



Oaklands Junior School

Learning to think - Thinking to learn

Spring NEWSLETTER 2019

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

Year 5 "Alice" Play

Congratulations to all the children and staff involved in such an entertaining play. Always amazing to see how our children shine, not only in learning their lines but performing them so professionally. The timing and teamwork was amazing from everyone, including the supporting roles as stage hands, scene changers and props on and off stage, plus the whole cast involved in such beautiful singing. All in all a fabulous production – well done Year 5.

Year 4 Ufton Court

Mrs West very much enjoyed joining 4M for a very entertaining banquet. In addition, she was lucky enough to join 4L the next day to greet them on their arrival, staying the day and overnight before returning to school on Thursday. Friday she was back again for a session on contour mapping. It was lovely to experience how the activities improve year on year. A particular favourite was the evening court scene with 4L and a particularly amazing judge. The role play was spectacular, with many accusers and the accused acting their parts really well, along with the jurors who made judgement. The highlight was when Mrs Smith was accused of punching Mr Lee and in the affray he lost his teeth (all of course the scenario that they played to their audience with the cards that they were given to set the scene). Poor Mrs Smith was found guilty and sentenced to the stocks!

Moon Landing

Easter Egg Competition

Despite fewer entries this year, the children who did enter were extremely creative with their ideas.

Judges decided, rather than awarding Easter egg prizes to every year group, entries were judged together in one ensemble with the following awards:

1st Prize: Lois in 3A with a very creative "Shellebration of Space Exploration"!

2nd Prize: Anneli in 6H with the moon made of cheese!

3rd Prize: Abi in 4M for her Apollo landing which also included aliens!

4th Prize: Alex in 4M with a realistic "Mission Control".

If you weren't able to visit our library to see these entries, please see photos on our website!

Governors - Perhaps not widely known but our governors bring a wide range of skills that help us to improve our school in many ways. They work tirelessly, not just attending governors' meetings or writing procedures but many go beyond this and give their time in school, whether this is to provide extra support on school trips, meet with subject leaders or to help with some of our many DIY projects ... all without pay.

Lockdown was a very unexpected event this week but everyone responded sensibly and swiftly to the correct procedure – well done Oaklands Juniors!

Thinking Schools Latest News

A big thank-you to those parents who have shown an interest in being part of the Oaklands Parents Thinking Group. The first gathering is expected to be early in the Summer Term. There is still time to add your name to the list – just let Mr Holland know!

In case you missed the information, the idea is to develop a group of parents who have an interest in understanding the Thinking Schools approach with the expectation that they can share their knowledge with others.

Important Dates

April

Tues 23rd – pupils return to school

May

Wed 1st Y4 Parents – Ufton Court Show & Tell
6.30pm

13th – 16th Y6 SATS week

Mon 20th Y6 trip to Legoland

Half Term
27th – 31st May

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 Once-ler 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 looking at the new developments in Crowthorne and their impact on the environment. On our recent walk around the village we carried out a traffic survey and explored the local churches.

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. We celebrated our science knowledge with a Year group assembly which showed off our use of thinking maps.

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.

We welcomed Mrs Jones back from maternity leave and we'll miss Mr Hill and Mrs Holland in 3JM. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter. Have a good rest and see you in the summer term.

The Year 3 Team.

Year 4

This term's focus has been on our residential trip to Ufton Court. The children were fantastically behaved and had a wonderful time. They are looking forward to sharing their experiences and learning with you at our inaugural 'Ufton Court Show & Tell' evening on Wednesday 1st May at 18:30.

Below are some quotes from the children about their time at Ufton Court:

"I loved doing the photomapping of the house and its grounds because you got to find lots of interesting things." (Jessica)

"The battle of Reading was fantastic – it felt like it was real life!" (Meah)

"The food was delicious – I ate SEVEN sausages!" (Callum)

"I liked sharing a room with my friends, even though I didn't get much sleep!" (Katelyn)

"I loved learning how to make fires with a flint and steel." (Josh M)

"I probably ate the most out of everyone as I thought the food was AWESOME!" (James)

"I really liked the battle because I liked the fact that King Alfred had a plan to get rid of the Vikings." (Gracie)

"The banquet was great because there was loads of entertainment." (Alex)

"I really loved the battle! It was the greatest part of Ufton Court." (Isabel)

"I really enjoyed the feast because it was really fun and we got to eat delicious food." (Amelia)

"I liked the photomapping because I loved exploring outside the house." (Hugo)

"I loved the crime and punishment trial because we got to choose the punishments everyone got." (Henry)

Have a good Easter break and we will see you in the Summer term.

