

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



Issue 17

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Group Principal's Message

How fantastic to see life return, more or less, to normal over the course of the Spring Term.

This is another bumper Group Newsletter in which you will see that all four schools have been able to take part in numerous sporting competitions, academic visits and extra-curricular events. It has been particularly lovely to look back and see the number of joint events that have been held as we bring the four schools closer together. The children have been getting to know their counterparts in the other schools, which has added to their experiences.

The exciting news of the term for the Oak-Tree Group was finally gaining permission to develop a senior department at Coopersale

Hall. This will add new facilities to benefit the school's children, and will see enhancements to the curricula at all of the schools in Group as we look to the future. More will follow when our plans have been finalised.

There is a busy Summer Term ahead, with musical and dramatic performances, sports days and the return of the annual prize givings. I believe that there are still some tickets left for the Oak-Tree Ball in June - do book your tickets for what should be fun evening.

I hope you have a relaxing break this Easter, and I am looking forward to seeing you again after the holiday.

With best wishes

Matthew Hager

Young Writers Competition

Congratulations to Amaya , Maya and Eesha for having their poetry work selected from 12,000 entries to be published in 'Empowered – Voices Released'.





World Book Day



World Book Day is definitely a highlight of the school year for many, and this year's celebration was no exception. Pupils and teachers put so



much effort into their fantastic costumes. There were plenty of Hogwarts students at Coopersale Hall, while Braeside was filled with superheroes. Normanhurst had a whole host of Roald Dahl characters and Oaklands was full of costumes, including plenty of Mr Men!

Braeside pupils got a special visit from author David Long, winner of the Blue Peter Book Awards. He held a book read and a question and answer session for Years 1-7. The pupils were all given the opportunity to buy his book, *Survivors*, and have it signed.

Year 1 at Normanhurst were lucky enough to have a World Book Day party thrown for them by Year 5 & 6

pupils with dancing and games such as Pass the Parcel, Musical chairs and Musical bumps.

Throughout the week all of our pupils got involved with plenty of book-related activities and enjoyed themselves doing so!



Oak-Tree Cross Country



This year's Cross Country Tournaments held on Thursday 10 and Thursday 17 March were a huge success, with the spring sunshine shining down over the field at Coopersale Hall.

Pupils from the four Oak-Tree Schools as well as Avon House, Daiglen, Ivy Chimneys, Epping Primary and St Aubyn's joined together for two exciting afternoons of sport and comradery. Everyone put so much effort into all of their races and it was lovely to see all of the children supporting each other and cheering their class mates on.





Early Years Activities

Oaklands

Oaklands' Kindergarten pupils have enjoyed learning about repeating patterns. They all managed to complete a 2 colour pattern with some even trying 3, which is a fantastic achievement for such a young age.

Lower Kindergarten made some delicious spider cupcakes. They helped to mix the ingredients and spooned the mixture into the cake cases. Once cooked, they decorated the cakes to look like spiders with chocolate and sweets. We have some talented young bakers at Oaklands!



Normanhurst School

construct from a variety of media. They listened to Italian music, dressed for the Venetian ball and even made their own beautiful masks before becoming chefs in their very own Pizzeria.

The children enjoyed learning about the 5 senses, taking part in a listening walk in the local area. They put on their big listening ears and listened to all of the sounds they could hear while walking down the high street.

Braeside

Reception children at Braeside have been enjoying learning the Ukulele, strumming along in time with the pulse while singing songs.

Kindergarten have been learning



Braeside School

about sharing and taking it in turns while playing fun board games and playing in the sand pit in the garden. In PE, the children have been working on their movement and balancing skills while trying out lots of different yoga poses.

Coopersale Hall

Children at Coopersale Hall have been spending lots of time outdoors in the sunshine this term. They have been exploring the school grounds looking for signs of spring, such as the daffodils that have been blooming and the blossom on the trees.

