

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021



Issue 16

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Group Principal's Message

After the restrictions of the previous terms, it has been so lovely being able to give our pupils such an extensive range of educational trips and extra-curricular activities throughout this Autumn Term.

We were fortunate that all of our Christmas events could go ahead as planned at the end of term, albeit with procedures in place to keep us all safe.

Watching the children perform at the Carol Services, concerts and other performances you will read about here reinforced the importance of providing these opportunities for our children.

It was equally pleasing being able to invite families back into school to share these key moments, and the audiences were certainly packed with smiling faces.

As restrictions are eased, so too will these opportunities to develop the learning outside the classroom increase, and we are already planning our summer events with as much 'normality' as possible.

I hope you had a lovely break over Christmas, and I'm looking forward to catching up with you again over the course of the Spring Term.

With best wishes

Matthew Hagger
Matthew Hagger

ISA Art Competition

Congratulations to Simran for coming 1st in the 2D Art KS2 category of the ISA Arts competition. With so many other schools competing, this is a big achievement, well done!





Oak-Tree Camp



Year 3 pupils from all four of the Oak-Tree Schools had a fun-filled few days taking part in the annual Oak-Tree Camp at the start of term. Pupils arrived in high spirits and ready to go with their overnight bags. For some pupils, this was their first time staying away from home for the night so there were a few nerves, but once the activities were in full swing they were soon forgotten.

The children first had to put up their own tent for the night, which was a challenge in itself, before taking part in a range of team-building activities. The pupils loved sitting round the camp fire in the evenings and tucking into a tasty meal.



Oak-Tree Football & Netball Tournaments

The Autumn Term's Oak-Tree Football Tournament was a great success with all four of the schools playing fantastic matches and showing wonderful sportsmanship. After a year of not being able to mix, it was lovely to see



all of the pupils back together for some friendly competition.

All of the pupils worked hard to improve their skills and prepare for the tournament, making their PE teachers very proud.

The Netball Tournament was also an excellent event, with all of the girls showing lots of the techniques and skills they have worked on in their PE lessons.

It was especially pleasing to see all of the pupils cheering each other on and supporting their teams. Well done everybody!





Early Years Activities

Oaklands

Oaklands' Kindergarten pupils have enjoyed exploring sensory scent jars that included strawberry jam, chocolate powder, coffee, lemon juice, orange juice and vanilla. The children were able to recognise some of the smells and could tell us their preferences for which scents they liked and disliked. They loved their construction walk around the local area to find different materials. The children have also enjoyed taking part in lots of different arts and crafts. They had a go at colour mixing by putting paint on their hands then shaking



Oaklands School

hands with a friend to see what colour they would make. They were fascinated to see the colours change before their eyes.

Normanhurst

The children in Kindergarten have been learning all about static electricity and had lots of fun watching their friends' hair stand on end. Before



Normanhurst School

the weather got too cold, the children learnt about the Jewish festival Sukkot. They worked together to create 'Sukkah' (huts or dens) in the garden area. They used a play house frame, leaves, flowers, and small branches to create these temporary dwellings which they used in their family role play. A favourite activity for the children was creating a fireworks painting on a giant scale. They used their feet to stomp on the paint and sticks to spread it around.

Braeside

Kindergarten children at Braeside have been enjoying taking part in a Listening Walk around the school grounds. They listened carefully to the sounds around them and talked about all the different noises they



Braeside School

could hear. They spent lots of time outside in the autumn sunshine collecting and jumping in leaves then using them to make beautiful hedgehogs.

They also enjoyed building towers with bricks when learning about big and small, and danced the day away to their favourite songs and ring games.

Coopersale Hall

Pupils at Coopersale Hall harvested the vegetables planted by last years' classes, taking the produce to the kitchen to be served for lunch.

As part of their topic on Autumn UK took tree rubbings which were then turned into autumn trees using finger painting for the leaves.



Coopersale Hall School

They have also been learning about their teeth and how to look after them. They learnt a song about how to brush their teeth and have been cleaning them using their own school toothbrush.

It was a very busy term for all of the children!



