



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan

Oaklands Primary School

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Newsletter – 15th September 2023

Head Teacher's Message

A big welcome back to all of our pupils and families! We're only two weeks in, but the children have already hit the ground running and have made a great start to their learning. As many of you know, our Ofsted report is now live on the school website, alongside a letter from me. If you haven't done so already, please take some time to read them. They can be found by following this link:

<https://www.oaklands.herts.sch.uk/ofsted-reports/>

Last academic year, parent feedback was that you would welcome more opportunities to find out what is going on in your children's classes. As a result, we had several parent meetings where we discussed how we teach foundation subjects, how we teach maths and how we approach behaviour support. This will continue this academic year; we are currently in the process of scheduling the meetings and deciding on content and will let you know once this is finalised.

We have also moved away from Friday Morning Awards assemblies and replaced them with class assemblies and open classrooms. This means that twice a year, you will get to come in and learn about what your children have been doing in class, followed by the chance to visit their classroom and look through their books with them. Classes with shows e.g. Year 6 Production or Reception Nativity will have one additional assembly, but there will still be two open classrooms scheduled.

Of course, we will still recognise children's successes. I have already had lots of them visit my office to show me their work and they have left feeling very proud of their efforts. Children have also received personalised thank you cards for things they have done over and above expectations. We will continue to look for new ways to recognise children's achievements and ensure they feel their efforts are valued all the time, rather than at the point that it is their 'turn' to receive a sticker.

PTA

Thanks to those who joined us last night for our first meeting of the year. We voted in our new committee members and attendees shared a lot of really great ideas for the coming months. Minutes will be added to the school website once finalised. If you weren't able to join us but would like to learn more about what we do (or offer up any ideas!) please reach out at oaklandsprimarypta@gmail.com

Currently, we are raising money to install a covered firepit for Forest School that the children can use all year long in their learning. We are pleased to share that we have been selected by Tesco Community Grants to be one of three projects shoppers can vote for in store (the blue tokens!). Voting will start the first week of October and run until mid-January at the following stores: 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 stores!

Please see below for our upcoming events:



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2nd Hand Halloween Costume Sale: Here is your opportunity to get rid of all those outgrown costumes and find some new ones for this year! We will be holding a sale on the playground the week of October 9th. More details to follow on how to donate.

Halloween Disco: We will be hosting both a KS1 and KS2 disco on Wednesday, October 18th. Fancy dress optional but encouraged! Save the Date!

KS1: 4:30-5:30pm

KS2: 5:45-6:45pm

Be Yourself Day: Friday, November 10th. Essentially non-uniform day but we encourage the children to wear something that reflects who they are... a football kit for the footie obsessed, a ballet costume for the dancers, etc. More details to follow.

Stay tuned for more information regarding our Christmas events and also our brand-new running club!

Finally, just a reminder 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. 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.

Kind Regards,
Stefani Battaglia
PTA Chair

Donaldson

We have had a very exciting start to school! Donaldson class have amazed the adults working with them as they have put their best foot forward in starting school. We have explored the school site and really enjoyed the bottom playground, the paddock and the library. In the classroom we have been busy making potions, creating amazing art work and getting to know each other.

We have begun our Little Wandle phonics and have been working on recognizing the sounds 's', 'a', 't'. You and your child could practice recognizing these sounds at home! In our maths, we have been using lots of different stories to help us in counting and subitizing. We have been singing lots of songs including; our tidy up song, our weather song and lots more! In PE we have been looking at finding space and different ways of moving around.



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Our next few weeks of term will see us begin our topic work 'Let's Explore' where we will be creating maps, exploring our community and identifying people who can help us. In maths, we will be matching and finding what is the same and what is different. Our phonics focus will be the sounds 'p', 'l', 'n', 'm', 'd' and 'g'. We will be practising our letter formation and support for this at home can be found on tapestry. We will continue to sing plenty of songs, read lots of stories and explore the world around us. We can't wait to continue our journey into reception.

Murphy

Year 1 have got off to a flying start! We have been embedding our new daily routines and expectations in our new classroom. The children have enjoyed exploring and finding their way around their new classroom, cloakroom and having a morning and afternoon break time. Our weekly missions are supporting and embedding learning, the children have really enjoyed being a leader of their own learning!

Our Literacy text, Naughty Bus, has given the children an excellent opportunity to use their imagination and extend their ideas. We have had some super written sentences and fun, whole class interactions. We can't wait to see what the Naughty Bus gets up to next week! As a class we revised our class agreement to make sure that we work as a team and continue to demonstrate our school values consistently.

In maths, we have been reviewing our knowledge of place value, counting objects, filling in missing numbers on a number track and sorting objects into groups. They have enjoyed using our White Rose Maths workbooks at the tutor table in small groups.

We have started our topic 'Our Wonderful World'. Can your child tell you what a Human feature is e.g. Shops, and what a Physical feature e.g. A river ...

Our daily phonics have continued and now include reading sentences and spelling 2 words each day. We are currently reviewing Phase 3.

