



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan

Oaklands Primary School

Great North Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 OPX

Tel: 01438 715278

Email: admin@oaklands.herts.sch.uk

Web: www.oaklands.herts.sch.uk

Twitter: @oaklandsschool

Newsletter 16th February 2024

Head Teacher's Message

As we break up for half term, I would like to thank the children who have all worked very hard over the past weeks. Each child has contributed to our school community, whether it's mastering a challenging maths concept, creating beautiful artwork, or displaying acts of kindness and empathy, we are immensely proud of every accomplishment, big and small.

We should also remind ourselves of the importance of rest and rejuvenation during the upcoming break. Half term is an excellent opportunity for our students and teachers to recharge their batteries, spend quality time with family and friends, and return refreshed for the challenges and learning that the next half term will bring.

I hope you enjoy finding out about your children's learning, and that you have a happy and safe half term break.

PTA News

We had a PTA meeting last week and have come up with some exciting fundraisers over the next few months. Please update your diaries!

Bunny Hop Disco: Wednesday, March 27th. KS1 4:30-5:15, KS2 5:30-6:30. Tickets will be available on School Gateway shortly- communication will go out once they are available.

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: Details to follow

Oaklands Gin: We are in the process of creating this now and will let everyone know when it goes on sale!

Board Game Appeal: We are looking for donations of any unwanted board games for children to use in the pod during breaktimes. 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, the items we are raising money toward currently are a Forest School Covered Firepit (due to be installed this spring) and classroom tablets/charging station.

Finally, remember 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



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signing up at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oaklandswelwyn/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n1

Sporting news at Oaklands

We were very lucky to have been visited by Borough Bear, the Stevenage Borough Football club mascot, last week. He met all the children in the school and was excited to hear about the ideas children had for his time travel story competition.

Our Key stage two children have been busy taking part in lots of sporting activities over the last few weeks. Some of our Year 5 children attended a badminton session at Gosling sports park where they were able to have a go at a new sport and play against children from other schools. Yesterday, a mix of Year 5 and 6s attended a school games multi-sport event where they were given the opportunity to try out lots of different activities including table tennis, speed stacking and archery. The half term finished with a Year 4 cricket team taking part in a Rapid Fire cricket tournament, finishing 3rd out of 11 schools.



Eco-Schools with Mrs Bissmire

Thanks to 'Feeling Good Week' our class planters are in place and bringing a bit of colour to the school grounds, we can't wait to see what insects they bring and what they will look like in full bloom. There is a variety to look out for, from potatoes to heather and lupins to blackberries.



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We have made an amazing start to Duracell's Big Battery Hunt by collecting a massive 1075 batteries in just over 2 weeks! Do keep them coming in but just remember we cannot collect the flat batteries like the ones you get in watches.

PSHE Update from Mrs Andreas

This term our topic is 'Valuing Difference'.

Reception

The children have been learning about how they can be kind and caring towards others. They read the Julia Donaldson texts 'Sharing a Shell' and 'Superworm' and thought of kind things they could say to their friends.

Next, our topic after half term is called 'Being My Best'. We will be helping the children to feel resilient and confident in their learning and understanding they can make healthy choices.

Year One

Children have been thinking about groups they belong to (e.g. Murphy class, Rainbow Guides, religious groups etc), who their special people are and how their special people help them.

Next, our topic after half term is called 'Being My Best'. The children will be learning about which foods their bodies need more of and less of to stay healthy.

Year Two

The children have been demonstrating active listening techniques (making eye contact, making positive noises, not being distracted) and thought about ways to negotiate when solving a problem, to help maintain positive relationships.

Next, our topic after half term is called 'Being My Best' and the children will be looking at the 'Learning Line' (the stages we go through when learning a new skill). They will be applying positive mindset strategies to their learning in class.

Year Three

The children have identified that repeated name calling is a form of bullying. They thought of kind words to use on the playground and discussed how teasing someone for being 'different' can affect them in a negative way.

Next, our topic after half term is called 'Being My Best' and the children will be looking at food groups, a balanced diet, how some infectious diseases can be spread and how some simple hygiene practices can help reduce the risk of spreading germs.

