

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Oakwood Community,

As you will see, it has been an eventful fortnight at Oakwood with a variety of events and activities taking place alongside the usual curriculum.

Features in this fortnight's newsletter:

KS1 had an exciting, multi-sensory immersive workshop linked to their topic on the Great Fire of London.

March 8th was International Women's Day and this was marked in a variety of ways across the school.

This week, we had a visit from school governors, who spoke to members of staff regarding our current School Development Priorities.

You can read more about all of these events further on!

Neurodiversity week

This week has been Neurodiversity Week across the UK and we have marked this at Oakwood with a thought-provoking values assembly for KS1 and KS2, which included watching [this video](#), which aims to promote understanding and acceptance. Miss Stubbs, our school SENCO, led an excellent and informative staff training session with a focus on ADHD. You can read some of the training slides on our website [here](#).

On the theme of diversity, we are excited to announce that our newly formed Diversity Forum will take place half-termly, starting next week. Thank you to all parents and carers who expressed an interest.

As previously communicated, this term we held a "Headteacher Question and Answer Time" session and details of this can be found on the website [here](#). We will also shortly be publishing the slides from our recent parent event.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend, and best of luck to the Year 6 performers attending the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday!

The Oakwood Team

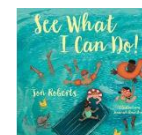
Recommended reading...

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

Reception

See What I Can Do

By Jon Roberts



Key Stage 1

Lizzie and Lucky: The Mystery of the Disappearing Rabbit

By Megan Rix



Lower Key Stage 2

Mischief at Midnight

by Esme Kerr



Upper Key Stage 2

The Spectaculars: The Four Curses

by Jodie Garnish

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

Important dates for your diary...

Sunday 23 rd March	Hertfordshire Schools' Gala Royal Albert Hall
Monday 24 th March	Y6 SAPSMA rehearsal Garden Fields
Tuesday 25 th March	Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing screening – Younger Acorns
Tuesday 25 th March	Gladiator visit
Thursday 27 th March	Last Y4 swimming
Friday 28 th March	Y5 performance
Tuesday 1 st April	9.20am LKS2 learning showcase
Tuesday 1 st April	Y6 SAPSMA rehearsal – Alban Arena 7pm – SAPSMA concert
Wednesday 2 nd April	2.20pm LKS2 learning showcase
Thursday 3 rd April	Acorns workshop – Safari Stu
Friday 4 th April	End of term timings: EYFS – 1:50pm / KS1 – 1:55pm / KS2 – 2pm

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

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

01727 753930

Work of the week!

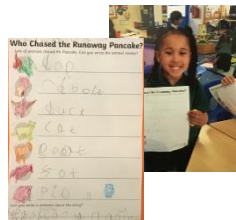
Bethan in Poplar

Bethan has used the Power of three and some wonderful vocabulary to write a short personal narrative for a competition. Well done, Bethan.



Lilaiya in Acorns 1

Lilaiya has used her phonics knowledge to write tricky animal names and the tricky word 'of'. Well done, Lilaiya.



Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

Cherry have had an exciting few weeks! In History we have been learning about The Great Fire of London, culminating in the History Off The Page workshop. We had the chance to act out different jobs that we could have had in 1666. The activities included sewing, weaving, making our own ink and using it to write and making our own perfumes that people believed kept the plague away! We then learnt about the events of the Great Fire of London. We know that they didn't have a fire service and instead used leather buckets. We also got to pretend to use fire hooks to pull down houses. They did this to stop the fire from spreading. We also thought like Historians! We used practical sources to work out who owned different objects, what the objects were used for and what happened to the house they were found in. We asked thoughtful questions, made strong judgements and predictions!



In Science we have been learning about plants and animals, using a tally chart to collect data from around the school about the types of birds we found. We then used our computing lesson to input this data into a digital pictogram. After that, we thought like scientists to figure out what this data could tell us and why it is useful.

In DT we will be making Tudor houses soon. Once this is complete, we will be exploring how the layout of the streets was a cause of the fire spreading quicker. We will be using our critical thinking skills to redesign our streets and make them safer. Well done Cherry you have been working very hard!



Curriculum celebration: RE

Religious Education at Oakwood is an exciting and thought-provoking subject that encourages pupils to explore big questions about life, faith, and identity. Through our enquiry-based approach, we foster curiosity, respect and reflection, helping children develop a deep understanding of different religions and worldviews.

What have we been learning?

Each half term, pupils engage with a key question that challenges them to think critically about religious beliefs and their impact on individuals and communities. This half term KS1 are exploring Easter and asking, "How important is it to Christians that Jesus came back to life after His crucifixion?"

LKS2 have been deepening their understanding of Christianity. This half term, they are thinking about Good Friday and asking, "What is good about Good Friday?"

UKS2 have tackled some deep philosophical and theological discussions, including: "Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth?"

