



King's Academy Oakwood

Dare to be Remarkable

Newsletter

Head of Primary News:

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a shorter than normal week this week due to our INSET day tomorrow but so much learning has been fitted into this short week! The Academies are buzzing with preparation for the Christmas Shows and we are hopeful that we will be able to invite you all into the Academies to watch your child's performance. We will of course keep you up to date if we need to make any changes in regards to this.

The Sponsored Read

A huge thank you to all the parents who have supported their children with our sponsored read, we have raised an amazing total of £2494.50, and with the top up from Usborne books we now have £3991.20 to spend on books! Prizes are awarded to the child or children in each class who read for the most minutes or raised the most money (for some classes this was the same person, for other classes it was two people!)

KAB

Ruby - **Aiden**

Emerald - **Mya**

Opal - **Clemmie and Aden**

Topaz - **Elodie and Layla**

KAO

Willow - **Jack and Jaxson**

Ash - **Dea and Jasmine**

Birch - **Aaron**

Chestnut - **Emily**

Pine - **Harvey**

Thank You PTA

Another huge thank you goes to our wonderful PTA. The PTA have provided us with class sets of aprons for students at both KAB and KAO to use during art activities. The PTA are also ordering aprons for use in the secondary phase which will arrive soon. Thank you!



Opportunity and Success

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Executive Principal: Mrs Sarah Howells

Attendance Letters

This week we received direct contact from the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, asking us to play a vital role in supporting raising the attendance of children within our Academies. Mr Zahawi has asked schools to: 'communicate clear and consistent expectations around attendance to families and work with your LA, making full use of enforcement actions where appropriate.'

As you will know from parent talks and open evenings, attendance is very important to us and we have a target of 97% attendance across KAB and KAO. This week, you may have received an attendance letter from us if your child's attendance is below 95%.

As stated in the attendance letter, whilst we completely understand that there could well be good reasons for the absence we do have a duty to flag this with parents and support families to achieve attendance of above 95% and towards our target of 97%.

If a child is extremely ill, of course they will not be well enough to be in school and some illnesses such as sickness require 48 hours out of school. Other children may require more medical appointments for their individual needs and again we completely understand this. However, we have many parents keeping children off for reasons such as being tired or having a slight headache/earache etc. In these circumstances please bring your children into school and we will monitor them, contacting you if needed.

Letters are sent out to all who are below 95% attendance to raise awareness to families and to offer support should it be needed. If you know that sadly, your child has been unlucky with illness this term, please do not be too concerned about the letter as you will have valid reasons for them being absent.

I hope this reassures those of you who emailed in and provides clarity.

WhatsApp Groups/Email Communication

Many parents have contacted us recently regarding individual class WhatsApp groups and their concerns about the negativity aimed at the academies within them. Whilst WhatsApp groups can be very useful in offering reminders and support between parents we are being informed that they can also be very negative places often questioning school policies or individual teacher decisions. Any negative comments about individual staff will always be challenged if mentioned to us. Please think both about what you are posting and speak up if the group is not being used as an appropriate forum.

All of our staff email addresses can be found on the website so if you have any queries or concerns please contact us in the first instance as our teachers will be happy to clarify your concerns. If you feel a concern has not been appropriately addressed by a teacher contact either our Key Stage Leaders, our Deputy Head or myself.

Please do know that our teachers are wonderful people who always have children's best interests at heart. Some parental communication recently has been extremely negative in tone. We will always listen and address your concerns but please do think about what you are saying or sending to our teachers; we have excellent teachers and I do not want to lose them!

I hope you enjoy the additional day with your children tomorrow and find some time over the weekend to squeeze in some lovely family activities.

Kind regards,



Mrs Tate

Head of Primary

in a Global Stage

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Willow

We have had plenty of fun in Willow Class. We were lucky to have a visit from Nurse Claire Sebastian's mum who told us about her amazing job. The children listened carefully to the importance of hand washing and adored learning the song 'Wash your hands with baby shark'. Nurse Claire kindly showed the children how to put a bandage on her cuddle toy and they were excited to do the same with theirs. They have loved playing in the nurse role play ever since.

