusing on the use of capital letters. Writing lots of lists and the names of our friends is giving us lots of practise, as well as editing our own writing to ensure we have the key features of a sentence.

In Science we have been looking at senses; we have explored our 5 senses through experiments and have recorded our findings in different ways, such as tables and Venn diagrams.



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As mathematicians, we have been subtracting, with a strong focus on the meaning of the subtraction symbol rather than having to identify the missing values.

In PE we have been enjoying Gymnastics in the hall, we have been using our bodies to create letter shapes and have been working with a partner in each session. Our ball skills are improving our underarm throw and we working on challenging ourselves during games.

Split digraphs have been introduced in our phonics lessons and we have been spotting these within words as well as in non-fiction books!

A popular mission this week was to closely observe the human eye and then sketch a drawing of our own eyes. We have had some very careful and diligent artists in the art area this week, some children even challenged themselves to label the parts of the eye.

Our 'Wonderdome' experience was fantastic, the children enjoyed being immersed into the space themed session. On exit of the 'Wonderdome', one child said 'That was so amazing!'

In the next few weeks, we will be: -

- Literacy - Developing ideas to create a sequel to our literacy text 'I want my Hat back!'
- Maths - Continuing with subtraction and fact families.
- Science - Looking at sensory loss and sensory overload and the impact of this on humans
- History - Exploring family trees and finding out about everyday life in the 1950s

Dahl

Year 2 have, once again, had a fantastic couple of weeks full of lots of new learning! In Literacy we have been finishing the book 'The Journey Home' where the children had the chance to explore other endangered animals. They used four animals of their choice to write their own version of the story. These are starting to look fantastic with their added illustrations and book cover. We have all enjoyed reading this book and learning about a very current topic.

In Maths, we have finished our topic of addition and subtraction and we have now moved onto looking at shape. They have been investigating 2D shapes this week by counting their sides, vertices and also looking at drawing vertical lines of symmetry. They have all enjoyed this new topic and they are all demonstrating a very good understanding of it so far!

In Art, we had a fun Friday filled with a carousel of activities looking at different ways of presenting 'Still Life' art. They had the chance to use clay, powder paints and colouring pencils to sketch, make and paint different set ups of still life objects. They had a lovely time and enjoyed exploring different art techniques to create different effects.

In R.E we have started to learn about the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah. They read 'the story of Hanukkah' and discussed different point of the story and why this celebration is important to Jewish people. They also had the chance to explore different objects such as 'menorahs'.



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In D.T we were also very busy cooking a range of root vegetables and pulses to investigate what happens to their textures when they are cooked. We then used some of these to make our own vegetable soup which they were then able to try- some loved the soup, others not so much...

We are also very excited to be learning some new Christmas songs in preparation for the Christmas celebration assembly in December! We can't wait to share them with you!

In the following weeks we will be:

- Literacy- 'We are Water Protectors'
- Maths- properties of 3D shapes
- R.E.- Making their own menorahs out of clay
- Music- learning 'Ho Ho Ho' and 'One Little Christmas Tree'

Ahlberg

Ahlberg Class have had a great couple of weeks making their Bell Beaker pots. This D&T task followed our 'Through the ages' topic. The children have explored a variety of skills and practiced them on clay before creating designs for their pots. They explored the skills needed for building the pot and printing skills for creating their design. In Literacy we have continued our book called 'The Heart and the Bottle'. The class have been rewriting sections of the story to create their own version. They have explored using adjectives to add emotions, writing in past tense and adding dialogue to their narrative. This week we have been typing up our final version.

In Maths, during our addition and subtraction topic, we have been exploring the use of the inverse method to check answers and solve missing number problems. The class have also been creating fact families for bar models and part-part whole models.

In French we have continued to look at the basics of a conversation. The children have role played conversations in pairs and extended them by asking 'What is your name?'. They have also started to learn numbers 1-10.

In geography, Ahlberg class have been using atlases to locate the capital cities of European countries. They were able to locate the country and then find the matching capital city. We have also looked at a map of the UK and explored counties. The children have researched a few, looking at physical and human features as well as industry.

Next week, we will be learning:

- Maths: Recapping multiples of 2,5 and 10. Sharing and grouping.
- Literacy: New book based on dreams and curiosity - character and setting descriptions.
- D&T: Evaluating our Bell Beaker Pots
- Geography: Cities around the UK, Weather.

