



Oakleaves

Dear Parents and Friends of Oakfields,

This week and after much consideration I confirmed

my decision to resign from my position as Headteacher at Oakfields Montessori School. This difficult decision was made easier, given the commitment and hard work exhibited by so many dedicated members of staff, supportive parents and—of course—Cognita.

Without a doubt, Oakfields Montessori School will continue through to the next stage of its journey to 'outstanding', under the professional eye of Cognita.



Throughout my tenure as Headteacher at Oakfields, I have valued daily what a great privilege it is to be a leader – helping to transform the lives of both children and staff entrusted in my care. It is undoubtedly a role that necessitates great resilience, determination and humility, but ultimately it is an honour to have had the opportunity to motivate and inspire young people and staff, to help nurture them as individuals and professionals respectively.

I am immensely proud that collectively, our community has actively championed a culture that promotes continual improvement, self-assessment, high expectations, creativity, curiosity and learning (both children and adults). Likewise, we know our culture promotes learning, values people and engages all learners to be continually striving for improvement. High expectations are palpable at Oakfields School, encased within a climate of mutual respect and shared responsibility; all of which will be fully embraced by our leadership.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their kindness, support and faith in my leadership these past four years. It really has been such a joyous, fulfilling and memorable experience, on so many different levels. Naturally, I will miss the children and community enormously, but I am sure that I will continue to read and hear about Oakfields' many successes in the future, under a dynamic new leader.

Laura Ciftci, Headteacher

We were saddened to learn that Mrs Ciftci has resigned from her position. We, the Oakfields family—staff, parents and children—all join together to wish her the very, very best for the future.

Cognita have confirmed that as a result of a recruitment search undertaken earlier this year when Mrs Ciftci had been looking to take up a leadership role in another Cognita school, that Mrs Katrina Carroll, currently Deputy Headteacher at Ardleigh Green School. Over/...



J & S BESPOKE SCHOOLWEAR

J & S Bespoke Schoolwear offer a 'click and collect' service via their website:
www.bespokeschoolwear.co.uk.

Orders can then be collected from the school. J & S can also be found in the school library each Friday (term-time only)
3.00 – 4.30 p.m.

Jacqueline Johnstone: 07824 629221

Key Dates 2017

Please refer to Class newsletters for dates and times of activities relating specifically to your child's class.

Summer Half-Term:

Mon 28 May (Bank Holiday—Friday 2 June)

Tues 25 Apr—Fri 26 May inc.
(Note: Mon 1 May is a Bank Holiday)

Mon 5 Jun— Fri 14 Jul inc.

June

7—9 (Weds—Fri) French Trip—Years 5 & 6

Thurs 15 Kindergarten Sports Day 10 a.m.

Thurs 15 P.T.A. Music Room

Fri 16 Infants Sports Day 1—4 p.m.

Weds 21 Year 5 Mother & Daughter meeting 4 p.m.

Fri 23 Junior Sports Day 1—4 p.m.

Sat 24 12 noon—4 p.m. P.T.A. Summer Fayre

Weds 28 Showtime (Years 3-6)

July

Fri 7 Reports home

Sat 8 (9.30 for 10—12 noon)

Prize Giving at Coopers

All children from Reception to Year 6 to attend in school uniform. **(Please save the day in your diary!)**

Tues 11 Parents' Evening (Reception to Year 5 only)

Weds 12 Parents' Evening (Reception to Year 5 only)

Fri 14 Last day of term

(Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and Year 5 and Year 6 Leavers' Party)



in Hornchurch, has agreed to take up the position of Headteacher from September 2017. It has been reassuring also to learn that many of our Oakfields' community already know of Mrs Carroll's credentials within a school with such a long-established track record of very high standards. Mrs Carroll has particular expertise in preparing children for senior school transition. We are confident that under her leadership the school will go from strength to strength. In the meantime, the school will of course continue to be led by Mrs Whatling and Mrs Nicholson.



Last Saturday, our young ambassadors—along with Mrs Whatling, Mrs Makwana, Mrs Jennifer and staff—welcomed over 60 guests - along with 24 mini-guests - to our final Open Morning of this academic year. They dutifully guided their guests around the school and were all rewarded at the finish with a visit to Year 6 Alanna and Raquel's "Cafe" (catering by Mr Steve, Thomas Franks) - which was beautifully set up in the School Hall. A big thank you to Mrs East who represented the

P.T.A., along with our staff and particularly our young ambassadors who worked so hard to ensure all of our guests were made to feel welcome.