We have been reading lots of traditional fairy tales. The children have adored our topic of 'Once Upon a Time...' and have been focusing on the stories The Gingerbread Man and The Three Billy Goats Gruff over the last couple of weeks. We used our scissors skills and pencil skills to be able to create our own gingerbread men. The children enjoyed making their own delicious gingerbread men. We measured the ingredients and placed them in a bowl. We then mixed the ingredients to create the gingerbread dough. We used a rolling pin to roll out the dough and a cutter to cut out the gingerbread man. We then put them in the oven to bake. The children have been brilliant at re-telling traditional fairy tales and thinking about how the characters behaved in the stories. They used their wonderful imagination, especially when acting out the Three Billy Goats Gruff and the children made a bridge for the goats to cross.

In maths, we have been exploring number and shapes and the children especially enjoyed being shape and number detectives searching for them around our school. We also talked about 2D shapes learning about the different names and properties.

Word of the week (last week): Deceitful

Word of the Week: Despicable



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Ash

Ash class have been working incredibly hard over these last couple weeks! In Maths, we have been focusing on 2D and 3D shapes. We went on a shape hunt around the school and the children found so many shapes! We made a tally of how many we saw.

Ash class have shown such wonderful enthusiasm for our 'Toys' topic so far in History. We have been comparing old and new toys and have had some interesting conversations about the materials used. A lot of the children noticed that although lots of old toys are made from wood, a lot of new toys are now beginning to be made from wood. We spoke about how wood was better for the environment over plastic. Last week, we drew a picture of a spinner top and then used water colour to paint them. I was so impressed with how careful every child was with their paintings taking such care - what little artists they are!

The children loved our Children in Need activities where we followed a step-by-step drawing of Pudsey the bear. Everyone loved then colouring or painting their pudsey the bear! We also got our bodies moving to a Joe Wicks children in need work out which we all had great fun completing.

Word of the week (last week):

Word of the Week: Rummaged



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Birch

We have had an exciting few weeks in Birch Class. We have been doing lots of work on the Great Fire of London and are currently building our own models of Pudding Lane with all the spare cereal boxes that children have brought from home. The children have worked so hard to make sure they have all the features of the Tudor houses in their own and have made lovely patterns with their black timber strips. As well as building houses, the children had such an exciting time pretending to be news reporters, reporting the Great Fire as though they were there. They recorded their news reports on the iPads, also practising their computing skills at the same time. They were all so creative and really knew their facts about the event and were even able to delete the videos they did not want. I was so impressed by their acting and script writing!

In RE we have been learning about different festivals and have been learning about the Muslim festival of Sacrifice called Eid Al-Adha. Youma's Mum came into the class to talk to us about what Muslims do to celebrate this exciting festival. We were shown different clothes and lots of pictures and the children had lots of questions. We enjoyed it very much and the children really learned a lot about hearing how the festival was celebrated.

Word of the week (last week): exchange
Word of the Week: commutative



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Chestnut

Chestnut class have been working hard over the last couple of weeks in all areas of their learning. In English, we have been working particularly hard on our understanding of sentence structure and grammar terminology; the children have particularly impressed me with the way they have grasped the concept of subordinate conjunctions and clauses within sentences. This week, we have moved on to exploring discussion texts and considering both sides of an argument regardless of our own personal opinion. This led to some particularly lively discussions about whether cats or dogs make better pets, and whether they should have to wear school uniforms.

In Maths, we have moved away from our work on addition and subtraction and are now focusing on multiplication and division; so far we have been exploring using arrays to represent multiplication number sentences visually and understanding the relationship between multiplication and repeated addition.

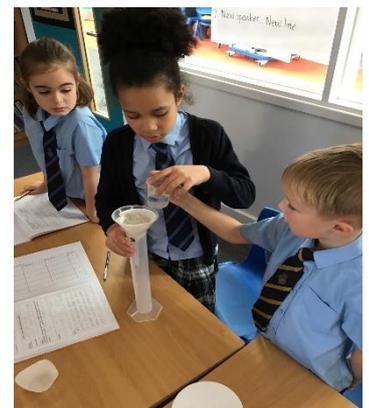
During science last week, we completed our topic of Rocks and Soils by carrying out an experiment to test the permeability of different soil samples. Before doing this, the children had to write out their experiment then make and record their careful observations during the experiment and reflect on their predictions. I was impressed with the scientific vocabulary used, the quality of the discussions and thoughtful observations within classroom during our experiment.

In Art, we have been exploring different collage techniques and have used these to create some effective collages of trees; we will move on to creating rainforest scenes using collage techniques next. In Geography, we have been continuing our work on the rainforest and have been exploring the differences between the layers of the rainforest. We have been considering the differences between the plants and animals within each layer as well as the amount of sunlight and weather conditions. The children thoroughly enjoyed using the chromebooks to research different animals that live in the rainforest and creating fact files about different animals.

