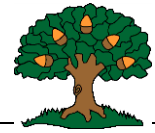


# Oakwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Oakwood Community,

With all the exciting events and hard work going on across the school over the past fortnight, it is hard to believe that it is only two weeks since the half-term break!

Children (and staff) across KS1 and Year 4 have been working hard to complete the statutory phonics and multiplication assessments. Well done to everyone for demonstrating the Oakwood value of ambition.

## Extra-curricular opportunities and activities

Nearly 100 children from EYFS to Year 6 took part in the Performing Herts Showcase in Harpenden on Saturday. The children demonstrated incredible talent with their singing, dancing, acting and acrobatic skills.

Meanwhile, the Year 6 boys' football team qualified for the finals tournament on Saturday, where they demonstrated excellent positive attitudes and achieved an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their group.

The Oakwood talents do not stop there! Yesterday, teams from Years 4, 5 and 6 attended a new Oracy competition at Samuel Ryder academy, all of the children did a fantastic job. A special mention goes to the Year 4 team whose poetry recital was the winning performance in their category and earned a trophy for Oakwood. Well done!

This week, LKS2 had a brilliant and engaging visit to Celtic Harmony to learn about Iron Age farming and today Year 6 have finished the week with an exciting and well-earned visit to Lee Valley White Water Centre.

A huge thanks to the PTA for running another successful children's disco last week, thank you to all of the parents and carers who volunteered and to the PTA committee who work incredibly hard behind the scenes so that all of these activities can take place.

## Parent events

It is not just the children who have been busy; we would like to thank the parents and carers who attended our School Development update on Monday evening and our SEND coffee morning on Tuesday. We will publish updates in due course.

## Staffing updates

Mrs Brown and Mrs Marshall have both come to the end of their maternity leave and will not be returning to Oakwood. Mrs Brown has relocated to Hampshire to be nearer family and Mrs Marshall has moved to York. We wish both Mrs Brown and Mrs Marshall all the best with their exciting new adventures.

We hope you have a lovely weekend

The Oakwood Team

## Recommended reading...

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

### Reception

*Who's Afraid of the Dark*

By Anna McGregor

### Key Stage 1

*The Ghost Cat who Saved my Life*

By Pamela Butchart

### Lower Key Stage 2

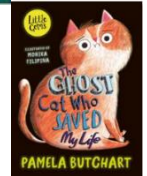
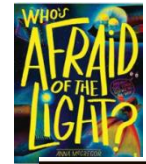
*Dungeon Runners: Hero Trial*

By Kieran Larwood

### Upper Key Stage 2

*The Boy who Fell from the Sky*

By Benjamin Dean



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

## Important dates for your diary...

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	District Athletics
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	New Acorns meeting for 2025 Acorns parents – 6pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	District Athletics
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	World Games @ Oaklands
W/C 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Science week @ Oakwood
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Cricket vs Skyswood (Away)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Acorns visit to Marshalswick library
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 – Electric Umbrella event
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Governor visit afternoon
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day

## Sports Day

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school for our annual Sports Day. On Monday this week, the school office sent an email to all parents with details of the event. Please ensure you have checked the details and speak with your child's class teacher should you have any further questions.

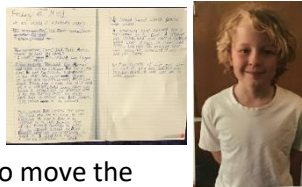
Our school website address: [www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

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

## Work of the week!

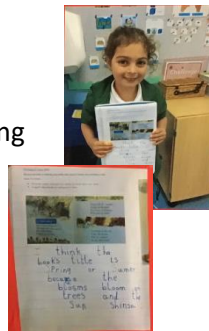
### Jack in Sycamore

Sycamore have been writing warning stories using speech to move the story forward, a variety of punctuation and carefully selected vocabulary amongst other techniques. Jack has shown this excellently.

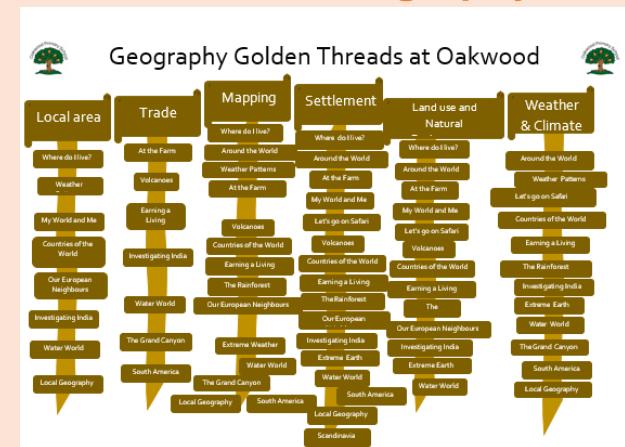


### Asya in Ash

Ash have been poem detectives, learning about interesting vocabulary in Shirley Hughes' poems. They guessed the titles based on the language used.



