



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan

## Oaklands Primary School

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### Newsletter 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

#### Head Teacher's Message

This week in assembly Mrs Morgan spoke with the children about the Oaklands 'Big Battery Hunt'. We learnt that a battery that is disposed of in general waste takes approximately 100 years to decompose and can pollute the soil and water around it. Therefore, we are going to be providing a collection point where you will be able to recycle your old batteries safely. So, if you have any old batteries at home, please drop them in to our recycling pot which is located in the entrance hall of the main office.

All batteries must be dropped off here, either before or after school. Please do not allow your children to bring old batteries into school in their bags.

#### Eco-Schools with Mrs Bissmire

On Wednesday, KS2 Eco-committee members had a trip to the 'Waste Not, Want Not' plant centre in Stevenage. The children had a good look round and picked some plants to go in our new class planters which, when complete, each year group will take responsibility and care of. This links nicely to our Green Flag action plan for 'Our School Grounds', as well as our regular litter picking, enhancing the look of the site as well as encouraging more insects to visit. This is a project that we have planned alongside Mrs Andreas as part of next weeks 'Feeling Good Week' which has the focus of 'Regrown'.

#### From the School Office

Please remember that Easter Camp will be running from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April 9am – 4pm. This is available for booking now. Just drop us an email with days you require, and make payment on the school gateway in the usual way.

#### PSHE Update from Mrs Andreas

This term our topic is 'Valuing Difference'.

**Reception** The children have been learning about different types of house and home. Talking about what their own home is like. Some children tried writing a poem (My house is...) and some used the doll's house, blocks and bricks to extend their learning around houses and homes. Next, they will be thinking about how they can be kind and caring towards others, building friendships and co-operating.

**Year One** have been learning about why we have rules in school (to keep us safe and to help us learn). They worked with a partner to create a set of rules for their classroom. They have also been learning about how to show kindness and caring towards others. Next – thinking about groups they belong to (e.g. Oaklands, Murphy class, religious groups etc), who their special people are and how their special people help them.

**Year Two** The children have been learning about being kind to others, particularly on the playground. They have thought about what they could do if they see someone being left out. They have continued to



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talk about what is similar and what is different about each other. Next, they will be demonstrating active listening techniques (making eye contact, making positive noises, not being distracted) and will be thinking about ways to negotiate when solving a problem, to help maintain positive relationships

**Year Three** The children have been thinking about groups of people, such as friends and neighbours, and have been thinking about how they can all get along, despite their differences (e.g. different ages, occupations, race, gender, religion etc). Next, they will be recognising that repeated name calling is a form of bullying and will be learning strategies they could use to deal with this if it occurs.

**Year Four** The children have been discussing stereotypes. They thought of lots of examples of stereotyping and it was lovely to hear about times when they and their families have challenged common stereotypes. Next, they will be recognizing that they have different types of relationship with people they know (e. g. teachers, school cook, friends, family, the wider community. They will then consider how they are influenced by these relationships.

**Year Five** The children have been talking about online safety, specifically when using social media. They have been considering the fact that we can't always tell what is true and what is untrue online, and how they can keep themselves safe Next, they will be recognising that some people can be bullied because of the way they express their gender and will be thinking of ways to stop bullying behaviours, if they occur.

**Year Six** The children have been discussing the terms 'prejudice', 'discrimination', and 'stereotypes'. They have been identifying and describing the different groups that make up our school/wider community/other parts of the UK. They wrote acrostic poems to explain the importance of mutual respect for different faiths and beliefs and how we demonstrate this. Next, they will be recognizing how the media can portray stereotypes and will be challenging stereotypical gender portrayals of people.

### Donaldson

This week Reception have been learning all about Little Red Riding Hood. We wrote a letter to Little Red Riding Hood inviting her to school on Friday for a party! She arrived (and looked suspiciously like Mrs Coward who was elsewhere for the party...) The children asked questions about the Big Bad Wolf and designed picnic baskets for Little Red Riding Hood to take to her grandma's. We also made WANTED posters for the Big Bad Wolf as we remembered that he had also been bothering the 3 little pigs and felt that enough was enough!

In maths, we have been thinking about the numbers after 5. We have been thinking about different ways to find 6, 7 & 8, how they are made and where we might see them. We have been using our fingers to help us count but are working on using concrete objects to show the number in a 10s frame.

In phonics we have learnt the trigraph 'air' and the digraph 'er'. The children were given tricky word packs to help them learn their tricky words to enable them to read more fluently. Next week we will be introducing a 'tricky password' on the door for the children to read when coming in and out of the classroom, this is designed to be a fun, low-stakes learning opportunity allowing the children to become more fluent in reading tricky words on sight.



