

# Oakwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Oakwood Community,

In our final newsletter of the academic year, we celebrate a variety of transition events that have taken place this week. It was joyful to see children excited about meeting their new teachers yesterday, and we also welcomed our incoming Acorns children for their first visit. Our new teachers Miss Insall, Miss Drury, Mrs Cooper and Miss Yalden visited us for the morning and have had handovers with children's current teachers.

Today, our transition events continue with a visit from Year 7 children at Beaumont school who will return to Oakwood to share their experiences with our Year 6 pupils over a special transition lunch.

Continuing the Beaumont connection, Year 8 Beaumont pupils are visiting KS1 classes to read their personalised stories to the children and our Year 4 pupils have been busy rehearsing with Beaumont's choir, wind band and string group. It has been amazing to see their musicianship shine!

Other exciting events over the past two weeks have included KS1's magical and mesmerising visit to London's Sealife Centre which included walking over the shark pool! UKS2 visited Hazard Alley this week, learning up-to-date online safety and skills for navigating the real world.

Last but not least, we of course had our visit from Steel on Monday – see more below! A huge thanks to our wonderful PTA for organising this event.

We hope you have a great time at Oakfest tomorrow if you are attending, and a wonderful summer break when it comes!

The Oakwood Team

## Recommended reading...

We value reading and see it as the gateway to knowledge and one of life's key pleasures!

### Reception

*Snail in Space*

By Rachel Bright



### Key Stage 1

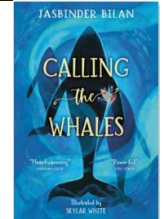
*Dino Dad*

By Andy Day

### Lower Key Stage 2

*Calling the Whales*

By Jasbinder Bilan



### Upper Key Stage 2

*Safiyah's War*

By Hiba Noor Khan

Please do visit your [local library](#) to select from a fantastic range of books.

## Important dates for your diary...

Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Oakfest
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Choir and String Orchestra at Beaumont
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 performance – 6pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 performance – 6pm
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 leavers' assembly – 1.25pm (Refreshments f from 1.05pm)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	End of Term EYFS: 1:50pm KS1: 1:55pm KS2: 2pm

## Year 4 Fitness and Fun

Last week, our Year 4 children attended a Fitness and Fun session at St Albans School. The children had a wonderful morning and would like to say a huge thank you to St Albans School staff for organising.



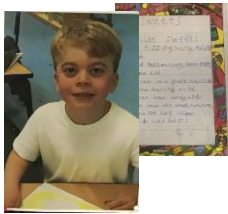
Our school website address: [www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

School contact details: [admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk) 01727 753930

## Work of the week!

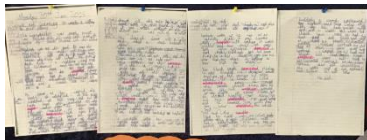
### Morgan in Beech

Beech have been learning about free verse poetry in English. They have been exploring the features of poetry, learning how a title can hook the reader in and developing their vocabulary in their own poetry.



### Finlay in Rowan

Rowan have been writing fantasy stories based on *Skellig* by David Almond. *Skellig* is renowned story which children have enjoyed for many years. They focussed on the use of speech to move their stories forward.



## Learning around Oakwood: Beech

Beech Class have been learning all about bugs. This subject has bridged both English and Science. Earlier this term, our Science lessons took us outside on a bug hunt, where the children got to use 'pooters' to collect their specimens. More recently, in English, we have been exploring a non-fiction text; *The Big Book of Bugs* by Yuval Zommer. The children have loved the detail on every page, learning new facts about a huge variety of bugs and identifying the many features of a non-fiction text. We have learned about life cycles; created diagrams, presented in groups and brainstormed adjectives to describe transformations.

Some members of Beech Class actually found baby shield bugs on a leaf in the playground, so naturally we also learned about their life cycle too!

To complete this writing unit, the children created their very own fictional creepy crawly, named it, described its life cycle and produced a two-page written piece to inform. Creatures such as Birdhogs, Ladypedes, Blood Hoppers and Caterflies were documented for the very first time!

To celebrate their written work, Beech Class are looking forward to sharing them with Acorns 1.

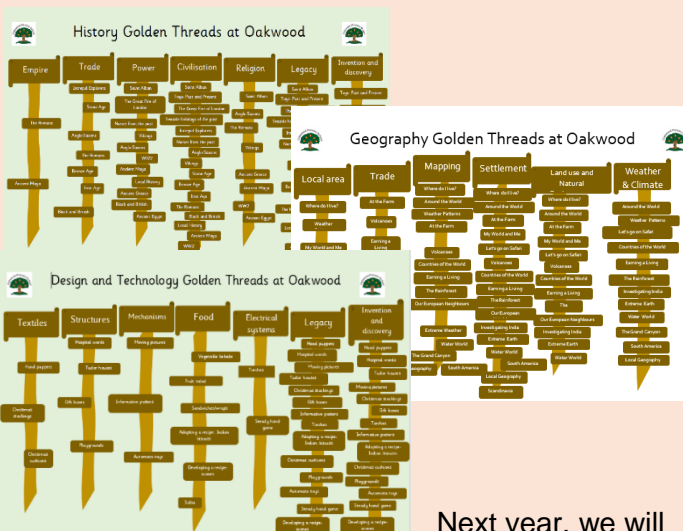


# Curriculum Review by Mr Stanway

Throughout this school year, the staff at Oakwood have been celebrating their subject areas. As part of my role here at Oakwood, I oversee the entirety of the curriculum. The first thing I want to celebrate is the staff themselves. All of the teachers have worked tirelessly throughout this year to develop the school curriculum to ensure it is the best it can be for the children at our wonderful school.

