



Oaklands Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr T Hassan

Newsletter 8th March 2024

Head Teacher's Message

I hope this message finds you well. I am thrilled to share the incredible success of our recent celebration of World Book Day here at Oaklands Primary School. It was a day filled with enthusiasm, creativity, and a shared love for books that showcased the imagination and creativity of our children and families.

It was great to see so many students and staff taking part, dressed as an array of book characters. The parades around the hall during Mr Butler's assembly were a highlight.

Thank you to our very own resident children's author, Mrs Murley, who delivered activities to Year 1, 2 and 3 all about books and being an author. The children enjoyed learning about the process and some will even be able to tell you all about ISBN numbers!

Instilling a love for reading in our students is always a priority for us. World Book Day provided us with an opportunity to share our favourite books and characters and hopefully introduce each other to new ideas and genres. Please continue supporting and encouraging your children to explore the wonders of books at home.

Below are some pictures from the day.



To help you to navigate to the parts of the newsletter that are of interest to you, you can now click on the links below to take you straight there.

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The Herts Catering menu will change in April, and a copy of the new menu is on the school website for your information.

We still have some availability for the Easter Camp which is running here at Oaklands from 2nd to 5th April. Please contact Mrs Murley in the school office if you wish to book a place for your child.

PTA News

We are thrilled to share we raised £170 in total from our Non-Uniform Day. In addition, we were notified that we will receive a £1,000 Tesco grant to support the Forest School fire pit shelter! Thank you to all of you who voted for us over the past few months. We are in the process of ordering the shelter now and hope to have it installed within the next several months.

Finally, we were able to raise £940 on Crowdfunder toward Forest School enrichment, including a Mud Kitchen and Bug Hotel. This effort was supported by match funding from Sustainable Hertfordshire. We're pleased to have the opportunity to help expand what we can offer during Forest School sessions. Our fundraising goal is now focused on classroom tablets.

Please see below for upcoming events:



Oaklands Primary PTA Presents

BUNNY HOP SCHOOL DISCO

.....
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH

KS1: 4:30-5:15 (parent/carer to stay)

KS2: 5:30-6:30 (drop off)
.....

TICKETS - £3.50

TICKETS ON SALE ON SCHOOL GATEWAY

PLEASE SEND CHILDREN WITH THEIR WATERBOTTLES.
ONE JUICE AND A SNACK WILL BE PROVIDED.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Bunny Hop Disco: Wednesday, March 27th. KS1 4:30-5:15 (parent/carer attends), KS2 5:30-6:30 (drop-off). Tickets are £3.50 each and are available on School Gateway. Siblings are welcome at the KS1 disco (under 2's are free). Please ensure your child brings along a water bottle which we will be happy to refill during the event as necessary.



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Pizza Kits: We have teamed up with Doughies to offer pizza kits to take home. Details on how to order will be sent out soon but delivery will be on May 10th.

Krispy Kreme Donut Sales: Details to follow

Family Fun Day: Sunday, June 9th. We are in the process of organising now but the event will include inflatables, food trucks and more! Save the date.

Oaklands Gin: We are finalising the labels now and hope to start selling soon!

Board Game Appeal: We are looking for donations of any unwanted board games for children to use in the pod during break times. If you have any you would like to donate please drop them off in office reception when you have a chance. Thank you!

As a reminder, we are currently raising money toward classroom tablets/charging station.

Thanks as always for your support. We couldn't do all this without you!

Eco-Schools with Mrs Bissmire

In our meeting this week we discussed and decided on our 'Action Plan' which is one of the steps towards becoming an Eco School. This includes projects relating to our 3 chosen topics of school grounds, litter and energy. As a school we have already started on some elements and will monitor our actions throughout the rest of the academic year.

PSHE Update from Mrs Andreas

Thank you to all the children who entered the 'Respect' Poster Competition. We had some fantastic entries and the winners will be celebrated in assembly next week.

This term our topic is 'Being My Best'.

Reception

We have been helping the children to feel resilient and confident in their learning by reading texts such as 'The Dot' by Peter H. Reynolds. We have been modelling how to encourage one another with phrases such as 'you can do it/don't give up'.

Next, we will be making mini pizzas, talking about our favourite foods and learning about how different foods help our body in different ways.