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In PE we have been focusing on our catching & throwing skills which are important for developing strong muscles in our shoulders & wrists. It also supports our hand eye coordination skills! Last week we even threw javelins!

Next week we will be:

- Investigating odd & even numbers
- Reading lots of books linked to our topic of once upon a time and thinking about how plants grow, linking to Jack and the Beanstalk
- In phonics we will be revising the sounds we have learnt this term

### **Murphy**

In science, we have been learning about deciduous and evergreen trees and how deciduous trees change across the four seasons. We looked at some pictures of the trees and decided what they show, labelling them with one of the seasons and putting them into chronological and cyclical order. We have also looked at the changes that happen to animals over the four seasons such as hibernation and migration.

As mathematicians, we have been using number bonds and related facts when adding within 20, as an alternative to counting on, for example, if we know that 4 and 2 are a bond to 6, we can use this fact to see that 14 and 2 are a bond to 16, as are 4 and 12. We have also been working more independently at our own table spaces with our own maths work books.

The children are thoroughly enjoying our computing lessons. We have learnt about online safety and the importance of signing in and out as computer users, we have also been busy creating our own avatars!

In Literacy, we finished our 'Beegu' unit by designing and creating alien characters to be a friend for Beegu. We planned what our alien would look like, how they might move and what they like to eat by using lots of adjectives and verbs on our vocabulary drop. We then wrote a profile about our aliens and then wrote a story about them. The children have been highly engaged in our 'Beegu' unit!

In the next few weeks, we will be: -

- Geography – Describing a significant historical event in British history by learning about the Great Fire of London in 1666.
- Literacy- Our new text 'Leo, the Octopus' will see us creating posters, letters of advice and factual descriptions. Our new text explores issues around neurodiversity and provides opportunities for discussion as well as exploring strategies to cope in a neurotypical world.
- Science – We will be observing and describing how day length changes across the year, and we will be following instructions to perform simple tests and talk about what they might do and what might happen, in relation to the sun's rays.
- Murphy class are beginning to prepare for our class assembly, we can't wait to share our learning with you!

### **Dahl**

Year 2 have once again been working extremely hard and practising lots of new skills. In Literacy we are reading the book 'The Bear Under the Stairs.' We previously looked at different homophones that we



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could find in the book and this week we explored these words further and started to also find rhyming patterns in the book. We were able to spot all the words ending in the 'air' sound but with different graphemes such as 'ear' 'are' and 'ere'. The children then used these rhyming words to write their own sentences about the story using rhyming patterns. We then started to plan and write our own versions of the story based on something that we might be scared of but that is imaginary, such as a monster under our bed. The children were very creative and wrote some fantastic stories, some of them also looked at how to edit and improve their own work.

In Maths, we have continued to learn about multiplication and division. We have been multiplying by drawing our groups and counting the total. We have also learnt that when multiplying by 2,5 and 10 we can use our times tables knowledge to help us count rather than having to draw it out! We have recently started to look at how to divide numbers by either grouping them or sharing them into equal amounts. We also learnt that in multiplication, the two numbers being multiplied can be swapped round and still get the same answer!

In Art, we have been exploring shape in form with flower art. They had the chance to create their own stamps using polystyrene tiles and used a printing method to print different types of flowers into their art books. They were then able to use clay to mould into a 3D flower using rolling pins and their hands to create the shape and form they would like. These look fantastic and we can't wait to bring them to life when we paint them!

In Science, we have continued looking at everyday materials and their uses. They each chose a different object from the classroom to label and explain why specific materials were used to make this and what properties they had. They also experimented with different types of paper to find out which type was the strongest, smoothest and most absorbent. They used different equipment such as pipettes and magnifying glasses to complete this investigation.

We have also been busy practicing our class assembly to show you all! We hope you enjoyed the show on and enjoy hearing all about our fantastic learning this term!

In the following weeks we will be learning about:

- Literacy- The Minpins by Roald Dahl
- Maths- doubling/halving and the 5 times tables
- Geography- Safety at the coast
- Art- How texture is used to create realistic flower art.

### **Ahlberg**

Ahlberg Class have been really enjoying their topic of 'Rock, Relics and Rumbles'. The class have been looking at types of rocks closely. They investigated each one, testing their permeability. We have also revisited tectonic plates, but this time looking at the types of plates and how they move.

We have continued our Art topic of ammonites and have been exploring photography. The children took photos of their clay ammonites at different angles and then edited them using the iPad. They spent time thinking about light and shadows.



