

# Oakdale News

## **DECEMBER 2020**

It seems like such a long time ago since we welcomed the children back to school in September, but here we are at the end of our first term already! School has continued to be a hive of activity right up until these last few days. We have strived to ensure that the school traditions have still been planned for despite the challenging times we find ourselves in and thank you for joining us virtually. We love to share with you what the children are learning in school and believe this to be more important than ever this year as you have been unable to visit school.

### Years 5 and 6



The topic for Years 5 and 6 this term was Conflict.

*'We learnt facts about the war by looking at artefacts, newspaper clips and propaganda posters.'* Dylan Year 6



The term started with a wow experience: *'We experienced life in the trenches to introduce us to the topic and later in the term when the siren went off we had to go underneath the tables.'* Viktor Year 6.

*'This has been one of my favourite topics, although I found it sad. I like to learn about history.'* Sam Year 5.

### Years 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 have been learning about the Romans this term and invaders and settlers.

*'We learnt to be soldiers outside and made our own shields. I would like to have been a Roman.'* Grace Year 3.



*'The Romans had large armies. They were organised and used special movements to protect themselves.'* Filip and Jacob Year 4



### Year 2



Year 2 have been party planners this term. They are holding their party on Friday afternoon and have lots of ideas for this.

*'We are planning our own party. We have written a list of what we need. We designed and made our own hats. We had to use scissors, glue and rip and twist the paper.'* Amelia

*'In science we tested materials so we know what to use for table cloths. Some materials were absorbent.'* Phoebe.

## Year 1



Year 1 have been learning about Toys. They started the topic by visiting a pop up toy museum.

*'We made toys to add to our own museum.'* Olivia.

The science element for this topic was senses. The lion class enjoyed going outside to the fire pit to experience different senses. Leopard class enjoyed the tasting lesson.

*'We learnt that you taste, smell, hear, touch and see things. I loved the tasting, but not the lemon!'* Luis



It was wonderful to be able to learn about toys from grandparents on Zoom. Thank you to those who joined to help Year 1 with their learning. The children loved this.

## Reception

Reception have been learning about The Woods this term. They have been busy outside and inside exploring the topic. The birds have really enjoyed the bird feeders the children made. Outside learning is so important. The children are able to learn such a lot in the outdoor environment. We will be commissioning more equipment and developing areas of the school environment next year.



## Christmas Zoom Meetings

The school has felt especially festive this year: there are decorations everywhere and it has been lovely to be able to offer our Zoom meetings and uphold the usual Christmas traditions. Reception shared 'We're Going On A Baby Hunt', we had a poem from Year 6, the Nativity story by Year 1 and a 2020 version by Year 2, a Christingle by Year 3 and singing by Years 4 and 5. The children were very excited to see everyone at home on the screen. These events are so important to us, thank you for the very high attendance. We hope you enjoyed them.



## Christmas Jumper Day

The class photographs have all be sent out. We hope these will be a nice keepsake of this most unusual year.



We raised £420 on Friday 11th December for Children in Need. Thank you for your generous donations.

## General Festivities

Reception and Key Stage One children will all have had a party in their classrooms by the end of term. Key Stage Two will have their parties in the studio and hall.

The children also had a virtual pantomime this week by Image Musical Theatre. There were elements throughout the performance which required audience participation.



We are having a whole school Zoom assembly on Friday. Each class has been given a country to learn about their Christmas traditions. The bubbles don't see each other in school, so it is important to be able to share our learning together to conclude the term.

## Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the school. We have received so many wonderful comments from parents and grandparents this term, which has been particularly appreciated during this time. This has been a very challenging time for us all. Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure the children settled back into school well and have gone above and beyond to best support our pupils in very different circumstances. A big, heartfelt thank you and well done to our amazing team. Thank you and to all the children for making us so proud and for working so hard.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and safe Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

