

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2017



Issue 4

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Principal's Message

Firstly I'd like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year - I hope you managed to get something of a break over the Christmas period.

Looking back at the Autumn Term, it's amazing to see quite how much was packed into the busy schedules at each of the schools - all alongside the normal day-to-day classroom education that was taking place.

There were several highlights of the term, including the various inter-school competitions, harvest events, Christmas festivities and trips.

On a Group level, the Year 3 Camp was very successful again in September for all of the Year 3 children across the Group who spent

two days and an evening camped on the Oaklands fields. I was there in the morning and saw how proud they were of their achievements. The staff, on the other hand, were looking forward to a warm bath and a good night's sleep!

The November Fireworks went with more than a bang for the 1000 of us gathered at Oaklands. Thank you to the army of parent helpers at each school who gave up time during the evening to help on the stalls.

I hope you enjoy reading about what the children have been up to, and that they enjoy the additional opportunities lined up for them this term.

Matthew Hagger

Oaklands in the Enfield Gymnastics Festival

A selection of Oaklands children enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their gymnastic talents when taking part in the Enfield Gymnastics Festival this term.

Girls from Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part during several sessions and performed some tricky routines. The competition was tough with many

other worthy schools involved, but the PE staff were delighted with the girls' performances. The future is certainly looking bright for gymnastics at Oaklands.



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Oak-Tree Fireworks Display

Last term saw the annual Oak-Tree Parents' Association Fireworks Display held at Oaklands. It was as popular as ever with around 1000 children, parents and friends of the schools attending. There were many stalls and activities to keep the children entertained, such as face and nail painting, glitter tattoos, biscuit decorating, lucky dips and plenty of glowing toys.

A fireworks hat competition was judged on the night, which had some fantastic entries. The warm mulled wine went down well with adults and the hot dogs, cakes and hot chocolate were enjoyed by the children!

The crowds enjoyed listening to live music from the newly reformed Normanhurst Band, and the fireworks themselves were as spectacular as always, making for an excellent end to the evening.



Thank you to the four Parents' Associations for helping to arrange and run such a popular event, and also to everyone who came to support us.

ISA Art Competition

Many pupils from the Oak-Tree Group entered some impressive pieces of work into the annual ISA Art competition.

The standard of work was extremely high this year and we had some excellent results in the various categories.

Arabella and Holly from Oaklands were highly commended in their categories. From Normanhurst, Kamile and Laila won first places in the KS3 2D



Braeside Entry

Art and KS2 Digital Art categories respectively. From Braeside, Jade, Jessica, Karishma and Anna were also awarded first places, and Maddie and Karishma second places. Amaarah, Rebecca, Tianna, Lauren, Maia, Anna,

Maddie, Lilia, Grace and Sarah's work were all highly commended.

These were amazing achievements and everyone who entered should be very proud of themselves. Well done!



Normanhurst Winners

Epping Christmas Card Competition

The Mayor of Epping, Tony Church, invited local schools to participate in the town council's annual Christmas Card Competition once again. Children

from Transition to Year 6 from Coopersale Hall took part. The theme was 'A Child's Perspective of Christmas'.

George from Year 2 won the competition and Alice from Transition was runner up. Well done both of you!



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Braeside House Drama Competition

Braeside pupils and families came together on Friday 24 November for the annual House Drama competition held at Lopping Hall, Loughton.



Bronte performed an abridged version of 'Mary Poppins', Fry performed 'The Sword in the Stone', Mason performed 'Sorry, Wrong Number' and to end the evening Nightingale performed 'Hound of the Baskervilles'.

All pieces were written, directed and performed by the pupils, who were full of confidence and professionalism.



The judges were Mr Reich-Storer, Drama teacher at Braeside and Coopersale Hall, and Mrs Kazim, Drama teacher at Braeside and Normanhurst.

The most promising actress was Zoe, with runners-up Isobel and Mahnoor. Best actress was Amaarah and the House Winner was Bronte House.



Charities Supported in Autumn Term

- Children in Need
- Jeans for Genes Day
- Whitechapel Mission
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Royal British Legion
- Operation Christmas Child
- United World Schools
- Mercy Ships
- Epping Forest Foodbank
- The Brain Tumour Charity
- The St Thomas of Canterbury Soup Run
- Pelly Court Care Home
- Dylan's Story
- Ali's Gift
- The David Ashwell Foundation
- Mill Field Family Centre

Oaklands Go Back In Time

Oaklands children stepped back in time last term with many History-related activities.

