



Oaklands Junior School

Learning to think - Thinking to learn

Spring NEWSLETTER 2018

As another busy term comes to an end, we would like to share our news from this term:

Clubs & Team Participation

A total of 182 children have participated this year, at least once so far, in a club or school team. This represents 73% of our school population. An amazing figure that is down to our staff's dedication and commitment in giving up their valuable spare time to provide our children with such a wide range of opportunities.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

It is with some sadness that we recently had to withdraw adults being present at early morning clubs, due to a very small minority displaying inappropriate behaviour. Keeping children safe is our priority as part of safeguarding our school community.

Similarly, we have always enjoyed parents taking an interest by attending events outside of school to see their children compete but we are beginning to experience occasional negative attitudes towards adult helpers. Staff work extremely hard providing extra activities for our children that the vast majority of our families support. This often means working long hours to organise events in their own time.

Oaklands Junior believes that all sports should be conducted in the spirit of fair play and respect to other participants and officials, including organisers. This ethos applies to spectators and supporters as well as players. We appreciate your ongoing support.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all the parents who attended our parents' evenings last week. It was clear from the parents who dropped by to talk to Mrs West, that many of you were pleased with the feedback you received. It was lovely to hear so many parents say how well our staff know their children, including how supportive we are in helping your child to succeed. We hope you enjoyed a more personal meeting within year groups; the 10 minute buzzer helped us all to keep on track with appointment times.

Royal Wedding Easter Egg Competition

The quality of the entries were spectacular. Well done to all the following prize winners who received chocolate egg prizes:

3A Isabella

4JM / 4L Chloe, Sophie & Amber
(3 entries – so difficult to choose!)

5H Oliver

6B Jasmine & Sophie (joint entry)
All runners-up received smaller chocolate rewards.

Sports Relief

Thank you to all who took part in wearing sports clothes on Friday and donating money to this very good cause. Total raised: £250.

New Website

A huge thank you to Mrs Skelton & Mr Griffiths for their work creating our brand new website. This went live last Thursday and is now accessible by mobile devices.

Thinking Schools Latest News

On March 19th, we had our latest Thinking Families Day which focussed on Science. Children experienced different activities, from flying paper planes to building a cable car.

Now that the new school website is online, our application for Thinking Families is ready to go. We hope to hear soon if we have been successful.

After Easter we will have new signage around the school promoting the 6 branches of the Oaklands' Mindset: Communication, Friendship, Ambition, Challenge, Enjoyment and Independence

Important Dates

April

17th Start of Term

May

3rd School closed for local elections

7th Bank Holiday

14th – 18th

Y6 SATS week

21st – 25th

Walk to School week

22nd – 25th

Year 6 Police week

21st Y6 trip to Legoland

22nd Y5 trip to Rushall Farm

25th Y3 trip to Gurdwara

What has been happening in Years 3 & 4?

Year 3

This term has been packed full of exciting activities in Year 3. In English we have focused our topic around *The Lorax* by Dr Seuss. The children have thought about the characters of the Oncler and the Lorax and written in the role of each character. They have also made eye-catching posters advertising Thneeds. We ended our topic by using role play to imagine we were exploring a new forest, only to find a year later it had been chopped down! We then participated in a debate where each group took on a different stance on whether Bracknell Forest should cut down some trees.

In Geography the children enjoyed comparing Crowthorne to the Scilly Isles. We looked at maps to discover the geographical differences between the two places and researched the islands using a website. To find out more information, we wrote letters to a class at Five Islands School on St. Mary's.

Our Science topics have been Animals & Humans and Forces & Magnets. The children labelled a human skeleton, as well as identifying different animal skeletons. This half term the children have enjoyed investigating different forces and the properties of magnets.

This half term in PE, we have been learning different hockey skills and keeping fit in circuit training. It was great to see the children designing circuits for their families.

We finished our RE topic which focused on Easter, making hot cross buns with the children also designing their own packaging for their hot cross buns.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter.

Have a good rest and see you in the summer term.

The Year 3 Team.

Year 4

Ufton Court was great fun because the first night we had a pyjama parade and we walked up and down the aisle with style. (Ben)

We went on 2.7km walk, which was very muddy, and we did some geo-caching. It was really fun, but tiring. (Lily)

We played Anglo-Saxon games, such as knuckle-bones and a dice game, and made up riddles. (Evie)

A riddle: I used to be alive. I cannot see or breathe or talk, but I can move. What am I?
Answer below (George, Finn & Charley)

We recreated history when we did our own reign of vicious Vikings on smashing Saxons. The smashing Saxons won and the Vikings did the tragic walk of shame. (Beth)

My favourite activity was the Anglo-Saxon feast where we wore our own costumes and ate chicken with our fingers. (Daisy)

While learning about Anglo-Saxon farming, we tried ploughing, ground up seeds with a mortar and pestle and shook milk until it turned into cream and butter. (Freyja)

I loved looking at the artefacts because we found out about lots of different objects that the Anglo-Saxons used. (Layla)

The food was brilliant. My favourite meal is impossible to choose because I loved all of it! (Alice)

Ufton Court was a great experience because it was very interesting to explore the house and see the priest holes. (Ollie)

The bedrooms were comfortable; the beds were bouncy and we got lots of sleep. (Georgia)

My favourite part was the battle re-enactment. I liked being a Saxon because they won! (Sophie)

Ufton Court was a great historical trip and I learnt loads. (Bethan)

Answer to riddle: An oar

The Year 4 Team

What has been happening in Years 5 & 6?

