

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Oakwood Community,

Happy New Year!

The Christmas break already feels like a distant memory! We hope you had a chance to read about Oakwood in the Herts Advertiser over the Christmas break:

<https://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/24810369.oakwood-primary-school-children-raise-535-charity/>

A further update from Rennie Grove is included later in this newsletter. A huge well done to all our pupils for their fundraising and community efforts. We are so proud of you.

### School Development

Staff have been busy already this term with a staff training day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January and a visit from Herts for Learning this week to support us to further develop our writing across the school. More detailed updates will follow at our next School Development information evening on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

### Staffing updates:

This week we have said goodbye to Mrs Westcombe (LKS2 Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Kumar (UKS2 Teaching Assistant). We would like to wish both Mrs Westcombe and Mrs Kumar all the best.

Mrs Seymour (UKS2 Teaching Assistant) has now joined us full-time and we have also welcomed Mrs Goodfellow (LKS2 Teaching Assistant).

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

The Oakwood Team

## Magnetic beads

We have noticed an increase of magnetic beads in some classrooms in recent weeks. Please could parents ensure these do not come into school as they can be incredibly dangerous if swallowed. We have younger children in school who may find these objects of interest and be put inadvertently in danger. Thank you for your cooperation.



<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/05/dangers-of-children-swallowing-magnets-prompts-nhs-call-for-ban/>

## Recommended reading...

At Oakwood, we really value reading and see it as the gateway to knowledge and one of life's key pleasures!

### Reception

*The Girl at the Front of the Class*  
by Onjali Rauf



### Key Stage 1

*Wonders of the Wild*  
by Éanna Ní Lamhna

### Lower Key Stage 2

*Rainbow Grey*  
by Laura Ellen Anderson



### Upper Key Stage 2

*The 1000-year-old boy*  
by Ross Welford

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

## Important dates for your diary...

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	No Such Thing as Normal Day – Non-uniform
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Y6 Boys' football home vs Wheatfields
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January - 9am	Year 1 Parent Meeting – Supporting your child with Reading & Writing
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January - 2:30pm	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Girls' football home vs. Killigrew
W/C 27 <sup>th</sup> January	SEND Support Plan meetings (wk1)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Y6 Boys' football away vs Cunningham Hill
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Author Visit – Ian Brown
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Y5 Boys' football away vs Fleetville
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Hertfordshire Schools' Cross Country, Bushey

Our school website address: [www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

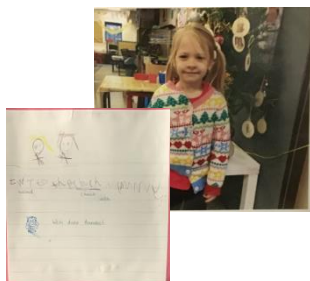
School contact details: [admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

01727 753930

## Work of the week!

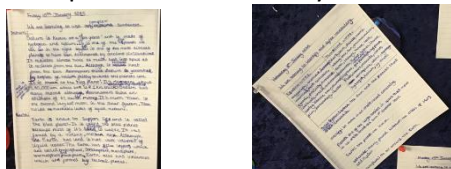
### Annabel in Acorns 1

Acorns wrote about their walk to the church before Christmas and Annabel used her phonics to help her.



### Aqilah in Willow

Willow have started their writing unit on space. They have been building up to a report informing the reader about different planets in the solar system.



### Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 1

It has been a busy start to the new term in Acorns 1. We have been introducing our new topics and the seasonal weather has certainly helped. Alongside our topic 'Ticket to Ride!', we are exploring all things Winter this half term, and the cold and frosty conditions are a great provocation for our learning. Over the last week we have created some Winter art. The children collected small twigs from outside to create winter tree pictures. We discussed how and when some trees lose their leaves.

It's also part of the EYFS curriculum for children to learn to cut with scissors, so one of our Busy Fingers activities has been drawing around circles and cutting around them to create snowmen.