Year 4 spent the day dressed as Tudors and curated their very own museum, also having the chance to visit the Queen Elizabeth hunting lodge in Chingford. Year 5 had a

Victorian experience on their trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills, when they experienced life at the seaside, played with Victorian toys and were taught in a Victorian classroom.

Class 4Z put on an excellent performance for families about Henry VIII and his wives. Year 2 showcased the story of the Great Fire of London after an day's specialist workshop.

Year 6 children learned about the Anglo-Saxons. What a historical term!



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Harvest at the Oak-Tree Group of Schools

Braeside Juniors celebrated Harvest by showcasing a large selection of songs and poems to a packed audience. Each year group performed an individual poem extremely well, and the singing was of an excellent quality. Donations went to the Epping Forest Foodbank and were gratefully received.



Braeside Harvest Festival

Oaklands held a Harvest Assembly led by Mr Tony Miller. The assembly gave the children and staff a chance to say 'thank you' for all they have. All of the

donations collected were transported to the homeless at the Whitechapel Mission and have made a huge difference.



Oaklands Harvest Donations

Coopersale Hall pupils enjoyed Harvest by hosting two very special assemblies. Reverend Lee Baston came to talk to the children about the story of Harvest before they performed a range of songs and poems including 'A Harvest Prayer', 'Bigger and Bigger' and 'Autumn Days'. The donations filled up the whole stage and were later delivered to Pelly Court Care Home.



Coopersale Hall Harvest Donations

Normanhurst children travelled to the United Reform Church in Buxton Road for their Harvest celebrations. Reverend Richard Mortimer led the service, which included some performances, readings and prayers. St Thomas of Canterbury soup run was supplied with the donations.



Normanhurst Harvest Festival

Coopersale Hall Explore Autumn



Pupils at Coopersale Hall made use of their extensive grounds last term and explored the changes that Autumn brought.

Early Years children had the chance to don their wellies and play in the Autumn leaves during their walks around the school grounds. They observed the way that the colours changed throughout the year before

collecting leaves, pine cones and acorns which they took back to their classrooms to use for arts and crafts.



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Coffee Morning Dates for the Spring Term with Mr Hagger and the Headmistress

Braeside

Wednesday 10 January - Years 3, 4 and 5

Wednesday 17 January - Year 6 - 11

Coopersale Hall

Thursday 11 January - Year 4

Thursday 18 January - Year 6W

Thursday 1 February - Year 5

Normanhurst

Monday 15 January - Kindergarten

Monday 22 January - Reception

Monday 29 January - Years 1 and 2

Monday 5 February - Years 3 to 6

Monday 19 February - Years 7 to 11

Oaklands

Tuesday 16 January - Year 5

Tuesday 23 January - Year 3

Tuesday 30 January - Year 4

Tuesday 6 February - Lower Kindergarten

Oak-Tree Schools Netball Tournament



Year 5 and 6 children from all four Oak-Tree Schools had an action packed afternoon on Thursday 23 November. They gathered at the Braeside Senior site ready for some competitive Netball matches.

All schools worked extremely hard

and the team work was excellent.

It was a close competition but Coopersale Hall took the crown as the overall winners.

The results were as follows:

1st - Coopersale Hall

2nd - Oaklands

3rd - Normanhurst

4th - Braeside



Celebrating Diversity at Braeside

Senior pupils at Braeside celebrated diversity on the European Day of Languages. They spent the day preparing entries for a national competition organised by the Network for Languages, which

involved writing in a language other than English on the topic of 'I have a Dream'. There were some inspirational entries in Spanish, French, Togalog, Tamil, Persian, Russian and German.

The results of the competition were announced in December and, according to the judges, the standard of all entries was very high. Anna in Year 6 and Sara in Year 9 were named as the overall winners. The fact that they won the competition in their mother tongue is of special significance in the context of the celebration of diversity. Well done!



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Fantastic GCSE Results

On Thursday 24 August we had some very excited Year 11 pupils at both Braeside and Normanhurst Schools who were celebrating an excellent set of GCSE results.

At Normanhurst, 92% of grades achieved were at A* to C or at the new grade 4 and above in English and Maths. There were 100% A* to C grades in subjects such as Art, Graphics, History, Drama, ICT, RS, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.



Normanhurst Exam Results

At Braeside, 90% of grades achieved were at A* to C, or at the new grade 4 and above in English and Maths. There were also many subjects with 100% pass rates, including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Art, Drama,

Geography and RS.

Across both schools there were some outstanding individual performances and all pupils should be very proud of their hard work and achievements.