Upper Kindergarten have been searching for animal homes. They managed to find mole holes, worm



Oaklands School

Normanhurst

The children in Kindergarten have been learning about countries from around the world this term. They have enjoyed taking part in interactive lessons about Canada, Italy and lots of other countries from around the world. On Italy day, they started by visiting the Leaning Tower of Pisa which the children went on to



Coopersale Hall School

mounds, a very large nest and what looked like a squirrel drey. Continuing with their Animals topic, the children discussed the differences between mammals, birds and fish before taking part in a picture sorting task.

It seems like our youngest pupils have been very busy!

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Oaklands Eco Council

The Oaklands Eco-Councillors have been busy raising the profile of environmental issues within the school and enjoyed helping out with an eco-quiz in the Key Stage 2 class assemblies. The children joined up with David Attenborough and completed a fun quiz on climate change.



The children learnt plenty of fascinating facts about global warming, carbon emissions and deforestation and hope to put their new found knowledge to good use.

We can't wait to see what the team will be doing to spread awareness and help the environment in the Summer Term.



Now that life is slowly getting back to normal we are delighted to announce the next joint Oak-Tree Summer Ball on Saturday 18 June 2022 as a fun night to look forward to at the end of this academic year, and this time we are aiming for it to be bigger than ever as we make up for lost time.

The theme this year will be a black tie '1920s Great Gatsby' with music, entertainment, cocktails and general 'bling' to match the occasion at the Prince Regent Hotel in Chigwell.

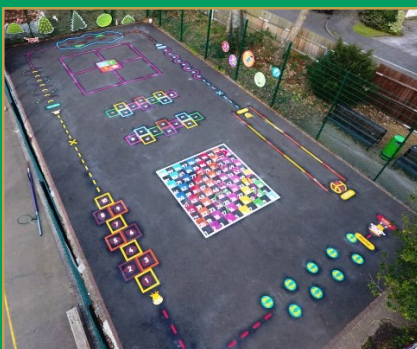
The cost per ticket is £75 and includes:

- Glass of Prosecco, beer or soft drink on arrival

- Three course meal including half a bottle of wine per person and coffee
- Gatsby-style jazz band performing during the evening
- 'Close Up' magician performing sleight of hand tricks throughout the evening
- Several fun casino tables and croupiers after the meal to play for prizes
- The opportunity to bid in the main fund raising auction for some excellent prizes
- Silent auction and raffle prizes
- Top quality DJ to keep us on the dance floor.
- The 'Gatsby Silhouettes' live 4-piece band to keep us going until late
- Professional photographer throughout the evening and a photo booth with props
- Well-stocked cash bar

Please follow the [link here](#) to complete your booking form and suggest seating preferences.

New Playground Markings!



Money raised by FoBS meant that Fun and Active Playgrounds were invited to Braeside school to install some colourful new playground markings. Now pupils have many more opportunities for active play and learning. These markings will last up to ten years and so will be around for future students joining the school too!



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Easter Celebrations

It was wonderful to be able to have our annual Easter celebrations resume this year.



Coopersale Hall School



The sun came out just in time for the annual Easter Bonnet Parade at Coopersale Hall. It was the first time we were able to hold the parade for two years, so everyone really got into the spirit and came to school in some incredible bonnets.

Each year group took it in turns to parade along the terrace, through the gate and onto the grass, finishing at the main steps for the perfect photo.

The FoCHS Easter Raffle winners were chosen and received their fantastic gift

baskets filled with Easter goodies.

The Braeside Easter Egg Hunt was back this year and the Juniors had a great time seeking out the many tokens hidden around the grounds. Well done Mason House for finding the most! Everyone received an Easter egg from the Easter Bunny as a tasty reward.



Braeside School



Year 1 pupils at Oaklands have been learning all about Palm Sunday and why is it such an important day for Christians. They made their own palm leaves and wrote messages on them. The children acted out the scene waving their palm leaves and imagined how it must have felt to be part of that crowd welcoming Jesus all those years ago.