Oaklands School Council

The first school council meeting of the year took place on Thursday 16 September. All of the children were presented with their badges and couldn't wait to hear what responsibility they would take on. We enjoy seeing how excited our pupils get to have a role within the schools.



Year 4 pupils shared their ideas after the school council meeting on Thursday morning, and Year 2 welcomed the new prefects into the classroom with a smile. They have all done so well so far and we look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings.

March Open Events 2021

Coopersale Hall School

Tuesday 1 March

Braeside School

Wednesday 2 March

Oaklands School

Thursday 3 March

Normanhurst School

Friday 4 March

Haven House Donations



For their birthday this year two very special boys from Coopersale Hall showed amazing kindness to some very poorly children. Twins, Sam and Alex, decided that instead of receiving presents they would like to give donations to Haven House, our local children's hospice.





Harvest Festivals

It was wonderful to be able to have our annual Harvest Festivals resume this year. Each school collected donations to give to local food banks to help those in need.

Coopersale Hall had three Harvest Festivals filled with songs, poems and readings. Revd Lee Batson also spoke



Coopersale Hall School



to the children about the importance of the Harvest Festival and played a very funny biscuit eating game that had an important moral.

Normanhurst held their festival at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. The children performed songs such as the 'Harvest Samba' and read poems about harvest time and Autumn. The

Normanhurst Orchestra played a wonderful piece for their friends and family followed by a talk from the Reverend.



Normanhurst School



Oaklands had a beautiful Harvest Assembly where they were challenged to think about how we should be thankful for all we have. They were reminded what Harvest is all about and ended the assembly with a Harvest song led by Mrs Rathbone.

Braeside Juniors put on a wonderful Harvest Festival at St James' URC Church, entertaining the audience with songs, dances, poems and a performance from the Braeside Band.

Year 3 even dressed up for the occasion with hand made headbands

and woolly scarves.

Thank you for all of your donations this year - we were humbled by your generosity and delighted to have helped such worthy causes.



Oaklands School



Braeside School





Year 6 Christmas Post Boxes

The Year 6 at Coopersale Hall and Oaklands surprised their form classes with amazing post boxes for their letters to Santa.

The creativity and attention to detail on each post box impressed the whole



school and brought Christmas cheer to each class. There were traditional red post boxes, ice-cream sundaes, snowmen, gingerbread houses, Christmas Puddings and so many more!



Braeside Pupils Learn First Aid

Year 5 and 6 were taught some essential first aid skills such as CPR, the recovery position and how to use a defibrillator. Pupils concentrated and worked hard to learn these life saving skills and passed the class with flying colours.



Normanhurst Pupils Become Meteorologists

Year 4 had a chance to use specialist weather reading equipment such as a digital anemometer and Okta grid. They were amazed at all of the different types of clouds that could be seen in the sky. The children enjoy practical 'hands on' learning and took much pride in their work.



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Festive Fun

With so many performances and activities this year, the Christmas festivities had to start back in November! It was a jam packed last few weeks of term filled with Carol services, Christmas shows, Christingles and lots more.

Coopersale Hall

Pupils, family and friends gathered at St John's Church in Epping for the school's annual Carol Service. The audience were treated to a lovely performance of the Nativity Story, complete with a variety of songs, dances and costumes.

Pupils from Kindergarten to Year 2 put on wonderful shows for their parents in the school hall filled with festive cheer.



Normanhurst

This years' performance had a slight twist, as the pupils put on a modern take of the Nativity story which included Elvis, a very naughty imp and

other characters who you may not expect to find in your usual Christmas story. Early Years, Year 1 and 2 put on more of a classic nativity with Mary, Joseph and all of the stable visitors. Everyone did an excellent job of learning all their lines and dance moves.



Oaklands

Children from Years 1 to 6 gathered at St Mary's Church in Loughton for a beautiful Carol Service to a packed congregation. There was a powerful performance of the Nativity story as well as songs, carols and bible readings.

Early years children showed off their dance moves in their Christmas performances with fun songs, dance routines and lots of fabulous costumes.

Braeside

Despite lots of Covid related obstacles, pupils still managed to pull off a fantastic Christmas show for their



families and friends. Dressed in their Christmas best, they danced and sang beautifully, with several festive readings and poems scattered throughout the performance.

