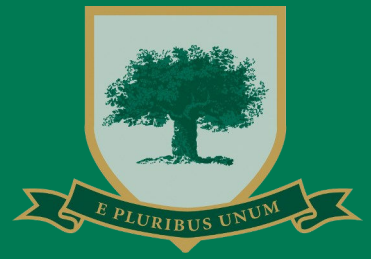


Oaklands School NEWSLETTER



May 2024

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Headmistress's Message

The past few weeks have been all about being outdoors. Our Year 4,5,& 6 children have all been away at their residential trips, testing their resilience and endurance and learning new skills, they were muddy, damp and very tired when they returned but everyone had so much fun.

Our Lower and Upper Kindergarten children have spent as much time outdoors as they could including a minibeast hunt and then learning about The Very Hungry Caterpillar and making ladybird biscuits. Reception have been using the school grounds as a lovely place to calmly read in the sunshine and Year 1 have been observing insects in the field been for their Science topic. They have been making 3D planets in class. Year 2 have been learning all about Lowry and his artwork and using technology to support their learning and Year 3 had a wonderful trip to the Verulamium to bring the Romans and Celts topics to life.

Lastly our School Council went on a trip to The Houses of Parliament and I was privileged to accompany them and see first hand just how well they navigated the tube, the roads around Parliament and how well they engaged and listened to our guide, they were a credit to Oaklands and our only disappointment was that Rishi Sunak didn't make an appearance!!

Half term is looming and I hope the sun shines for you all.

Awards

Congratulations to all the children who have been presented with either a Values, Good Behaviour, Friendship or Sports award since the last newsletter.

Class	Friendship	Good Behaviour	Values	Sports
1V	Evie	Hayden	Dilroop	Noelle, Aaron
1C	Charlotte	Austin	Annabelle	Taylor, Saachi
2S	Aryan	Emily T	Harper	Denim, Aryan, Harper, Abir
2Z	Freddie	Emily	Jasmine	Freddie, Emily, Anya, James
3CA	Vallavi	Harper	Aarin	Arthur, Sofia, Lennox, Freya
3CO	Amelia	Sartaj	Emily	Ella, Isabella, Ammar, Lily
4C	Mila	Raffy	Isabella	Oscar, Emily, Louis, Amelia
5Z	Winnie	Kasie	Nhi	Anais, Arrabella
6G	Sammy	Ayianna	Alicia	Hannah, Ethan

Spring Reading Ambassadors

A very big thank you and well done to all our Spring Reading Ambassadors who have been reading to our EYFS children during lunch times. You have all been amazing.



WESSP Mini-Tennis

Pupils from Years 3-6 took part in the West Essex School Sports Partnership Mini-Tennis event at Theydon Bois Tennis Club. After fuelling themselves with a sports packed lunch, they were energised and ready for the challenge awaiting them. 5 other schools stood in their way, with all the children able to play 5 matches each to earn as many points as they could. Year 3 and 4 pupils managed to tie for first with St John's, and they played an extra match in a play-off to see who would be crowned gold medal winners. They rose to the challenge, and came out victorious. In the Year 5 and 6 competition, we saw another close run contest, with Oaklands tying for first with White Bridge. Another play-off ensued and we showed excellent character to come out on top.

A massive congratulations to our amazing tennis team, cheered on by a huge Oaklands parent contingent!



WESSP Sports Hall Athletics Small Schools Finals

Oaklands U11 Indoor Athletics team finish 5th in West Essex School Sports Partnership Sports Hall Athletics Small Schools Finals!

