

High Oaks Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 22nd April—INSET day

Wednesday 23rd April—Students Return

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another term, it's always a good time to reflect on the amazing achievements of your children.

Through lesson observations across the school, I've had the opportunity to witness first-hand the incredible progress every student is making. Students who joined us this year are settling in well and working hard, while those who have been with us for a while continue to build on the skills they've learned. Our older students, who are preparing for their final term at Oaklands, have grown into confident and independent young men and women during their time at the school.



Last week, we celebrated our incredible Performing Arts Week. Students visited galleries and Kew Gardens, participated in a sensory theatre, enjoyed dance workshops, and proudly showcased their work in Friday's exhibition.

This week, we were fortunate to welcome a local councillor, who spoke to our Sixth Form students about their enterprise project.

Students have also this week had the opportunity to learn more about Eid and Easter and have had the chance to celebrate these important festivals with their friends.

I would like to say Eid Mubarak to all our families who celebrated this week and a Happy and Peaceful Easter to those who will be celebrating during the upcoming holidays.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and fingers crossed for some sunshine!

Mairead



Creative Arts Week Exhibition

This year the theme of Creative Arts Week was 'Rainforests'. An art exhibition took place at High Oaks on Friday 28th March. There was a special dance performance by Richmond students to open the exhibition, and Artworks made by students in High Oaks and New Oaks were showcased. There were also interactive experiences which included VR Rainforest experiences an interactive sound installation.

Well done to all of the students and staff involved! And many thanks for all the parents/ carers who watched the performance and visited the exhibition.





Head2Head Sensory Theatre

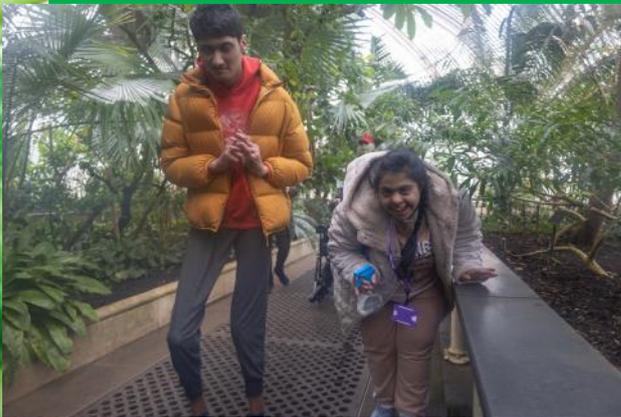
As part of Creative Arts Week, High Oaks and New Oaks had a visit from 'Head 2 Head sensory theatre. The company set up an immersive Rainforest experience in the Sports hall. Students from all departments in both school had the chance to walk and experience the interactive set, which has a variety of sensory objects, plants and animals to explore.



Royal Botanic Gardens Kew



Sixth form students visited Kew Gardens and took part in a guided tour of the Palm House, looking at the different plants that can be found in the Rainforests. During the visit, they enjoyed experiencing different smells such as vanilla, cacao beans and even a plant that smelled like cheese! They also helped with spraying the plants with water and learned about how everyday objects such as socks are made from bamboo. Well done to all involved.



RA Royal Academy of Arts



Sixth form and Syon students went on a trip to the Royal Academy of Arts gallery to visit the exhibition called 'Brasil! Brasil!'. Students travelled to the gallery via public transport on the Piccadilly Line. While there, students followed a visual guide to find some of the famous artworks by Brazilian artists. They enjoyed looking at paintings and sculptures, and trying to copy the poses of the people in the pictures. A great day was had by all, well done to the students and staff involved!



Richmond 1

Hello!

We have had an *egg-cellent* few weeks! Our work is slowly creeping out of the classroom into the outside as the weather is warmer. We had a puppet show, an art exhibit featuring the rainforest where we took part in a dance and we continued our work on our targets making progress on our targets. I hope you have a *cracking* Easter holiday. Next term we are helping out at an enterprise project making jewellery and looking after the environment.



The Great Oaklands Growing Bee 2025

A few newsletters ago you may remember that I told you all about a new gardening competition run by myself & Nina—The Great Oaklands Growing Bee!

Well, after months of care and attention last Friday we had the pleasure of welcoming Caroline from the London Children's Flower Society into school to judge our efforts.

Although lots of classes' daffodils had yet to flower, it was wonderful to see how much each class had grown!

Special praise goes to Crane 5, Crane 6 and Richmond 3 who were given a gold award for their efforts. Well done all!