Year Four

The children have been discussing their personal space/body space and have recapped the NSPCC's PANTS rule. They have discussed good and bad secrets and they know they can talk to a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable, unsafe or scared.



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Next, our topic after half term is called 'Being My Best' and the children will be identifying how they are unique. They will be thinking about times when they make choices for themselves, and times when others make choices for them.

Year Five

The children have been recognising that some people can be bullied because of the way they express their gender. They have also been considering their own reactions to another person in an embarrassing scenario.

Next, our topic after half term is called 'Being My Best' and the children will be learning about the importance of food, water, oxygen, sleep and exercise for the human body and its health.

Year 6

The children have identified common stereotypes around gender and job roles and have learnt not to make assumptions about people's preferences based on looks alone. They have explored issues around body image and how it is not acceptable to make negative comments about how a person looks.

Next, our topic after half term is called 'Being My Best' and the children will be identifying aspirational goals and describing the actions needed to set and achieve these.

Donaldson

Donaldson Class has been very busy engaging with lots of exciting activities, a few highlights from the past few weeks include the giant beanstalk that appeared in our classroom! The children have been captivated by the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and were thrilled when a beanstalk actually grew in the classroom! As part of this learning, they wrote letters to the giant at the top of the beanstalk and made him some boardgames to play in case he felt lonely!

In phonics we have been focusing on our tricky words and digraphs. They have been practicing these sounds through lots of games such as tricky word splat which is very popular. In maths, the children have been exploring different ways to represent numbers. They have also investigated the concept of odd and even numbers, developing their understanding of basic number concepts.

In PE the children have been attempting different types of rolls. We looked at roly pollys, log rolls and turtle rolls! We worked in pairs to offer advice and support to our friends. They have also been working on their coordination and balance, while also having fun and staying active.

The children have also been busy building dens both inside and outside, fostering their imagination and creativity. They have also enjoyed playing with water and engaging in potion making activities, including creating a potion for Valentine's Day!

Some children recently put on a dance show for their classmates using the outdoor stage which has inspired lots of dancing and singing in the classroom! The children showcased their dancing skills and had a wonderful time performing for their friends.

We have also been reflecting on the importance of honesty. They have been discussing the value of being truthful and understanding the impact of honesty on their relationships with others. We thought of examples of how we could be honest with our friends and make them feel happy by saying kind things



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about them that are true! Some examples included telling their friends what they are good at and what we like about them.

Murphy

We have had a busy few weeks! The children have worked really hard pulling together an assembly to showcase all their amazing learning, I'm sure you're all as proud of them as I am!

In Literacy, we have been exploring past and present tense. We have also researched information to create our own class fact file filled with interesting octopus facts!

We have revisited number bonds to 10 and fact families in our maths lessons. We have been using a range of resources to really embed our understanding and recall of bonds to 10.

In Science, we have been learning about wind, ways to measure, gather information and record data. We made some wind socks to help us with this! We have looked at the Beaufort scale as a way of measuring the force of the wind and we were pleased to report a moderate breeze!!

We have been using grid maps to secure our understanding of positional and directional language, describing routes to places of interest in London.

During feeling good week, we said daily positive affirmations and learnt about the benefits of positive affirmations, by saying them, we can build up and improve our confidence, even when things are difficult.

After half term, we will be :-

- History - revisiting our learning of the Great Fire of London in 1666.
- Design and Technology - starting our 'Taxi' topic, exploring wheels.
- RE- Learning more about the celebration of Purim and having a small party to share biscuits to symbolise the importance of strength, love and friendship among everyone.

We hope you have a great half term!

Dahl

Year 2 have once again been participating in lots of fantastic learning!

In Literacy, we have started a new book called 'The Minpins' by Roald Dahl. This book continues with the theme of Bravery vs Fear, like 'The Bear under the stairs'. We have only read a few pages of the book, but the children are already engaged and wanting to find out what happens next! They have been practicing using noun phrases to describe their monster as well as using the conjunction 'that' to extend their sentences and add more detail. We are all excited to find out what happens next in the book... is it a monster chasing Billy?

