

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018



Issue 6

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Principal's Message

Yet another incredibly busy term has flown by - in fact the whole year appeared to flash by in the blink of an eye!

Ends of years are happy times as we get to celebrate the achievements of the children with the various concerts, plays, performances, sporting events and prize givings. I really enjoy these events and I hope you do too.

In the meantime, this is yet another busy summer break for us. We have a range of holiday clubs on offer throughout the break, and there are still a limited number of places

available for those of you who are looking to keep your children active. We always use the long summer breaks to make improvements to the sites, and this year we are well into our programme of renovations. After the last few years building at Braeside, Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst, the builders are at Oaklands for the next 18 months. Do keep an eye on the website for updates.

Enjoy your summer. I hope that you are able to relax a little and that the children will come back in September raring to go!

Matthew Hagger
Matthew Hagger

Oaklands School Summer Music Concerts

Two music concerts take place annually in Summer Term at Oaklands. Children in Years 3 to 6 were able to show what they have been working on in their individual music lessons during the Peripatetic Music Concert over two evenings in June. The audience thoroughly enjoyed listening to a variety of pieces played on the piano, recorder, guitar, drums, violin, and ukulele!

Year 2 children also had the chance to showcase their musical talents, with parents appreciating listening to a variety of pieces played on the piano, recorder, guitar, violin and flute. Well done to all the children!



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Speech Day and Prize Giving Events

Each school held its annual Speech Day and Prize Giving at the end of term and, perhaps unsurprisingly, it was once again one of the hottest weeks of the year. Despite the heat, the events succeeded in bringing together pupils, families and staff to celebrate the many achievements of the children over the school year.

Each school had a guest speaker who not only spoke about their role, but also helped to present the prizes.

Coopersale Hall welcomed Mrs Rochelle Humes, a successful singer, presenter and entrepreneur, as guest speaker in the marquee on the terrace lawn. It was interesting to hear Mrs Humes talk about her achievements before she presented the trophies to the many prize winners.



Coopersale Hall School

This year's guest speaker at Oaklands' Speech Day in the marquee on the

main field was Mrs Madaleine Binning from the NSPCC, a leading children's charity fighting to end child abuse. She presented the prizes to the children while encouraging them all to do their best both in school and in the future.



Oaklands School

Susanna Worth from the charity of United World Schools was the guest speaker at the Normanhurst Speech Day at Chingford Assembly Hall. It was enlightening to hear her talk about her experiences trying to improve the education for some of the world's poorest children, and this gave the pupils a lot to think about.



Normanhurst School

A past pupil was the guest speaker at Braeside in a marquee on the Seniors'

lawn. Sarah Saunders has worked extensively in the field of human resources and the audience enjoyed hearing about her memories about the school and the many successes that she has had since.



Braeside School

Prizes at each event were awarded for pupils' academic, sporting, artistic and musical achievements, with further awards given for other successes such as the endeavour, form, commitment and specific subject prizes.

All of the Prize Givings included a range of musical or dramatic performances and finished with the exciting announcements of the new positions of responsibility at each school.

Our pupils should be extremely proud of themselves for their achievements this year. Whether academically or creatively, in the classroom or on the sports field, individually or in a team, they have all succeeded and we're proud of them all.

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Normanhurst House Photography Competition

The three categories in this year's House Photography Competition were 'Action', 'Springtime' and 'Collections'. There was an amazing response to these themes, with the children visually interpreting them with some stunning results.

All entries showed imagination and highlighted the pupils' flair for photography. After some considerable deliberation, the winners of each category were Nydia Pitney-Hall (Y9) for 'Action', Eloise Stephen (Y3) for 'Springtime' and Lucy Moore (Y8) for 'Collections'. There were also some very creative runners-up shots.