A full list of awards given can be found on the next page. We are so proud of everyone for joining in and we can't wait to launch our summer competition after Easter!

Have a lovely holiday,

Sara



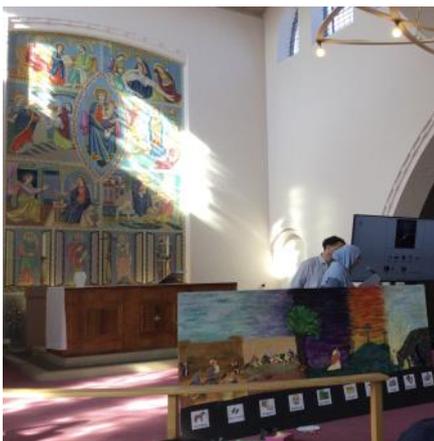
The Great Oaklands Growing Bee 2025

Bronze	Syon 3 Syon 5 Kew 7 Syon 1 Osterley 2 Kew 3
Silver	Syon 4 Richmond 1 Syon 2 Osterley 3 Kew 5 Kew 6 Kew 8 Osterley 1
Gold	Crane 5 Crane 6 Richmond 3

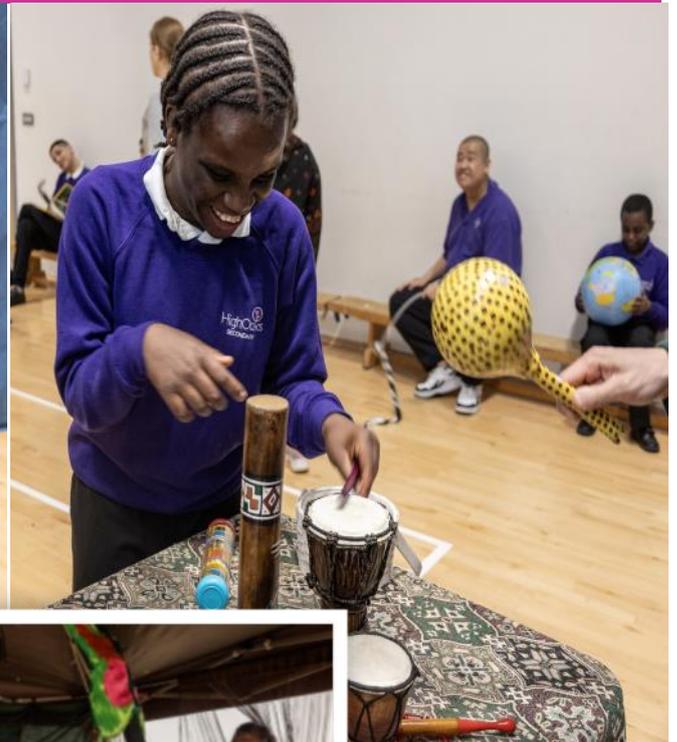
Osterley 2

Easter Service at ST. Marys Church.

The students from our sixth form class, Osterley 2 , supported the Primary Students with their readings in church for their Easter Service. It was fantastic! Beautiful readings and singing by all.



This term, Kew 6 had an exciting rainforest experience! The class explored the sights, sounds, and textures of the rainforest in a fun and interactive way. With music playing in the background, students listened to rainforest sounds, touched different materials, and learned interesting facts. It was a wonderful way for the students in Kew 6 to explore and learn in a hands-on, sensory way.



Syon 5: Science

Syon 5 have absolutely loved exploring with magnets this week. They have been taking part in seeing what items can be attracted to magnets, what happens when you try to put two magnets together and even moving ice cubes around the classroom with paper clips stuck inside them.

The best thing about the lessons have been—after becoming comfortable with the magnets—the students have been independently using them correctly, able to conduct their own experiments using the resources provided by the school.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to parents who were able to join the therapy training on the 26.03.2025 about Communication and Communication Support at the lunch hall in High Oaks. It was lovely seeing you and hearing your thoughts.

Summary of training

- Use **Now and Next** boards to support understanding of transitions
- Create communication opportunities through **pauses**
- **Model language** (comment on what your child is saying, ask less questions)
- Teach **communication boards** by showing your child how to use it without expectation
- **Makaton signs and communication tree** are attached below

Contact therapists

If you have any concerns or questions about Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), please email salt@oaklands.uk.net.