Normanhurst pupils loved watching

the chicks hatch in their incubators. Children from each year group got the opportunity to hold the chicks and watch them run around on the grass just in time for Easter!



Oaklands School



Normanhurst School



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Oaklands Assemblies

Oaklands pupils have been putting on amazing performances to their friends and family this term.

Year 2 put on quite a show. Dressed in the brightest colours, they told a heart warming story with the moral - 'It is okay to be different'. The children did a wonderful job learning all their lines.



Year 3 took us back in time to the Roman era, remembering lots of interesting facts and figures. They told the audience all about their lifestyle, how they bathed, their army and lots



of other facts. They finished with a presentation of their work throughout the term which included mosaic, cooking and Roman temple building.



Year 4 put on an amazing Egyptian performance to their friends and family. The young archaeologists ventured to Ancient Egypt to learn about their life and Gods.

All of the children did a fantastic job performing fact-filled songs and dances. We look forward to more performances in the Summer Term.

Coopersale Hall's Let's Dance Disco

Thank you so much to all of the parents who donated at the Let's Dance Disco raising £403.30 for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. The government is matching any donations made so the grand total will be a massive £806.60!



Normanhurst A Capella

The Normanhurst A Capella group wowed the judges and audience alike with their amazing renditions of 'Wavin' Flag', 'Brighter Than The Sun' and 'Give Your Heart a Break' at the ISA Competition.

Well done to everybody who took part!



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Lunar New Year

The Lunar New Year was celebrated across all four schools in February. Pupils enjoyed learning about the different Asian cultures and lots of ancient Chinese traditions



Coopersale Hall

On the 1st February, the school hall was decorated ready for a Chinese feast at lunchtime. The children got to enjoy spring rolls, noodles, sweet and sour chicken and lots more festive foods. During their Yoga lessons, UK learnt lots of new animal poses to represent the Zodiac.

Normanhurst

Children in Reception made tiger bookmarks while learning the centuries-old skill of origami. Year 6

participated in a Chinese dance workshop where they twirled umbrellas and fluttered fans to traditional music.



Oaklands

Oaklands Kindergarten children got to try noodles, rice, spring rolls, prawn crackers and sweet and sour sauce, which some had never tried before. They got to dress up in traditional Chinese clothes and learnt how to use chop sticks.

Braeside

Reception got arty making Chinese paper lanterns and red envelopes that they took home to their families. The children enjoyed sitting round the big table together to eat a Chinese tasting



meal complete with egg noodles and prawn crackers.

Everyone really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about other cultures and traditions.





Kew Gardens Trips



Braeside School



Both Normanhurst and Braeside pupils have taken trips to Kew Gardens this term. Braeside pupils took part in a workshop to find out what it takes to become a Plant Hunter. They created detailed drawings of their own discoveries in the Palm House, as well as learning about the important information labels and some of the more unusual plants in the building.

Normanhurst pupils attended a workshop where they learnt all about pollination and looked at pollinators at work. They also had the opportunity to see all of the different plants.

All pupils had a fascinating time, and have brought their new knowledge back to the classroom for further exploration.



Normanhurst School



Braeside Recycled Art

Pupils in Year 5 have been researching and learning about Antarctica and the wildlife that lives there. They created amazing recycled penguin art from old plastic bottles and papier mache to stick to the class aim of keeping the project eco friendly. They finished the penguins with bright paint and woolly feathers to give them character.



[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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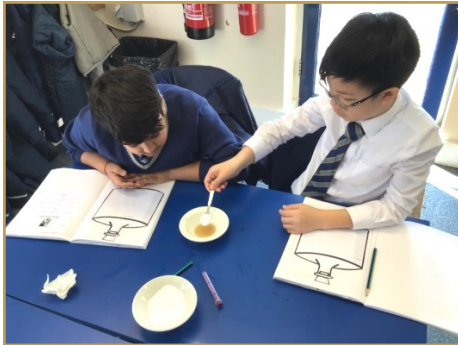
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Normanhurst Shakespeare Week

Shakespeare Week at Normanhurst was a huge success with lots of fun



workshops, experiments and activities taking place. Junior pupils combined their English, Maths and Science lessons to become 'The Witches' from Macbeth. They used their measuring, capacity and volume skills to measure out potions and note down the results of each creation.

