

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 14th February 2025

Dear Oakwood Community,

It has been an incredibly busy fortnight here at Oakwood, with lots of exciting events taking place across a range of activities. Our students have had the chance to participate in sporting events such as speed-stacking and football - read on to find out more! Additionally, our musical events have been a highlight, including a fantastic workshop at St Albans School and the LKS2 recorder performances.

LKS2 students also had the opportunity to engage in an insightful neurodiversity workshop this week, which was both informative and engaging for all involved.

In addition, we have held our Open Classrooms and Parents' Evenings. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful teachers for the time and effort they have put into these events. We hope you have found these useful.

A reminder that parents are invited to express interest in being part of our new Diversity Forum via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/zc3FJGbdMK>

### Staffing updates:

Miss Defelice will be leaving after half term and we wish her all the best. We have welcomed Miss Aranyi (LKS2 Teaching Assistant) to the team.

We have a vacancy for a KS2 Teaching Assistant (TA) and a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) and would welcome applicants from parents and the wider community - the vacancies are listed on Teach in Herts here: [teachinhertsHLTA](#) [teachinhertsTA](#)

We hope you all have a lovely half term!  
The Oakwood Team

## LKS2 recorder performance

This week, Lime, Maple and Poplar showed off the product of their hard work as they performed a range of recorder notes and songs for parents and children. The children demonstrated excellent skills and performed confidently in front of eager audiences. Well done to all the children and teachers involved for their hard work.



## Recommended reading...

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

### Reception

*Word Trouble*

By Vyara Boyadjieva

### Key Stage 1

*We Can! - Make a Difference*

By Alexandra Strick

### Lower Key Stage 2

*The New Football Coach*

By Dominique Demers



### Upper Key Stage 2

*The Great Unexpected*

by Sharon Creech

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

## Important dates for your diary...

Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	UKS2 visit to The Globe Theatre
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 4 Rapid Fire Cricket
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	6pm - Year 6 parents' meeting about SATs
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Cross County at Mandeville
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 6 netball vs Park Street
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Royal Albert Hall Gala rehearsal
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	6pm - School development plan meeting for parents
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 netball vs Fleetville
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 netball tournament @ Samuel Ryder Academy

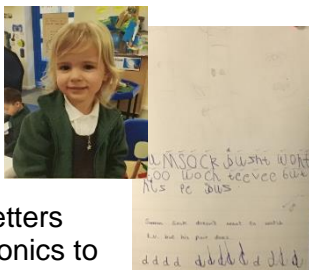
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## Work of the week!

### Maya in Acorns 2

Acorns have been learning to hold their pen with the correct grip, form letters accurately and use their phonics to begin to spell words. Well done, Maya!



### Bella in Maple

Maple have been using expanded noun phrases, show not tell and a range of punctuation to create excellent pieces of writing. Bella makes use of those techniques here. Well done, Bella.



## Learning around Oakwood: Ash

Ash Class had a fantastic time exploring the hilarious book *Oi Frog!* by Kes Gray and Jim Field. We loved the playful rhymes and couldn't wait to create our own!

Inspired by the story, we got creative and had fun coming up with our own rhyming poems, practising rhyming couplets along the way. It was exciting to see how many funny and imaginative pairs we could come up with. Who knew that llamas sit in pyjamas or that ants sit on plants?

This activity helped us develop our understanding of rhyme and rhythm while giving us the confidence to play with language in new and exciting ways.

We have also been enjoying the adventures of Monty the Bear, who goes home each weekend with the child who receives the Golden Award on Friday. Monty always has a fun-filled weekend, often involving lots of hot chocolates! We have loved reading about his adventures, and the children's writing has been fantastic. It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they bring Monty's weekends to life through their storytelling.



## Curriculum celebration: MFL

At Oakwood Primary School we believe that learning a foreign language is fundamental to all learning. There are many benefits to learning a foreign language; it allows us to speak to people in their own language, deepen cultural connections and to better understand the world.

Learning an additional language has also shown to strengthen the area of the brain responsible for memory, speech and sensory perception and because it boosts memory, brain function and improves attention span. It has also been linked to improved performance in other subjects. In addition, learning a language at an early age provides the foundation for learning further languages in KS3 and onwards.

Across Key Stage 2, we are using the Language Angels Scheme of work to deliver planned weekly lessons. The children are progressively taught the five language skills of: reading, writing, listening, speaking and grammar together with the 12 Programme of Study Attainment targets as set in the National Curriculum. The units that the children learn, where possible, are linked to class topics and cross curricular themes. Children have the opportunity to learn songs, play board games as well as games on the interactive white board. French songs are also sung in the Early Years. In this academic year so far, Lower Key Stage 2 have learnt about shapes, animals and musical instruments and Upper Key Stage 2 have learnt about family, home and clothes.

Oakwood Primary are looking forward to participating in celebration of French Language Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> March which acknowledges the beauty and cultural significance of this wonderful language. French is (or is at least one of) the official language of 29 countries including France, Belgium, Canada and Switzerland. A language that is spoken by millions around the globe, and a gateway to literature, art, cuisine and more.



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: Acorns 2

This week Acorns have been reading the story *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy. It is about a bear who wants to travel to the moon. This has introduced our topic about 'Space'. The children shared questions they had about what it would be like in space and what they might see. The children shared their knowledge and found out about Neil Armstrong. They were amazed that footprints on the moon never go away! They have enjoyed learning about how astronauts move in space with no gravity and how much fun this would be! We found out how astronauts brush their teeth with a floating toothbrush and thought it was funny how they washed their hair!

We have created rocket pictures from 2D shapes and made 3D models of rockets out of junk modelling materials. We created our own space aliens and enjoyed reading *Aliens Love Underpants*.

In Maths, our topic has been measuring. The children have made some lovely counting books and created long snakes and different sized crocodiles. We compared the length of our feet and the height of the children in our class. We explored the concept of standard and non-standard measures. We used the measuring tape to measure the heights of the children.

Acorns 2 have continued to follow their interests in dinosaurs and have created their own narratives in small world play.



## Sports fixtures

There have been a lot of sports fixtures in the last two weeks here at Oakwood. The Year 5 boys' football team have played three matches beating Fleetville for the first time. The girls' football team managed to get their first win of the season recently against Cunningham Hill and the Year 6 boys' football team have shown great fight and spirit competing against other local schools. On top of this, Miss Bird took our Year 3 and 4 Speedstackers to their annual competition where they competed superbly. Miss Bird was proud of their efforts and she won the teachers' race for herself!



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!

## 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 Cherry

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



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Rowan and Sycamore

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



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

Ash – Damian and Riley  
Beech – Elodie M and Aarav  
Cherry – Caelan and Alice  
Lime – Max S and Zac  
Maple – Alex M and Oliver M  
Poplar – Izzy and Henry  
Rowan – Billy and Kamran  
Sycamore – Paris and Sophia W  
Willow – Isla G and Elsie



## Big Walk and Wheel

At the end of the Spring Term, Oakwood Primary School will be taking part in Sustrans' Big Walk and Wheel supported by HCC. We will be distributing more information to parents after half term as we aim to encourage as many of our pupils as possible to walk or wheel, cycle or scoot to school. Each day, we will record how children get to school and submit our data for a chance to win prizes. The event starts on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March and lasts for two weeks.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