We have now finished our clarinet lessons with Mrs Harvey for the term; these will resume after christmas. I am so impressed with the progress the children have made with playing the clarinets since September; they are now able to put their clarinets together much more independently, play with less squeaks and a stronger sound (which is not easy!), and play two notes in time with one another.

Word of the week (last week): Picturesque

Word of the Week: Relentless



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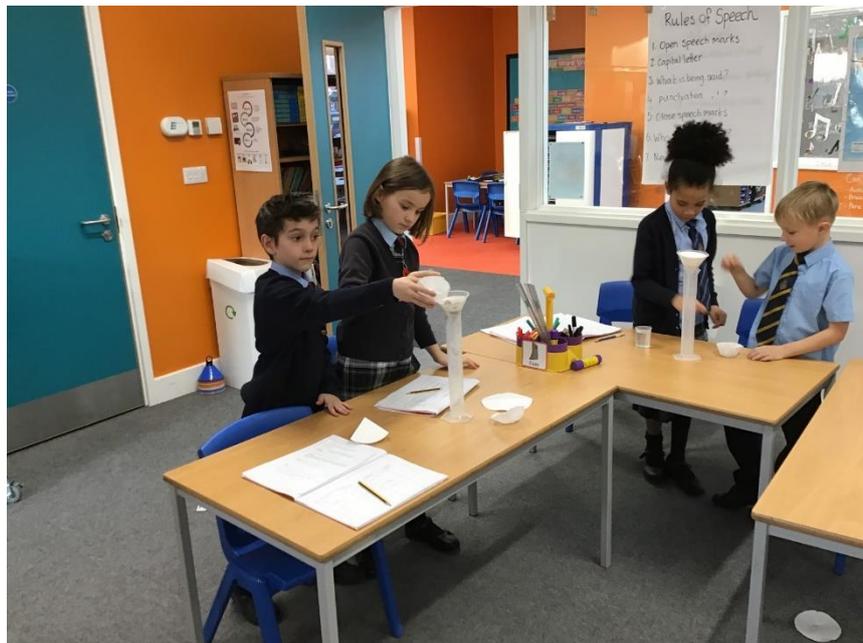
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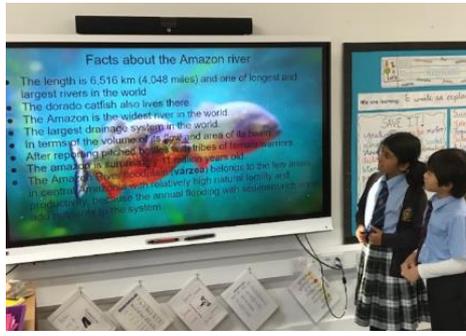
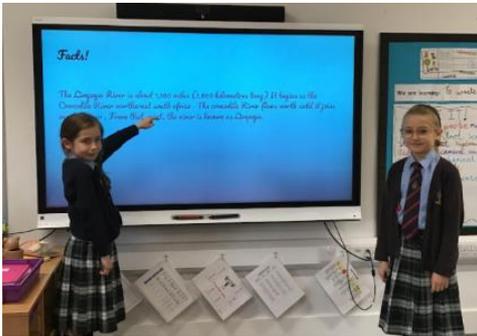
Pine

In English, we completed writing our spooky stories and have moved on to writing explanation texts. We are helping Wallace and Gromit because, although they are good at inventing things, they're not so good at writing so we are creating the explanation texts to go with their amazing inventions.

In maths, we have started a new unit on multiplication. We have practised dividing and multiplying by 10 and 100 both practically and in our heads. We also learnt about timesing by 0 and 1 and dividing by 1 and itself.

During Geography, children used Chrome books to research famous rivers around the world, created their own Google Slides presentations and then taught the rest of the class about their rivers. In Science, we have continued our learning about States of Matter by doing various experiments. We tested evaporation by growing salt crystals in different places in the classroom and melted chocolate to test melting point. In computing, we have been experimenting with tempo as part of their topic Creating Media. They have used different percussion sounds in a Purple Mash programme to create their own rhythms. They are going to be creating their own melodies next by changing the pitch of a variety of instrument sounds.

Word of the week (last week):
Word of the Week: obligatory



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