To develop the children's understanding of the world we plan to explore ice in the coming weeks, and as the temperatures have been so cold in recent days we have observed the frozen water in our tuff tray outside. The children used their observational and prediction skills during a great scientific discussion about what ice was, why does water freeze, what did it feel like? The children said, "It feels freezing" "It's from water" "I have ice in my garden"

We are all looking forward to finding out more about Winter in the coming weeks!



## Curriculum celebration: Science

At Oakwood, we recognise the importance of science in every aspect of everyday life and how it weaves its way around all other subjects in the curriculum. We use the Switched on Science scheme which reflects these interlinked relationships with other subjects. Moreover, at breaktimes children have the opportunity to investigate and experience science through self initiated play with OPAL.

Children learn by working scientifically, developing scientific knowledge and investigating to answer scientific enquiries. Topics for the Spring term include: Space, Sound and Polar Places.

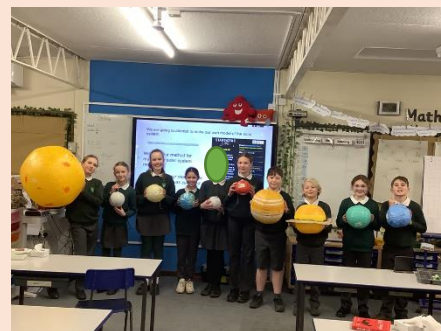
Recent activities across the school have involved: Discovering how rocks are formed (Poplar)



Exploring states of matter through making butter (Lime)



Using blow up planets and mapping the solar system using toilet rolls (Willow)



Investigating which materials Polar explorers should wear for their expeditions (Beech)  
Here are some of their ideas so far....

You need lots of layers to keep warm.

Charlie

They should wear bright colours and not white so they can be seen in the snow. If they wear white, they will be camouflaged.

Rose

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: Rowan

This term we have blasted off into Space! We have started looking at our solar system in Science, comparing the various planets including their different sizes and how far they each are from the Sun. The picture below shows our playground demonstration.

In English we have been using different writing tools and techniques to create our own space encyclopaedia, whilst in Art we are looking at 'retro-futurism', where artists depicted how they imagined life in our solar system would have looked in the future.

In Geography, we have been considering our local area, so you may get asked why you choose to live in St Albans and what the different land uses are near where you live! We have started our drama and music workshops with the staff and sixth formers from St Albans school, which is very exciting!



## Thank you!

Last Monday, we received confirmation from Rennie Grove Peace Hospice that our school community raised a total of £746.75 from the Santa Dash. The Hospice commented on this being an 'incredible sum of money'. This sum of money is the equivalent of 19 hours of care from a specialist nurse in a patient's home to provide care, support and symptom management.

The hospice runs solely on the generous donations to provide care free of charge to patients and their families. Your donations will ensure the hospice are able to continue their care for their patients. For more information, see their website below

[www.renniegrovepeace.org](http://www.renniegrovepeace.org)

## 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 – Acorns 2, Lime and Cherry

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



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

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



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

Ash – George, Theo H and Alice  
Beech – Charlie, Nikita and Dilan  
Cherry – Alan, Lyla B and Avery  
Lime – Connie, Oliver and Khalil  
Maple – Chloe, Tara and Harriet  
Poplar – Benjy, Max and William J  
Rowan – Gabriella, Evie and Lara  
Sycamore – Ashvin, Joseph and Adriana  
Willow – Aqilah, Emily and Alex



## School site reminder

We understand drop-off and pick-up times can be busy outside of the school gates. However, we ask that parents park considerately of our neighbours and the Oakwood community. Many of our children and families walk to and from school and it is important they are able to do this in a safe environment where road visibility is not obscured by parked cars. We understand these times can sometimes be rushed but do ask all parents to consider their parking choices. We would encourage families, where possible, to walk rather than drive to and from school as part of a healthy lifestyle.

It is important to remember parking on double yellow and Zig Zag school lines is illegal, at certain times for the latter.

Could we also please remind parents and children to use the crossings on the school site as the car park and road can be busy at times in the day.

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!