



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan

## Oaklands Primary School

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### Newsletter – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

#### Head Teacher's Message

What a bright and vibrant school Oaklands was today as we celebrated 'Be Yourself Day' by coming in dressed in our own clothes to express ourselves. Outfits ranged from the nice and simple jeans and sweater combo (me!), to super heroes, to gymnasts. It was a lovely reminder that we are all individuals and a nice way to celebrate our differences and to spot similarities.

The day tied in nicely with our KS2 Big Foot Education workshops where we were lucky to have Adrian visit us to work with the children, following the great success of last year's workshops. The children were so excited to see Adrian again; please do ask them about what they learnt from his sessions today. On Monday it will be the turn of KS1 to take part in the workshops.

I hope you enjoy reading about what your children have been learning; they are working very hard and we are proud of all they are achieving.

#### PTA

Thanks to all of you for supporting our events these past few months. We are pleased to announce that we have raised £120 from Halloween costume sales and £412.50 on the KS1/KS2 discos. Amazing!

Please see below for our upcoming events:

**Advent Calendar Raffle:** Raffle ticket sales will be the week of November 20th before and after school. Parents have generously donated quite a few calendars such as Barbie, Smiggle, Disney Storybooks, Lego, and more!

**Christmas Fair:** Saturday, December 9th from 11-3pm. We have been busy planning and have some exciting things lined up. The choir will be singing at 12.00, Santa will be stopping by to read a story, and we will be hosting a festive Cheerleading/Yoga workshop. This is in addition to all sorts of games and activities. We hope you can make it!

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. Shops such as eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, and Just Eat (to name a few) will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them. 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



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[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oaklandswelwyn/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-en-n1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oaklandswelwyn/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n1)

### **Eco-Schools**

A reminder that November is 'Cut your Carbon' month and we are encouraging everyone to try their best to do just that! From switching from baths to showers, driving to walking, meat to veggies or saying 'no' to something new, these simple swaps can help a lot!

### **Donaldson**

Donaldson have had an incredible few weeks. In our phonics we have been practising writing some of our tricky words. We have learnt to write the word 'and'. We felt very proud of our letter formation! We have also continued to use our whiteboards in phonics to practice writing out our sounds and this has made us feel confident to recognise the sounds!

In our maths learning we have been learning to find one more and one less. We have been using small objects such as our counting bears and using 5 of them to show one more and one less of different numbers! You could try this at home with a variety of objects!

We have continued to think about our Oaklands values, kindness, respect and honesty. We have discussed what makes us special and how everyone is different. We have thought hard about how we can celebrate our differences. We have also thought about staying healthy and what food we might pack in a lunchbox! We designed our own lunchboxes and selected a variety of foods to go in them, ham or cheese sandwiches were popular!

In our topic we have been thinking about different celebrations. Last week we focused on bonfire night and learnt a special saying to help us remember what date bonfire night is on! We designed biscuit Guy Fawkes and created some amazing firework paintings! This week we have been discussing Remembrance Day and thinking about how poppies help remind us. We talked about where we might be when we hold the two minutes of silence.

Next week we will be learning about Diwali, making lamps, and thinking about different types of light used in celebrations. If any parents can come in and discuss celebrations occurring in their religion or culture, they would be most welcome. In maths we will look at how 1, 2 and 3 is made. We will find out that 3 is made from  $1 + 2$  or  $1 + 1 + 1$ . We will continue to sing plenty of songs, read lots of stories and explore the world around us.

### **Murphy**

Our Literacy unit has got off to a great start! We were surprised when some of our fabulous hats went missing, we had to use adjectives to describe them so we could problem solve, and identify which one was missing. We have been using question marks in our writing and this was one of our missions this week, we have also started to look at the use of speech marks.

In Science we have been looking at body parts, we have been naming and labelling the body parts and looking at the human body.

As mathematicians, we have been exploring part-whole models and looking at number bonds to 10 and using symbols in our number sentences.



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Our history topic, Childhood has seen us ordering information on timelines, linked to the 6 stages of growing up. This was made even more interesting using our own childhood pictures!

In art we have created funny faces and fabulous pictures using collage materials and also creating our own ideas.

We have been focusing on our social and emotional development through the use of daily ring games and social circles, this has supported the children with their emotional literacy, naming feelings and exploring the impact of our actions on others.

