

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Oakwood Community,

We hope you had a fabulous bank holiday weekend and enjoyed the brief sunny spell!

We have had an eventful few weeks and it is hard to choose what the highlight has been!

**Guinea pigs**

Last Friday, we had a very exciting naming ceremony for the guinea pigs. The children chose some excellent names:



Cookie

Nibbles

Oreo



Twiglet

Ginger

**Sporting updates**

Huge congratulations to the Year 5 football team for their brilliant sporting achievement – find out more below! Good luck to the Year 6 girls' football team who will be taking part in a tournament tomorrow.

**Year 4 visit to Pizza Express**

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April, Year 4 children visited Pizza Express as part of their DT learning. They found out about food hygiene and safety as well as the importance of fresh ingredients for flavour. One pupil said, "my favourite part of this amazing experience was making and learning about the pizza and its properties."



We hope you all have a lovely weekend and best of luck to all our Year 6 pupils who will be taking their SATs next week – you've got this!

The Oakwood Team

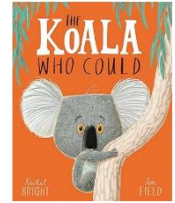
### Recommended reading...

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

#### Reception

*The Koala Who Could*

By Rachel Bright



#### Key Stage 1

*Amazing Grace*

By Mary Hoffman



#### Lower Key Stage 2

*The Wild Robot*

By Peter Brown



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*Wildspark*

By Vashti Hardy



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

### Important dates for your diary...

W/C 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATs Week
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Diversity Forum – 2pm
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	KS1 Learning showcase – 9:15am
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Girls' cricket tournament
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	KS1 learning showcase – 2:30pm
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	ELSA Clinic
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Cricket match vs Wheatfields (Home)

### Building and Restoring Relationships - Positive Regard

This academic year, staff from Oakwood have attended training in Positive Regard. This is an approach to supporting behaviour and regulation in children which is gaining more repute across the country. As part of this training, staff have been introduced to the power of restorative language following an incident where children may have become dysregulated. Mark Finnis, a leading innovator in restorative language, produces a series of videos to support relational practice. This is just one of the [videos](#) staff have used to develop their practice.

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)

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## Work of the week!

### Leo in Cherry

Cherry produced wonderful work on letters using Paddington's Post. Their focus was sequencing and Leo did this superbly.



### Ishan in Willow

Year 6 have been writing fairy tales with a creative twist. Ishan punctuated a range of speech and used ambitious vocabulary throughout.



### Annie in Lime

Lime have been exploring calligrams or shape poems. They have been inspired to think creatively and experiment with how their language can bring the animal to life. Annie has done this superbly.



## Learning around Oakwood: Ash

Last week, Ash Class turned into real-life nature detectives as we headed outdoors for a hands-on Minibeast Hunt!

Armed with magnifying glasses, nets, and pooters, the children explored our outdoor environment with great curiosity and care. We searched under logs, in the grass, and around the trees, looking closely at the fascinating world of minibeasts.

We found wriggling worms, speedy centipedes, busy ants, and even a few brave beetles! The children were excited to spot the differences between each creature and talked about where they live and how they move. Using our tools, we were able to get a closer look without disturbing their natural habitats.

This session was a fantastic way to support our learning in science and build respect for the tiny creatures that play such an important role in our ecosystem. We were so impressed with the children's enthusiasm, teamwork, and careful handling of the minibeasts.

Well done, Ash Class – you are true explorers!



## Year 5 Football Tournament Winners!

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, representatives of our Year 5 football team attended the annual 6-a-side tournament at St Columba's school. This is the first time Oakwood have competed in the Year 5 competition for a number of years.

The team were drawn in a difficult Group A, facing both Wheatfields and Fleetville who have proved tricky opponents already this year along with Camp Primary School, Skyswood Primary School and How Wood Primary School. However, with some excellent team performances and individual goals, the boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the group and qualified for the semi-final, conceding only 2 goals in 5 matches on the way to 4 victories.

In the semi-final, it would be a difficult match against the Group B winners: Killigrew. A break-away goal followed by a penalty meant we won the match 2-0. This led to the team playing Bernard's Heath Juniors in the final after they defeated Fleetville in the other semi-final. After a tense 6 minutes, a wonderful piece of play led to a goal for Oakwood and a 1-0 lead. We would hold onto this lead to take the trophy and finish as winners of the entire tournament.

Both Mr Stanway and Mr Cowan, who were in attendance at the tournament throughout the morning, were incredibly impressed with the teamwork, sportsmanship and effort the boys showed whilst representing our school. Furthermore, this tournament is proof of the hard work all of the Year 5 football squad has shown throughout this school year.

The victory means that in the next academic year our Year 6 team will have the chance to represent St Albans at the national 6-a-side tournament. Well done to all involved.