Bringing RE to Life

This year, we've enriched our RE learning with exciting real-world experiences:

Key Stage 1 took part in a Nativity Trail at St Paul's Church, where they had a fantastic time.

The whole school enjoyed a Harvest Assembly, with visitors from St Paul's Church coming to lead the celebration in school.

Key Stage 2 had the incredible opportunity to visit a Mosque, where they explored Islamic traditions, practices, and the importance of prayer in Muslim life first hand.

By engaging with different perspectives and experiences, pupils at Oakwood are developing the skills to think deeply, critically, and compassionately about the world around them.

For more information about RE at Oakwood, please visit the RE page under the 'Curriculum' tab on our website.



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

Learning around Oakwood: Poplar

In Science, we have been learning all about 'Teeth and Eating'. We have been focussing on the importance of keeping our teeth healthy and brushing our teeth correctly. We carried out an investigation to look at plaque in our mouth. As part of our investigation, we chewed a 'plaque disclosing tablet.' The disclosing tablet contained a harmless vegetable dye, which highlighted any plaque that may be present on the surface of a tooth. We had lots of fun and some of us were quite surprised at the results. It really highlighted the importance of brushing our teeth properly.

In Design and Technology, we have been exploring different spices/herbs and working collaboratively to design our own Indian biscuits. We had to predict which additional ingredients (cumin, cardamom, ginger, pepper or cinnamon) would make a perfect combination for the best taste. Our target audience: families; Year 4 Poplar relatives – be ready for tasting soon!



International Women's Day

We recently celebrated International Women's Day across school. Classes across the school held assemblies and read books based on incredible women.

In Beech class, children read *Snail in Space* which tells the story of Gail who is told she can't do something and should stay on the ground. From this, the class talked about there still being some countries where women and girls are oppressed.

In Cherry, the children read 'Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World' and then discussed the amazing achievements and struggles so many of these women faced.

The whole school also attended an assembly led by Mrs Roche on issues of inequality in the UK and around the world.

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...

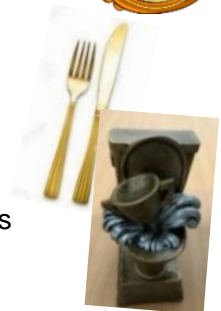


'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Rowan and Maple

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Acorns 1 and Lime



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



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

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

Ash – Gabriella and Emilia
Beech – Arlen and Jake L
Cherry – Lisa and Aiyla
Lime – Jessie and Iela
Maple – Will M and Isabella S
Poplar – Orla and Sophia
Rowan – Keir and Audrey
Sycamore – Sophia W and Karson
Willow – Hamish



Guinea Pigs!

Last year, during our pupil voice activities, children expressed a clear interest in having a school pet. We are excited to announce that we will be introducing school guinea pigs to Oakwood very soon! Mrs Thompson (Beech Class) has kindly volunteered to care for the guinea pigs when they are not in school and she has been encouraging the guinea pigs to get used to gentle handling. Children will first learn how to look after the guinea pigs before being introduced to them, and there will also be a naming competition – watch this space!



Important – Parking outside school

We have received messages from local residents informing us that parents are parked illegally outside of the school gates. Can we please remind you that the markings outside of the school gate are illegal to park on between the hours of 8am and 6pm. The police do have the right to tow cars parked on zigzag lines between these times.

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!

Governor Postcard – March 2025

Governors enjoyed a visit to the school on Wednesday as part of their termly schedule of visits. Our focus this time was a number of objectives from the School Development Plan. We met with a TA who joined the school this year and talked to us about providing support to children with special educational needs (SEND). She spoke positively about the job and it was encouraging to hear her speak about meeting a child's emotional needs first so that they are in a good place to learn. She talked to us about the targets in place for children and also spoke about the support that has been available to her, including support from other staff members and the SEND surgeries with the SENCO.

We also met with Miss Stubbs (SENCO) who spoke about the many interventions that are in place for children and how they map these to help them track their success. She spoke about their focus to make all lessons inclusive through various methods and it is clear that the school is putting the appropriate things in place to track progress of all children and that the interventions are evidence led.

Finally, we spoke about staff continuing professional development (CPD) with Mr Stanway. He shared with us the programme of discussion topics at staff meetings for the autumn and spring terms as well as the training that has been undertaken on INSET days since the beginning of the academic year in order to further improve the quality and consistency of teaching across the school. It was also interesting to hear about the peer observations and cluster sessions enabling the sharing of experiences with other local schools.

Governors are always pleased to have the opportunity to visit the school and we were able to have a better understanding of interventions, CPD and the one-to-one work of TAs. We would like to extend our thanks to all the staff involved, for giving up their valuable time to provide us with insights into some of the important areas of the school.

World Book Day



Donations

We would like to begin a regeneration project on the school grounds over the Easter holidays. Part of this involves placing soil down and planting grass seed on needed areas. If you are able to support with bags of soil or grass seed, please contact Miss Bird who will be happy to take any donations for the school.

Thank you!