Earlier this month, children from Kindergarten to Year 6 had their "contemporary" class photographs taken by Emma from Kittle Photography though most of them – particularly the boys - were more interested in the technology used by Emma. Parents will hopefully have received the final photographs and we feel sure you won't have been disappointed. Thank you Emma, see you again later this year.

Kindergarten



Anyone for Tennis?

The Kindergarten children have been taking it in turns to try "Tots Tennis" with Mrs Laura Raj (JW Tennis Academy) out on the hardcourt. They each try to balance the ball on their tennis racket whilst very carefully negotiating the space around them. They are doing amazingly well, and having lots of fun.



Reception

Reception had a wonderful day out to the Tropical Wings Zoo in South Woodham Ferrers last Tuesday. The children enjoyed first-hand experience of crawling creatures and beautiful butterflies in one of the finest tropical houses in the UK bringing a close to our topic "minibeasts".

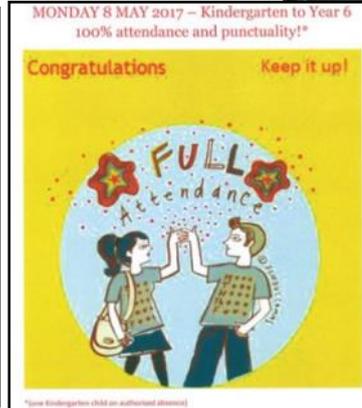
The children took part in an interactive encounter programme that included "Meet the Keeper" and – after enjoying their own packed lunches – went on to feed some of the animals. It was gloriously sunny and we all had such a fun day! Thank you as always to our parent helpers for your support.



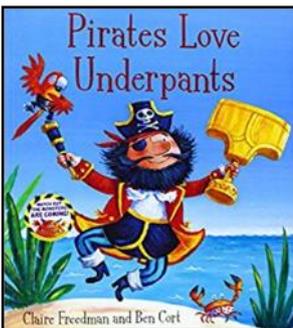
Year 1

On May 10, Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful day at Raphael's Park with Essex Wildlife Trust.

The trip, linked to the Science module Animals and Plants, was very informative. The children all had an action packed, fun filled day learning about their environment and returned to school suitably exhausted. There they met Taylor, a very knowledgeable guide, for a brief introduction to the park and what animals and plants live there. The final activity was making animals using clay and all the children had an exciting and productive day.



Year 2



This half term, Year 2 have been writing their own pirate stories based on the book 'Pirates Love Underpants!' The children thought up some really clever adaptations to the story and the teachers have been reading about pirates who set off across the seas to find golden vests, golden baseball-caps and even golden Heelies! The children had to come up with their own ideas for how their pirates would fend off a rival gang in order to recover the precious treasure. Some super writing Year 2! Well done!

Year 2 have also been finding out about Judaism in their R.E lessons.

They learned about some similarities between Judaism and Christianity, listened to the story of the Hebrews fleeing Egypt into the desert and learned that Sukkot is an important Jewish festival of thanks similar to harvest festival.

The children looked at photographs of different types of Sukkah and saw how they all had a natural material on the roof, had been decorated inside and were built to let in the light of the night stars. Lots of Jewish families live in their Sukkah for 7 days and nights and we thought about what that would be like in the U.K. The children thought it would be fun!



In Science, the two Year 2 classes have been enjoying the great outdoors whilst investigating the best material to use to make a new umbrella for Winnie the Pooh! Parents, please ask them "Which would be the most waterproof? Fabric? Plastic? Tissue paper? Kitchen roll? Cardboard? Foil?" Three cheers for Pooh!



Year 3

In Multicultural week, Year 3LJ took the most wonderful “interactive” school assembly, telling us that the world—apparently—is a great big onion. They included the song by Marvin Gaye who clearly felt the same. A very memorable celebration embracing diversity and culture through song, dance or language. All the children joined in with Year 3LJ and sang “Hands, shoulders, knees and toes” in Spanish!

Magical!

Mr Trusler's class have also hosted an assembly which was entitled 'Learning from the Animal Kingdom'. The main subject was the squirrel and how they plan ahead by hiding food for the winter months. We can learn that it is good to plan ahead even when we are young - working hard at school now can give us opportunities for a better career or to go to university. Saving money now would show us how important this could be later when we would like to buy a car or a house. The squirrel is a common visitor to our parks and gardens but can teach us a valuable life lesson.

