

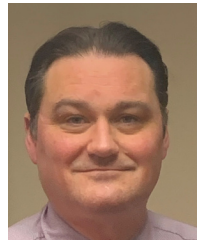
OUR TRUST NEWS

THE OFFICIAL OAK ACADEMIES TRUST NEWSLETTER



CEO UPDATE

BY ANDY WILSON



A very warm welcome to the first edition of our trust newsletter. Since becoming CEO in January, I have been visiting our schools, listening to colleagues, pupils and the community and recognising just how fantastically well we have coped with the last couple of extraordinary years.

Our trust is special, we have a close bond, both geographically and philosophically and the privilege of being able to educate your children from the age of just four to sixteen is one which we never forget. As we begin to emerge from covid we are at the start of a new journey, "growing together" as a trust, learning from and building on the very best from both within our schools and beyond. This begins with our communication and we hope that you will enjoy reading about the schools in our OAK family.

It is with great sadness that we learned last week of the death of Simon Cole, former Chief constable of Leicestershire Police and trustee at OAK. Our thoughts are with his family and close friends and we thank him and all governors and trustees for the support and hard work they put in to make our schools the very best they can be.





MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

www.manorhigh.leics.sch.uk

A Night at the Musicals

Manor High enjoyed its first live performance at the school since before the pandemic.

The concert, A Night at the Musicals, featured students from the whole school and was a great success.

The focus and behaviour of our students was impeccable throughout the evening, and we had a large audience of very supportive and appreciative families. Some of our current students also came along to support their friends and even helped with greeting parents and collecting donations on the door - a lovely team effort.

Mrs Woods, the Curriculum Leader for Performing Arts, said, "It was such a joy to see our talented students shine and to welcome so many families after such a long wait."



Creative Writing Competition

Congratulations to Zaynah one of the winners in the Young Writers Creative Writing Competition.

Zaynah, who is in Year 10 and Knighton House, entered a national competition to write short, thrilling stories.

There were over 14,000 entries and over 70 Manor High students entered. Her winning entry is now published in the book titled *Unsolved*.

As well as enjoying the prestige of being a published author, she was also presented with a lovely letter and cheque for £100!



Ski Trip

February saw the biggest ski trip the school has ever seen. 104 students and 12 staff had an incredible week at Crans-Montana in Switzerland. Well done to all our students for their behaviour, attitude and enthusiasm and thank you to our volunteers





BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.brookside.leics.sch.uk

Rock Steady- Enriching the Curriculum through Music

On Friday 3rd December 2021, Brookside were entertained by some of the musicians and tutors from Rock Steady. The children were all able to participate in an assembly/workshop, giving them an insight as to what it's like to play in a rock band. There were drums, keyboards and guitars to experience. A number of children have now signed up for weekly lessons, which began in January 2022 and the children loved the experience. Rock Steady have been able to offer places via our Pupil Premium resources, and also offer Bursary places based on the total number who have signed up.

Our Riverbank children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it has been a real pleasure to see them explore another enrichment activity.

This has been a great addition to the music offer in school and we look forward to hearing children perform in the future. We are hoping for a 'Brookside Rock Band' performance in the very near future!



Leicester Magistrates Courts

The Year Five children have had a hands-on experience exploring the judicial system through a mock trial. Local magistrates visited the children and they got to take part in a trial as it would happen in a real-life courtroom. The case was an actual trial that had occurred many years ago at the Leicester Magistrates Courts. The children had a wonderful experience learning about crimes the magistrates come across on a daily basis and the punishments they can hand out. The children were shocked to discover that the magistrates did not actually get paid for this vital role they do for the community. They explained how they got into the role and what qualifications they needed. This led to a very interesting talk about having British values and what this means for our community. Furthermore, we had a further discussion talking about jobs and having a career in the law system.

We wish to thank the magistrates Suzi Felstead and Martin Pantling for giving up their own time to come and talk to us.