The Braeside musicians played beautiful music at the Carol concert to accompany the many songs sang by the pupils.



Pupils and staff were treated to delicious Christmas lunches at all the schools with turkey, roast potatoes and all the trimmings. Santa and his elves even paid a visit to the pupils at Braeside!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

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Braeside Ancient Greece Day

Year 5 had a fantastic opportunity to take part in Ancient Greek day, learning how the Greeks lived and worked.

The day started with the very important topic of what to wear. Some of the pupils chose traditional white togas while others went for the Ancient Greek God look with full wig and beard!

Each pupil made a laurel wreath out of coloured paper to wear for the day then proceeded to write their names in Ancient Greek writing.

As midday rolled around it was time for a banquet of Greek food. From dried fruits and honey to pita bread



and hummus, they really did eat like noble ladies.

After lunch it was grape crushing time. The pupils learnt about how the Greeks would crush the grapes with their feet to extract the juice for making wine. The pupils were glad that it's no longer made this way!

The afternoon consisted of making mythical creature art and a mini Olympics.

They practised their discus throwing, running races and javelin - just like the ancient Greeks did.

This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the ancient Greeks that was filled with interactive learning.



Normanhurst Drum Workshop

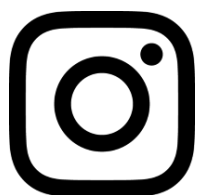
As part of Black History Month, the children in Years 1 to 7 and the GCSE Music pupils had a wonderful opportunity to take part in an African Drumming workshop. During the interactive workshop, the pupils learnt different call and response rhythms,



solo pieces and polyrhythms on the



traditional Dejembe drums.



[braesidesch](https://www.instagram.com/braesidesch)
[coopersalesch](https://www.instagram.com/coopersalesch)
[normanhurstschool](https://www.instagram.com/normanhurstschool)
[oaklandssch](https://www.instagram.com/oaklandssch)



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[@NormanhurstSch](https://twitter.com/NormanhurstSch)
[@OaklandsSch](https://twitter.com/OaklandsSch)



[Braeside School](https://www.facebook.com/BraesideSchool)
[Coopersale Hall School](https://www.facebook.com/CoopersaleHallSchool)
[Normanhurst School](https://www.facebook.com/NormanhurstSchool)
[Oaklands School](https://www.facebook.com/OaklandsSchool)



Braeside's Budding Artists

There has been some amazing work produced in art class by all of the pupils at Braeside.



Year 3 and 4 used a range of materials and techniques to produce moving tiger drawings which they plan to make movies with on the school iPads.

Inspired by their research on the Ancient Greeks, Year 5 experimented with a range of materials and techniques including painting to create texture, colour and colour balance and how to assemble collages to create mythical creatures. The theme and materials explored allowed pupils to be creative and highly

imaginative.

We're very impressed with the skills and creativity the pupils show through their work.



Normanhurst Greek Pottery

Normanhurst have also been looking at the Ancient Greeks in class,



researching Greek design and pottery making.

Year 4 made plate designs inspired by the Greeks. The children started off by sketching out designs and choosing colour combinations before applying their designs onto the plates with great care. Each pupil's design came out differently; some had fine details inspired by the Greeks love of nature whilst others were bold and striking with bright colours.



Oaklands House Art

Year 1 have enjoyed their 'Houses and Homes' topic. The children got creative in their Art lessons, exploring lots of different materials and ways to make house art. Some of the children chose to create their houses out of

Lego with stables and lots of different rooms, while others chose paint as their medium, creating bright and colourful pictures.

The children in Upper Kindergarten appreciated having the freedom to use their imagination and be creative.



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Remembrance Day

On Thursday 11 November, we came together as a nation to observe a minute's silence for all those that fell in the war.

It was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth, originally called "Armistice Day" to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday 11 November.

Each school paid their respects on Remembrance Day in a different way, from beautiful art work to musical tributes.



Oaklands School

Oaklands

Pupils at Oaklands gathered in the playground to observe the 2 minute silence, showing great understanding and respect.