In Maths, we have finished our multiplication and division topic. They have been practicing their 5- and 10-times tables and applying this skill into division questions. We have explored that division means to split up a number into parts. We now know that the 5 times tables either ends in a 5 or a 0 and the ten times tables ends in a 0. They have worked really hard to grasp this tricky concept and their books have shown this too.



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In Art, we have been very creative, and we have made a variety of flower sculptures. They have designed and made flower sculptures using paper plates, inspired by the artist- Yayoi Kusama. They turned out to be amazing and the children grasped the concept of using bright and bold patterns to create these. They have also managed to turn coffee filters into beautiful 3D flowers using food colouring to create a tie-dye effect.

In Science, we have finished looking at uses of materials and, as a class, we have planned an experiment to test out 3 different types of shopping bags. We decided on the enquiry questions- 'Which shopping bag is the strongest?' and 'Which shopping bag is the most waterproof?' We have put together an experiment which we will test out after half term to finalise our results.

I would like to finish by saying a big congratulations to the Year 2 children for their fantastic class assembly, they put a lot of effort into practicing for this and I am very proud of all of them. Another thank you to everyone that came along to watch, I hope you enjoyed looking through their books to see all of their fantastic learning too! P.S Their homework this week was fantastic, I have been blown away by the creativity used to create their models!

In the following weeks we will be learning:

- Maths- Measuring length
- Literacy- The Minpins (using relevant adjectives, verbs and conjunctions)
- Science- Innovate challenge
- PE- Target games
- Geography- Tourism in Whitby

Ahlberg

Ahlberg Class have had a great first half of the term. It has been lovely to watch them apply their learning across the curriculum, making links between our topic and their literacy text. We have been learning about volcanoes in Geography. The class have used lines of longitude and latitude to locate some across different continents. They have also looked at parts of a volcano and what causes them to erupt. This has linked well to their Literacy text - 'The Escape from Pompeii'.

The children have written vivid descriptions about the eruptions of Mount Vesuvius. They have explored how the emotions of the characters have changed from the beginning of the text to the end and written thought bubbles. They have finished the term by identifying features of a newspaper report and creating headlines in preparation for writing a report after half term.

In maths we have started to look at fractions. The class have learnt about unit and non-unit fractions. We have explored adding fractions together to make a whole. In Science we have continued our unit of 'Forces' by looking at magnetic forces. They have explored different types of magnets and how they attract and repel.

We have now finished our PE topic of handball and will be practicing skills for basketball after half term. The class enjoyed using their skills of dodging and shooting to play small games in our last lesson.

After half term, we will be learning:



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- Maths: Equivalent fractions.
- Literacy: Writing a newspaper report.
- Geography: Earthquakes.
- Science: Magnetic fields and grouping magnets.

Morpurgo

Year 4 have had a lovely couple of weeks.

In Literacy we have had a brilliant time looking at a new book called 'Cinnamon'. We have explored the idea of stepping into someone else's shoes. We have focused on writing diary entries to portray the thoughts and feelings of a character who cannot speak. We have been working this week to edit the story plan to create our own version. Using the complex noun phrases we have focused on, the children are creating brilliant stories.

In Maths, we have worked hard to understand length and perimeter. We have focused on what the difference is between millimetres, centimetres, meters and kilometres. We have moved onto fractions this week, we have been understanding the whole and exploring different shapes and how to split them up equally.

In Topic, we have looked at how different sections of mountains have different names. We have been doing group work to look at different mountains and the properties of them such as whether they have a peak, whether they are a plateau mountain and if they are volcanic. We have linked our new knowledge of volcanic mountains to our prior year 3 understanding of volcanos.

In Science, we have been exploring solids, liquids and gases. We have been completing investigations to understand what happens to ice when it is heated and what happens to boiling water when it is left out. We have also learnt how to use a thermometer to measure the temperature of different states.

In Music, we have finally started our Ukulele lessons. We have had a fantastic couple of sessions understanding new chords and correct ways to hold the ukulele. We have also had the opportunity to take them home to practice.

