

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Oakwood Community,

It has been a fortnight of music and performance for KS2 at Oakwood! Every single pupil in KS2 has had the opportunity to perform in front of an audience over the past 2 weeks and we are so proud of them.

Our LKS2 pupils presented "You Are Special," a heart-warming, thought-provoking musical performance about celebrating differences. You brought tears to our eyes! Well done LKS2!

Year 6 performed "Beyond the Sea" with the St Albans Primary Schools' Music Association (SAPSMA) at the Alban Arena. Year 6 did Oakwood proud with excellent solo performances and readings (and the Oakwood support in the audience stood out too!)

Finally, read on to find out more about the Hertfordshire School's Gala at the Royal Albert Hall and Year 5's performance of Jake and the Rights Genie, supported by St Albans School.

Thank you to all the staff, parents and carers who have supported these events. We have further exciting musical plans, watch this space!

SDP parent event slides

If you were unable to attend our most recent School Development Plan event on 5th March, you can view the slides, including the Q & A, on our website under [Parents / Parent Meetings and Workshops / School Development Plan 2024-2025 Spring Parent Meeting](#).

Parent and Carer Survey

Please see the link to the parent and carer survey in the letter sent from the school office on Wednesday 2nd April. We are keen to receive responses from every family so that we can be sure that the results are truly representative of the parent/carer body. We will make changes based on the survey results, so if you think there are things that are working well just as they are, please include these too, so that we know to keep doing them!

Staffing updates

This week we have said farewell to Mrs Kireeva, Acorns Teaching Assistant, who is exploring a new opportunity. We wish Mrs Kireeva all the best in her new role.

We hope that all our families have a lovely break and enjoy any celebrations you may be having!

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 Oak Tree

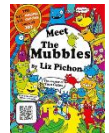
By Julia Donaldson



Key Stage 1

Meet the Mubbles

By Liz Pichon



Lower Key Stage 2

Willow Wildthing and the Swamp Monster

By Gill Lewis



Upper Key Stage 2

On the Wall

By Anne Fine

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

Important dates for your diary...

Tuesday 22 nd April	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Wednesday 23 rd April	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 23 rd April	Y5 boys' football tournament
Thursday 24 th April	Y3 swimming starts
Thursday 24 th April	Y4 visit to Pizza Express
Saturday 26 th April	Y5 boys' football final (pending qualification)
Wednesday 30 th April	9am - Parent volunteer briefing
Thursday 1 st May	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Wednesday 7 th May	Girls' football preliminary tournament
Saturday 10 th May	Girls' football tournament (pending qualification)

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

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

01727 753930

Work of the week!

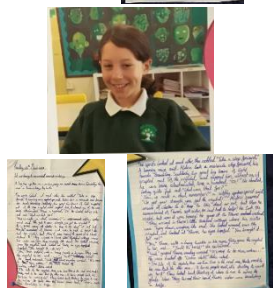
Blake in Beech

Beech have been using the book 'Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus' to learn how to describe characters. Blake has done a wonderful job thinking about physical features and characteristics.



Gabriella in Rowan

In Year 5, the children have been writing fairy tales, focusing on accurate editing and thinking about the purpose and audience for their writing. A great job Gabriella!



Learning around Oakwood: Rowan

After drawing inspiration from Macbeth and a trip to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, we have recently been composing our own fairy tales with a twist. We look forward to sharing these with each other and children from another UKS2 class!

In Science, we have been making electrical circuits and are using this knowledge to create our own light up electrical cards in Design and Technology.

In History, we have been researching historical figures with a connection to St Albans and assessing their suitability for a commemorative blue plaque in our town. People like Francis Bacon, Michael Morpurgo and Olivia Alison have been in the mix!

We celebrated French Language Day with some French songs, some French art and a gouter (French tea) The singing continued with our excellent year 5 performance of Jake and the Right Genie.



Curriculum celebration: OPAL

At Oakwood, we believe that all children need opportunities to play that allow them to explore, manipulate, experience and affect their environment. The OPAL Primary Programme rationale is that "... better, more active and creative playtimes can mean happier and healthier children, and having happier, healthier, more active children usually results in a more positive attitude to learning in school, with more effective classroom lessons, less staff time spent resolving unnecessary behavioural problems, fewer playtime accidents, happier staff and a healthier attitude to life."