1st Place Springtime
Eloise Stephen (Year 3)



1st Place Collections
Lucy Moore (Year 8T)

Charities Supported Last Term

- Hope Centre at St Mary's Church
- NSPCC
- United World Schools
- Ali's Gift
- David Ashwell Foundation
- Spinney Care Home
- Hestia Domestic Violence Refuge
- Ellie's Fund
- Lupus UK
- British Heart Foundation
- Teenage Cancer Trust

Celebrating the Royal Wedding

The Royal Wedding was the cause of much excitement in Summer Term, with the schools marking the occasion in different ways.

The Early Years children at Coopersale Hall enjoyed a very special Royal Tea Party, while the children in Year 2 had a themed playground party.

Braeside Reception children had fun celebrating the wedding, learning that

it was held at Windsor Castle and that the cake was going to be made of elderflower. They made their own tiaras and flower bouquets and enjoyed a slice of wedding cake!



Braeside Reception

Year 1 children at Normanhurst enjoyed dressing up for their celebrations and recreating the wedding themselves! They also learned a special dance and put on a show for their teachers and friends.



Normanhurst Year 1

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Art at the Oak-Tree Group of Schools

The quality of artwork produced by our pupils was as outstanding as ever this year. Both Normanhurst and Braeside Art GCSE pupils showcased an impressive array of pieces to be moderated by the exam board. Visitors to the exhibitions could clearly see how much research and hard work had gone into the individual and collective pieces.

The Summer Term was also full of other creative activities from all four schools. Normanhurst pupils took some of their Art lessons outside to make the most of the weather, while Art Club had a focus on mosaics.



Oaklands 3D Sculpture Work

Children in the Oaklands Art club had a visit from local artist Nicola Burrell who taught them various techniques about how to shape card creatively. Year 6 pupils have been studying impressionist painting and had a go at recreating 'Starry Night' with some remarkable results.

Braeside Year 6 pupils focussed on the work of Kadinsky, creating a colourful abstract piece based on his work. Even

Lower Kindergarten had a go at creating abstract art using the technique of mark making.

Upper Kindergarten children at Coopersale Hall used their creative skills to make individual rainforest collages that brightened up the classrooms, while Year 6 were inspired by their visit to the William Morris Museum when they were able to do some printing with different designs.



Normanhurst GCSE Art Display

Coopersale Hall Impress with Oliver Production

Junior pupils performed an impressive production of 'Oliver' this term to a packed audience of friends and family.



All pupils showed a huge amount of confidence on stage, especially given the feature-length production and the lines to learn. There were some superb toe-tapping numbers such as

'Food Glorious Food' and 'I'd Do Anything', as well as some notable solos from the cast. Well done everyone, for such a fantastic show. We have some very talented performers at Coopersale Hall School!



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Braeside Production of Cinderella

Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils from Braeside entertained an audience of friends and family with their fantastic

performance of 'Cinderella'. Every pupil performed confidently in character, with many lines to learn, and had the audience laughing along throughout. The makeup, costumes and sets all helped to contribute to an excellent show.



Oaklands Dance Display



A huge number of friends and family gathered in the Oaklands grounds to watch the annual Dance Display.

Pupils from Year 6 all the way down to Lower Kindergarten were involved with the display, performing a range of dances with some impressive costumes to match. It was clear to see how much work the children had put



into their routines and how much they enjoyed performing.

Building Work at Oaklands School

A very ambitious building project is currently well underway at Oaklands.

The rear double-storey extension has been designed to increase the size of the hall by 75%. Next to the new hall



there will be a new library, and underneath the hall on the new lower ground floor will be a large specialist classroom that will accommodate a new Science and/or ICT Suite.



The front double-storey extension will create a new lobby entrance, new

toilets and a covered waiting area. There will also be a new large classroom built above the entrance lobby.

The wasteland at the bottom of the school field is being transformed into car-park and drop-off area, and already looks unrecognisable.

In addition to all of these projects, the Lower Kindergarten is being enlarged and reshaped over the summer break, with a new outside play area that will be more conducive to free flow learning. A few other minor improvements will be made around the site.

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Sports Days

Some of the biggest events in the school calendars are our Sports Days, held in either May or June. We were lucky enough to have perfect weather for all of the Sports Day this year, and they were events enjoyed by crowds of pupils, family, and teachers.