The children really enjoyed their forest school session this week. 'Be yourself' day was exciting, we all shared our choice of clothes and why we chose to wear them, reflecting on the word 'unique' person.

In the next few weeks we will be: -

- Literacy - using exclamation marks and reading out loud the sentences we have written.
- Maths - Working on our problem solving and reasoning within addition
- Science - Looking at human similarities and differences and gathering and recording simple data in a range of ways
- History - Using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time to communicate ideas and observations

### **Dahl**

Year 2 have been very busy since they have returned from half term!

In Literacy, we have started a new book called 'The Journey Home' which focuses on endangered animals and why they have become endangered. The children have really enjoyed exploring this book and have found it very interesting to learn about. We have practised writing questions, how to use commas effectively with the use of verbs and we have started to infer and write in role of the characters.

In Maths, we have almost come to the end of our addition and subtraction unit. It has been a long unit, but the children have worked really hard to grasp some tricky concepts. They are all pros at using their tens and ones to correctly add and subtract 2-digit numbers. They have even started to use exchanging when the ones are bigger than 10. As a challenge we have started to look how to identify when we need to use this skill in word problems and even 2-step problems!

In Geography, we have been investigating the use of compasses and how to use these when looking at the location of places on different maps. They have looked at maps of Europe, Asia and Africa. They have also been looking at where the continents are on a world map. This week they completed some lovely group work by using a key on a map of Whitby to identify different features in the coastal town.

In Art, we have had lots of fun by using powder paint to mix different shades of primary and secondary colours. It may have got a little messy, but the children used fantastic observational skills of still life photos to mix the correct colours together!



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In Science, we have continued to look at Human survival and how we need to have a balanced diet to stay healthy. We are also doing a 10-day investigation to see if we can improve our aerobic fitness!

In the following weeks we will be:

- Literacy- writing persuasive letters
- Maths- Start our new topic 'Shape'
- Science- Investigation about 'Why do we use soap?'
- DT- Chopping and preparing various vegetables
- Art- Exploring different techniques to replicate 'still life' pieces of art work

### **Ahlberg**

Ahlberg Class have had a great start back after half term. We have continued to look at the Iron age. This week, the class have enjoyed looking at Celtic warriors. They have listened to sources of information and drawn their own interpretation of a warrior.

In Literacy we started a new book called 'The Heart and the Bottle'. This book explores the feelings of a child after losing their grandparent. The class have looked at how the character's emotions have changed and written some fantastic poetry. We have also explored the use of adverbials of time to sequence the text.

In Maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction. We have been using the column method to add or subtract 3-digit numbers. The class have shown a great understanding of this method and are now beginning to use this method while they are having to exchange from the 10s or 100s.

In French we have begun looking at the basics of a conversation. The children role played conversations in pairs - saying hello and asking, how are you?

In geography the class explored longitude and latitude. The children were great at locating countries and cities based on coordinates and even practised writing their own coordinates for given locations.

Next week, we will be learning:

- Maths: Column method for addition and subtraction - with exchanging
- Literacy: The Heart and the Bottle - writing dialogue, using adjectives to portray emotion
- D&T: Bell Beaker Pots - exploring printing in clay.
- Geography: Locating European cities

### **Morpurgo**

Year 4 have had a lovely fortnight back at school. We have been getting stuck into loads of exciting things! In Literacy, we have been finishing off writing a legend style story similar to the book we have been exploring – 'The Mermaid of Zennor'. The children have worked well to use all previous learning to make their story more interesting.

This week we have started looking at a new book called 'FAR THER'; so far we have discovered a young boy spending time with his father.



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In Maths, we have learnt all about area and how to work out the most efficient ways of calculating area. We discovered that when using circles to work out the area of shapes, there is space that has not been considered so it is important to ensure we are using squares which are all of the same size to measure the area.

This week we have been working on multiplication and division, focusing on our 3, 6- and 9-times tables.

In Topic, we have been looking at physical features of the United Kingdom, why they are important and where they are in the UK.

In Science, we have started a new topic called 'Sound'. We have been understanding how sound travels and what sound waves are. The children have also had a go at making different sounds with a range of instruments, their favourite was definitely hitting the drum filled with rice.