Braeside Exam Results

Oak-Tree Schools Football Tournament



Teams from Oaklands, Normanhurst and Coopersale Hall got together on Thursday 23 November at the Peter May Sports Centre for the annual Oak-Tree Football Tournament.

All teams played extremely well, with pupils working collaboratively to achieve some fantastic goals and defensive tackles.

There were some very close matches but a congratulations go to Coopersale Hall pupils as overall winners!

The results were as follows:

- 1st - Coopersale Hall**
- 2nd - Normanhurst**
- 3rd - Oaklands**

Year 2 Town Planners at Coopersale Hall School

Year 2 became Town Planners last term. They have been learning the meaning of collaboration, compromise and communication by working together to make town maps in House teams.

As part of the task the children discussed what facilities were needed, with many creative ideas. They then had to get crafty and create their maps with labels for all of the different facilities.

Once the maps were complete the children compared each other's and

discussed which town would be the best to live in.



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Braeside House Contest

Throughout this term Braeside pupils from both sites have been taking part in fun, competitive House Challenges. Children in Years 1 to 4 had to be creative and solve problems to win a selection of challenges for their House.

Children in Years 6 to 11 took part in a competition run by the University



of Southampton called the 'Cipher Challenge'. As Houses, pupils had to submit answers to a range of problem solving questions, with the challenges getting tougher as the term progressed.

Other House events last term included the House Netball Competition and the House Drama Competition, both won by Bronte.



New Normanhurst Classrooms

Extensive work took place at Normanhurst over the summer holidays to enlarge the Maths and History classrooms and create a new junior classroom. Three large dormers were built across the roofline in an ambitious 8-week project.

Since the work has been completed, both staff and pupils have enjoyed making use of the new spaces.

"I feel like the changes to the History room have improved my learning. I



think that the extra space makes it feel easier to concentrate." *Tulsi, Year 11*

"It feels spacious and I like the layout of the room. It is easier to see the whiteboard" *Kyarna, Year 10*

OPEN MORNINGS

Braeside School, Buckhurst Hill

Seniors

Tuesday 6 March 2017 at 9.15am

Early Years, Infants and Juniors

Wednesday 7 March 2017 at 9.15am

Coopersale Hall School, Epping

Tuesday 6 March at 9.15am

Normanhurst School, North Chingford

Friday 9 March 2017 at 9.15am

Oaklands School, Loughton

Thursday 8 March 2017 at 9.15am

If you need to contact the schools directly, please use the numbers below:

Braeside School - 020 8504 1133

Coopersale Hall School - 01992 577133

Normanhurst School - 020 8529 4307

Oaklands School - 020 8508 3517

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Parents' Evening Dates

Normanhurst

- Tuesday 16 January - Year 10
- Tuesday 30 January - Year 8
- Tuesday 6 February - Year 11
- Tuesday 27 February - Year 9
- Tuesday 6 March - Year 7
- Tuesday 20 March - KG to Year 6

Braeside

- Thursday 18 January - Year 10
- Thursday 1 February - Year 8
- Thursday 8 February - Year 11
- Thursday 22 February - Year 9
- Thursday 8 March - Year 6 and 7
- Wednesday 21/ Thursday 22 March - LK to Year 5

Oaklands

- Wednesday 21/ Thursday 22 February - Year 1 to 6

Anti-Bullying Awareness at Oaklands

Years 3 to 5 took part in an interactive anti-bullying workshop in November that involved virtual reality technology. The workshop entered pupils into a real-life situation where they learnt tactics to reduce bullying. Each child had their own headset and

were excited to experience this new way of learning. They were left with a lot to think about.



ISA Swimming Gala Success for Coopersale Hall



This term Coopersale Hall took part in the ISA London North Swimming Gala, and came away with some impressive results. Overall the school managed to win medals in 6 different events!

Two pupils, Arwen and Oliver, were selected to represent the London North team at the ISA Nation Swimming Gala which will be held on Sunday 21 January. Good luck!

Oak-Tree Camping Adventure

Year 3 children from all four Oak-Tree schools had an exciting couple of days at the start of the Autumn Term when they took part in a camping adventure in the grounds of Oaklands School.

After an early arrival, the children took part in a number of activities including team-building exercises and learning to put up their own tents. The evening was spent cooking, playing night



games and toasting marshmallows around the camp fires. The camp is an annual event and is an excellent opportunity for the children to meet

others from the Oak-Tree Group and make new friends. It was a busy couple of days after which both pupils and teachers slept very well!



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Remembrance Day at the Oak-Tree Group of Schools

On Friday 10 November all four schools took part in a moving two minutes silence in order to remember the brave men and women who lost their lives in conflict during the wars. All of the children were extremely respectful and reflective.