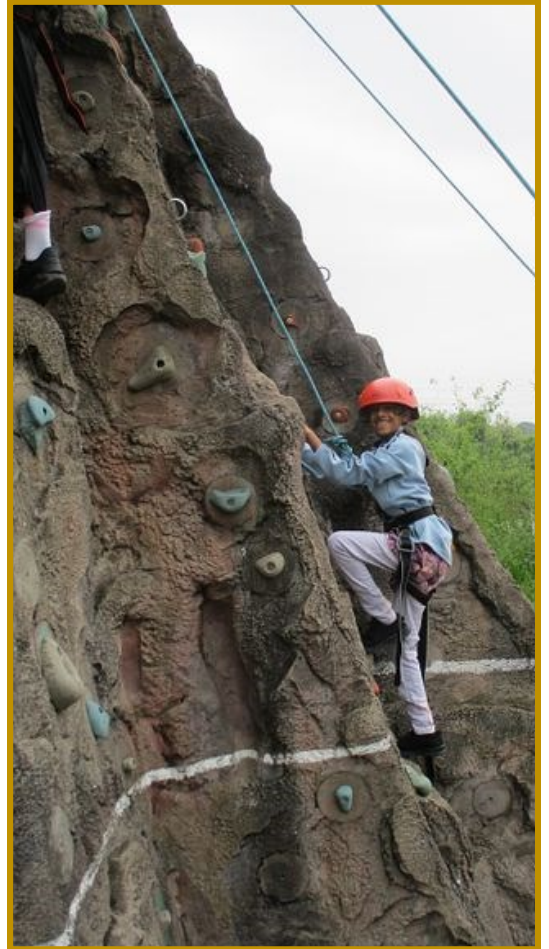
The 18 boys and girls from years 5&6 did amazingly well against some very strong (and larger) schools. The children took part in 2 field events and 2 track events each, to test their jumping, throwing and running ability. Well done to our brilliant athletes!

Y4+Y5 Young Mariners Residential Trip

Last week, Year 4 and 5 were lucky enough to enjoy three days at Young Mariners in Cheshunt. The children learnt many new skills including how to - with a partner - paddle a canoe, kayak, sail, stand-up on a paddle board, rock climb and even orienteer by reading maps of the local area. The weather was gratifyingly kind and the children behaved extremely well; each and every one was a model ambassador for Oaklands. For those who had never been away from home on their own before, there were many opportunities to be able to grow in confidence and resilience. Here's to the next experience!



Y4+Y5 Young Mariners Residential Trip - Continued



Lower Kindergarten and The Very Hungry Caterpillar

The children in Lower Kindergarten have been learning all about the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. They have participated in a variety of activities including making their own kitchen roll caterpillar and creating some 'food' for the caterpillar, using real fruit and soil. Over the past two weeks, the children have watched our real life caterpillars grow and make their cocoons. We are all very excited to see our caterpillars turn into butterflies!



Upper Kindergarten in the Wild Woods

Upper Kindergarten went down into the wild woods to look for minibeasts and create a minibeast home. All the children had lots of fun and worked as part of a team. We had some very interesting minibeast homes!



Upper Kindergarten Ladybird Biscuits

The children made some delicious ladybird biscuits. First, they spread red icing over their biscuit using a plastic knife. Then, they rolled up some black icing to separate the ladybird's wings. Finally, they placed some chocolate drop spots and some edible eyes. The children could not wait to take them home! I wonder how they tasted?



Reception Owls

The children in Owls were challenged to each build their own pirate ship using junk materials. They had a choice of different fixings such as Sellotape, masking tape and ribbon. Once their ship was completed, they predicted whether it would float or sink when placed in water. They then went outside to test their predictions. Some ships floated, some sank and some tilted but stayed floating.

Having tested their ships the children thought about any changes they might make if they were to make their ship again. Ideas ranged from no changes, to use more plastic so it doesn't go soggy, to make it shorter so it



Reception Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers enjoyed spending time with the Oaklands reading ambassadors. We were very fortunate that the sun was shining and we were able to read outside.



Reception Robins

Reception Robins had great fun chopping cucumber, mashing chickpeas, mixing yoghurt, measuring oil and squeezing lemons to make delicious hummus and tzatziki. They then had a tasting session, eating them with pitta bread and took some home to share with their family as well.



Year 1V

In Year 1, our topic this term is Space. We have begun making 3D planets using paper mâché. The children painted balloons with PVA and layered ripped newspaper to make a hard outer shell. The children will shortly go on to paint them to make our very own Solar System.



Year 1C

1C have had a lovely week observing animals in our environment as part of our Animal Antics Science topic. We went onto the field and into the Wild Woods to see what minibeasts and animals we could find. We found lots of woodlice, worms and even some beetles and butterflies. The children were very respectful of the creatures we found and replaced all their habitats carefully. We also went birdwatching and kept a tally of the birds we saw such as crows, woodpigeons, blackbirds, robins and magpies. We could hear some parakeets too, up in the treetops but their camouflage is so good, we just could not spot one.