Year One

The children had a chance to 'taste the rainbow' and then decided whether they enjoyed certain foods or not (pomegranate, orange pepper, pineapple, avocado, blueberries). Some children surprised themselves by trying new foods and were happy to say they loved them, even having seconds and thirds! They have also selected foods for a healthy, balanced lunchbox.

Next, they will be learning about daily personal hygiene routines including: brushing teeth, washing hands and going to the toilet.



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Year Two

The children have been looking at the 'Learning Line' (or the learning pit) which are the stages we go through when learning a new skill. They have realized that in order to learn something new, we need support and encouragement from friends, parents and teachers.

Next, they will be explaining how germs can be spread, considering simple hygiene routines such as hand washing and understanding that vaccinations can help to prevent certain illnesses.

Year Three

The children have discussed how different foods can help our bodies e.g. carbohydrates give us energy and green foods can help us fight off sickness. We recapped the different food groups and talked about 'healthy fats' such as avocados, seeds/nuts, coconut versus less healthy fats. We talked about having a balance of different foods to keep our bodies as healthy as possible. The children have begun to think about personal hygiene including: wearing clean clothes, washing every day, brushing their teeth etc.

Next, they will be naming the major internal body parts (heart, lungs, blood, liver, stomach, small and large intestines and brain). They will also be describing how food, water and air get into the body and blood.

Year Four

The children have been thinking about when they make choices for themselves (e.g. what clothes they wear on the weekend), and when others make choices for them (e.g. what time they go to bed).

Next, they will be thinking about how their bodies get energy from food, water and oxygen and that sleep and exercise are important for their health. They will also plan a healthy, balanced menu.

Year Five

The children have been learning about our amazing bodies and the importance of food, water, oxygen, sleep and exercise for our overall health. They have also been identifying their strengths and talents and have talked about requiring different skills for a range of careers.

Next, they will be considering what it means to belong to part of a community (e.g. Oaklands Primary). They will also be suggesting ways to improve our school community.

Year Six

The children have identified aspirational goals and have thought about the actions needed to set and achieve these. They have discussed 'risk' and 'consequence' in the context of their growing independence (such as walking to the shops independently to buy milk, or getting the bus on their own).

Next, they will be explaining how a risk can be reduced, for example when talking to someone online and using social media.

Donaldson

Donaldson have continued to think about traditional tales as part of our topic 'Once Upon a Time' over the last two weeks and we have discovered two golden eggs at the bottom of the beanstalk. One hatched and we found footprints leading up the beanstalk! We drew pictures and wrote captions saying what we think happened. Some of us thought the chick went to be with the giant, others thought the chick had



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gone on an adventure! This week we found a giant golden egg that hatched and we found a tiny chick inside. We have been thinking of how to care for the chick and what he may need to eat and to stay warm.

The lunchtime play with wellies has been a huge success and the children's play in the classroom has been inspired by their digging opportunities at lunch. We have been building lots of dens – inside and outside – we have thought about where China is and found it on a map and on Google Earth as some of us have been busy digging to China at lunch!

We have also carried out many investigations as we develop our understanding of the world. We have looked at how the height of a ramp can affect the speed of a car, we have thought about what magnets will stick to and how we can test it and we have thought about how water can move depending on the force applied to it.

In maths we have been investigating height and length. We have been using measuring tapes, meter sticks and rulers to help us investigate! We compared our own height to our friends and we built towers out of cubes and measured them before comparing them to others.

We have also started a new, top secret club! In our learning we have created a drawing club which allows us to focus on one story a week and throughout the week draw pictures linking to the story and using our phonics knowledge to add a caption or code phrase to the picture. We have been really excited by this and everybody in the class has come to drawing club!

Next week we will:

- Apply our diagraphs to reading new words in phonics
- Investigate time in maths
- Learn about Spring and what happens as the seasons change

Murphy

Murphy class have been looking at doubles and near doubles in our maths lessons. We have been using real objects and mathematical equipment to visually see that double is two groups of a number or amount and doubling is adding the same number to itself. We have also been consolidating our understanding of number bonds to 20, we created 2 giant ten frames on the carpet to add counters to teen numbers. Our '1-minute maths' challenge has been super exciting as we have been improving on our subitising scores as a whole class team effort 😊

We finished our literacy unit 'Leo and the Octopus' by writing a fact file containing super interesting facts about an octopus! We used all of our learning throughout the unit and included conjunctions, adjectives, full stops, questions marks and exclamation marks.