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Our topic of rocks has now led us into a new literacy book, 'The Escape from Pompeii'. The class became archaeologists and explored items found linked to this historical event, such as a Roman sandal, photos of the eruption, photos of the damage and people escaping to the water, igneous rocks from the mountain side and a map of Italy. The class made inferences from the historical sources about the book they were about to read.

We finished our last book 'The Tin Forest' by writing persuasive leaflets about how to look after the local environment. The children explored different sentence types and the use of conjunctions.

In Maths we have started to look at units of measure. We started this unit by exploring length. The children have measured objects in metres, centimetres and millimetres. In Science we have continued our unit of 'Forces' by measuring forces with a force metre. The class looked at a range of surfaces and measured frictional forces.

Next week, we will be learning:

- Maths: Comparing lengths. Adding and subtracting lengths.
- Literacy: Writing a setting description. Using apostrophes to show possession.
- Geography: Soil testing and features of a volcano.
- Science: Magnetic forces

### **Morpurgo**

Year 4 have had a great fortnight at school.

In Literacy we have finished off writing a sequel for the book 'Frindleswylde'. Many stories were named 'Frindleswylde returns...' The children loved working hard to add in their ideas and personalise their stories but still follow the theme of the original text. We have started a new book this week called 'Cinnamon'. So far, we know that there is a tiger and a lady called Cinnamon who is a princess. We have been working hard to make predictions about what is going to happen and what evidence we have to back this up.

In Topic we have continued looking a range of rivers. We have also explored the different uses of rivers and explained why they are important to people around the world. We found that rivers can be used for leisure, transportation and farming. We then created posters to explain one use of a river and shared this with the class.

In Science, we have been exploring solids, liquids and gases. We have looked into how particles make up the different states and how they are different to each other. Solids have a very sturdy particle pattern whereas liquids are slightly more fluid, and gas particles are free to move about.

In Art, we have been exploring landscapes and looking into how warm and cool colours mixing can give us depth in our artwork. We have practiced mixing different colours with different mediums.

Over the next fortnight:

- Literacy - We will be exploring further into our new text.
- Topic - We will be understanding contour lines.
- Maths - we will continue to look at length and perimeter.



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- Music - We are very lucky to have someone who is going to be coming in to teach us how to play the Ukulele.

### Westall

In Literacy, we have started reading our new book 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo. In our first lesson we acted as archaeologists and excavated the tomb of an Anglo-Saxon warrior king. We asked each other a range of investigative questions about the different artefacts that had been discovered.

So far, we have been introduced to the main characters in the story and have written a letter to the king, suggesting ways to help him keep the terror-tyrant away from his kingdom.

In maths, we have nearly completed our final unit on fractions. We have been learning how to use multiplication number sentences with fractions and also how to multiplying unit fractions with an integer.

As part of our science lessons, we have been comparing mammalian lifecycles, including the African elephant, bottlenose dolphin, European hamster and cocker spaniel. In our geography lessons, we looked at the three different types of farming in the UK and what factors can affect them.

In the next fortnight we will be learning:

- Maths: decimals and percentages
- Literacy: using adjectives to create an emotions graph
- Science : exploring the human lifecycle
- Geography: mapping using grid references

### Tolkien

In Literacy we have been writing discussion texts about the Suffragettes. We have also been revising adverbs – words that add information to a verb. Quick Quiz – find the adverb: I will open the massive bag later.

In Maths we have been learning about algebra! We have written and solved algebraic equations. QQ – What is  $y$ ?  $2y + 4 = 14$ .

In Science we have been investigating circuits. We have asked questions and then found the answers by experimenting e.g. What will happen to the brightness of the bulb if I add a switch? QQ – name four components of a circuit.

In Geography we have been learning about the indigenous peoples of various frozen kingdoms and how they survive in such difficult conditions. QQ – name a group that live in the Arctic.

In Art we have been looking at Inuit art and have practiced the stencilling technique – cutting out pictures of animals and using the paper as a stencil.

In PE we have practiced how to find space and help your team in tag rugby.

In Computing we have been using spreadsheets and adding formulae to them.



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In French we have been learning how to say different items of clothing.

In Music we have been singing the song 'You've got a friend' by Carol King.

Comping up...

- In Literacy we will be starting our new book 'Stonewall'.
- In Maths we will be learning about decimals and linking them to percentages.
- In Science we will add more components to our circuits.

### Autumn Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Feeling Good Week
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	School nurses visiting for Reception screening.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 class assembly - 9am
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	School ends at 3.15pm
Half Term: Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	School returns
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 School Trip
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening – 3:30 – 6:00pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening – 4:00 – 7:00pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Dance Festival at Campus West
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term – 2pm finish
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 Residential





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