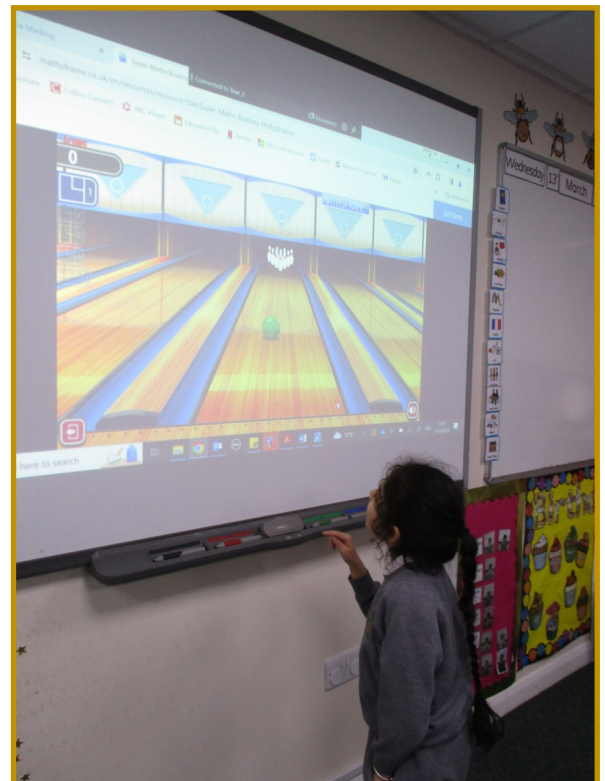
Year 2S

2S have been learning about the British artist Lowry. They painted a picture in the style of Lowry which included buildings and stick people. The children painted their pictures using watercolours.



Year 2Z

The first pictures show 2Z playing a times tables bowling game on the interactive whiteboard. They had to answer questions in the 3x table. If they got them correct they were able to roll the bowling ball. Some children even got a strike! Well done, 2Z!



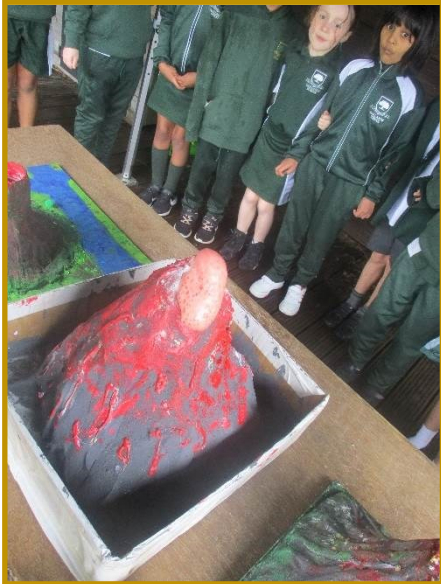
Year 3 Roman Verulamium, St Albans

On Monday 29th April, Year 3 went to visit the Roman site at Verulamium, St Albans. Lots of fun was had, the children returned back full of facts and extremely knowledgeable about Roman and Celt life.



Year 3CA Volcanoes

For our Easter Holiday homework, the children had an option to make their own volcano. This term, we have had the chance to look at and explore the features of, names of and when certain volcanoes erupted. We thought, why not erupt our own volcanoes! A mixture of Diet Coke and Mentos and a more successful use of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda was used to create fantastic, froth volcanic eruptions.



Year 3CO Topic Work

3CO have loved getting the chance to extend their knowledge of continents and countries within our topic work. They can confidently identify the 7 continents on a map of the world or globe, and are becoming increasingly confident to identify countries which we have explored in lessons this year such as Italy and Japan. They are also able to use an index to find countries which are unfamiliar. A great effort by all! Well done Year 3!



School Council visit to Parliament

The Oaklands School Council had a fantastic day visiting the Houses of Parliament. We were lucky enough to see the Speaker's Procession to the House of Commons and we visited the House of Lords to view the gold chair where King Charles sits to open Parliament. We listened really well and learnt some amazing facts about Parliament. We then had fun pretending to be Members of Parliament and voted, Aye or No to pass a new law to ban smoking.

Whilst walking to the Houses of Parliament we enjoyed looking at the boats on the River Thames and we stopped to admire the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst and reminded ourselves of the importance of her actions in securing the right to vote for all.