Some of the children at Coopersale Hall made their own poppies in class while learning about why people wear poppies on this special day.



Coopersale Hall Poppy Making

Year 11 pupils at Normanhurst gave a moving Remembrance Day Assembly, taking a look at the personal lives of some of the fallen soldiers. Children from a range of year groups also took

part in Remembrance Day workshops to see if they have what it takes to be a code breaker during World War II. They even took part in a pretend air raid experience.



Normanhurst Workshop

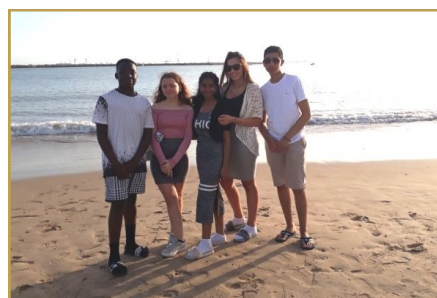
Braeside and Normanhurst's Trip to Spain



Pupils from Normanhurst and Braeside enjoyed some Autumn sunshine on their KS3 joint trip to Seville and Cadiz during the half term break.

After being picked up from the airport and given a chance to settle into their accommodation, pupils had the chance to take part in a city tour with visits to Giralda, Alcazar, Parque Maria Luisa and lots of other sites before

heading back for a BBQ. The following day everyone enjoyed a ferry ride over to Cadiz where the highlight was definitely the *churros con chocolate* stop for breakfast!



Day 3 consisted of a morning language lesson followed by Flamenco and paella cooking lessons. If the day wasn't packed enough, everyone then took a trip to the beach!

This was an excellent opportunity for pupils to experience other cultures



and further extend their learning of Spanish. It was also a good opportunity to bring the two schools together to build friendships and take part in collaborative learning.

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Braeside and Normanhurst Shared Classes

Year 10 GCSE courses began last term with pupils benefiting from a variety of shared learning opportunities. For the second year running, pupils from Braeside and Normanhurst have been coming together to work collaboratively in certain lessons.

Normanhurst pupils are taught GCSE RS at Braeside (pictured) and Braeside pupils studying Computing, Music and Drama travel to Normanhurst School for their lessons.

The Autumn Term's lessons were very productive, with pupils enjoying the chance to make some new friends, work in a different environment and

make use of shared resources and knowledge.



Normanhurst Annual House Music Competition



Normanhurst pupils from Reception to Year 11 gathered in the Hall on Monday 16 October for the annual

House Music Competition. Connaught and Warren battled for the prize in a series of categories: House Singing, Ensemble Performance and Solo Performance.

Judges consisted of Mrs Osborn, Miss Amini, Mr Beint, Mr Christou and Michael Goodlet, the Guest Judge. Mr Goodlet is an instrumentalist who has worked on tracks with artists such as Ed Sheeran, Fuse ODG, Wyclef Jean and Sean Paul, and so was very experienced in his field.

It was a close competition with only 3 points between the final scores. The overall winner was Warren House.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, it was a very entertaining morning.



Key Trips

- Emmanuel Centre, London
- Royal Gunpowder Mills
- Epping Forest
- Local Theatres and Libraries
- Spain
- Local Churches
- Redbridge Drama Centre
- Neasden Temple
- Dickens House Museum
- Epping Forest District Museum
- Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Centre
- Local Care Homes
- Gruffalo Trail, Brentwood
- Tesco Farm to Fork Trail
- Chickenshed, Southgate
- Science Museum
- Globe Theatre
- Wellcome Collection Museum
- Pole Hill, Chingford
- V&A Museum of Childhood
- Bletchley Park
- Barbican Centre
- PGL Residential Trip
- Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge
- Southend Sea Life Centre
- Discover Story World
- Countryside Living Event
- Madame Tussauds
- Mountfitchet Castle

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Christmas Carol Services

Braeside

Years 1 to 11 came together in December at St John's Church in Buckhurst Hill for the annual Carol Service. The festive event was celebrated with Bible readings, Christmas poems and songs by the choir and band.



Braeside Carol Service

Coopersale Hall

Tuesday 12 December marked the Coopersale Hall Carol Service held at St John's Church in Epping. The children presented the story of the

Nativity using song and dance. The energetic 'Oh What a Night' made a fantastic grand finale!



Coopersale Hall Carol Service

Normanhurst

Among the many highlights of December's Normanhurst Christmas Carol Service was the lovely rendition of 'The First Noel'. Pupils performed many other songs along with meaningful readings and a comical rendition of the Nativity story.

