

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 23rd May 2025

Dear Oakwood Community,
Year 6 SATS

We would like to start this newsletter by saying a huge congratulations to the whole of Year 6 for their incredible focus and resilience during SATs week.

We would also like to thank the children across the rest of the school for showing such flexibility and consideration for the Year 6 students.

Finally, thanks to all the staff who supported with administering the SATs across the week. On the last day of the SATs, we were visited by the local authority as part of their routine checks on 10% of schools each year. The visit concluded that the arrangements the school were putting in place for SATs are good, with appropriate use of access arrangements.

Well done Team Oakwood!

Staffing updates:

Today we have said farewell to Mrs Ross (TA), who leaves us for an exciting adventure abroad. We wish Mrs Ross all the best. We have recently welcomed Ms Gainham (LKS2 TA) and Miss Hughes (EYFS TA) to the Oakwood Team. We have appointed an additional KS1 TA, UKS2 TA and MSA who will be joining us soon.

We hope you have a lovely half term break

The Oakwood Team

OPAL – next steps

The OPAL Working Group have been busy discussing ways to improve our play opportunity at lunch time. We would like to update you on some exciting developments:

- To improve the aesthetic of our outside areas, we will be planting bushes, and in certain high footfall areas woodchip.
- To broaden play types and opportunities, we will be working hard to fill our play sheds with blankets and cushions, art supplies, soft toys, den building equipment (poles and tarps), scooters, suitcases, tubing, ropes, balls and hoops. We are always looking for donations, so please do not hesitate to email or catch Miss Bird on the Willow door.
- Two fantastic children in Year 5 have put in a successful request to organise an art club at lunchtimes. This will be on offer soon outside for children to drop in and get creative.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their recent, generous donations. The children have greatly enjoyed playing with the guttering and fabrics you have provided. Also, a big thank you to Mr Coulshed for delivering the tractor tyres from Harpenden Rugby Club.

Diversity Forum

As we communicated to parents previously, the school has recently developed a new Diversity Forum with the aim of improving our diversity and equality provision across the school. The forum has met twice so far discussing our curriculum in detail. This will continue in the second half of the Summer Term and into next year. For further updates, please see the dedicated page on our school website [here](#) where all minutes and information will be published following meetings.

Recommended reading...

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

Reception

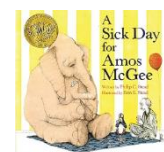
Stick and Stone

By Beth Ferry

Key Stage 1

A Sick Day for Amos McGee

By Philip Stead



Lower Key Stage 2

George and the Mini Dragon

By Tim Budgen



Upper Key Stage 2

Deep Dark

By Zorah Nabi

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

Important dates for your diary...

W/C 26 th May	Half Term – School Closed
Monday 2 nd June	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 4 th June	Y6 boys' football tournament
Thursday 5 th June	Y3/4 tag rugby tournament
Thursday 5 th June	Cricket match vs Sandridge
Friday 6 th June	Class/Y6 leavers'/sport photographs
Saturday 7 th June	Y6 boys' football tournament (qualification pending)
Monday 9 th June	School Development Plan – Parent Event @6pm
Wednesday 11 th June	LKS2 trip to Celtic Harmony
Thursday 12 th June	Samuel Ryder Oracy Competition

MUGA flooding

Some of you are concerned about flooding on the MUGA—we are too. The building company returned to fix it, but long-term improvements haven't happened yet. We're actively working with relevant agencies and want this resolved. Thanks for your patience as staff continue to address the issue.

Our school website address: www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk

School contact details: admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk

01727 753930

Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 1

Acorns 1 are learning all about Traditional Tales.

We read *The Gingerbread Man* last week, which is a firm favourite in our classroom. We have lots of lovely learning activities around the story and the weather was hot so we conducted an experiment to observe changes and develop our understanding of the world.

A real Gingerbread man came to visit our classroom...yes it was real! The children were so excited. They passed him around carefully using their senses to describe and explore

"He feels bumpy and smells like ginger"

"He feels really hard"

I showed the children the 'padding pool' I had made for him and asked them to predict what might happen if he went for a swim in it.

"He's going to melt"

"He's going to break into pieces"

"He's going to get softer" "He will get soggy" "Go down"

We watched him in the water to see what happened. Their predictions were correct! Great thinking skills Acorns 1.



Recommended read for adults...

As parents will know, the OPAL scheme has had a significant impact on the way children spend 20% of their time at school. For anyone wanting to know more about the importance of play in a child's development, the book is available to purchase.



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...

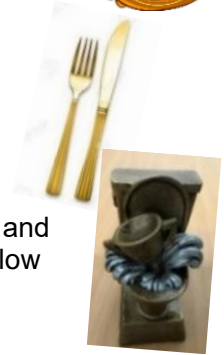


'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Sycamore and Lime

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



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



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



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

Ash – Edward and Annabelle
Beech – Isla and Milly
Cherry – Elodie and Lisa
Lime – Arian and Hawa
Maple – Georgie and Sophie
Poplar – Bethan and Olivia
Rowan – Orestis and Joseph
Sycamore – Jehaan and Max
Willow – Ethan and Lucy



Food Bank vouchers

We recognise that the cost of living has made family life more difficult in the past. 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!