In RE, we finished our work around Purim by re calling the story of Esther and learning that part of the Jewish festival of Purim is giving a gift to at least one person during and that this is called Mishloach Manot. We made a delicious fruit kebab for a friend and wrote a note to a friend using kind words.

World Book Day was a great day! We shared our book choice with friends and adults around school. We loved our session with Mrs Murley in the school library, she taught us about special features of the book



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such as the ISBN number and reiterated key messages such as reading for pleasure! A highlight of the day is always the class parade during assembly, there were so many amazing costumes and characters that were brought to life!

In Science, we have been exploring the weather, moving on from wind to measuring precipitation and recording the temperature, both indoors and outdoors. We have also looked at a range of thermometers and their uses.

Over the next few weeks, we will be:

- Design Technology - Starting our project - Taxi!
- Maths - Finding the difference as a form of subtraction
- Literacy - Using nouns and identifying verbs linked to our new text 'Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish'
- Art - Exploring the technique of Collagraphy.

Dahl

In Literacy, we have been reading the 'Minpins' by Roald Dahl. We have been reading this book in sections and predicting what we think is going to happen next. They have been learning new skills such as how to use possessive apostrophes in their work to label an illustration. They extended this by then writing sentences about the illustration using this skill. For example: The Minpins are perched on the tree's branches. They have also been looking at different verbs that we can spot in the book and investigating whether these are in the past or present tense. We noticed that most of the past tense verbs ended in the suffix -ed, but not all as there are some rule breakers! They then used these past tense verbs to rewrite the story from the part where Billy met the Minpins to him watching them fly on the Robins. They also added suffixes -er and -est onto the ends of words to compare the Minpins with Billy, such as bigger, biggest, quieter, tiniest and louder.

In maths, we have been learning about different types of measurement. They used rulers and meter sticks to measure different objects from the classroom and then order them from smallest to biggest. They even ordered themselves from tallest to smallest. They did a fantastic job using these new measurement skills and they all enjoyed experimenting with different types of objects that they could find. We have now moved onto measuring in grams and kilograms, which will focus on reading different types of scales and how they can tell us the mass of an object.

In science, we conducted a mini experiment in class using three types of shopping bags. We investigated two enquiry questions- 'Which bag is the strongest?' and 'Which bag is the most waterproof?' We had to complete the test a few times to make sure we eliminated anything that would not make it a fair test. The children had lots of fun doing this and were able to create a results table to come to their conclusions for the enquiries. We have now moved onto looking at plant survival where they have been labelling the parts of a plant and investigating different types of plants in different habitats.

In music, we have been lucky enough to have some students and a teacher from Monks Walk come into our class to teach us some skills on the Ukulele. The children have started to practise this new skill and they are demonstrating some fantastic rhythm, as well as good listening skills. If you have a ukulele at home, then they are welcome to bring this into school on Wednesdays if they would like to practice on their own.



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In art, we have completed our unit based on flower art. The children created some beautiful sculptures using coffee filter paper, food colouring and masking tape! They all created unique patterns and designs and were able to capture the shape and form of flowers. They have also used clay, paper plates and watercolours to experiment with different types of flower sculptures.

In the following weeks we will be learning:

- Maths- mass, capacity and temperature
- Science- Exploring how plants grow in different habitats
- DT- Building a lighthouse using wood
- Music- Ukulele practice
- Literacy- Grandad's Camper by Harry Woodgate (postcard writing, labelling pictures using noun phrases and interview role play)
- P.E- target games

Ahlberg

Ahlberg Class have had a lovely start back after half term. We have continued our topic by learning about earthquakes and the results of them. This has also helped us write our newspaper reports. The class have written reports about the eruption in Pompeii. They have focused on creating headlines and writing quotations.

In art we have started looking at the artist 'Lowry' and imitating his work. We have focused on landscapes and the amount of detail we need to include.

In French we have started to learn the names of instruments.

In maths, the class have started looking at measuring mass. We have been looking at scales and working out what each interval is worth.

In PE the children have started a unit of basketball. They have focused on the skill of dribbling and protective dribbling.