The whole of Braeside gathered at the Lee Valley Athletics Centre ready for their events. The older pupils took part in a range of sprint, long distance and relay races with some very fast times recorded. The Juniors enjoyed taking part in their obstacle and egg and spoon races before getting a little more competitive and running in the short sprints. It was lovely to see the older pupils helping some of the younger children across the finish line. Once all of the results from the afternoon were counted up, it was announced that Mason House were the overall winners!



Braeside School

Coopersale Hall's Sports Days took place over 4 days; Upper Kindergarten, Lower Kindergarten, Infants and Juniors. Children from all year groups took part in a range of events including skipping, tricycle, egg and spoon, over and under, bat and beanbag and sprints. At all events a large crowd of supportive friends and family were present to cheer the children on. After the Junior events, it was announced that Willow House were the overall winners, well done!



Coopersale Hall School

Normanhurst's Sports Day took place at the Lee Valley Athletics Centre using the outdoor facilities. The Senior events took place in a morning when every pupil got into the spirit of the day by competing hard in the events and cheering on their fellow classmates. Many school and personal records were broken. The Junior events took place in the afternoon and included relays, long jump and throwing events. Warren House were the winners, while Connaught took home the Spirit Cup!



Normanhurst School

Oaklands enjoyed an action-packed day starting with the KS1 pupils - and it was lovely to see the children show such passion for their sport. The Early Years children were very excited for their races, especially as for many it was their very first Sports Day. The Junior pupils finished off the day with some excellent races, with a large crowd cheering them on. Each pupil gave it their all and supported their friends throughout. Events included obstacles, hurdles and sprint races. Holly House were the winners. Well done also to the many parents who competed - without any injuries!



Oaklands School

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Coopersale Hall Jump Rope Challenge

In May, pupils in Years 1 to 6 at Coopersale Hall took part in a sponsored skip on the school field. Each class split into small groups and

tried different skipping tasks such as tricks, races and long rope jumps.

The activity was sponsored, with funds raised going to the British Heart Foundation. In total, an incredible £4,164 was raised. Thank you everyone for your generosity!



Oak-Tree Sporting Success

Sport plays an important part in school life and all pupils are encouraged to become involved with the range of clubs and activities on offer. Last term we saw a number of sporting successes in many internal and external sporting events.



Normanhurst Athletics

Several pupils from Braeside and Normanhurst competed in the ISA Regional Athletics competition in May. There were many excellent performances and new school records set. All regional medal winners then competed in the National Championships at Alexandra Stadium in Birmingham in June. Every pupil



CHS Girls Football Team

gave it their all on the day and we managed to bring home a healthy collection of medals.

At the end of April pupils from Coopersale Hall and Oaklands travelled to Bancroft's School to take part in a swimming gala. Both teams did well, with Oaklands finishing 7th and Coopersale Hall finishing in 5th place. Oaklands also took part in the ISA London North Athletics Tournament and showcased a wide range of skills on the field. Coopersale Hall were involved in the District Athletics Tournament and took home 2nd place overall. Congratulations also to the U11 girls' football team who



Oaklands Athletics

made it to the semi-finals of the Independent Schools National Football Cup Finals Day.

Coopersale Hall and Normanhurst took each other on in a competitive rounders tournament won by Coopersale Hall, and Braeside seniors had a House rounders competition in which Mason were victorious.



Braeside Rounders

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Braeside Peripatetic Music Concert 2018

Junior pupils who are learning an instrument in school put on a wonderful performance to friends and family, showcasing all of the work they have been putting into their individual lessons. There was a wide selection of pieces performed from pupils from Year 5 all the way down to Reception. The grand finale



was particularly enjoyable, with guitarists, percussion and violinists all playing together.

Normanhurst Summer Music Concert

Guests were welcomed to Normanhurst's Summer Music Concert with a glass of wine and tasty nibbles on the playground, beforehand.

The pupils performed a wide variety of individual pieces, both instrumental and vocal. The Junior and Senior Choirs and Rock Bands also impressed the audience with a number of songs.