Senior pupils were treated to an outstanding performance of Romeo and Juliet by the Young Shakespeare Company. Four fantastic actors took to the school hall where they



proceeded to run the pupils through rehearsal tactics before putting on their own version of the classic Shakespeare play with a modern twist.

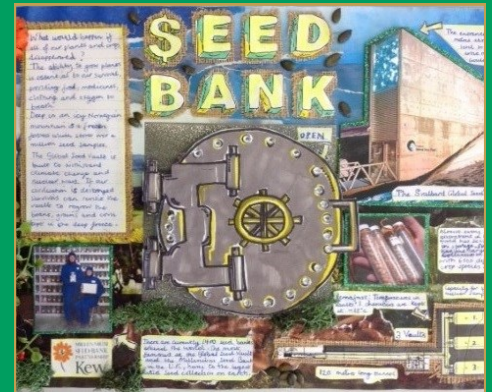
Coopersale Hall Science Posters

A large number of pupils submitted posters to be judged for the chance to be entered into the British Science Week's poster competition, with the theme 'Growth'.

The standard of the posters and variety of ideas made it very difficult to decide on just 5 entrants. The level of creativity and skill in each poster

was outstanding, with 3D elements and interactive parts. Lots of the posters will be displayed in the assembly hall. A range of posters by Years 4, 5 and 6 pupils will be submitted into the national competition.

Best of luck to all of those chosen to enter the competition! Watch this space for winners...



Braeside Senior House Football

This term both the Juniors and Seniors competed in House Football Tournaments. They were both excellent events, with lots of friendly but competitive play. All the pupils

had the chance to have a go on the pitch, with the rest of their House cheering them on from the sidelines.

All pupils enjoyed showing off the skills they have learnt and practised in their PE lessons this term. The winning Houses were Mason for the Juniors and Fry for the Seniors!





British Science Week

This year's British Science Week was a roaring success! From the assemblies and classroom-based activities to the competitions and visits, the children have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating all things Science.

Oaklands had a brilliant week packed with activities. Year 6 pupils visited Bancroft's School to see the Science Fair run by sixth form students, where they learned about a range of topics. A highlight for all were the chemical reactions, such as the rainbow tubes and elephant toothpaste.



Oaklands School

Year 3 to 6 rounded off Science Week with a brilliant 'Build and Battle' robotics workshop run by Engineering 4 Kids. After an introduction to the world of robotics, some brave volunteers raced against the visiting engineer to solve a Rubik's cube. The children then worked in teams against the clock to follow a set of instructions

to build a programmable robot.

Coopersale Hall were inspired by the theme of Growth and decided to plant their own tomatoes. They can't wait to see the process the tomatoes take to



Coopersale Hall School

grow, from sprouts to fruit. Throughout the week, in all KS1 and KS2 Science lessons, pupils presented their own experiments or research. There were practical demonstrations, powerpoints, videos and some amazing display posters.

Normanhurst pupils also had a full week of science, the younger children learnt all about minibeasts, their habitats and the important jobs they do for British farming. Year 3 planted sunflower seeds to watch as they grow and Year 4 learnt all about the life of a giant African snail, they even got to hold some! Lots of the children got to visit the Science Museum, taking in all of the exhibitions and watching fun workshops.



Normanhurst School

Braeside pupils from Years 5 and 6 investigated reversible and irreversible reactions by conducting 'coke and mentos' experiments, watching how the liquid reacted when the sweet was dropped into the bottle.

Year 6 conducted experiments to answer the question 'Do penguins keep warmer when there are lots of penguins around them?'. They tested lots of different materials to test which would be the best insulation for the 'test' penguin.

What an interesting week for our budding young scientists!