Across this year, staff have led training, visited lessons, surveyed children and monitored children's learning in books to provide valuable feedback for staff. All of this is done with the aim of improving our provision across the whole curriculum.

This year, three of our teachers have led a new initiative to develop a curriculum which allows children to build mental models of different Golden Threads across the curriculum. Over the last three newsletters, these staff have celebrated the progress in these areas.



Next year, we will begin developing our curriculum in Art, Music and Computing to include these Golden Threads and build upon the work done by the teachers this year.

Alongside our curriculum work, our teachers have worked hard this to provide children with a range of curriculum-enhancing visits, workshops and experiences. Whether it be the Sealife Centre, Electric Umbrella or a History off the Page workshop, all of this serves to bring our curriculum to life for the children.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email [safeguardingteam@oakwod.herts.sch.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@oakwod.herts.sch.uk)  
For urgent concerns, please telephone the school office: 01727 753930

## Learning around Oakwood: Sycamore

Life has been pretty busy here in Sycamore class over the past few weeks. In Year 6, we have been delving into the world of Sherlock Holmes and Cinderella as we practise our end of year play and we look forward to sharing our dramatic endeavours with you next week. In addition, we have completed Bikeability training and enjoyed a day trip to the Lea Valley Water Park. This week, we all enjoyed a really informative day up at the Hazard Alley Safety Centre learning how to keep ourselves safe in a variety of everyday situations. Every single one of us practised making a 999 call and put each other into the recovery position.

We've been really creative too! In art, we have been making some clay tiles for display whilst we made some circuits for light up greetings cards in a recent DT lesson. In science, we have been learning about the five kingdoms of living things and were fascinated to discover that yeast is actually a fungus. We enjoyed experimenting with yeast in the classroom, watching how it respired when mixed with warm water to release carbon dioxide. In maths, in year five we have been learning about pie charts by becoming 'Swifties' for the morning! We listened to a Taylor Swift song and recorded how many times we heard the word 'ever'. We then used this data to make living, breathing pie chart before drawing the chart accurately on paper.



## Beaumont visit Beech class

On Thursday afternoon, Beech class had some special visitors from Beaumont who came to share some stories with them which had been specially written for our pupils. It was a wonderful experience, the children thoroughly enjoyed spending time with their visitors.



## Celebration Assembly

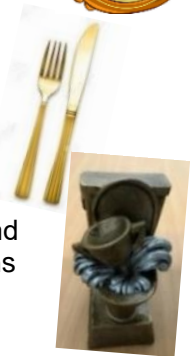
Every week, Celebration Assemblies are held to mark children's successes, efforts and achievement individually and as a class. In the last two weeks, the following prizes were awarded to...



'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Cherry and Rowan



'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Acorns 2 and Willow



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Willow and Rowan

The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Acorns 2 and Acorns 1

'Person of the Week' for demonstrating values which are important to everyone in our school:

Ash – Alice and Aria  
Beech – Morgan and Lenny  
Cherry – Caelan and Monica  
Lime – Patrick and Jessie  
Maple – Cerys May and Rosabella  
Poplar – Anaya and Rosa  
Rowan – Amber and Lars  
Sycamore – Mondira and Karson  
Willow – Orli and Aila



## Summer Reading Challenge



Saturday 5 July - Saturday 6 September

Sign up for FREE at your local Hertfordshire Library

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SummerReadingChallenge](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SummerReadingChallenge)



Please remember if you have any queries or questions, do make an appointment to come and speak your child's teacher. We are always very happy to meet with you. Don't let a little worry become a big one!

# Sports Day 2025

After such a wonderful Sports Day 2025, we wanted to share some more images taken as part of the day by staff at the event. We would also like to say a huge congratulations to Mr Cowan for organising another wonderful day in what we now know was his last Sports Day at Oakwood. Thank you for providing such wonderful memories of Sports Day!



# KS1 Sealife Centre

KS1 had a wonderful trip to the Sea life Centre on Friday 4th July. We saw sharks, jellyfish, seahorses, penguins, turtles, stingrays and many more animals. We discussed their features and their habitat. The Sea Life Centre also taught us about the impact of plastic and rubbish in the oceans. We have discussed this in Science and we want to aim to use less plastic in our everyday lives. We also had the opportunity to hold shark's eggs and look through domes into the penguin enclosures! Thank you to all the parent volunteers and to those who chose to donate additional money for our trip, this wonderful day wouldn't have been possible without you.





# Gladiator Visits Oakwood!

Zack George, also known as Gladiator Steel, spent over half a day inspiring the children at Oakwood to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. He shared an insight into how he got into fitness and how it led to him becoming the UK's fittest man and then a Gladiator.

Zack delivered an inspirational and engaging whole-school assembly, followed by individual class sessions to all classes from Reception to Year 6.

Zack impressed us with his powerful presentation about the importance of healthy eating, staying hydrated, getting regular exercise, and looking after our mental wellbeing—reminding everyone that finding balance is the key to living a happy, healthy life.

He talked about how confidence is a valuable asset in achieving your dreams and how you can use strategies such as positive self-talk and holding yourself well to improve confidence. He gave every child a signed photo and a bottle of ionized water to back his message about staying hydrated.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our amazing PTA, whose hard work and dedication made this event possible. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support and tireless efforts to enrich the lives of our children.

This was a fantastic start to our week!

*"Wow! Steel is so strong! I'm going to eat all my vegetables so I can be as strong as him and be a Gladiator when I'm big." (Ilyas, aged 4)*

*"I liked that he did a handstand for 20 seconds. He talked about hydration." (Iela, aged 8)*

*"It was a really interactive session and it seemed like Steel really wanted to be there. He taught us a lot about how to stay healthy and in good shape. There were lots of fun activities." (Kier, aged 10)*

