High Oaks Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 9th October—Kew Homeworking

Friday 18th October—Syon Homeworking

Tuesday 22nd October—School photographs

Thursday 24th October—INSET day

Friday 25th October INSET day

Monday 4th November—Students return to school

Friday 15th November—Connexions Advice session yr13 &14

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thankyou to everyone who sent contributions for the Harvest Festival.. Students across the school spent the morning boxing up all of the donations and delivering them to the local food-bank. Other classes have been thinking about the importance of giving and what being part of a community means to them.

Thankyou to all of the parents and carers who completed the school questionnaire. Some of you shared you were unhappy with the homework your young person receives. We have organised homeworking sessions for all of the departments over the upcoming weeks, to share activities that students should be encouraged to be carrying out at home. It is very important for the students to practise skills they are learning in school at home and in the community to help them generalise these. If you would prefer a different type of homework please do speak with your child's class teacher who will be happy to provide you with some additional tasks.

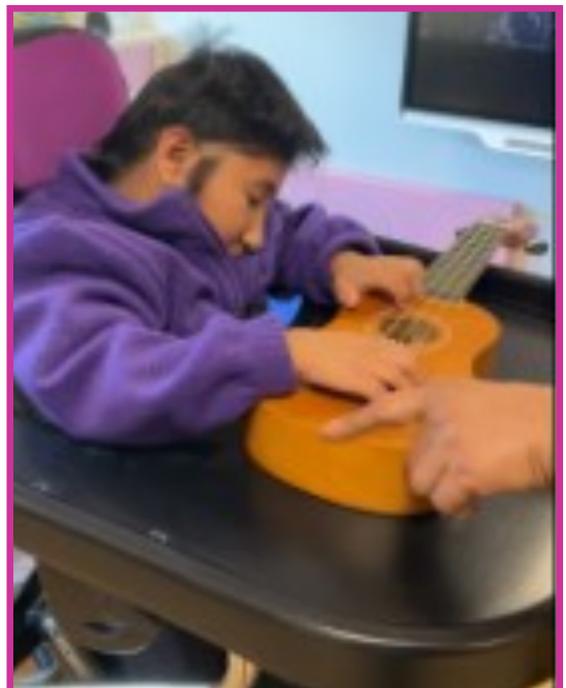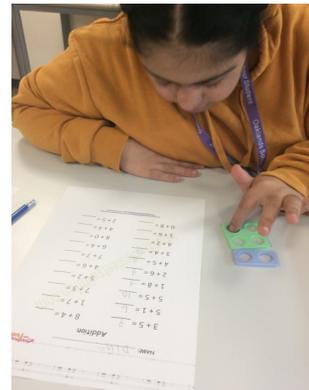I hope you all have a lovely weekend.
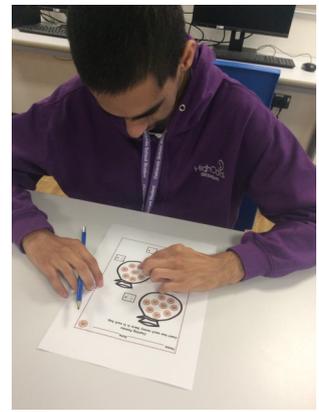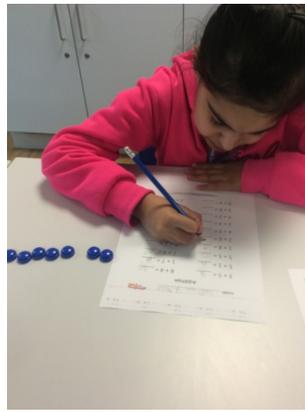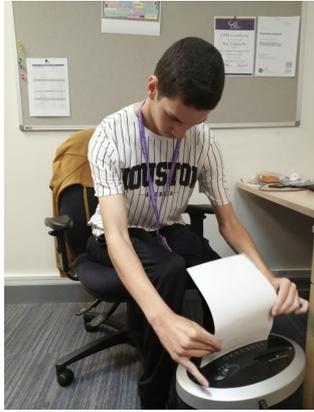
Best wishes

Mairead

Richmond 2

It has been lovely to welcome a new student who has never been to school before! Students in Richmond 2 have been 'showing her the ropes' and helping understand the routines we follow in Richmond. Well done!

