

News Hub



February 2024

Headteacher Update



Dear Parents and Guardians,
As we reflect on the weeks since our return from the February half-term, I am pleased to share with you the positive developments and accomplishments within our school community.

Secondary Students' Remarkable Progress:

I am delighted to report that our secondary students have seamlessly settled back into their routines, demonstrating an impressive ability to follow them independently. Their commitment to achieving goals independently is truly commendable. Recently, during our secondary exhibition afternoons, our students showcased their knowledge and learning, a testament to their hard work and dedication.

Special Visit from Ms. Mawby:

We were fortunate to have Ms. Mawby visit us to discuss the significance of food banks and how our students can contribute. These experiences have broadened our students' perspectives, helping them understand different roles within the community. The exposure to various community aspects has also been integral to their developing career programs, including visits to different businesses and public places.



Focusing on Environmental Awareness:

Our students have been actively engaged in learning about recycling, gaining a deep understanding of the importance of keeping our community safe and clean. Through initiatives like litter picking, they are contributing to a healthier environment. It warms our hearts to witness their commitment to making a positive impact on the world around them.

Primary Students' Self-Help Skills Development:

In the primary section, our Occupational Therapist (OT) has been actively involved in implementing the TEACCH approach, focusing on developing important independent skills. The students are making significant strides in developing self-help skills, and their social skills are thriving as they work collaboratively on challenging tasks. Our primary students are also learning valuable regulation techniques, further enhancing their overall development.

Looking Ahead - Growing Success:

With a growing Senior Leadership Team (SLT), we are optimistic about the continued success of our students. Next term holds promise for more achievements, and we are planning additional training sessions for both parents and staff to further support our students' growth.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your ongoing support. The collaborative efforts of parents, staff, and students contribute immensely to the positive and nurturing learning environment we strive to maintain at our school.



Abi Davis
Headteacher

 **OAK TREE**
SCHOOL



Primary Update

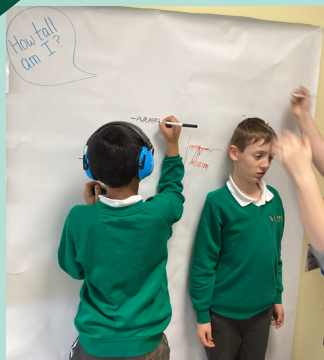
Children in Saplings, Elm and Ash classes have had a very productive February! Saplings enjoyed a Stay & Play session at the beginning of the month with parents coming into the classroom to see their children and their work. Ash and Elm class have been learning about the weather and the world around us. They also enjoyed a visit from a librarian from Wokingham Library.

Saplings Class: Saplings class have been reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" in class and have been tasting different foods from the story. They have also been learning about crossing the road safely in order to prepare for trips in the future.

Elm Class: The students in Elm class have been able to settle really well back into their school day routines. As a class, we have been exploring the topic of the term which is 'Weather of the World.' All the children have shown great engagement in their sensory exploration of different weathers that can be experienced around the world and how what we wear changes depending on the weather.

Ash Class: We have started our new topic of Weather around the World! We have already looked at pictures and vocabulary of different weathers and how the world around us changes for each season. In our lessons in PSHE, we have been focusing on how our bodies grow and change as we get older so we have been comparing our heights on a height chart!

Pictures Shared From Primary Around the School



Secondary Update

Our secondary classes have had an incredibly busy February! They have been learning the importance of the environment and how to take care of our planet as well as developing their skills to navigate the outside world. On the 21st and 22nd February, we invited parents to an exhibition to come and see their child's work which was very successful!

Beech Class: In Beech class, students are currently engrossed in Anthony McGowan's novel "Brock," with a particular focus on the author's techniques for generating empathy towards the characters. Students have shown a good understanding when constructing and measuring angles in Maths and now we will be moving over to understanding and problem solving with Fractions and Percentages. In History, we have been focusing on World War 2 and students have actively been participating in class discussions. This half term, Beech class will be taking the lead on planning trips out in the community and learning to navigate Google Maps appropriately and developing their social skills.