Coopersale Hall

Coopersale Hall pupils came together to create a whole school Remembrance Display in which each year group and class was represented.



Coopersale Hall School

The pupils discussed their feelings and thoughts regarding Remembrance and noted that poppies of different colours focused on different areas of remembrance.

Years 5 and 6 went to the Epping Memorial on the Sunday. The Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl laid the wreath for the school. It was an honour for them to be such a key part of the Epping Town service.

Normanhurst

Year 4 created some beautiful collaborative art as part of their work on Remembrance Day. The children held the poppy wreaths they made during the 2 minute silence whilst they commemorated all of the men,



Normanhurst School

women and animals who have served in the Armed Forces.

Even the children in Kindergarten participated in the silence, behaving impeccably for such a young age, making the teachers very proud.

Braeside

Years 3 and 4 worked hard to make beautiful poppy field art which is now displayed around the school.

Working in small groups they built up the layers of the painting using chalk and paint.



Braeside School



Oaklands Sponsor an Endangered Animal with WWF

Pupils learnt about the role of the world's leading conservation organization and decided that they wanted to help with the effort to make the planet a safer place for wildlife. After a presentation by the House captains and vice-captains, the children unanimously voted to help the WWF organization by adopting an endangered animal. After the House vote it was decided that a tiger would be the perfect animal to help protect after their 95% decline since the beginning of the 20th Century.

Diwali & Fireworks Night

November brought some exciting celebrations for the children with Diwali and Bonfire Night.

Pupils from all 4 schools learnt about the traditions of Diwali (the festival of light), making diva lamps and trying delicious Indian food.

Normanhurst took their Art lesson outside on November 5th, creating a giant firework-inspired art painting, using their wellies and sticks to spread the paint around on the paper.



Coopersale Hall School



Normanhurst School



Braeside School



Oaklands School

Normanhurst Winter Sparkle Concert

Musically gifted pupils from across the school treated us to an evening of festive music. There were solo singing performances as well as songs from the senior choir, a group guitar piece and lots of songs from the junior orchestra. Every pupil put a lot of

effort into the performance making parents and teachers very proud.



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Oak-Tree Trips

The Autumn Term has been filled with fun and informative trips for all of the schools. Pupils have enjoyed taking part in workshops and tours as well as taking trips back in time to lots of historic sites in Essex and London.

Normanhurst pupils from Years 5 and 6 took a trip to KidZania in Westfield London shopping centre, where they had fun and took part in different jobs while earning 'kizdos'. The small scale replica city is packed with fun activities to do and gave the pupils the opportunity to try out lots of different jobs that they might try as future careers. The children particularly enjoyed being firefighters for the day where they used water hoses to extinguish the fake blaze.



Normanhurst William Morris Gallery

Lucky Year 5 pupils took another trip later in the term to the William Morris Gallery who was a local artist. The pupils learnt about Morris and his work in textile, furniture, architecture

and painting before having a go at relief printing themselves.



Braeside Science Museum

Year 6 visited the Science Museum in London, where they went to the WonderLab to have a go at hands on investigations.

The pupils enjoyed getting out of the classroom and seeing all of the exhibits. It was a fantastic day and many members of the public commented on the children's outstanding behaviour.



Coopersale Hall Q E Royal Hunting Lodge

Children at Coopersale Hall have been learning about British history with visits to the Epping Forest Museum and Queen Elizabeth's Royal Hunting

Lodge. Year 5 enjoyed learning about the hunting lodge and all of its Tudor inhabitants, dressing up as royalty and having a go at making their own coat of arms.

Year 6 visited Outdoor pursuits where they took part in Kayaking and Rock Climbing. Somehow, everyone managed to stay dry and the children had lots of fun working in pairs to relay each other up and down the climbing wall.

Children in Year 1 at Oaklands took a trip to Mountfitchet Castle where they saw how the villagers lived in Medieval times. They got to try on armour, climb castle towers and pretended to be prisoners stuck in the castle prison and stocks. It was wonderful to see how excited the children were to learn about history and how much information they retained to share in class the next day.