WOODLAND GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk

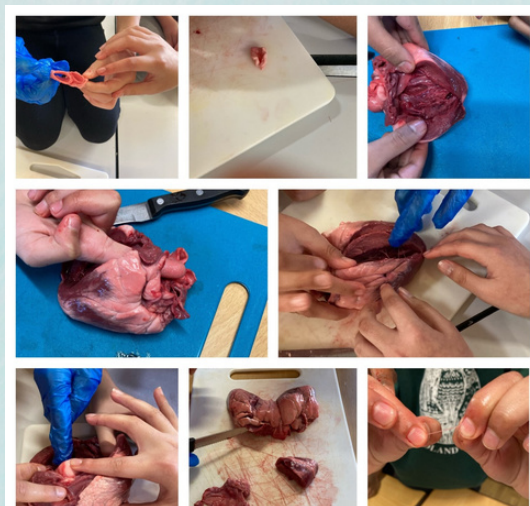
Interactive Science with Manor High School

Earlier this month, we were fortunate enough to experience a masterclass in reversible and irreversible reactions from Manor High School. The children were shown a range of exciting demonstrations and the chemistry behind each was explained. It was a thoroughly enjoyable learning experience with the children really appreciating the awe and wonder that science can bring.



Surgeons for a Day

Children in year 5 have been learning about the different organ systems as part of their Human Body topic this spring term. The children have been lucky enough to become surgeons for the day dissecting a heart, lungs and the trachea. This has helped children gain a deeper understanding of the circulatory system and the respiratory system. Both classes were extremely brave, although we did see a few pale faces towards the end!





WOODLAND GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk

Welcome to Mrs Brown



My name is Hayley Brown and I will be joining Woodland Grange as Head Teacher in August. I am really looking forward to meeting everyone at Woodland Grange and getting to know all members of the school community.

I began teaching in 1995 and still love my job as much now as I did then. I have worked in three previous primary schools, working as Deputy Head at my last school for 19 years. I have taught all ages across the primary phase and held many areas of responsibility during this time. I am passionate about the journey children take and supporting them to develop their confidence to achieve their dreams. Being part of a MAT, which is able to educate and inspire children from the ages of 3 to 16, is exciting.

I am married and have two children, both boys. In my spare time, I keep myself busy helping out with my local swim club, going for walks with my family and gardening. I spent many years as a Beaver Scout Leader and look forward to exploring the Forest School at Woodland Grange.





OVERDALE INFANT SCHOOL

www.overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk

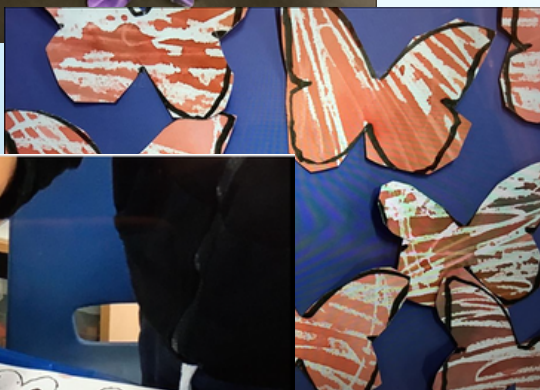
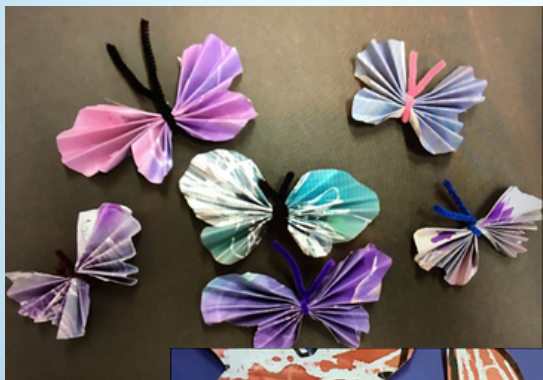
Worry Monsters

We have recently launched our worry monsters, using 'The Very Hungry Worry Monsters' book as inspiration. We are encouraging children to 'feed' their worries to their class worry monster. Children can write or draw a worry and then put the paper into a closed container. This allows the children to 'contain' their worry ('containment' is a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy tool for anxiety) which makes it feel more manageable and allows them to concentrate better in the classroom. This process also makes class staff aware of a child's anxieties which they can then address with the child, if necessary, class teachers are monitored daily.



