



Oaklands School

Newsletter

Headmistress's Message



In the last few weeks we have been making the most of the good weather and many year groups have been off site taking part in visits and sporting fixtures. As usual I am very proud of the way in which pupils have conducted themselves whilst representing Oaklands.

Our Skype sessions with farmers and scientists from both the UK and overseas have continued and our older pupils are thoroughly enjoying their lessons being brought to life by specialists.

School Council enjoyed meeting our local MP at Parliament a few weeks ago, they grilled him about the state of our local roads.

Our Easter break is fast approaching and I look forward to welcoming you all back in April for the final term of activities and learning.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Copeman'.

Mrs. Gretchen Copeman

Table of Contents

1 - 6	Early Years
7 - 8	Key Stage 1
9 - 11	Key Stage 2
12 - 14	Specialist Lessons
15 - 16	Extra-Curricular Clubs
17	School Trips
18 - 20	Sports
21 - 28	Whole School News

Upper Kindergarten

The children in Upper Kindergarten were extremely excited to visit Loughton Fire Station. The firefighters allowed the children to sit in the fire engine, try on their helmets and look at a variety of equipment, including a demonstration on how their breathing apparatus works. The children were then given the opportunity to spray the hose and put out the 'fire', as you can imagine the children had so much fun! Finally, the firefighters showed the children how they climb the ladder safely, whilst using the hose.

This was a wonderful education trip for the children and helped to extend what they had already learnt in class. We would like to thank all the parents who helped us on the day, it was very much appreciated.



Reception Trip to St Albans Abbey

Reception had the most wonderful day exploring shape and measure on their trip to St Albans Abbey. The children learned fascinating facts about the cathedral and created their very own stained glass window.



Reception Holi Festival

In Reception, the children have been learning all about the Hindu festival Holi. This wonderful festival celebrates colours, love and the start of spring. Each year, people gather around the world to enjoy Holi, where powdered paint and coloured water is thrown in the streets. This year, we decided to take part in the fun and had our own colour festival. They threw powdered paint, danced and completed an obstacle course, and had lots of fun!



Upper Kindergarten Mothers Day

The children in Upper Kindergarten took part in their Mother's Day Assembly. The children performed a variety of songs to their parents including 'Have a Day Off Mum', 'I am a Firefighter' and 'I Love My Mummy'. The children did so well to remember all the words and actions to the songs. They showed great confidence on stage and took it in turns to tell the audience something about their mummy. Finally, they were all very excited to give their mummies their card and flowers. We are extremely proud of all of them! Well done Upper Kindergarten!



Year 1 RE Workshop

Year 1 enjoyed a sunny journey to St Mary's Church in Loughton to hear about the Easter story from Reverend Malcolm. The talk was engaging, especially when children were invited to open a little Easter egg. We also discussed what is one thing you would try or give up for Lent. Pupils came up with really thoughtful answers, especially Zaydan saying he would go outside more and some of 1C saying they would give up chocolate!



Year 2 cooking lesson

Year 2 have been reading the story 'Biscuit Bear' by Mini Grey in their English lessons. They decided to bake their own biscuit bear just like the character from the story. They weighed the ingredients using an electric scale independently and were able to create a bear shape using a special cutter. The children then decorated their biscuit bears with icing and smarties. Well done, Year 2!



Year 3

In Art this half term, 3C have been looking at 3 different artists and how they have painted volcanoes in their different styles. The styles learnt were from Nick Rowland, Margaret Godfrey and Andy Warhol. So far, we have studied Andy Warhol and Nick Rowland's style. The pop art and block colours style of Andy Warhol and the flicking, spraying, blowing paint style of Nick Rowland. Later this half term, we will complete the trio with Margaret Godfrey's tissue paper layering technique.



In year 3, the children did a research task on three chosen artists that have created work on volcanos. They researched their different styles and created their very own study pages with lots of facts and drawings. The children were very creative and enjoyed learning facts on the artists backgrounds.