Nicolas in Year 2 showcased his talent playing the viola, Ruiya in Year 1 performed a beautiful piano medley and Miles played a very complicated piece on the bass guitar.

There were even some guest appearances from Braeside GCSE pupils who are taught GCSE Music in shared lessons. They enjoyed the opportunity to perform to parents as part of the Summer Concert.



Open Day Dates

Braeside School - Buckhurst Hill

Wednesday 3 October

Early Years, Infants and Juniors at 9.15am

Seniors at 6pm

Coopersale Hall School - Epping

Tuesday 2 October at 9.15am

Normanhurst School - North Chingford

Infants, Juniors and Seniors - Thursday 4 October at 6pm

Early Years - Friday 5 October at 9.15am

Oaklands School

Thursday 4 October at 9.15am

If you need to contact the schools directly, then please use the numbers below:

Braeside School - 020 8504 1133

Coopersale Hall School - 01992 577133

Normanhurst School - 020 8529 4307

Oaklands School - 020 8508 3517

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Operating Theatre Live

As part of their Science curriculum, Braeside pupils took part in a live operating theatre experience last term in school. The workshop consisted of the dissection of brain and thorax,



including trachea, heart and lungs. The pupils showed a keen interest in the structures of the human body, and all demonstrated good communication and scientific skill when conducting the experiments. There are some budding surgeons at the school!

Early Years Celebrations

The Early Years children at each of the four schools had a lovely time at their end of year celebratory events, which all took place in the penultimate week of term.

Each class from Oaklands performed a range of songs and poems relating to their topic work from the last year, with Transition children sharing some memories with the audience of friends and family. The celebration ended with Mrs Belej presenting each child with a certificate to congratulate them for their achievements throughout Early Years.



Oaklands School

The children at Coopersale Hall celebrated the year's successes by entertaining the audience with a large selection of songs and dance moves. The children also enjoyed hearing Miss Lovejoy read one of their favourite stories, to round off the event. Well done to all of the children!



Coopersale Hall School

The Normanhurst Early Years celebration took place in the United Reformed Church, which was filled with energy as the children sang songs, read poems, wore their favourite costumes and were then presented with their certificates. With a general theme of 'friendship', it was a lovely way to end the year.



Normanhurst School

Braeside Early Years pupils rounded off their year with some lively performances for parents. Kindergarten memorised poems and spoke about their work before Reception sang a song and retold the story of 'The Fish that Could Wish'. The children were excited to collect their certificates of achievement.



Braeside School

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Haileybury Arts Challenge

Four pupils from Coopersale Hall recently took part in the Haileybury Arts Challenge. The theme was 'Marine Conservation' with 11 teams taking part, each from different primary schools.

The children participated in a range of activities such as writing stories and designing collages using plastic items that had been discarded in the sea.

The presentation of results showed that the girls not only came first in the writing challenge, but also the for the challenge as a whole! Well done.



Oaklands School Outdoor Classroom Day

'Outdoor Classroom Day' is a global campaign to celebrate outdoor learning and play. Thousands of schools all over the world take part, and on Thursday 17 May, the weather was perfect for the event.



Children of all ages took part in some fantastic activities with Year 6

conducting some problem solving tasks and landscape drawing using viewfinders.

The children in Year 2 were excited to be taking their learning outside and experience an outdoor classroom. They worked in small groups to act out a traditional tale about 'The Rainbow Bird'.

Victorian Week at Coopersale Hall



As part of a Victorian themed week at Coopersale Hall, pupils enjoyed the chance to dress up as Victorian school children, with even the teachers

getting involved with the costumes!

The children also took part in a range of themed activities including making peg dolls, elderflower cordial and brown bread hoky poky. Year 2 spent the day at a Victorian school, using chalkboards and playing hopscotch.

Transition children learned lots of new facts about the Victorian times, and enjoyed learning new skills, such as sewing.

Everyone got into the spirit of the day and enjoyed finding out what it was like living in the Victorian times.



