



Friday 17th April

We hope that you all had an enjoyable Easter break. We have had a great start to the Summer Term with lots of exciting events including a mock trial and a visit from a very inspiring Paralympian, Nerys Pearce. She certainly got the children active and involved this afternoon. What a great way to end the first week back. Remember- be better tomorrow than you are today!



Debate club were very lucky to work with barrister Chris Butterfield this week to take part in our first trial - The trial of Percy Pig for causing grievous bodily harm to Willimena Wolf. The prosecution and defence worked hard to write their speeches and questions. In the end, the jury found the defendant not guilty. Well done to all the children who took part. We would like to say a huge thank you to Chris for supporting us and giving the children such a special experience.



REMINDER - Coffee Morning - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) focus - Wednesday 22nd April

We would like to invite you to join us on the morning of Wednesday 22nd April for a coffee morning and information session about the SEND processes in Oxfordshire and what this looks like at Woodcote. We are pleased to announce that we will be joined by our Educational Psychologist, Abigail Hills. This will be held in the hall after morning drop off - we hope to see you there.

Facebook permissions & Code of Conduct reminder

There are still a few families who have not completed the Facebook permission and Code of Conduct forms on ParentMail, please can the forms be completed as soon as possible. Thank you.

Before and After School Busy Bee clubs

There are still places available on some of the clubs. To sign your child up to any of the clubs please access Parentmail.

Schools Triathlon – Sunday 7th June



Following an assembly in school earlier this week Information was sent out via ParentMail. If your child would like to take part please sign them up by Friday 1st May, more information can be found on the attached posters.

From Last week's newsletter

Parental Contributions to support the school

Thank you very much to those families who have kindly donated to the school it is very much appreciated. You can still donate via ParentMail.

Class Updates

Acorns	<p>All the children have settled back into the routine very quickly this week. It's lovely to hear about your adventures over the Easter break.</p> <p>This week, we went out to spot signs of growth. We visited the outdoor classroom and the front of the school. The children were delighted to be covered in blossom as the wind gently blew it over them. We discussed respecting trees and plants, as they are living things and need to be cared for.</p> <p>The following day, the children had the chance to plant their own spider plants. We looked at the roots and talked about what plants need to grow. They will be bringing these home soon. Perhaps we could have a little challenge to keep them alive until the end of the summer term? Then we planted and sowed seeds outdoors, the children will be able to look after these and check on them every day. Please look along our fence for our pots.</p> <p>Next week, we will be focusing on the colours gold and silver, the number 2, the letter G, and the book <i>Handa's Surprise</i>.</p> <div data-bbox="448 1361 898 1697"></div> <div data-bbox="911 1361 1361 1697"></div>
Oak	<p>All the children have come back to Oak class full of enthusiasm. They have loved being outside, playing in the role play garden centre and making some cress gardens. In phonics we have been learning the digraphs oo (as in cool) and ar. We are focusing this term on using our phonics skills to write more independently. In maths we have been using the Numicon pieces to represent numbers and we have been thinking of ways to represent numbers between 6 and 9 as 5 and a bit. The children enjoyed learning about lots of different methods to join materials together and have made windmills. They loved doing their sports activities on Friday too. Have a lovely weekend.</p>

Hornbeam	<p>We have had a great start to the term in Year 1. We have been looking at the story 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak - the children have enjoyed learning and exploring the story with lots of drama and studying the appearance of each different wild thing. In maths we have been measuring, initially using cubes as a non-standard unit of measurement before learning how to measure using a ruler and centimetres. In our wider curriculum areas, the children have been learning about different sculpture techniques in art, using playdough to practise and refine their skills before we advance onto clay in the coming weeks.</p>
Beech	<p>Beech class have been working hard to multiply and divide numbers. We played a fun game of tug-of-war times tables in groups. We have also been learning about mass, comparing the mass of different objects and using standard units of measurement. In English, we started reading 'The Boy who Grew Dragons' and 'Tell me a dragon'. They include some beautiful illustrations and we used these to help us write some sentences including adjectives. In science, we started a new unit about plants. We went into the garden and drew diagrams of different flowering plants and talked about what we already know about plants and how they grow. We also started our history topic, 'Castles', thinking about the question 'Why were castles built?' It was great to hear the children's thoughts on the answer to this question. Have a lovely weekend everyone.</p>
Ash	<p>We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break. Ash Class have started back to the summer term with some time travel; stepping out a timeline in the playground to look at just how long the Stone Age period was for our new History topic. On their way to the Year 800,000BCE (we stopped at 80,000BCE as we reached the end of the school field), they stepped through the Iron Age, Bronze Age (just outside our classroom) into the start of the Stone Age and finally made it to the Palaeolithic Age. They have written a lot of great questions on our classroom working wall, to try to answer during our topic work.</p> <p>Taking inspiration from the Debate Club assembly on Wednesday, Ash Class had their own debate based on our new class book for English, 'Ug'. The children used respectful and persuasive language to argue their case for bush vs. mud trousers. And in P.E., we got off to a good start with our first school swimming lesson on Tuesday. Please can you ensure your child has a waterproof coat to walk to swimming each week, in addition to their swim kit, as the weather is still unsettled. Our other P.E lesson will take place on Thursdays this term.</p>
Rowan	<p>This term, we began by writing a recount of our Easter break, sharing all the exciting things we did. We focused on using fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, and ensuring our punctuation was accurate to make our writing more engaging and detailed.</p> <p>In Maths, we have been working on fractions and have recently started to explore decimals, building on our understanding step by step. Knowing all the times tables really helps!</p> <p>In History, we have started our new topic on the Romans. We learned about the legend of Romulus and Remus and created our own Roman shields. To bring our learning to life, we tested the <i>testudo</i>, or "tortoise," formation used by the Roman army. This shield formation was designed to protect soldiers from projectiles by forming a strong, shell-like barrier. The Year 6 class helped us test it by throwing balls at us while we sheltered under our shields—it was great fun! We also practised marching in formation on the playground.</p> <p>In PE, we have been developing our skills in Dance, working on movement and coordination.</p>
Maple	<p>It's been another busy first week back here in Maple Class. In English we've started learning about Time-Slip stories, where a character touches an object from another time and is pulled back to that time period. Think 10 year old children from Maple Class being pulled back to run away from Vikings! Maths</p>