Wild Woods Club

Last half term started with us bringing the outdoors in! High winds meant we couldn't be in the woods but we had lots of fun in the hall instead! It's been a great half term, we celebrated National Popcorn Lovers Day and watched the corn pop over the campfire before enjoying it. We've waited patiently for spring and over the past couple of weeks have been spotting the spring colours, learning about birds (and nest building) and hunting for emerging minibeasts. It has been lovely to see the Reception children grow in confidence and the Year 1's and 2's working with them on den building and other activities. Lots of wild play thrown in as well with the rope swing, hammocks and the oh so popular mud kitchen!

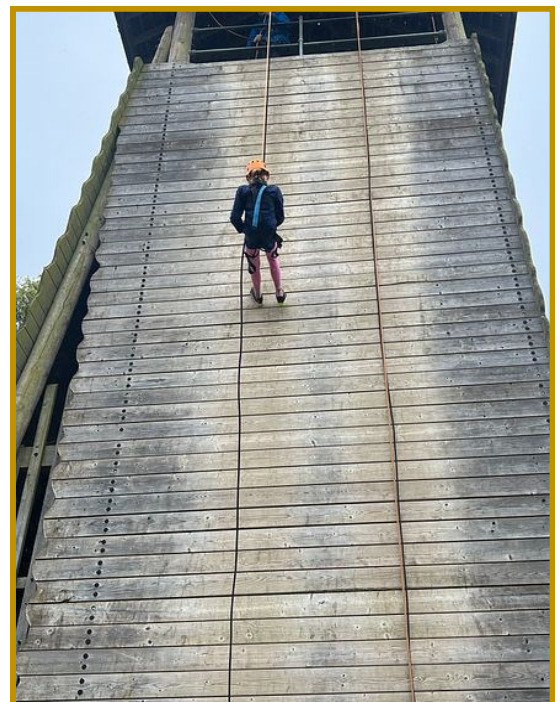


Year 6 PGL Liddington

The Year 6 children had a wonderful experience at PGL Liddington. They were greeted with wonderful PGL staff and we had two fantastic group leaders who guided us through each day. The residential was filled with lots of challenging activities and the children's resilience, team work, problem solving and courage was tested on numerous occasions. Our favourite activities were the giant swing, Jacobs ladder, trapeze, problem solving and the zip-line. We also agreed that the food was a BIG highlight...we definitely ate too much. Well done to all Year 6 children who faced their fears and conquering their worries of being away from home for a week. They are all stars and Miss Dee, Miss van Bergen and Ms Booth are very proud of them.



Year 6 PGL Liddington - Continued



U7's ISA London North Football Championships

On a very hot, and sunny Thursday, a group of 7 Year 2 pupils made the trip to Barnet Power League to take part in the U7 ISA London North Football Championships.

They were drawn in the Champions League against 5 other schools, winning 4 and losing only 1 match 3-2. They managed to score an amazing 33 goals in the process, qualifying for the knockout stages. In the Quarter Finals, they played Howe Green House School, and ran out 8-0 winners, reaching the semi-finals, where they would meet the team, who inflicted their only defeat in the group; Gatehouse School. They have won this tournament nearly every year in the past 7 years, so the team knew they were in for a battle. They came out victorious, winning 3-1, and in the final. Our amazing team met Southbank International School, and in a very close fought contest, managed to draw 3-3, where a penalty shootout awaited them. Nerves? What nerves?! They were spot on (no pun intended), and were worthy winners, where they lifted the trophy and came home to Oaklands with their spirits high!!

An amazing effort from Brady, Noah, Denim, Ethan, Neysha, Mikey and Alfie!!



Coopersale Hall Cross Country Relay Race

The boys and girls had a great time getting very muddy at the Coopersale Hall Cross Country Relay Races.

Our amazing Year 3&4 Girls team were off first and they ran a fantastic race, just missing out on the medals, finishing in 4th place. Next was the Year 3&4 Boys team who fought off some strong runners to grab 3rd place and a bronze medal for their efforts. Year 5&6 Girls ran a superb race, leading the race and just falling short but awarded an excellent silver medal. Year 5&6 Boys came up against some very fast talented runners in their age group, but can be proud of their 5th place finish!



West Essex Schools' Cross Country Finals

Oaklands pupils tested their endurance on a very gruelling course at the West Essex Schools' Cross Country Finals! 24 very energetic and nervous pupils went along to Ashton playing fields for the West Essex Schools' Cross Country Finals. In a field of over 100 children in each category, our troop can be very pleased with their efforts, all managing to complete the course