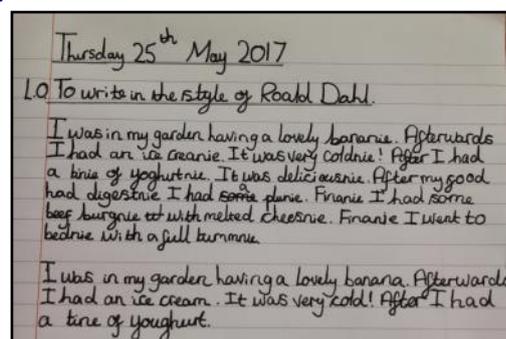
Both classes have continued their journey through time as they have learned about England after the Romans. The Anglo-Saxons originated in Northern Europe and settled all over the eastern side of England including Essex. The children have compared the Anglo-Saxons basic lifestyle to the luxury of living in a Roman villa. During the half term break the children will be constructing a model of an Anglo-Saxon home and on our return we will be creating a village in the school grounds. We cannot wait to see them!

Showtime will soon be upon us and Year 3 are rising to the challenge by learning the steps to not one but four dances. We are in early rehearsals so far but the enthusiasm and determination is already plainly evident and music and laughter has filled the first floor this last week. Happy half term from Year 3!

Mr Johnstone/Mr Trusler

Year 4

Year 4 have read many a Roald Dahl book, and now they are writing in his style (right). Year 4 on Multi-cultural Day (left).



Year 5

In Year 5's Science lesson this week, they have been learning about the life cycle of mammals.

One of their tasks was to complete a 'Mammals Scavenger Hunt' whereby they had to find the hidden fact around their classroom! Did you know a tiger's roar can be heard from over a mile away, or that a giraffe needs less than two hours sleep? Well, if you see a member of Year 5 you can ask them!



Last week, Year 5 visited Walton on the Naze to see coastal erosion and coastal defences in action! First, we enjoyed a talk explaining how much the coastline had been eroded over the years; it was amazing to learn that when the Naze Tower was built (in 1720) it was half a mile away from the edge of the cliff and today it is only 50 metres away! Coastal defences have recently been constructed to stop the tower from falling into the sea, and after climbing the narrow spiral staircase, which some of us found a little scary, we had a brilliant view from the top of it! After a walk along the beach to view the cliffs and coastal defences up close, we had a picnic lunch and then spent a gorgeously sunny afternoon playing on the beach. Of course, a day at the seaside would not be complete without an ice cream, so that is precisely how we ended our trip before heading back home to Oakfields.

P.T.A. Spring Ball. Congratulations and many, many thanks go to Lisa Assenheim, Sara East, and of course our P.T.A. on the success of their magnificent Spring Ball which raised a whopping £4,668 through games, raffle and of course auction. The funds will be ploughed back into purchasing items for our children. Next event? Summer Fayre on Saturday 24 June. Parents/Staff if you are able to help out on the day or for future information, please contact; Jennie Browning-Adams—jenniebrowning@hotmail.co.uk, or call her on 07792 898869.

Year 6. At the beginning of the month, Year 6 had the opportunity to visit the Town Hall, by invitation of Madam Mayor, Philippa Crowder, before her term as Mayor of Havering ended. They visited the Council Chamber where our Local Councillors meet – and are seated according to their political party.

Ben had the chance to sit in the Deputy Mayor’s seat whilst Vienna was ‘Chief Executive’, Raquel the legal contingent, and Kyra - who donned the role of the Mayor’s Chaplain. Lawrencia had the privilege of being dressed in the Mayoral robes complete with tri-com (a three-cornered hat). The children took the opportunity to question Madam Mayor, when they gleaned many interesting facts; attending a monumental 600 events this year and that she had taken the role to raise the profile of Charities including Havering Diabetes, Young Sufferers and Havering Mind, for whom she fund raises.

Finally, Harry took on the role of Macebearer. The Macebearer historically protected the Mayor as a bodyguard and would have used the mace as a weapon. Nowadays, it is used for important civic occasions as a symbol to represent the Queen. Thank you so much Madam Mayor and London Borough of Havering for such an interesting and informative visit and with the upcoming General Election, how very timely was their visit!