Braeside School



Mark Cavendish Visits Coopersale Hall

Pupils at Coopersale Hall School were very lucky to receive a visit from world champion Cyclist Mark Cavendish. Mark came into talk to the children about his career and how he worked extremely hard to achieve his dreams. Mark spoke to the children about how 'plans don't always go the way you imagine but if you work hard at your goals then that is something you can control and that can set you in a better place'. Pupils and teachers enjoyed getting the chance to meet such an accomplished athlete and hope he visits again soon.

Braeside Peri Concerts

Pupils from Year 1 to 11 performed in two amazing music concerts showing off their talents to family and friends. The audience were impressed by the performances on the piano, guitar, recorder and violin. Several pupils performed duets on the piano, and it was wonderful to hear how seamlessly they worked together. Some brave pupils had only been learning their instruments for a couple of months, and everyone was very impressed with the progress they had made in such a short space of time.



Coopersale Hall Bikeability

Year 6 pupils have enjoyed participating in a Bikeability course, delivered by qualified instructors from Essex County Council. They have very much benefitted from this course which tested their ability to ride in a straight line whilst looking behind or signalling. With a responsible attitude

and good listening skills they progressed to riding on the local roads around Epping.



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Oak-Tree Tag Rugby

All four schools took part in the ISA U11's Mixed Tag-Rugby competition at Woodford Wells Cricket Club. Every single pupil was outstanding in their games and they got better and better as the tournament went on. Oaklands and Coopersale Hall teams brought home trophies for their schools!



Braeside Junior Dance Assembly

Braeside Junior pupils treated their friends and families to a wonderful dance assembly in February. First up was Early Years who enjoyed being elephants, stomping around and showing off their big ears. Year 1 transported everyone under the sea with their dance, and then Year 3 and 4's theme was the jungle, complete

with animal masks! Lastly, Year 5 and 6 showcased a lively rendition of 'Roar'. The pupils had worked really hard to learn all of their dances and it really showed on the day.



Oak-Tree Swimming Gala

On Monday 28 February all 4 schools took part in a swimming Gala at Loughton Leisure Centre.

There were races in each of the main strokes - front crawl, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly, with heats for each age group.

There were also four relay races which produced some very close finishes.

One of these relay races was a giant relay which involved 12 pupils from each team, creating a brilliant atmosphere with everyone cheering their teammates on.

Coopersale Hall pupils were the day's champions, but every pupil that took part did a fantastic job and should be proud of their performance!





Science Week Animal Visits

As part of Science Week, Children from Oaklands and Coopersale Hall our were treated to visits from three different educational animal experience companies.

Safari Pete and his many animals



Oaklands



visited the younger children at Oaklands. The children had the chance to meet meerkats, owls, bearded dragons, and even a crocodile!

Children in Years 2 to 6 were visited by Exotic Explorers and had an incredible session learning about each animal group in detail, asking lots of thoughtful questions, and even having the chance to not only handle all of the animals, but also to have them roam freely about the room around them; feeding, socialising and investigating their surroundings.

At Coopersale Hall, Upper Kindergarten had an exciting visit from Get To Know Animals where the children were able to hold and learn about a variety of animals. There were rabbits, a hedgehog, chinchillas, lizards both large and small and a corn snake which most of the children were brave enough to have draped across their



Coopersale Hall



shoulders! The children sat and listened carefully to all of the interesting facts the animal keepers had to tell them.

These sessions were an excellent interactive way for the children to learn whilst having lots of fun.

Oak-Tree Athletics

Year 3 and 4 pupils from all four schools in the Group got together at the Peter May Centre on Friday 21 January to take part in the Oak-Tree Athletics Tournament. All schools had a go at each of the activities, which included javelin, speed bounce, throwing, long jump and high jump. After the individual events, it was time

for the real highlight of the morning, the relays. These were no ordinary relays, as each run was interspersed with obstacles such as hurdles, speed bounce, tunnels and agility runs.