In the next fortnight we will be:

- Maths: Counting back, and using the vocabulary, less than, greater than and equal to. We will also introduce Numbots
- Literacy: Planning a story using a story board and using simple adjectives to describe a setting.
- Geography: Using simple directional and positional language to give directions, describe the location of features and discuss where things are in relation to each other.

- Science: Use simple equipment to measure and make observations and identify and name what an object is made from

The Year 1 staff team are really impressed and proud of Murphy class for making such a strong start to their Year 1 journey!



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Dahl

Welcome to Year 2! The children have had a very busy first couple of weeks. I have enjoyed getting to know all of them and seeing them become such enthusiastic learners.

In Literacy we have started looking at Goldilocks and the three bears. They have created Wanted posters, written apology letters and taken part in some role-play activities. They have all been very creative using different adjectives and sentence starters in their writing.

In Maths we have started looking at place value. I have been impressed by their knowledge of using a place value chart and how well they can count in their tens and ones! They have all actively participated and they have enjoyed using concrete manipulatives to enhance their maths knowledge.

In History we have started our core topic- Movers and Shakers. We have started to investigate different significant people such as activists, explorers, monarchs, scientists and artists! They have created timelines, used a diamond ranking to select their most significant person and explain why.

In P.E they have started practising their ball and fundamental skills. We have been lucky enough to have Stevenage FC coaches join in with our lessons.

In the next few weeks, we will be looking at:

- Literacy- Comparing different versions of the same fairy tale
- Maths- Continuing to look at place value and estimating numbers on number lines
- Science- Exploring animal habitats
- R.E- Hinduism and their celebration of Navratri

Ahlberg

Ahlberg Class have had a great start to the year! The children have settled into Year 3 well, despite them starting the term without myself. It has been an absolute joy to be back teaching this class and the past week has been fantastic to see how they have all made such progress!

I have been so impressed with how engaged they have been and how much effort they have put into each individual piece of work. We have started the year with the topic of 'Through the Ages'. The class have looked at the Stone Age - their settlements, life during this time and the tools they used.

In Literacy we have been looking at the story 'Leon and the Place Between' - We are yet to read the whole story. We have been writing descriptive sentences about the circus and adding adverbs into our writing.

In Maths we have been looking at place value, recapping how to count in tens and hundreds and then partitioning numbers up to 1000.

In Science we have begun our topic 'Animal nutrition and the skeletal system'. We started by looking at human nutrition and what a balanced diet consists of. Please see below for what they will be learning about in the next two weeks. They should all be really proud of how they have started Year 3!

In the next fortnight we will be learning:



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- Maths: finding 10/100 more or less. Adding missing numbers to a numberline. Ordering numbers.
- Literacy: Using questions and statements. Punctuating speech.
- Science: Animal Diets.
- Geography and History: using grid references on a map. Stone Age settlements and monuments.

Morpurgo

Morpurgo class have had a fantastic start back at Oaklands. The children have settled into year 4 wonderfully. Over the last two weeks we have been looking at a book called 'Varmints' in Literacy and the children have been starting to understand a book with very little language. This has enhanced their vocabulary through describing what is happening.

We have been working through setting descriptions as well as evaluating what we like or dislike about the story. In maths we have been refreshing our memory on place value and understanding why it is important in calculations.

We have also started our topic which is 'Invasion' in History and the interconnected world in Geography. Invasion looks into the Viking invasion as well as the Anglo- Saxons. In Geography we are looking at reading maps.

In science we have started our topic of food and the digestive system, and we are looking into food chains and webs.

In PE we have started tennis on a Wednesday and hockey on a Friday. In music we are looking at the song Mamma Mia and in French we are learning the name for shapes.

Next week we will be looking at:

- Literacy - Sequencing a story based around Varmints
- Maths - Place value, roman numerals and rounding.
- PE - Tennis and hockey
- History - Why the Viking invasion was important
- Geography - six-figure grid references

Westall

Year 5 have come back to school with a positive attitude and raring to go in their first term.

We started our first literacy unit based on the book, 'The Man Who Walked Between The Towers' by Mordicai Gerstein. It is based on the true story of Philippe Petit who walked on a tightrope between the Twin Towers on the 7th August 1974. In the first lesson we found a mysterious backpack with a hardhat, pictures of the Sydney Harbour bridge, The Notre Dame Cathedral and World Trade centre, a map of New York City and a diary entry from Philippe. We worked in groups to explore and discuss the contents of the backpack using a range of investigative questions. We also learnt about Philippe Petit and his extraordinary achievements and discussed the events surrounding 9/11. From this, we used statements to build fact files, wrote letters of advice to Mr Petit and created diary entries of how he was feeling when he was up in the air, performing his amazing stunt.



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Our first unit in maths is place value. We started by consolidating our maths knowledge on roman numerals and learning what numerals the letters C and M stand for. This week we have been ordering and partitioning numbers up to 1,000,000 and using Gattegno charts to represent numbers. We have also been writing numbers in words up to one million.