Next, we will be learning:

- Maths: Measuring Mass and Capacity
- Literacy: Descriptive paragraphs
- Art: Creating Lowry artwork
- RE: Lent

Morpurgo

Year 4 have had a brilliant two weeks back at school from half term. I am very proud of how resilient they have been over a confusing two weeks having different adults in their class. Thank you, Year 4.

In Literacy, the children have worked hard throughout the start of their new unit. They have looked at the new text 'The Lion and the Unicorn', which was set around WWII and the children have discovered many



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links to what they previously knew about the war. We have also worked hard to identify new spelling rules within our lessons.

In topic we have continued learning about mountain ranges and investigating mountains of the UK and the world.

In science, we have started a new topic all about grouping and classifying. The children have understood how to group different items. They have then learnt what a vertebrate and invertebrate is and how we can group animals within these categories.

In PE, we have been working on the 3 different types of passes you can use in netball and the best time to use them. We have also been working on our 'flows' in yoga using different poses to represent various strengths we possess.

In art, we have started another new topic about animal prints and will work towards sculpting animal artwork in clay.

Over the next fortnight:

- Literacy - We will be exploring further into our new text.
- Topic - We will be going to London to understand rivers and get involved in some workshops!
- Maths - We will continue to learn about decimals.
- Music - We are very lucky to continue to have ukulele lessons.

Westall

In literacy, we have been reading 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Ann Duffy. This is a story about a magical girl called Jub, whose job was to guard the happy endings to stories and fairy tales. One day a loathsome witch steals them, changing the endings to the bedtime classics to gruesome alternatives instead.

We started by investigating the mystery of the stolen happy endings by linking clues from past fairy tale villains. We also wrote a diary entry from Jub's perspective and took part in role play to create dialogues, that were not in the story.

In maths we have finished our unit on fractions, decimals and percentages. We looked at the relationship between all three of these and how to find equivalents by splitting up a hundred square or bead string into the given equal parts and then making the link to hundredths.

We are exploring perimeter and area and have started to look at the perimeter of quadrilaterals and regular polygons.

During this half term our forest school sessions have begun, where we have been working on making a clove hitch knot and lashings to create a 5-point star.

In PE, we have been practising our dance routine based on an Olympic theme, in preparation for our performance at Campus West on Tuesday 26th March. During French, we have been learning about pets and how to say and write them.



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In art, we took black and white photographs of things in the classroom to show the contrast, light and tone. We are now drawing our own black and white images and adding details to them, to show these features.

In RE, we have been exploring what different colours mean to us, as part of the Hindu festival 'Holi'.

In the next fortnight we will be learning about:

- Maths: area and statistics
- Literacy: creating a prequel
- Science: the process of human reproduction
- Geography: coffee growing in Peru
- French: consolidating our knowledge on pets

Tolkien

In Literacy we have been using a range of punctuation to discuss protests in America over LGBTQ+ rights.

In Maths we have started to learn about shape. We have practiced using protractors and have been classifying angles into reflex, obtuse and acute angles.

In PE we have started our fitness unit, taking our baseline fitness measurements e.g. how many skips in 1 minute?

In Art we have been carving animals from soap. This was the end of our Inuit topic.

In Computing we have planned a fund-raising event, costed it and then created a spreadsheet with various formulae. From this, we could estimate our projected profits.

In History we have learned about various Antarctic explorers like Scott and Shackleton.

Coming up....

- In literacy we will write a visitor's guide to the Stonewall Inn.
- In maths we will look at position and direction.
- In history we will look at the sinking of the Titanic.



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Spring Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 4 School Trip
Monday 18 th March	Parents Evening – 3:30 – 6:00pm
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 5 Parents Residential Meeting 9:00-9:30am Year 5 Parents Residential Meeting 3:30-4:00pm Parents Evening – 4:00 – 7:00pm
Tuesday 26 th March	Year 5 Dance Festival at Campus West
Wednesday 27 th March	PTA Bunny Hop Disco: KS1 4:30-5:15, KS2 5:30-6:30.
Thursday 28 th March	End of term – 2pm finish No after school club today
2 nd – 5 th April	Easter Camp – book via school office
Monday 15 th April	Children return to school
Wednesday 17 th -Friday 19 th April	Year 5 Residential



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