	<p>has seen us starting to look at the bus-stop method for division which we've been using to solve a variety of different calculations and problems. We've also had the chance to start looking at our new History topic, World War II. We learned about the origins of the war and discussed how we might have felt if we were hearing Neville Chamberlains famous speech back then. In Science, we've spent some time learning about the Artemis II mission to the moon that happened during the Easter break and wrapped up our week with some more ukulele and circle time activities! We also got the chance this week to watch a fantastic debate, chaired by Judge Butterfield and then took part in a sponsored athletics activity on Friday with a guest athlete in attendance! A fantastic first week back!</p>
Willow	<p>What a fabulous start to the week - hoody delivery! It was great to hear about everyone's Easter holidays and how many eggs they had all eaten. This week we started our revision for SATs, the children have added to the list of things to revise with the things they feel a little shaky on too. We have said, as always, that if they need a little extra help they can ask to do some work with us at lunchtime. So, when you're helping them revise at home and you're not quite sure of something, just remind them to come and ask. A SATs timetable has come out today. Please also put the Residential meeting into your diaries - Wednesday 6th May at 5.30pm</p> <p>In PE, we began to practise our tennis skills and enjoyed a run with the rest of the school on the fabulous new path on the rec.</p>

Important dates

Wednesday 22 nd April	Coffee morning – SEND Focus - After School drop off
Monday 4 th May	Bank holiday – school closed
Wednesday 6 th May	Year 6 Residential meeting @ 5.30pm
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th May	SATS week
Friday 22 nd May	Year 2 & 3 Cake Sale
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May	Summer Half Term
Monday 1 st – Friday 5 th June	Year 6 Residential to Liddington
Wednesday 10 th June	Braiswick School Photography (Class photos)
Friday 19 th – Saturday 20 th June	Year 5 Sleepover – more details to follow
Tuesday 23 rd June	Sports Day
Thursday 25 th June	Back up Sports Day
Wednesday 1 st July	INSET day – School closed
Tuesday 14 th July	Acorns Sports Day
Friday 17 th July	Last day of term, 1.00pm finish – dress in home clothes
Monday 20 th July	INSET day – School closed
Tuesday 21 st July	School summer holidays begin – school closed
Tuesday 1st September	INSET day
Wednesday 2 nd September	INSET day

Thursday 3 rd September	All children return to school for the Autumn term
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FOWPS

We would like to welcome new PTA members Laura Groves (Oak) who will be taking over as secretary, Nikki Waters (Hornbeam) who will be managing discos, Helen Lubbock (Oak) who will be researching and applying for grants on behalf of the school, and Charlotte Rastelli (Acorn & Ash) who will be managing raffle prizes to raise money at future events.

The PTA raises vital funding for school equipment and enrichment experiences. We fundraise through multiple community initiatives and events to provide money for the school to use towards class trips, the whole school trip in the summer and many other essential needs flagged by teachers, parents and students.

If you have any time at all to help support the work we do, there are always micro volunteering opportunities available - you don't have to commit to volunteering at every event, and no experience is required. Every small contribution makes a HUGE difference to the school. Please talk to a member of the PTA to get involved!

Our first event of this term, the Quiz Night hosted by the Red Lion raised £210, which puts us that little bit closer to our goal of raising £9000 for laptops to be used by every class and provide computer literacy for the students.

Other News/Information

None this week