Morpurgo

Year 4 have had a lovely two weeks; we have been busy delving deeper into our units and look forward to showcasing our learning during next week's class assembly!



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In Literacy, we have been understanding the book 'FARThER' and how our dreams may impact our lives. We have also been writing a sequel to the story which has given us a deeper understanding into why the author has used particular techniques in his book.

In Maths, we have been practising our times tables. We have been focusing on the 3, 6, 7, 9, 11- and 12-times tables. This led us to investigate multiplying a number by 1 or 0 and why the answers follow a pattern.

In Topic, we have been exploring the national rail and canals of Britain. We looked at how the canals were made and why they were created in the 1700s.

In Science, we have been investigating sound and completing experiments to find out if the volume of sound changes sound waves.

In PE we have continued to learn about key skills in football as well as learning the samba in dance.

Yesterday we had a school visit from 'Wonderdome'. They taught us about space and how we were able to send rockets to space for the moon landing in 1969.

We also had a very exciting boys football tournament at Ridgeway where the boys won.

Over the next fortnight we will be learning:

- Literacy - Starting a new book called 'The Iron Man'
- Topic - Renewable energy
- Science - Continuing to research and investigate sound
- PE - Dance and Football
- Art - Creating woven designs

Westall

During these two weeks, we had an amazing class assembly where we showcased our learning from year 5 so far and we really enjoyed the 'Wonderdome' which consolidated our learning for our science topic 'Earth and Space'.

In literacy we created a memoir based on one of the four women in the book 'Hidden Figures'. In this memoir we wrote about their remarkable life, included the thoughts, feelings and struggles that these ladies face especially during their time working for NASA.

In maths we are continuing our learning on fractions. This week we compared and ordered fractions greater than one and also looked at how to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers by using equivalent fractions.

In Science, we studied the earth's rotation around the sun to explain day and night and looked at evidence to as to why planets and stars are spherical.



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In the next fortnight we will be learning:

- Maths: subtracting mixed numbers
- Literacy: about a new book
- Science: phases of the moon
- PE: dodgeball and dance
- French: saying the date in French
- Geography: biomes and vegetation belts

Tolkien

In English we finished our unit by writing narrative poems – writing a sequel to our book, *The Promise*. In it we included poetic features such as alliteration, personification, metaphor and simile.

In Maths we have been finalising our work on fractions (WE LOVE FRACTIONS!) We have learned how to find fractions of amounts, multiply fractions by other fractions and divide fractions by whole numbers.

In Spelling we have been practising using hyphens to help readers read words, for example co-ordinate and co-operate.

In PE we have continued our football topic and have learned three ways of changing direction when dribbling – the drag-back, the inside sweep and the outside sweep.

In Science we investigated which exercises increased our heart rate the most. We found out that aerobic exercises like football increased the heart rate more than things like stretching.

In French we have learned how to talk about our pets.

In Geography we have been practicing map skills including using scales. We have compared the scales of different maps and even used a scale and a ruler to calculate the real life distances between local areas.

In RE we have been learning about the Sikh story of Guru Hargobind.

In Computing we have used input functions and added these to our coding. This is when a computer user has to answer questions to make the program work.

In the next few weeks...

In Literacy we will start our new book, *The Hidden Forest*.

In Maths we will learn about measurement.

In Geography we will learn about extreme weather around the world.



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Autumn Term Diary Dates

Friday 1st December	Year 4 class assembly
Friday 1 st December	Welwyn Village Christmas Lights switch on at 4pm featuring our school choir
Wednesday 6 th December	Community Concert in St Johns Church at 6pm featuring our school choir
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas jumper day with donations to Save the Children if you are able
Friday 8 th December	Whole school trip to the Panto
Saturday 9 th December	School Christmas Fair
Sunday 10 th December	North Star event from 4pm with special guests and with our choir performing at 5pm
Friday 15 th December	Reception nativity
Tuesday 19 th December	School Christmas Dinner – wear Christmas Jumpers again just for fun – no donations required
Wednesday 20 th December	Whole school carol concert @ 1pm – everyone welcome End of term 2pm
Thursday 4 th January	Return to School



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MONK'S WALK
SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY
6th DECEMBER

MONK'S WALK SCHOOL
PRESENTS

Community
Christmas
CONCERT
AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES FROM
**LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS
AND MONK'S WALK SCHOOL**

6PM - REFRESHMENTS
6:30PM *START

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FEATURING OUR AMAZING CHOIR!