Our children are enjoying their lunch times! Just have a look at these photos showcasing the amazing play your child is involved with.

How you can help:

Thinking of doing a spring clean? We are always looking for donations such as:

- cardboard
- pots and pans
- tubes and pipes
- scooters
- waterproof toys
- board games

If you think you have something that children can play with and you want to donate, please bring it to the school office. Unsure if we need it? Email the office or catch Miss Bird in Willow classroom.



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

Safari Stu

On Tuesday this week, our Acorns children were lucky enough to experience an amazing wildlife experience with Safari Stu. He brought a myriad of exotic animals to school for the children to learn about. What an amazing experience!



Year 5 Musical Theatre Performance

Year 5 have been working incredibly hard to put together their wonderful performance of Jake and the right Genie. We are incredibly grateful to the time and effort that 6th form students and staff from St Albans School have dedicated to enable such a wonderful performance. We hope parents enjoyed the show.



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 – Willow and Acorns 2



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



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Acorns 2 and Poplar



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

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

Ash – Theo H and Alfie
Beech – Ada and Isobel
Cherry – Esmee and Oliver E
Lime – Mollie and Finley E
Maple – Jolie and Carys
Poplar – Reham and Stanley
Rowan – Milo and Jamie
Sycamore – Finley and Jack
Willow – Cameron and Tygar



Oakwood Art Club

The Oakwood Art Club which meets each Monday afternoon have been working hard on their 'London Calling' project in recent weeks. This is London from the children's perspective. The link attached here will direct you to the children's work. We have also added a selection of the artwork to the final page of our newsletter.

[Oakwood Online Gallery](#)

Important – Parking outside school

In recent days, we have been contacted by a number of concerned neighbours and parents regarding parking on the double yellow lines and zig zags outside the school gates. We would like to remind parents it is illegal to park on these areas as per the highway code. We are in contact with our PCSO to make routine checks on the area but we would ask all parents to be mindful of their parking and remember young children must use the area to arrive at school.

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!

Learning around Oakwood: Lime

Lime Class has been having a fantastic time exploring new and exciting topics!

In Science, we explored the importance of dental hygiene. A highlight was using disclosing tablets to check how well we brushed our teeth- what a fun (and slightly messy) lesson! We also conducted an egg experiment, placing eggs in different liquids. To our amazement, the eggshell completely disappeared in vinegar, helping us understand how acids affect calcium.

In English, we unleashed our creativity and wrote our own calligraphic poems about our favourite animals. In Maths, we became fraction experts, mastering concepts through engaging activities that deepened our understanding.

In History, we stepped back in time to the Bronze Age, turning our classroom into a bustling village where everyone had a role to play. This hands-on experience helped us understand what life was like in that era.

Our DT lessons have been especially exciting as we learned about biscuits. Best of all, we got to put our knowledge into practice by making our own Indian-inspired biscuits—what a delicious way to end our learning!

In French, in addition to a bonus French day, we have been reviewing some vocabulary and a few favourite songs.



Royal Albert Hall Experience

On Sunday 23rd March, 20 of our year 6 pupils performed at the 30th Anniversary Hertfordshire Gala, held at the Royal Albert Hall. It was an amazing celebration of music, involving children from all over the county with primary, secondary and special schools taking part. We were so very proud to sing alongside our children and experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to perform at this historic venue. The children were a credit to Oakwood and I hope it has inspired them to continue their musical adventures at Secondary school and beyond.



Diversity Forum

Recently, we communicated to parents our intention to begin a Diversity Forum where we invite parents from our school community to work with us. Our Diversity Forum was created to ensure we do all that we can to develop our school into one which promotes and supports diversity.

We are pleased to say that last Friday we held our first meeting looking at the school curriculum in a wider sense to discuss how we can ensure diversity and inclusion plays a part in our curricular choices.

After Easter, our next forum will consider each curriculum area in turn to discuss ways in which we promote diversity and inclusion across all year groups and subjects.

After Easter we will post the minutes on our website together with details about how you can get involved.

Easter trails

We have held a long association with St Paul's Church and this Easter they have some events which families may be interested in. Please see the attached flyers for more information.