## Celebration of Geography



You may recall reading about the concept of Golden Threads in Design Technology from our previous newsletter. We are now delighted to introduce the Golden Threads that run through our Geography curriculum here at Oakwood.

These consist of seven distinct threads, all underpinned by an overarching theme of sustainability, which is thoughtfully woven into every unit across the school.

Take 'Mapping' as an example: children begin exploring this theme in the Early Years by learning to use simple maps. In Key Stage 1, they build on this by following compass directions. As they progress to Lower Key Stage 2, they begin adding features to map keys, and by Upper Key Stage 2, they are confidently creating their own sketch maps.

This structured progression not only develops essential geographical skills but also deepens pupils' conceptual understanding of Geography and its relevance to the world around them.

## Calling All Scientists!

We will be celebrating Science in the next few weeks at Oakwood with some explosive and awe-inspiring presentations from local chemist and teacher from St Albans Boys School. As part of this week, we will also be celebrating diversity by learning about famous scientists from all backgrounds who have impacted the world we live in by running a treasure hunt competition. Finally, we would love to highlight Science as a career and would invite any parents who work in the field of Science to get in touch to be part of a showcase.

### What we need:

- Some information about the scientific field you are working in
- What you like best about science
- Perhaps a picture of you at work

If you would be able to contribute, please do send your information to [admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

Deadline: Monday 23rd June

## Learning around Oakwood: Rowan

It's been a wonderful term in Rowan class with lots of exciting events and curriculum areas being studied.

In DT, we have been considering the humble tomato and looking at how it has been used commercially to produce a range of dishes including salsa. We evaluated (by tasting and observing) different brands of salsa using various criteria to come up with the class favourite. We will go on to make our own salsa, which will beat them all!

In PE, we have been improving our hand eye coordination playing tennis and through our throwing and jumping in athletics. Some of us will be competing in the district athletics following on from the success of several members of the class in the 6-side football tournament.

Our coding skills have progressed through our Computing sessions, where we used Scratch to create various outcomes in our own quizzes. Next we will use programming to control Crumbles and consider the different outputs.



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

## Learning around Oakwood:

Maple Class have had a fantastic first week back after the half-term break, diving straight into some exciting new learning!

In English, we've started exploring our new topic: writing non-chronological reports based on the vibrant book 'A Year Full of Celebrations and Festivals' by Christopher Corr. We began by discussing the differences between celebrations and festivals, then mind-mapped as many as we could think of from around the world. To help us understand the key features of a non-chronological report, we played a fun BINGO-style activity using a page from the book—complete with a secret prize for the winners!

In science, we launched our new topic: *Living Things*. This week, we learned how to classify living things using classification keys, focusing particularly on plants and their features. The highlight was a hands-on plant hunt where children collected flowers and leaves (sustainably, of course!) and used their findings to create their own classification keys.

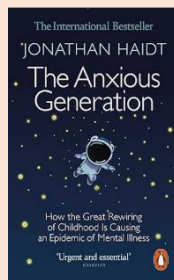
Maple Class are excited to continue their learning journey this half term, which will end with an important focus on wildlife conservation—especially how we can help save the bees!



## Recommended read for adults...

*The Anxious Generation* by Johnathan Haidt

*The Anxious Generation* delves into the latest research to show how the shift from free-play to smartphones disrupts development – from sleep deprivation to addiction – and lays the foundations of isolation and fear that define society today.



## Celebration Assembly

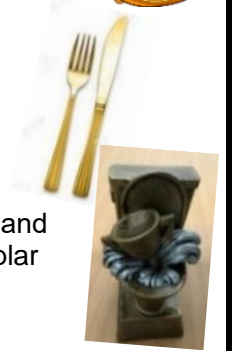
Every week, Celebration Assemblies are held to mark children's successes, efforts and achievement individually and as a class. In the last two weeks, the following prizes were awarded to...



'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Maple and Beech



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



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Ash and Cherry

The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Poplar and Willow

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

Ash – George and Lewis  
Beech – Abigail and Scarlett  
Cherry – Ben H and Oscar  
Lime – Aarvi and Robyn  
Maple – Joseph and Alex Z  
Poplar – Izzy and Hannah  
Rowan – Paddy and Humayra  
Sycamore – Heidi and Frank  
Willow – Aila



## Food Bank vouchers

We recognise that the cost of living may have made family life more difficult. If you feel you may be in need of support, please reach out to Miss Stubbs who may be able to supply food bank vouchers should this be helpful.

## Important – Parking outside school

Could we please take this opportunity to remind parents and all members of our community that parking outside the school gates should be legal and considerate of both other road users, families and children entering and leaving our school site.

Please also note that parents should not stop outside the school gates to block the road as their child enters the grounds.

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!