Chestnut Class: Chestnut class have had a busy February. We have finished our book from last term and wrote a book review about 'The Great Foodbank Heist' to encourage others to read. We started our new book 'The Stinking story of rubbish'. We identified what rubbish is and where it all goes. In World About Me, we have been looking at types of recycling and learnt about landfill sites. We learnt about litter picking, the benefits for our environment and then went litter picking around the school for our life skills lessons. In cooking, we made a delicious paella, some fish parcels and cheese and herb pasties.

Maple Class: Maple class had an excellent visit to Kimel Café prior to half term, when the owner gave the students a talk on future opportunities which the students engaged well in whilst enjoying their tasty treat. As well as a visit to Wokingham library where students engaged really well and took out a book to reading within our independent reading session. Within maths we have been continuing to develop our understanding of angles within triangles and developing our ability to use different resources to draw polygons. We are continuing to develop our analytical and predicative writing within English and the story of Brock, students engage well and contribute within lessons. Within Science we have been looking at periodic table, atoms, diatomic molecules and displacement reactions. We have been exploring WWI with history and have introduced students to Boccia within PE and are going to add this as a lunchtime club as students have enjoyed it so much.

Willow Class: Recently, Willow Class have been learning about all things recycling. The children have been out on a very successful litter pick in the local community collecting a whopping 4 bags of rubbish in a short space of time. In Maths, the children have begun learning about time and have started telling the time 'to' and 'past' the hour on an analogue clock. Our work with Saplings has continued and prior to half term we joined them for a visit to the park - the Willow Class children were great at supporting the little ones and set a great example as role models. Finally, we had a really successful exhibition which showcased the amazing work our pupils have produced across the course of the year so far!

Pictures Shared From Secondary Around the School



Family Support Worker Update



Hello and welcome back to a new half term. Spring looks like it is on its way and with the 'better' weather, I have been meeting a few parents for a 'Walk & Talk'. This is a great opportunity for us to meet up on a one-to-one basis or we can meet as a small group and have a chat about anything and everything.

The parent I met this week commented "a Walk & Talk sets your mind up for the day". If you would like to find out more or arrange to meet for a walk give me a call at 0118 216 0040 / 07886 182480 or email me at t.crandon@maidenerleghtrust.org



Library visit

We were very lucky last half term to have a visit from one of the Librarians from Wokingham Library. The children in Ash and Elm class enjoyed stories about jungle animals and the Gruffalo which Sarah shared with them. We are pleased to say Sarah is returning in March to share more stories- this time with a theme about the weather!

Stay and Play

Stay and Play was a great success in Saplings class and we are delighted to extend the invitation to parents of children in Ash and Elm class to come into school and spend some time with their child. If you would like to attend one of the Stay and Play sessions, please email me to confirm your attendance.

STEM exhibition

Students in our secondary classes took great pride in displaying some of their amazing work in the hall and showing this to their parents. We would love to hear your feedback about coming into school to see the exhibition which we will share with the students.

ASSIST Autism Parent Programmes



The EarlyBird, EarlyBird Plus and Teen Life parent programmes are National Autistic Society parent programmes. The programmes are managed by the ASSIST team who are licenced to deliver the programmes in Wokingham.

For parents and carers of a child or young person who has an autism diagnosis or is on the pathway for an autism assessment. (pre-school (EarlyBird); primary school (EarlyBird Plus); and 10-16 (Teen Life) age groups)

Please email in the first instance for information and dates of next programmes:

- ASSIST@wokingham.gov.uk

Related Links

- Early Bird - National Autistic Society
- Workshops supporting children with additional needs
- ASSIST sessions Jan to July 2024 (PDF)

Teresa Crandon
Family support worker



Social Media

If you would like to keep up to date with the progress being made at Oak Tree School, follow us on...



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Where to find us?



www.oaktreeschool.org



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