Arts Week

Overdale Infant School have recently participated in Arts Week alongside The Spark Arts. Our children enjoyed a live performance in school. The performance was called 'Butterflies' and it was about three friends who embark on an exciting adventure to chase their butterflies away. The performance was created in response to young children's experience of anxiety. 'Butterflies' is an uplifting tale of friendship, courage and facing your fears, told using innovative staging, breath taking physicality, touching humour and an original musical score. Following the performance, the children had the opportunity to create artwork using a range of tools and techniques. Over the week we created over 400 butterflies, and we displayed these proudly in each classroom.



OVERDALE INFANT SCHOOL

www.overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk



BankTheFood
Mustard Technologies



Overdale Infant School have received training for Leicester South Foodbank on how to refer families in times of hardship.

Please send any donations into school where they have set up a foodbank donation box if any of our families would like to donate items.

Download 'Bank the Food' app to find out items urgently needed.

Please contact the school office if you could benefit from this system.

New Logo

The Infant School logo has undergone a significant transformation. The Overdale Firefly. Lighting the hearts & minds of our community.

The new logo, font and colours truly help to capture the school's ethos, personality and structure.

The school has begun the gradual processes of bringing the logo and branding into use.





OVERDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk

Y5 and 6 Able Maths Day

In January, Miss Davison took three of our budding mathematicians from Year 5 and 6 to an Able Maths day at Holy Cross Primary School. It was a great day led by national maths tutor Hazel Large who challenged us with card tricks, number riddles and even origami! The children behaved respectfully and responsibly, and worked hard as a team to step up to the challenge and solve the problems, we were thrilled to finish the day with the second highest number of points out of the ten teams.



#LetGirls Play



On Wednesday 9th March, Overdale Junior School took part in the the biggest EVER football session for girls in school as part of the England Football and Barclays drive to give girls' equal access to football.

At lunchtime on both playgrounds, we offered 'Girls Only' football, refereed by our Metcalfe coaches. We estimated that over the course of lunchtime, around 60 girls would participate, but in fact, the participation levels were in excess of 80 girls who were supported enthusiastically and respectfully by the boys.

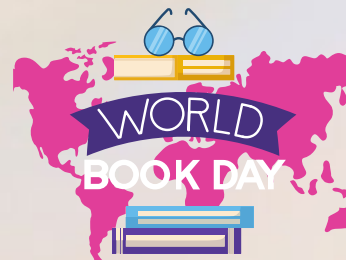


In further support of the campaign, our assemblies this week have focused on our core value of respect. We've made links to International Women's Day in our class collective worship sessions and all children have been able to reflect on how far the world has progressed in terms of equal opportunities for males and females, BUT we collectively agreed that more can be done!



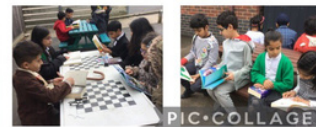
WORLD BOOK DAY

3rd March 2022



World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. It is a chance get creative, using imagination, enthusiasm and a love of reading. And that is what our schools did!

In true OAK Trust style, our schools - including our enthusiastic teachers - rose to the challenge, donning imaginative costumes and celebrating a Trust-wide love of reading.



#WORLD BOOK DAY

We love Manor High School's take on World Book Day, decorating doors to celebrate their favourite childhood books. Which do you prefer? Some examples below.



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500 words



We are looking forward to seeing some more fantastic stories from Year 2 and Year 6 across the Trust after the launch of our annual 500 words competition. All finalists in both year groups will be published in a Trust-wide book and winners will receive a trophy and book vouchers. It is a wonderful event which really showcases the writing talent in our primary schools.

Entry deadline: 20 May 2022
Awards Ceremony: 29 June 2022

Easter Holidays

Thank you for your continued support of your school and of the trust. Have a lovely break whatever your plans are this Easter.



OAK

ACADEMIES TRUST

WE CREATE OPPORTUNITY

WE NURTURE AMBITION

WE DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE

WE ARE OAK

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and Leicester city.**

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