Year 5

Although this term has been short, it has been action packed for Year 5. We began with Street Child, which gave us the background to our play's theme of children in Victorian England. This inspired the children to produce some creative and imaginative poetry and story writing.

The main focus for the term, however, has been the play "Olivia". Year 5 did a fantastic job with all 64 children acting, speaking and singing with self-assurance and enthusiasm. Thank you to the Year 4 chorus, who provided a wonderful surround sound. Thank you to parents for help with costumes and practising lines. You helped make this a great success.

In Science, we have been investigating "Changing Materials" which included making a recommendation for the best nappy to buy for Mr Hill's new grandchild!

In January, half the year group attended a breakfast workshop where they discovered the importance of a healthy breakfast and prepared porridge and juices. They even milked a cow!

All the children had a fantastic opportunity to design and build simple robots in a DT Robo workshop.

In PE, we have played a range of invasion games including Lacrosse, hockey and tag rugby. In our indoor sessions, we have been doing circuit training, country dancing and some gymnastics floor routines.

Towards the end of term, we began to study Brazil and the Amazonian Rainforest, including the impact of deforestation. We are looking forward to hearing the rainforest talks at the beginning of the summer term.

Two more groups of 8 children have benefitted from free Real Tennis coaching at Wellington College. In addition, all the children took part in a professional Lawn Tennis coaching session at school.

The Year 5 Team

Year 6

It has been another packed term in Year 6. We have continued to build towards SATs through Mock SATs week and the focussed work that follows in Reading, Grammar and Maths. However, there has still been time for exploring a wide curriculum!

In English, we have studied the "Diary of Anne Frank" and "Macbeth". The children have certainly been engrossed in two very different, but equally sobering, texts. They have worked hard to produce writing based on the above, and especially seemed to enjoy the opportunity to add a little gore to the banquet and battle scenes from the Scottish play.

Although it has taken quite some time to go through the whole process, the slipper making project is nearing completion and the children have been wonderfully creative in their designs.

In PE, we have explored a range of sports and activities, including netball, basketball, dance and gymnastics. However, it is Lacrosse that has captured the imagination, and the children have relished the challenge of using unfamiliar equipment and playing to unexpected rules!

Bikeability ran over two weeks this year and the children overcame a range of challenges to develop their skills as riders.

Congratulations to all that managed to complete the course.

The Summer Term brings its own challenges and the children deserve a good rest in preparation for the busy term ahead.

Whatever you do this Easter, please relax, enjoy the holiday and come back to us refreshed for the new term, ready to take on the challenge of SATs, remembering that you are all unique and special. Be proud of all that you have achieved at Oaklands Juniors, knowing that you have done everything you can to be your best!

The Year 6 Team

Further News

Kurling Competition

Four children from Oaklands took part in a Kurling tournament at Bulmershe Leisure Centre. They performed very well with many accurate shots and thoughtful positioning of the stones. After winning their group, they lost to the eventual winners of the tournament in the semi-final. Overall, they came third, and demonstrated good sportsmanship and excellent effort. Well done Archie, Erin, Joshua and Tom!

Tesco Bags of Help Scheme – Help us to raise Funds for our Outdoor Gym Equipment

During March and April, we are featured at our **Greenwood Road Tesco** store AND the **Wokingham Superstore**. So please support us if you shop at either of these stores by asking for a token (if you are not given one), to post into the Oaklands Junior School fundraising box, so that we can raise as much money as possible towards the School Council's outdoor gym.

Waitrose in Sandhurst are also supporting us for this same cause but this will finish this Easter weekend.

Please do tell your families and friends to collect these tokens for us, so that we can raise as much as possible to achieve our children's dream of an outdoor gym, which they would like to help them improve their fitness.

Smash Badminton

On 9th March eight Year 4 children took part in a badminton event against other schools in Wokingham. They demonstrated their skills of throwing, catching and hitting the shuttlecock in a carousel of eight different stations. They won the tournament, which put them through to the Berkshire Games at Bisham Abbey, where they were 'Team Wokingham' against seven other winning teams around Berkshire. Last Wednesday they spent an excellent day at Bisham Abbey, winning the tournament and becoming Berkshire Champions. This was down to their skill at badminton, excellent attitude and fantastic teamwork. Well done Year 4.

Cross country Relays and Division results

Last week we took 64 children to Bulmershe School for the last event in the cross-country season. We had a great (if not cold) afternoon which resulted in a 6th and 8th place for Year 3/4 girls A and B teams, 15th place for Year 3/4 boys A team, 8th place for Year 5/6 girls A team and 2nd place for Year 5/6 boys A team. We also had the Division 1 league results for the year – Oaklands came in a respectable 5th place. Nathan in Year 6 won the cup for the best 5/6 boy, having won three out of four races. Well done to all of the children who have taken part in cross-country this year. There have been many children who have tried it out for the first time; also children who found it hard, but we are thrilled at the determination, attitude and sportsmanship of each and every child. They have made us very proud.

Pride Awards

Congratulations to all the children who were nominated by their teachers for this award at the end of the last half term. They were able to choose a book of their choice and Mr Lee presented these books to the children this week in our celebration assembly, which is wonderful timing for the Easter holidays. Always fun to have a good book to read for the holidays!

Daisy Trophy

Well done to Alice in 4L for receiving the Daisy Trophy for this half term – very well deserved.

Enjoy a relaxing Easter break.