

Recent Questions from Parents -updated with current information Oct 2023

Do you ever move children between the OAK groups if they are showing more or less ability?

Children stay in their OAK groups throughout their time at Oakwood. They are fully supported within their class depending on their ability and needs. We ensure they are suitably challenged and supported where necessary. We also work very closely with parents so that we fully meet the needs of your child.

How do you deliver tests eg. Year 1 Phonics and Year 6 SATs when the children are in a mixed class?

Phonics Screening in Year 1 in the mixed year class is done in the same way as the Year 1 class. We take each child to do their screening one at a time while the rest of the class is with the Teaching Assistant completing their learning.

In Year 6 the children sit the official SATs tests all together in the Hall. Prior to this, any form of practising tests is done in classes and children do assessments at the same time. So for example, in the Year 5 and 6 mixed class, the Year 5s and 6s will complete tests at the same time

Can you tell us what sort of music/arts/sports activities the children do in the early years?

In EYFS we have a weekly music lesson and have instruments out at all times for the children to explore and we sing daily. Children also have access to art materials at all times as well. We have a weekly creative challenge which focuses on different art skills and media each week. We do daily exercise in the form of: daily run around the track, Smart Moves (focusing on developing gross motor skills) and children have access to outdoors at all times too. Alongside this, we have a weekly PE session.

Do the children do swimming whilst at the school at any point?

Children currently have swimming lessons in the summer term of Year 3 and the autumn and spring terms of Year 4.

Which online learning journal system do you use?

The online learning journal that we use in Reception is Evidence Me.

Please can you give us an idea of the type of meals provided.

We have a lovely variety of healthy meals offered. These include roast chicken with all the trimmings, jacket potatoes, meatballs and pasta, a variety of vegetarian options including veggie sausages or burgers, Quorn roast and veggie pasta bolognese. You can find a full menu on our website.

I appreciate that it will be different every year but roughly how far is the catchment distance for the school?

Hertfordshire County Council handle our admissions, data for the previous 2 years can be found on the School Admissions page of their website (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk).

How many siblings are you anticipating in this year's intake?

As we do not have a nursery it is impossible for us to estimate this. Data for the previous 2 years can be found on the School Admissions page of the Hertfordshire County Council website (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk).

How do you deal with children who speak two languages or more?

We have experience over the years of children who speak more than one language and embrace this in school through partnership with parents.

How do you monitor children for things like dyslexia?

For information on inclusion and SEND, please have a look at our website where we have our SEND Policy and our SEND Information Report.

What is your teacher CPD budget and do you feel it's adequate?

Our staff CPD budget is variable according to income. We would always like to allocate more time and resources to this important area.

"Continuous interest group" - how does that work?

Hertfordshire County Council handle our admissions. Information regarding the Continuing Interest process can be found under *Important dates - primary school admissions* on the School Admissions page of their website (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk).

Do you have a bullying policy/specific approach?

Our Anti Bullying policy is available on our website.

How many people tend to apply and how many get their 1st choice as Oakwood?

Hertfordshire County Council handle our admissions, data for the previous 2 years can be found on the School Admissions page of their website (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk) – Research a school – previous years' admissions

We would really like to know how wrap around care is allocated

Jousters provide our before and after school childcare (www.jousterschildcare.com)

Please could you let us know about any before and after school clubs?

In addition to the breakfast and after school club provided by Jousters, there are a range of clubs for KS2 pupils provided by school staff and external providers. These vary, according to season, take up and pupil interests. Some of these are before school.

Your website said Breakfast (before) and After School Club are limited to 50 places which doesn't seem many for the whole school. is there scope for this to be expanded if demand is there?

The limit on places at the Jousters after school club is subject to Ofsted requirements, balanced with staff availability, the on-going consistent demand for places plus the space that the school is able to offer Jousters due to other school activities eg traditional extra-curricular after school clubs.