Oaklands

Years 1 to 6 gathered at St Mary's



Normanhurst Carol Service

Church for their Carol Service. The audience was treated to a moving retelling of the Nativity story using a range of songs, carols and Bible readings. It was a lovely way to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.



Oaklands Carol Service

Wild Wood Adventures at Oaklands



Children in the Early Years are given many opportunities to make use of the fantastic environment around the school during their 'Wild Wood' sessions. Activities include exploring the changing of the seasons, counting, making stick men, hunting for mini-beasts, exploring, following instructions and lots more.

The children enjoy making use of their outdoor classroom and having the

chance to put on their wellies and warm outdoor clothing to explore the grounds.



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Festive Fun at Oak-Tree

Braeside packed its end of term calendar with lots of Christmas events and activities. The younger children started their festivities with a trip to the post box to send their letters to Santa. Pupils enjoyed their Christmas lunch, panto visits, the FOBS Christmas Fayre, Christmas-themed crafts sessions and Christmas Jumper Day. They also enjoyed performing in the Carol Concert and Nativity.



Braeside Junior Nativity

Coopersale Hall wowed family and friends with their many Christmas performances and shows. Upper and Lower Kindergarten put on a 'A Little Present', KS1 performed 'Super Star' and Transition 'The Nativity'. There



Coopersale Hall and some Special Visitors

was also the annual Carol Concert at St John's Church in Epping. Other festivities included panto visits, singing at the Epping Christmas market, the FOCHS Fayre and Christmas crafts.

Normanhurst pupils had a lovely lead up to Christmas, with pupils enjoying a delicious Christmas dinner together in the hall. Early Years and Infants gave three fantastic performances of their Nativity play to parents and the whole



Normanhurst Christmas Lunch

United World Schools Project

Along with 40 other ISA Schools, the Oak-Tree Group are working to help raise the funds to set up the first school in the remote community of Pong Tek in Cambodia. The school will have a transformational impact on the

whole community. The pledges made so far have meant that construction has already been able to begin.

We are delighted to be involved in this initiative and thank our pupils and families in advance for their support in the coming year.

school took part in a festive Christmas Carol service. There were also visits to the local pantomime, Christmas crafts, concerts at the local care home and lots more to help get everyone in the festive spirit.



Oaklands Garden Room Nativity

Oaklands started the festive period with Transition's hilarious 'Transition's Got Talent' performance! Garden Room put on a lovely Nativity, and the rest of the school took part in the eagerly-awaited Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church. The OPA transformed the library into a magical Christmas grotto, there were Christmas parties, competitions, 'Sing Christmas' in Loughton and lots more.



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Oak-Tree Schools Parents' Associations

Our Parents' Associations were very busy last term arranging a number of events for pupils, families and friends. The Parent's Associations are always looking for parents to get involved with fundraising or events. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with your committee if you would like to meet new families, contribute your ideas and work together to make a difference to your child's experience at school.

Braeside



The highlight of the Autumn term for FOBS was the hugely successful Christmas Fayre held at the Junior site. The hall and playground were packed with stalls and games, and there was even a visit from Santa! There were tombola stalls, raffles, gift stalls, cakes, BBQ and drinks, with entertainment from the choirs. FOBS also arranged a trip to the pantomime as a Christmas treat and were involved with the popular Oak-Tree Fireworks display.

Coopersale Hall

FOCHS were very busy this term arranging a variety of events for pupils and their families. The Christmas period was especially busy with the ever popular FOCHS Christmas Fayre, a visit from Santa and his real-life reindeer, the Christmas shop for pupils to buy small gifts for their families, trips to the theatre and visits from the travelling pantomime. FOCHS were also involved in making the Oak-Tree Firework Night such a success.



Normanhurst

The NSPA arranged a lot of exciting events over the Autumn Term. One of the biggest events was the Oak-Tree Fireworks display that saw over 1000 people in attendance! Rock and Roll Bingo Night was great fun for both parents and pupils, with a fantastic atmosphere, a delicious fish and chips dinner and a hilarious round of bingo. The NSPA also arranged for the Junior pupils to have a special treat over Christmas with a trip to the pantomime.



Oaklands



The OPA successfully arranged lots of festive treats for the children during the Autumn Term with highlights including trips to the pantomime and Christmas parties for all year groups. The attendance of Santa in his beautifully-decorated grotto caused much excitement! The OPA Macmillan Coffee event, movie night and pre-loved uniform sale were also well attended. The Oak-Tree Fireworks Display was held in the Oaklands grounds and, as always, the OPA worked hard to make it so successful.