In DT, we have been looking into different fabrics and how designers can use the fabrics to support familiar products. We have also been sewing a hem and adding embellishments to fabrics to make it more interesting.

Have a fantastic half term break!

After half term:

- Literacy - We will be exploring a new book and asking questions.
- Topic - We will be looking at the mountains around the world and specific mountains in the United Kingdom.
- Science - We will be looking at a new topic called classification. We will be looking into how to sort animals and objects into groups.
- Music - We are very lucky to continue our ukulele lessons after half term. Remember if you take your ukulele home, bring it back for our Tuesday lessons!



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Westall

We have been working very hard and will definitely enjoy our rest during the half term.

In literacy we finished reading 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo. Many of us enjoyed the gory details of how Grendel devoured his victims and how Beowulf fought back but did not realise that Grendel had a vengeful mother! For our final piece of work, we became bards, creating and retelling our own ancient legends to the class.

In maths, we have started the unit on decimals and percentages. We have been working on equivalent fractions and ordering and comparing decimals. We also explored partitioning decimal numbers in different ways.

As part of our science lesson, we explored how a human embryo developed from conception to birth and arranged human gestation cards chronologically in a timeline to help answer questions. For geography, we listen to an audio on potato farming in Jersey and the factors that affected it. We collated information and worked in groups to create non-chronological reports.

This half term in French, we have enjoyed being weather reporters and have been learning how to present 'la météo' in different regions in France.

For PE, we practised different yoga positions and creating a sequence of poses. We composed our own routine in pairs and performed them to the rest of the class. We also have been enjoying the sport handball where we have been learning both attacking and defending skills with the magic of 3.

In music, we have been playing the glockenspiels alongside singing to 'Make You Feel My Love' by Adele.

Next half term, we will be learning:

- Maths: decimals and percentages
- Literacy: about our new book
- Science : about the juvenile stage in a human life cycle
- Geography: citrus farming in California
- French: about pets

Tolkien

In Literacy we have been reading the book 'Stonewall'. It is the true story of the Stonewall Inn, a bustling hotspot in New York City, which became a haven for 'different' people in the 1960s. We have worked on sentence structure; active and passive voice; and advertised the Stonewall club to others.

In Maths we have been working on fractions, decimals and percentages. We have converted and ordered them, as well as converting between the three e.g. $1/10 = 0.1 = 10\%$.

In History/Geography we have learned about Ernest Shackleton: an intrepid explorer who attempted to reach the South Pole in 1914. We discussed whether he was a good or bad leader and whether or not his mission was a success or failure (he didn't make it to the South Pole but everyone survived the terrifying ordeal).



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In PE we have completed our tag rugby unit with a tournament.

In Art we made and used our own animal stencils.

In French we learned about masculine and feminine nouns.

In Spelling we have been creating mnemonics to help us remember spellings e.g.

Rhythm

Helps

Your

Two

Hips

Move

Coming up:

- In Literacy we will write a visitor's guide to the Stonewall.
- In Maths we will move onto area, perimeter and volume.
- In Geography we will learn about the various animals that live in frozen kingdoms.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Half Term: Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd February	
Monday 26 th February – school returns	
Thursday 7 th March	SEND and Pastoral Needs Parent Café - 9am World Book Day - Children can come to school dressed as a book character of their choice.
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 4 School Trip
Monday 18 th March	Parents Evening – 3:30 – 6:00pm
Tuesday 19 th March	Parents Evening – 4:00 – 7:00pm
Tuesday 26 th March	Year 5 Dance Festival at Campus West
Wednesday 27 th March	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
Monday 15 th April	Children return to school
Wednesday 17 th -Friday 19 th April	Year 5 Residential Trip
Friday 26 th April	Year 5 Assembly



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**BOARD GAMES
WANTED**

**Do you have any board games
your children no longer play
with? We are looking for
games to keep in the pod for
children to use during break
times. If you have any you'd
like to donate please drop them
off in school office reception.**

Thank you!

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uSports

February Half Term HOLIDAY CAMPS

Multi-Sports Camp

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