Oaklands Mountfitchet Castle

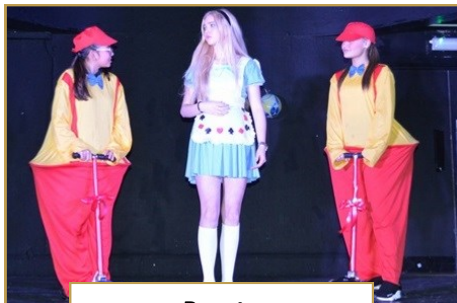


Braeside House Drama

The annual House Drama Competition was back with a bang this year. Senior pupils pulled out all the stops to create a wonderful event, with four very different, but equally entertaining, short plays - one by each school House.

The event took place in Lopping Hall in Loughton. As usual, the hall was packed with family members, all eager to see the pupils hard work in action.

Bronte House started the show with a lively rendition of 'Alice in



Bronte

Wonderland', followed by Fry and 'My Fair Lady'. The Mason House performance was the scary 'Beetle Juice', and Nightingale finished the show with 'The Customer is Always Wrong'. The pupils were in charge of everything, from the acting and rehearsals all the way to the lighting, sound, costume and set design.



Fry

The judges this year were two past pupils and Pauline Wise, the school's recently retired long-standing office manager. After much deliberation, it was decided that Mason House should take the prize.



Mason

There were a few additional awards on the night which were as follows:

Best Upcoming Actress: Layla

Best Actress: Isabella

Best Supportive Roles: Lily-Ann and Izella



Nightingale

Oaklands Athletics

Year 5 pupils took part in a fun and friendly Indoor Athletics competition against Daiglen School. They had a fantastic time taking part in numerous track and field events including obstacle relay, speed bounce, chest push and standing triple jump.



Year 5

Year 6 took part in the ISA London North athletics competition, coming 3rd in both the girls and boys

competitions, which was a fantastic achievement.



Year 6



Normanhurst Year 6 Create Amazing Anderson Shelters



Over the half-term break, Year 6 were given the task to research and build a model of a World War Two Anderson Shelter. They had the freedom to choose the size and material and the variety of shelters was impressive. The shelters had to pass a series of three tests given by Miss Stone. The first test was that the shelter had to be big enough for a LEGO person to fit through the door, the second was that the shelter had to be able to withstand the weight of a 1KG weight and the third and final test was being able to be tipped upside down without anything falling off or out of the

shelter. The pupils were all very proud of their hard work, as they should be.



Braeside Boys Settle In

The boys who started at Braeside at the start of this year have been settling in very well with their new class mates and school. All of the children have welcomed the new boys

to the school and they have all enjoyed playing together.

With this being the first year with boys at the school it has been an interesting learning experience for all of the staff and a useful opportunity to see how the children interact with each other.



Santa Visits Coopersale Hall

There were some very special visitors at Coopersale Hall before Christmas. Despite the rain, Santa and his two reindeer came all the way down from the North Pole to visit our pupils. Each class had the opportunity to go and see the big man himself in his grotto,

and tell him what they would like for Christmas.

The children then went to see Dasher and Prancer, and learnt all about reindeer and how they deal with the cold weather. It was a lovely day, so thank you to everyone who made it possible!



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Charity Fundraising

As always, pupils from all four schools have worked hard to raise funds for different charities this term.

Inspired by the London Marathon, Normanhurst pupils raised money for Samaritans purse by running 26 miles.



Children In Need

funds for the charity by making and decorating jelly, which they then sold at break time.

Pupils and staff made donations to wear jeans to school for the day, raising money for the Jeans for Genes charity.



Running and Raffles



Children at Coopersale hall entered a selection of Christmas raffles with the money raised going to children less fortunate than them.

Pupils dressed up in yellow for our annual Children In Need fundraising. Braeside School Council organised a fantastic way to raise some additional



Jeans For Genes



Oak-Tree Schools Parents' Associations

With Covid still making it hard for our amazing Parents' Associations to get

together, we are very grateful that our pupils have still been able to enjoy some treats organised by them. The pantomime came to visit some of the schools' younger pupils

while the seniors enjoyed trips to the local theatre to see Robin Hood and were treated to interval ice cream.

Thank you to all involved.



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