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Duke of Edinburgh Scheme



Back in May, older pupils from Braeside and Normanhurst embarked on a D of E practice expedition in Epping Forest. They worked tirelessly

over two days, learning camp fire craft, first aid, orienteering and developing team skills.

The weekend of the 16th and 17th June was the Bronze qualifying weekend. With two days of hiking and an overnight camp, the group had much to contend with and succeeded with their challenges.

Upon returning to school, the Year 10 pupils spoke to the Juniors in assembly about their achievements and hard

work during the scheme. They also shared what they had learned through their experiences volunteering in the community and how they have benefitted from the physical exercise.



Normanhurst Travel Back in Time



During Humanities Week, Normanhurst Junior pupils enjoyed a

historical dress up day. Staff and pupils made a huge effort with homemade costumes, props, fancy wigs and even makeup.

Each of the figures that pupils dressed up as played an important role in our history, from Cleopatra and Florence Nightingale to Einstein and Obama.

Other Humanities week activities included a trip to Connaught Water and the Queen Elizabeth Hunting

Lodge, while some pupils conducted independent research on historical figures that was then shared with the rest of the class.



Oaklands 'Be the Teacher'

Pupils at Oaklands were given the opportunity to be the teacher for the day, giving a 30-minute lesson of their choice to the rest of the class. Pupils presented a variety of lessons that



included Art, DT, History, Science, PE, Italian and even magic! As well as being fun for the children, they also learned many new facts and skills from each other and discovered some amazing talents they did not know their friends had.

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Saying Goodbye to our Year 6s and Year 11s

The end of the Summer Term always marks an emotional time for our eldest pupils. Year 6 pupils from Coopersale Hall and Oaklands are ready to move on to their chosen secondary schools, while Year 11s from Braeside and Normanhurst are ready to move to further education.

To mark the occasion, pupils from both Coopersale Hall and Oaklands showcased a special assemblies to



Coopersale Hall School



Oaklands School



Normanhurst School

parents and fellow pupils, reminiscing about their time at the school and entertaining with a few musical numbers. Coopersale Hall pupils were given a yearbook to mark their time at the school, while Oaklands pupils

received a hoody complete with their classmates' names.

Year 11 pupils from Normanhurst and Braeside enjoyed Leavers' Dinners, which were the perfect opportunities to dress in their finery and spend quality time with their friends and teachers. In keeping with tradition they also took to the stage for a final assembly to say goodbye to the school and the younger pupils.

We wish them all the best of luck for the future.



Braeside School

Coopersale Hall Tiddly Prom



Lower and Upper Kindergarten put on a fantastic performance for their Tiddly Prom this year.

The children sang and played to the best of their ability, creating an energy-filled show enjoyed by the large audience. Songs included 'Steam Train', 'Petrol Makes that Racing Car Go', and a favourite by all, the 'Animal Boogie'!



Well done to everyone who took part.

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Action and Adventure

Oaklands pupils enjoyed their time at their PLG Liddington residential trip in May. They took part in a huge range of activities including survival skills workshops, zip lining, raft building, quad biking, canoeing, archery, the leap of faith and lots more.



Oaklands School

Year 5 and 6 children at Coopersale Hall took part in a whole week of Outdoor Pursuits. At the start of the week they went on a trip to Stubbers, followed by a forest walk the following

day and then a residential trip to Kingswood, where they took part in multiple activities over the three days.



Coopersale Hall School

Normanhurst Year 5 to 7 pupils also spent a week at Kingswood for a weekend filled with non-stop adventure. The Senior House trip this year was to the Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Centre with a packed itinerary included climbing, high ropes, archery and kayaking on the River Stort.

Year 4 and 5 pupils from Braeside spent several days at the adventure centre in Lambourne End. From the



Normanhurst School

minute they arrived they threw themselves into the action. Some of the favourite activities during the trip included mountain biking and the high ropes course.