Osterley 2

We have been very busy since the start of the new school year.

Syon 2

It has been a great start to the year for all the students in Syon 2. During our PSHE lessons, we have been focusing on 'Friendships'. Syon 2 have been learning about what makes a kind friend, what makes a unkind friend and how these different friendships might make us feel. During our most recent lesson each student chose an activity to enjoy with friends; painting, cars, puzzles, board games and lego building. Students were encouraged to ask their friends for items—eg red paint, the blue car.
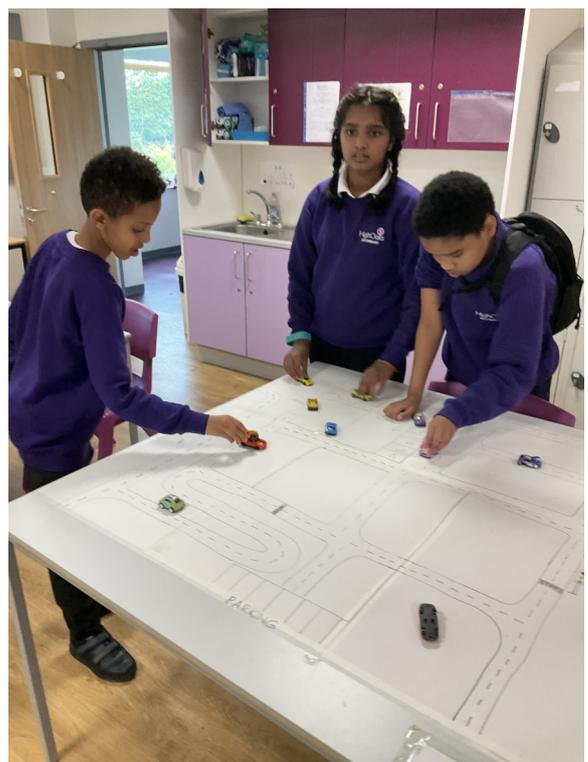
Kew 3   Science

Kew 3 have been learning about the part of the human body and its senses as part of their Science curriculum. Through this topic, Kew 3 has explored the five main senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch—and has gained an understanding of the body parts associated with each sense. For example, Kew 3 has learned that the eyes are for looking, the ears for listening, the nose for smell, the tongue for taste, and the skin (hand) for touch.

In class, Kew 3 participated in activities that involved identifying these sensory organs and describing their functions. They have also been involved in hands-on experiments, such as exploring how different textures feel or how different the nose can detect scents, including labelling human body diagrams. This topic has also provided numerous opportunities for Kew 3 to practice identifying body parts and explaining their purposes during class discussions and assembly with other classes. These regular practice sessions help Kew 3 reinforce their understanding and deepen their knowledge of the subject.

News from Muna
Family Support Worker

It has been lovely to see so many families attending the homeworking session over the past few weeks. Information from these sessions will be added to our website , so for anyone who could not make the session you can look through what was discussed.

We are receiving a high volume of requests at the moment for letters to evidence your child attends Oaklands school. We are of course happy to help with this, but I am sure you can all appreciate they cannot be written immediately. If you require a letter please do let me or the school office know and this will be provided for you within 10 days.

Please see below the list of parents events that have been organised for this year. I look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming sessions.

Events	
Sixth homeworking	Friday 27th Sept 2024 at 9.45am
Richmond homeworking	Friday 4th October 2024
Kew homeworking	Wednesday 9th October 2024
Syon homeworking	Friday 18th October 2024
Connexions advice session- year 13 and 14	Friday 15th November 2024 at 9.45am
Therapist introduction session (SALT/ OT)	Wednesday 20th November 2024, at 9:45 AM.

Safeguarding
Pop Ups

On the internet or on social media, it's likely that you've come across the occasional pop-up – promising a great deal on some product or service, declaring that you've won some kind of prize, or making any other number of tempting claims. This marketing tactic has been around for almost 30 years and shows no signs of disappearing any time soon.