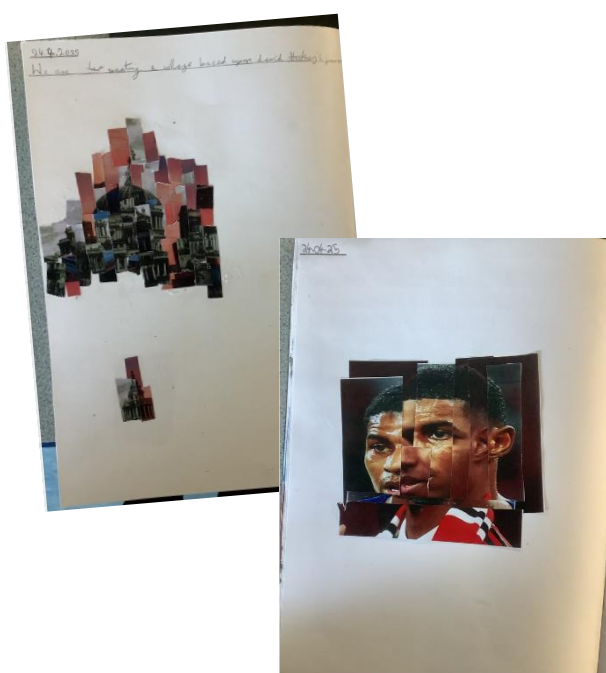
If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email [safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
For urgent concerns, please telephone the school office

## Learning around Oakwood: Willow

Willow are studying the work of the British artist David Hockney in art this term. At one point in his career, he focused on cubism.

Cubism's approach combined different views of objects within the same frame, resulting in art pieces that appear fragmented and abstract.

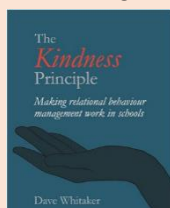
Cubist artists experimented with two-dimensional planes to show different viewpoints at the same time. Here are Willow's first attempts of artwork in the cubist style. Can you recognise the famous face and building?



## Recommended read for adults...

As part of our wider reading amongst adults in school, we have been using the book 'The Kindness Principle' as we develop our work our supporting behaviour and regulation. Therefore, this is our first recommended read for adults:

*The Kindness Principle* by Dave Whitaker



## 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 – Ash, Rowan and Ash



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



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Poplar, Lime and Maple



The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Rowan, Lime and Beech

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

Ash – Asya, Arlee and Aria S  
Beech – Rose, Ben P and Lexi  
Cherry – Kian, Caelan and Evie  
Lime – Finley H, Olivia and Robyn  
Maple – Isla, Joseph and Isabella S  
Poplar – Tandia, Sajeev and Poppy  
Rowan – Scarlett, Kian and Johnny  
Sycamore – Oxley, Leo and Frank  
Willow – Digby, Amber and Aila



## Instrument showcase

Calling all budding musicians! We would like to promote a free event run by Musicale. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, they will be hosting an instrument demonstration where you will have the opportunity to see, hear and try a range of instruments. This event, taking place at Musicale Hall, is free of charge although booking is encouraged. Please see the flyer attached below for more information.



## 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 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!

# Smartphone Free Childhood

As you will be aware, Oakwood Primary School has promoted and supported the Smartphone Free Childhood movement for the past year. As a school, we are smartphone free for children and encourage our Year 5 and 6 children to use 'dumb phones' for their walk to and from school where needed. Furthermore, smartphones and smart watches are on our list of banned items as appendix G in our behaviour policy, which can be found on our website [here](#).

As part of the movement, we have also directed parents to the Smartphone Free Childhood website where they can sign the parent pact. Oakwood Primary School currently has 81 families signed up to this pact. Year 6 is our most committed year group with 19 families signed up to the pact.

Should you wish to learn more information about the movement and sign up to the pact, you can find the website [here](#).

# OPAL Plea!

We need your help!

As you know, our aim for lunchtime is to enrich the children's play and provide resources which ignite their imagination and stimulate their creativity. In order to do this, we need our community's help and support with donations. Below is a list of items which we will be able to put to good use at lunchtimes. If you are able to help, please speak with the school office or Miss Bird:

- Pipes/tubing
- Cable drums
- Pillows and blankets
- Waterproof toys
- Boxes
- Pots, pans and cooking trays
- Scooters
- Suitcases
- Tarps

# Raise Resilience!

We have attached a flyer with links to a course of 6 parenting sessions for raising children to have resilience.



# Celebration of Music

As exam season begins across the country, and our own Year 6 pupils complete their SATs - literacy and numeracy taking centre stage, it is important to shout from the rooftops how important creativity and arts education is for our children.

At Oakwood, it is our intent that all children will be lifelong learners with the confidence and ability to continue to develop skills throughout their education.

Music is an integral part of the Oakwood curriculum; we aim to ensure that all children receive an interesting, thought-provoking and inclusive education. We believe the study of Music inspires children's curiosity, encourages them to ask critical questions and enables them to have a better understanding of the society in which they live, and that of the wider world.

The National Curriculum for music states 'children should play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression'

We have had such a busy time recently, with lots of wonderful musical things happening across different year groups. As you will have read in our last Newsletter we certainly have been playing and performing!

Singing at the Royal Albert Hall, The Alban Arena, Recorder concerts, putting on musicals and working with other schools. These are all wonderful experiences for our children and exposes them to the thrill of live performance!



Our wonderful Royal Albert Hall choir. I will never forget the looks of awe and wonder on all of the children's faces as we first entered the Hall itself.

'Is it true this is a once in a life time experience?' (Alex)



Year 5 Musical Theatre Performance Year 5 of Jake and the right Genie.