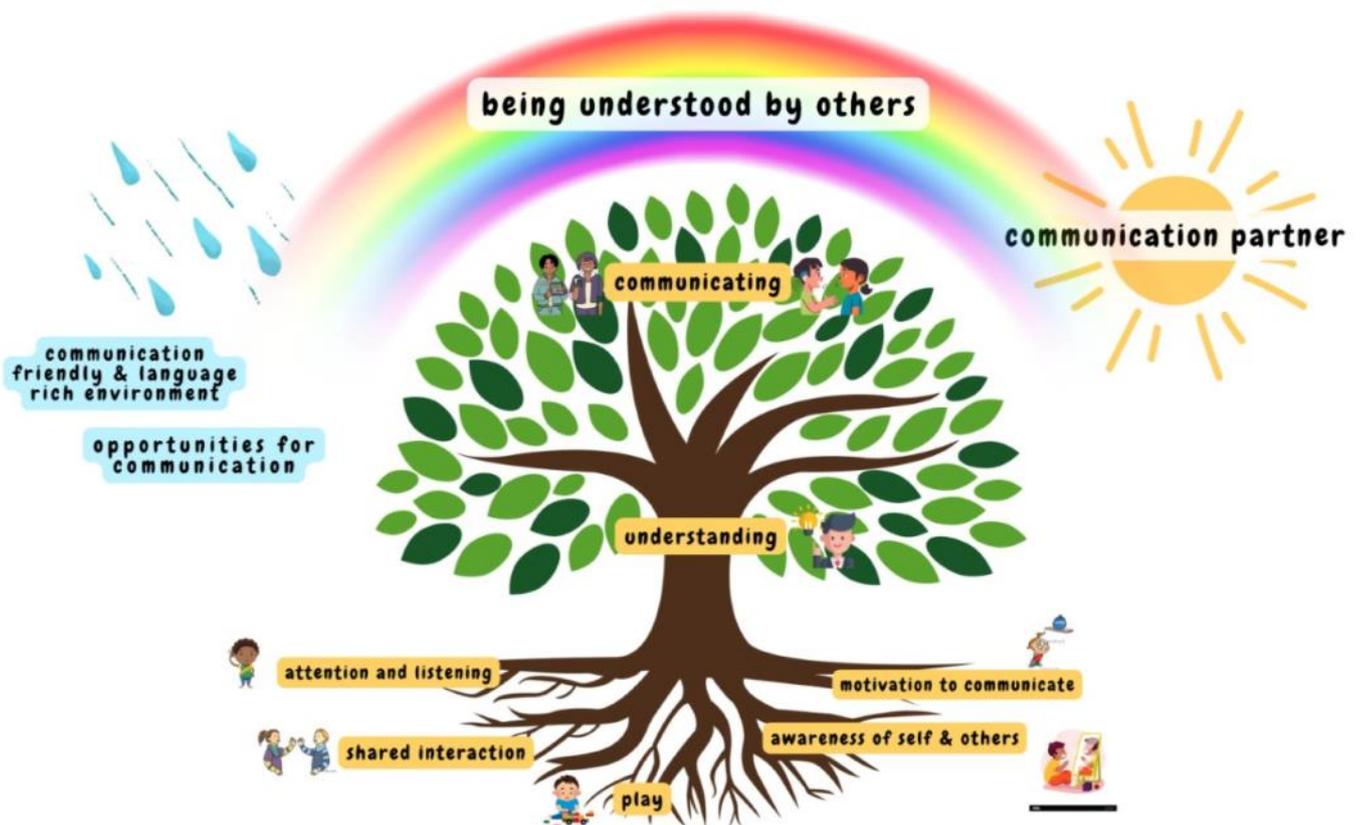
If you have any concerns or questions about Occupational Therapy (OT), please email ot@oaklands.uk.net.



THERAPY TEAM

Communication tree

The communication tree describes the development of speech and language. It is important to remember not all children develop language in the same way or in the same order- **all patterns of development are valid** and should be adapted by adults supporting these children



Makaton



Mummy



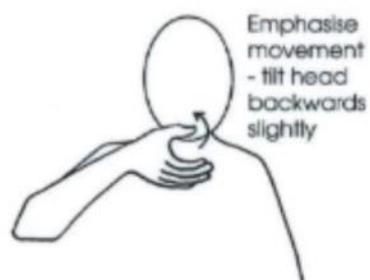
Daddy



Toilet



To eat



To drink