Unfortunately, pop-up advertising carries with it various online safety risks, as we can never be certain where those links will take us or how legitimate they are. These ads can be especially risky for children and young people, who may not understand what they are clicking on.

Please see the online safety guide produced by the National College will educate you on pop-ups, their associated risks, and how to safeguard yourself and young people from this phenomenon.

It is very important to monitor what your child is viewing whether they are using mobile phones, tablets, laptops or desktops.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

POP-UP ADS

Pop-up advertisements have been a staple of the internet since they were first introduced in the late 1990s. This form of advertising causes a small window or banner to appear in the foreground while someone is browsing a website. Although these adverts are merely irritating for most people, pop-ups can present more severe risks to younger users.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DECEPTIVE TACTICS

Children sometimes don't understand that adverts (including pop-ups) are designed to sell a product – and can't distinguish between a legitimate feature of a site and an advertisement. Video games, for example, can be full of pop-up ads that tempt users into spending money, yet they might take the form of a mini-game or extra level.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While some adverts are targeted based on a user's interests and activity online, that isn't always the case. This means that children may unfortunately be exposed to ads for age-inappropriate goods or services such as tobacco products, alcohol and gambling sites.

MALWARE RISK

Most pop-ups from reputable advertisers are safe. However, in some cases, pop-ups can trick you into downloading malware – whereby cybercriminals install software on your device, allowing them to access your sensitive data. It can be difficult to know if malware has been installed on your device, so your best option is to avoid engaging with these pop-ups altogether. Be wary of sites that suddenly bombard you with ads or try to prevent you from leaving.

PRIVACY RISK

Many app and game developers will collect their users' personal data, such as their name, address, email address, geolocation information, unique numerical identifiers, photos and payment information. If a child clicks on an illegitimate pop-up laced with malware, all this information could be put at risk.

RACKING UP BILLS

If a child has access to a payment card on their device – be it a smartphone, laptop, or tablet – they could very quickly rack up a massive bill by interacting with pop-up adverts and buying products shown to them. Try to keep a close eye on their spending.

BEHAVIOURAL IMPACT

Research has found that pop-up ads can even have an impact on children's behaviour. Some of these adverts use manipulative tactics that take advantage of children's developmental vulnerabilities, intentionally or otherwise. This approach may cause a child's mood to shift: becoming more stubborn, for example, if they begin wanting their parents to buy a specific product for them.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START A CONVERSATION

It's important to have regular conversations with children about online advertising so that they understand the risks of interacting with pop-ups. For example, if a child asks for a product which has been advertised to them online, ask them why they want it and how they found it: this will present an opportunity to talk youngsters through the tactics used in online marketing.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child may be following pop-up ads to make online purchases or viewing content that could be harmful, it's important to be able to spot the signs. Due to the often-manipulative nature of these adverts, children who interact with them regularly may show signs of distraction, stubbornness and an increasingly materialistic worldview.

MONITOR CONTENT

It can often be difficult to spot when a pop-up advert is malicious – even more so for impressionable younger users. It's important to monitor the content they're consuming to prevent them from clicking on something dangerous. If a pop-up ad seems too good be true – promising a free iPad, for example – it probably is.

PRIVACY SETTINGS

Most modern devices have privacy settings that let you limit the amount of advertising a child is subjected to while using apps or browsing the internet. You may also want to speak to teachers about avoiding sites and apps with advertising, as well as adjusting digital privacy settings on any education technology they use.

LIMIT SPENDING

Try to stay aware of what children are spending and ensure that payment details aren't linked to or saved on the gaming platform that they use. Most video games and internet-enabled devices have settings that can help you manage what children can or cannot purchase online.

CUT DOWN ON SCREEN TIME

Given the prevalence of pop-up ads (which can appear on everything from smartphones and tablets to internet-connected toys and games), it might be beneficial to limit the time children spend on digital devices to curb their exposure to digital advertising.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for Forbes, TechRadar and Wired, among others.

#WakeUp Wednesday®

The National College®