Year 3 Trip to the Verulamium

Year 3 were sent back in time by 2000 years with their visit to the Roman site of Verulamium, now commonly known as, St Albans. They learnt all about how the Romans and Celts lived in those times, what they used to do for recreation and relaxation, how they bathed, shopped and even how they clothed! The children learnt so much on their visit, they came back full of facts and knowledge! Year 3 even paid a visit to the Hypocaust which was discovered by archaeologists and showed how the underfloor heating systems worked! The children then drew their own version of the mosaic floor on that was on show.



Year 5 Trip to Fishers Green

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their Geography field trip to the River Lee Country Park. They were able to consolidate their learning by examining the natural features of the meandering river. The children had a great opportunity to observe and record both river features and birdlife within their natural habitat. They completed some detailed field sketches and used fair testing skills to measure flow rates. They recorded their findings using labelled diagrams and tables. The children developed their geographical skills using fieldwork to observe and measure the human and physical features in the local area by a range of methods. Pupils particularly enjoyed bird watching and made the most of the good weather whilst exploring the outdoors.



PE

Pupils from Years 3-6 recently learnt about a very fun and energetic fitness activity called Boxercise! Mr Paine, being a qualified instructor, taught them the main punches, ranging from jab, cross and hook, and also showed the pupils how to perform their fighting stance, move, hold their guard up, and perform kicks and knees too. Don't worry, no children were harmed in the delivery of these lessons! The children learnt how to hold the focus pads, and they were allowed to train their partner with the gloves, and showcase the moves. They ended the session with a fun relay type running race with pad work at the end. They all loved Boxercise, and spoke about how much it helped their mental health as well as their physical health! I'm sure Boxercise will return very soon, seeing how popular it was!



All pupils from Years 4-6 took part in the annual House Swim Gala at Loughton Pool, and they performed SWIMMINGLY, cheered on by amazing support from their friends, teachers, and parents up in the gallery!

The Results:

- 1st Sycamore - 144 points
- 2nd Beech - 137 points
- 3rd Willow - 121 points
- 4th Holly - 114 points

Well done to our House Captains Anais and Isabella, and all the swimmers in Sycamore, as well as all the children who took part.

Specialist Lessons

Science

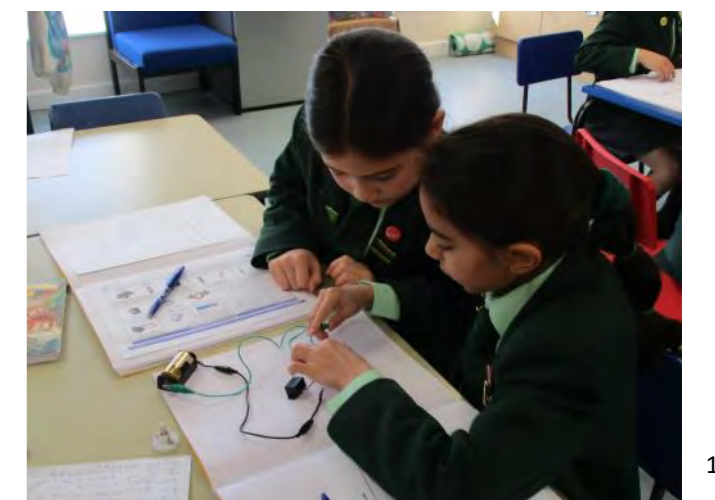
Year 1 went on a minibeast hunt in a small section of the school grounds. The classes both managed to find a selection of mini beasts and were introduced to the term habitat, to refer to an animal's home.



Year 2 took part in a Skype a Scientist sessions with Dr James, who spoke to them all the way from Australia. Dr James completes work to help cows and sheep survive in extreme weather, which can be caused by climate change. He told the children a little bit about the research he is currently completing to see if cows will eat the waste product from cotton plants, as well as answering lots of their questions about his work.



Year 4 have been learning about electricity and had a go at building circuits. They started off with simple circuits before progressing to predicting if circuits had been built correctly or not, even those containing multiple components. They also started to learn the symbols for accurately drawing the needed symbols.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

STEM

This term in our KS2 STEM Club, children have been exploring the world of coding with Micro:bits! They learned how to program these tiny devices on the computer and were thrilled to see their code come to life on their Micro:bits.