Mrs Leech/Mrs Jones

Multicultural Week

As the highlight of our Multicultural week, the children came in dressed in the colours of the flag of the country that they celebrated throughout the week and Oakfields was awash with colour; Reception (Kenya), Year 1 (France), Year 2 (Spain), Year 3 (Brazil), Year 4 (India), Year 5 (Japan) and Year 6 (New Zealand).



Each class also attended a dance workshop to learn a dance from their country and at the end of the week, each class visited each classroom throughout the morning for an interactive "quiz" - clutching their "passports" - to earn a corresponding stamp to acknowledge that they had learnt something about each particular country. It was lovely to see the staff also wear their country’s colours.

A big thank you to Barlow’s mum for the contribution of the most gorgeous tray of fruit which was shared throughout the school. Also to all our parents for the effort and energy that they clearly put into organising the children’s highly appropriate attire. Beautifully organised Mrs Smith; the children had the most amazing week. We salute you!



Congratulations to Year 2CM’s Arnav (left) who was winner of the P.T.A.’s competition for designing the front of their programme for the Summer Fayre. Well done Arnav, your design was just stunning! His design remains a surprise for now.

Well done to all our pupils for completing their Maths and English assessments this last week. They have all worked extremely hard and deserve a well earned half-term



rest. Hip! Hip! Hooray!

The photos (right) are of Year 6 completing their Maths assessments in the ICT Suite. (GL on-line).





Sports News

On Thursday, Oakfields sent a team made up of pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6. to represent the school at this year's Girls' Kwik Cricket competition hosted by Rainham CC and as organised by the Havering Sports Collective. This year event was a sun-drenched, colourful affair attended by over 20 schools. As the day wore on the girls' playing improved significantly with their batting totals creeping up as the tournament progressed with a top score of 295 in the final game. Led by joint Captains Sophie and Amelia, the girls won 5 of 7 games enabling a top ten finish (9th). Their performance saw them awarded with a Certificate for 'Determination' of which they had displayed plenty! Mr Trusler and Mrs Brentnall were suitably impressed by Team Oakfields' performance both on and off the pitch, as individuals and as team-mates. Go Team Oakfields!

On Wednesday of last week, Year 5's Zoran, Harshaan, Leo, Arjan and Oliver along with Year 6's Freddie, Declan and Harry formed "Team Oakfields" at today's Havering Sports Collective Kwik Cricket Tournament at Rainham Cricket Club. Despite Team Oakfields being one of the younger teams out of the 28 participants, they played extremely well beating Nelmes and Rise Park convincingly, but losing out to Harold Court and St.Edwards, the latter being particularly disappointing as a last ball defeat ended our hopes of proceeding to the quarter finals.

Our final game saw us lose to Ardleigh Green in the plate semi despite scoring 250/2 - our highest score in the tournament. Player of the Tournament was Harry who even surprised himself on just how well he batted and bowled. A special mention also for Oliver whose encouragement to the rest of the team embodied all we have come to expect of our sportsmen.



Year 6 Ben, Skye, Freddie, Rubin, Harry and birthday girl Isabella represented Oakfields earlier this term in Havering's Basketball Competition hosted at Sacred Heart of St. Mary's School. Even though Team Oakfields didn't manage to get through to the final stages of the competition, their performances improved with each and every game. As always, these true ambassadors showed determination, teamwork and respect for each other and the other competitors. Congratulations to Parsonage Farm Junior School who were Havering Basketball Champions and go on to represent Havering at Crystal Palace. Well done to Team Oakfields too; you really did us proud and were awarded a Certificate for giving 100% Passion to their game.

Year 5 and 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions at Stubbers Adventure Centre, Upminster, each Friday afternoon.

The activities—including Archery, Climbing and Orienteering, are designed to develop skills; confidence, communication and team work. Mrs Leech, Mrs Jones, Mrs Whatling, Miss Berry - we're not too sure what happened to the photographs of you when it came to taking your turn, but the children have clearly had fun in the sunshine. Thank you to our parents for your help with transport arrangements.



Half Term Tennis and Multisport Camp



Fantastic way to keep your child active and entertained during school holiday

RUNNING AT Oakfields Montessori School

Don't Forget!

Half-Term Tennis and Multi-sport Camp here at Oakfields this Friday 2 June, 9.30—3.00 pm. All abilities, aged 4—12 years, £20. To book, e-mail info@jwtennis.co.uk, call 07702 839337 or visit website: www.jwtennis.co.uk/holiday-camps.php



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