In science we have started our new topic 'Forces and Mechanisms'. We revisited our learning on forces from year 4 and sorted out true and false cards to check our understanding. This week, we have been exploring 'gravity' and thinking about the effects of gravitational forces by conducting different tasks.

As part of our 'Dynamic Dynasties' topic we started by ordering events chronologically on a timeline based on previous learning in KS2 up to current events happening today and what BC and AD stood for? We then watched a video on ancient dynasties of China and used the skills learnt to order the several different Chinese dynasties in chronological order.

In the next fortnight we will be learning:

- Maths: compare, order and rounding numbers up to 1,000,000
- Literacy: use adverbials of time to develop clear paragraphing
- Science: gathering and recording data using mass and weight of objects
- French: to learn a selection of key phonemes to improve French pronunciation

Tolkien

What a start to the year it has been! Year Six have been working hard, learning a lot and even meeting their buddies!

In Literacy we have started reading Leila and the Blue Fox. This is a fascinating story about a Syrian refugee and an intrepid Arctic fox named Miso. So far, we have read, evaluated and written as characters from the story.

In Maths we have started with place value. We have placed numbers on number lines, partitioned numbers up to 10,000,000 and read and write these numbers too. Quiz Q: what number is a tenth the size of 8,234,780?

In Spelling we have learned words from our Literacy book including prejudice and embarrass.

In PE we have started our hockey unit. So far, we have learnt dribbling, passing and receiving techniques. QQ: What is the 'Indian Technique' of dribbling?

In History we have started our topic of Maafa. This is the Swahili word for 'great catastrophe' that other countries inflicted on Africa, including the effects of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. QQ: Can you name 10 African countries?

In Art we started learning about tints and tones by using small amounts of white and black paint to alter the tone of colours. QQ: What are the secondary colours?



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In Computing we started the year with coding. This tricky unit is all about creating computer programs.

PSHE/RSE with Mrs Andreas

SCARF is the scheme we use to teach PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) across the school. SCARF stands for Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship. These are the main themes that are covered in PSHE/RSE lessons.

This term our Topic is 'Me and My Relationships'.

Reception: It has been wonderful to meet our new reception class. So far, I have been focusing on building relationships with each of them. I look forward to getting to know them more over the coming weeks.

Next: They will be introduced to the main SCARF characters (Harold the giraffe, Kiki the Kangaroo and Derek the penguin). We will be talking about what makes them special (celebrating similarities and difference), who their special people are, naming different feelings and who they can talk to if they feel sad or worried.

Year 1: The children have created a set of class rules that will keep everyone happy, safe and ready to learn. They helped me to identify the feelings of different Emoji's (happy, surprised, sad, angry, excited).

Next : To have happy friendships, we should listen to each other and treat others respectfully. Recapping playground rules.

Year 2: We discussed what their ideal classroom would look like, sound like and feel like. Every child made a pledge for Year 2 (such as 'I will help others if they are stuck'/'I will ask children to play with me').

Next: Recognising that people express their feelings in different ways and know helpful ways to respond to other's feelings.

Year 3: The children created a set of rules for their Class Contract. We talked about the importance of rules in various places (school, home, swimming pool, train station etc).

Next: Identifying people that they have a special relationship with. Suggesting ways to maintain positive relationships with their special people.

Year 4: The children completed a collaborative task whereby they created a 'Human Machine' as a group. They defined successful qualities of teamwork and collaboration.

Next: Explain what a healthy, positive relationship is. Describe qualities they admire in others.

Year 5: The children completed a team collaboration challenge - to build the tallest tower they could, using only newspaper and masking tape. They then described the qualities needed to work collaboratively.



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Next: Explain what is meant by negotiation and compromise and how they might apply this in real situations. Describe strategies for resolving different issues and situations.

Year 6: The children completed a team collaboration challenge - to build the strongest bridge they could, using only newspaper and masking tape. They then described the qualities needed to work collaboratively.

Next: They will recognise some challenges that may arise from friendships and suggest strategies to deal with these challenges. They will also learn the need for respect and assertiveness within friendships.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 21st September	Year 3 Multisports festival @ Monks Walk. 1:15 - 2:30 pm
Tuesday 26th September	School residential parent meeting @ 3:30pm
Thursday 28th September	Netball festival @ Monks Walk. 1:15 - 2:45 pm
Friday 29th September	9am Macmillan coffee morning - Year 6
Wednesday 4 th October	Individual and siblings photos
Monday 9th October	Year 4 Indoor Athletics @ Stanborough. 1:15 - 2:45 pm.
Friday 20th October	Year 6 class assembly
Friday 20 th October	End of term 3.15pm
Half term: 23rd - 27th October	
Monday 6th November and Tuesday 7th November	Parents Evening
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



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Friday 8th December	Whole school Panto
Friday 15th December	Reception nativity
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Lunch day
Wednesday 20th December	Whole school carol concert @ 1pm End of term 2pm



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