Pupils also had an explosive session where they created their own volcanoes using household materials. Their enthusiasm was contagious and they were so excited by the eruptions that many asked to do it again!

It's been fantastic to see their curiosity and creativity in action—we can't wait for more hands-on STEM fun next term!



School Council Trip to Parliament

The School Council travelled via tube to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. The children had a wonderful time on a guided tour and finding out all about how the government works. The children met with Dr Neil Hudson, Member of Parliament for Epping Forest, who hosted a Q&A session and said *'It was a pleasure to meet with the School Council from Oaklands School.'*



ISA U11 Tag Rugby Championship

Oaklands took a team of very confident and eager pupils to the annual ISA U11 Tag Rugby Championships at Bancrofts Rugby Club on Wednesday 12 March.

In a tough group, they managed to win all their games, securing the top spot, and subsequently qualifying for the knockout stages. Their morning work was done, and they could sit back with their packed lunch, fuelling themselves for tougher tests in the afternoon games. They beat St James in the Quarter Finals, and were on a winning streak! In the Semi Finals, they came up against Avon House, where they narrowly lost by 1 try, meaning they went into the 3rd-4th place play off match. In another agonising close fought match, they ended up losing on a 'Golden Try', with Gower school the lucky recipients of Rock, Paper, Scissors to who had the ball! An amazing effort nonetheless, and the pupils can be very proud of their days' work! Big thanks to Ms Booth and Ms Dee for all their help in taking the team!



ISA Cross Country National Finals

Isla and Margot in Year 4, alongside Alfie in Year 3 represented Oaklands School for London North Region at the ISA Cross Country National Finals on Sunday 9 March.

Greeted by wonderful sunshine, they made the long journey up to Leicester, supported and cheered on by family, to race the gruelling 1.6KM course against all the other regions across the country.

Alfie was in the Year 4 category race, and this certainly didn't affect him, where he came in 38th place out of over 80 runners, so considering he is 1 year younger, he should be extremely proud of his efforts!

Isla and Margot, in the Year 4 Girls race, both came in the top 40, and with a very talented field of runners, can also be extremely proud of their days' work!

Everyone at Oaklands are super proud of all 3 of them, and they have a bright future in Cross Country running for sure.



ISA U10 Netball & Football Festival

Oaklands took a very excited group of eager pupils to the ISA U10 Football and Netball Festival at Akeley Wood Junior School in Milton Keynes on Friday 7 March.

The girls played amazingly and will learn from plenty of matches, going forward in their future years. Highlights were a win against Normanhurst, and some super play throughout the day! Big thank you to Mrs Davey and Ms Booth for training them over this past year.

The boys played extremely well together, and fought for every ball, contesting some very close matches. Highlights were a win against Normanhurst and an even better win against a very strong Bedford Greenacre School.



World Book Day

As a school, we celebrated World Book Day by dressing as our favourite book characters. The children and staff transformed into characters from beloved stories. From Harry Potter wizards to princesses, everyone embraced the spirit of reading in a fun and imaginative way. It was a fantastic opportunity to promote literacy and celebrate the joy of reading. A big thank you to everyone who participated and made the day so memorable and helped us raise money for World Book Aid.



Easter Bunny

The children enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny. Thank you to the OPA for organising for the Easter Bunny to visit Oaklands for a day of house point competitions, egg hunts and treats!



Whole School News



Staff trip to Wembley

Staff from Oaklands made the long tube journey from Loughton to Wembley Park station, ready for the Nations League Women's match England vs Spain! Lots of the staff had never been to Wembley before, and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and even more so when England came away with a 1-0 win! Well done to the Lionesses!



Comic Relief

The whole school and all the staff enjoyed wearing their own clothes and "something red" for Comic Relief Day. Children brought in a donation which will be sent to Comic Relief. They learnt through assemblies and lessons how the money raised can transform lives. Well done everyone!





**Tap and give us a follow on
their social media accounts**