We have started forest school on a Friday with Mrs Bissmire, the children have loved being outside exploring.

Over the next fortnight we will be learning:

- Literacy - Continuing to look at our book FAR<sup>T</sup>HER and why the author has decided to use particular language to engage the reader.
- Maths - Multiplication and division, practicing our 7, 11- and 12-times tables.
- Topic - We will be exploring the National Rail and canals of Britain to explain how we can navigate Britain.
- Science - We will be doing an investigation into how sound travels and if we change the volume of sound.
- PE - Continuing our new units - Dance and Football.

### **Westall**

In literacy we have started our new book 'Hidden Figures' by Margot Lee Shetterly which looks at the achievements and determination of four iconic women at key moments in American and world history. In our first lesson, we created identity badges and became part of the NASA induction programme and created identity badges. We then wrote a non-fiction report and created a job advert for different roles within NASA. In learning partners, we role played two characters in the Mary Jackson and the judge scene from the motion picture where Mary goes to court to ask permission to attend school.

We have begun our third unit on fractions. In this unit we are focusing on how unit fractions are expressed in other forms including fractions of shapes, number lines and fraction walls as well as the abstract form. Timetables knowledge is crucial in this unit to help us find missing numerators and denominators and their relationship within fractions.

As part of our science topic 'Earth and Space' we have been studying our Solar System and its spherical celestial bodies. We compared the size and scale of the eight planets using playdough and created mnemonics to remember their order. We also created a Sun, Earth and Moon model to help us learn more about the movements of the Earth and the Moon in relation to the Sun and completed tasks to consolidate our knowledge.



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In our new geography topic unit 'Investigating our World' we have been using OS maps to locate features using methods such as compass directions and keys. We worked in table groups to identify contour lines and using four and six grid references to find different features on the map.

In RE we have started our first lesson on the Jewish festival 'Passover'. We began by reading the story of Exodus and discussed how Moses and the pharaoh were both feeling at the time and their different viewpoints.

In the next fortnight we will be learning:

- Maths: add and subtract mixed numbers and fractions
- Literacy: write a memoir
- Science: Earth and space
- PE: dodgeball and dance
- French: months of the year
- Geography: time and climate zones

### **Tolkien**

In Maths we have been working on fractions. We have added and subtracted fractions, improper fractions and mixed numbers. We have compared and order fractions on a number line too.

Quick Quiz: How will you make these two fractions have the same denominator?  $\frac{3}{7} + \frac{3}{4}$

In Literacy we have finished our book 'Windrush Child.' We finished by writing persuasive pitches to the council for a Windrush monument to honour the Windrush contribution to British society.

QQ: Can you explain some of the problems the Windrush generation faced in Britain in the 1940s-1950s?

In PE we have started our football unit by practising dribbling.

In Geography we have started our unit 'Our Changing World'. We have learnt about features of the globe such as lines of latitude, longitude, Prime Meridian and the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. We have also practised map skills, learnt about time zones and calculated time differences.

QQ: Is India's timezone ahead or behind England?

In DT we have started our healthy eating unit by looking at the nutritional content of processed foods.

In the next few weeks: -

- We will start a new unit in Literacy: the book 'The Promise'. We will practise using abstract nouns and various types of punctuation including colons and semi colons.
- In Maths we will multiply fractions!
- In Science we will learn about the different functions of blood.



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### Autumn Term Diary Dates

<b>Half term: 23rd - 27th October</b>	
Monday 13th November	Odd Sock day - suggested £1 donation to class teacher which will go to the Anti-Bullying Alliance
Friday 17th November	Year 5 class assembly
Tuesday 21st November	Netball fixture @ Stanborough 3:15 - 4:30 pm
Thursday 23rd November	Whole school Wonder Dome
Friday 1st December	Year 4 class assembly
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Welwyn Village Christmas Lights Switch on with our choir performing at 4.30pm
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Our choir is performing in the Monks Walk Community Concert at 6pm in St Johns Church.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper day with donations to Save the Children
Friday 8th December	Whole school trip to the Panto
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Fair
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	North Star event with our Choir performing at 5pm
Friday 15th December	Reception nativity
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 20th December	Whole school carol concert @ 1pm End of term 2pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to School



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