The pupils enjoy competing against each other and there is always a friendly competitive atmosphere when the schools come together.



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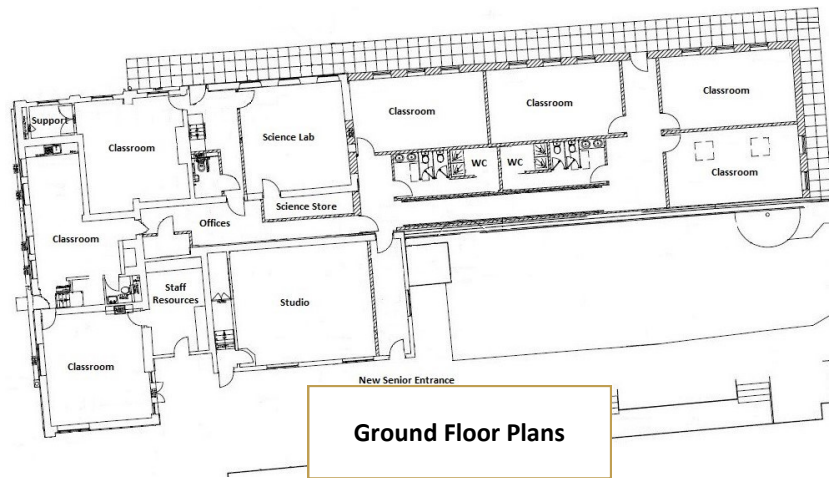
Coopersale Hall's Senior Development

We are delighted to announce that Epping Forest District Council has granted planning consent to develop a newly-purchased adjoining property into classrooms and other facilities for a new senior department at Coopersale Hall School.

There will be a phased introduction of senior pupils to Coopersale Hall over several years, starting with Year 7 in September 2023, with the hope of having a full seniors up to Year 11 from September 2027.

The aim is to have around 20 pupils per year group, often taught in smaller classes. Coopersale Hall children will be able to move automatically into the seniors. There will then be external

exams for students looking to join the school in the seniors from other local schools. We look forward to this exciting new phase in The Oak-Tree Group's journey.



Girls Football Tournament

The U9 and U11 football teams from all 4 schools had a fantastic morning at Shooters in North Weald for the first Oak-Tree Girls Football Tournament. They were lucky to have some

amazing spring sunshine and a large crowd of supportive parents who did an excellent job cheering everyone on from the side lines.

Pupils put on an excellent display of skills and saw their confidence grow with each match.



Year 11 Showcase Evening

On Thursday 10 February the GCSE music pupils from Braeside and Normanhurst were given the chance to share some of the coursework they have been working on with their friends and families. Pupils performed on their main instrument and

composed a piece of music to a chosen brief. There was also an art gallery set up in the hall for parents to browse the incredible GCSE art and graphics work the pupils have been working on. Every pupils performed with confidence and composure, impressing all who attended.



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Charity Fundraising

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

Red Nose Day was celebrated across all four schools with lots of money being raised for worthy causes. Some pupils came dressed in red while others hosted cake sales, which went



Number Day



Red Nose Day



local Epping Food Bank. Our generous families donated the largest amount of much needed supplies the food bank had ever received!

Normanhurst have also been raising money and supplies to help those in Ukraine, raising money at a coffee morning and dressing up in blue and yellow to show support and donate.



Charity Donations



down very well with both pupils and teachers!

Oaklands had a 'Numbers Day' where all of the children came dressed in clothes that had numbers on for a donation to the NSPCC.

Coopersale Hall have been busy donating supplies and food to both The Ukrainian Crisis Appeal and their

Oak-Tree Schools Parents' Associations

Our amazing Parents' Associations have been busy this term organising

lots of fundraising activities as well as treats for the children. The Summer Term is looking to be a very busy time for them as there are so many exciting events coming up, so

keep an eye on the school calendars. Don't forget to talk to your school's reps about this year's Summer Ball - it's set to be an unforgettable evening!



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