The Year 4 Team

What has been happening in Years 5 & 6?

Year 5

Year 5 have had another busy term. In English, we have learnt how to write a balanced argument. This included some controversial questions such as "Should homework be banned?" There were some thoughtful and interesting responses! Recently, we have been looking at poetry and using figurative language including metaphors and alliteration. The response has been impressive, with some fantastic performances of the poems too.

The main focus for the term, however, has been the play "Alice". Year 5 did a magnificent job with all 64 children acting, speaking and singing with confidence, enthusiasm and flair. They received many compliments from staff, parents and their peers. Thank you to parents for help with costumes and practising lines. A special thank you, again to Mrs Garden and Mrs Carter for their fantastic costumes and scenery.

In History, we have been finding out about the fascinating Ancient Mayan Civilisation. They were able to act knowledgeably, as archaeologists, piecing together evidence as to how these people lived and why the civilisation came to its mysterious end.

In January, half the year group attended a breakfast workshop where they learnt about the benefits of a healthy breakfast, prepared porridge and juices and even milked a cow!

In PSHE and PE, we thought about our aspirations for the year and our future. We created some dance routines to "A Million Dreams" from "The Greatest Showman" to demonstrate our efforts to achieve our goals. Some of the year group have enjoyed Real Tennis coaching at Wellington College. In addition, all the children took part in a professional Lawn Tennis coaching session at school.

This week, we have enjoyed listening to homework presentations on the rainforest, which has been a great introduction to next term's study of Brazil and the Amazonian Rainforest, including the impact of deforestation.

Have lovely holiday, and come back to school refreshed and ready for an exciting new term.

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 fairgrounds D&T project is nearing completion and the children have worked hard to overcome obstacles in transforming design to reality.

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, for once, we were blessed to have good weather. Congratulations to all that managed to complete the course, especially those who managed to achieve Level 3.

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

The Daily Mile – All Weather Surface Project

We launched The Daily Mile for all the children and staff in Oaklands Junior School in April last year and have enjoyed the many benefits of it for nearly a year. Without a doubt we have seen these benefits first hand. The children are more alert in lessons and ready to learn, especially on a Monday morning! We have seen physical improvements in events such as cross country, and for those who are not sporty it has been great to see them exercising when running or walking. One of the added benefits is the chance to socialise with other year groups and classes and for teachers to chat to children in a way that there is rarely time to in class, helping to meet some of their emotional and social needs.

We have a fantastic and interesting wiggly track painted on our field that the children and staff love using. However, we have been unable to use it throughout the winter and instead have had to use the smaller playground. We would really like to provide an all-weather surface for our fantastic track on the field, in order that we can use it all year round.

We are planning some fundraising events in the summer term to help raise money for this but are also looking for help with sponsorship to finance this project.

If you are able to help or know of anyone in our local community who could help us please let Mrs Alexander, our PE subject lead, know. We would love to see the track used to its full capacity all year round, helping all our child to benefit from this excellent resource.

Charity Collections

Red Nose Day - £303.90 raised. £79 of which came from the cake sale.

After each of the Year 5 play performances, a collection was held for charity. This year, the children chose to give the money to The Rowing Marine - the first physically disabled person to row across the Atlantic, East to West, from mainland Europe to mainland South America. We followed Lee Spencer's progress in assemblies as he also successfully beat the able-bodied world record crossing. The money raised (£189.25) will go to his two designated charities: 'The Endeavour Fund' and 'The Royal Marines Charity'. It is hoped that one day he will be able to visit our school to share his amazing achievement.

Big Red Bus

Unfortunately, the red bus has sprung a few leaks which has delayed the opening. We are hoping that these issues will be resolved during the Easter holidays, so that we can (finally!) open the bus up for use. With this in mind, if you have any reading books that your children no longer want, please bring them in to Mr Lee as they will be 're-loved' by other children on the bus during break and lunchtimes. More details about the opening to follow very soon!

Parents' Evenings

Our online booking system for appointments seemed to be very successful and we hope you liked this new, easier way to book. There was lots of good feedback from parents on both evenings.

Parental Survey

Thank you to all the parents that completed our parental survey which helps us to know what you value and what we can work on to improve. The winning class with the most responses was 4M with 20 responses This class will be coming home today with their prize of a mini Easter egg for every child.

Enjoy a relaxing Easter break.