Braeside School

Key Trips across the Group

- Southend-on-Sea
- Epping Forest
- Dinosaurs in the Wild
- The British Museum
- Local Care Homes
- Institut Francais
- Chessington Theme Park
- Harlow Outdoors Centre
- Connaught Water
- Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge
- Westminster Abbey
- Redbridge Jewish Community Centre
- Tate Modern
- Kingswood
- Emirates Aviation Experience
- Waltham Abbey Gardens
- Lee Valley Park
- ArchelorMittal Orbit
- Ashlyn's Farm
- Hayes Hill Farm
- Suntrap Education Centre
- PGL Liddington
- Paradise Wildlife Park
- Stubbers Outdoor Pursuits
- Epping Forest Field Studies Centre
- William Morris Gallery

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Junior House Challenge



Throughout the year, Braeside Junior pupils have been taking part in House Challenges every Friday afternoon. The competition finished at the end of last term with the final challenge. Each House was given £10 with which to buy resources to make a product to sell to the other children.

Pupils spent the weeks leading up to the sale making and marketing their products, and they managed to sell them all.

Fry were the winning House, making a profit of £102. Pupils are currently deciding what to buy for the school with the money.

A Trip to Wimbledon

Through the school's membership of the Lawn Tennis Association, Normanhurst entered the ballot for Wimbledon tickets and was offered a eight tickets for Court 1. Mr Tuvey and Mrs Taylor accompanied 6 lucky pupils to the event.

The scheduled matches that day were a mix of men and women's third round singles matches. Pupils were also able to have an interactive experience in the schools zone and some bought themselves some souvenirs.

This was a wonderful day and we hope

we are lucky enough to get tickets in the ballot again next year.



Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits!

A large audience of friends and family gathered at Lopping Hall at the end of term for the Oaklands summer production of Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits. Year 5 and 6 pupils worked hard to put on a spectacular show, learning lots of lines and perfecting their dance moves. The side-splitting



musical comedy told the story of Mustapha Widdle and Balthazar Bongo and his Bumbling Bandits stealing not only the Royal Ruby, but

also the Princess Satsuma.

The performances were amazing from all of the children—well done!



Visit our schools' YouTube channels to see videos from some of our biggest events this summer, including Sports Days, Speech Days and many others!

[Braeside School](#)
[Coopersale Hall School](#)
[Oaklands School](#)
[Normanhurst School](#)



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Oak-Tree Schools Parents' Associations

Our Parents' Associations were very busy last term arranging a number of events for pupils, families and friends. The Parent's Associations are always looking for parents to get involved with fundraising or events. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with your committee if you would like to meet new families, contribute your ideas and work together to make a difference to your child's experience at school.

Braeside



This term FOBS organised a fantastic raffle with some excellent prizes. Some of the prizes included a 'Waitrose' Hamper, 'Afternoon Tea' Hamper, 'Summer Holiday' Hamper, 'Drinks' Hamper and many others. The raffle was very popular and helped to raise a lot of additional funds. There has been a change of committee recently and we are currently looking for new FOBS members.

Coopersale Hall

The annual Picnic in the Park was a huge success this year, with some very sunny weather. The children entertained the crowd of picnickers and FoCHS arranged a large number of stalls and activities to keep everyone busy throughout the afternoon. It was an excellent afternoon enjoyed by both children and parents. The proceeds of the event will be put towards providing curricular-enhancing activities for the children in the near future.



Normanhurst

The NSPA Summer BBQ had an Ibiza theme this year, and for once the sun was shining. The evening included various inflatables rides, a dance display from the children, a cake competition, sponge the teacher (thanks to Mr Ram!), tombolas, BBQ, bar and much more. Everyone had a enjoyable time and the money raised from the event will be put towards the purchase of 36 iPads that will complement the children's classroom experience.



Oaklands



A huge number of children, staff, families and friends gathered on the field at Oaklands for the annual OPA Summer Fete. There were lots of fun activities to take part in including fairground rides, craft stalls, go-karts, tombolas, a jazz band and a delicious BBQ and bar. The weather made it possible for families to relax on the grass and enjoy a chilled afternoon in the sun. The money raised will be put to good use at school in the months to come.