

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 13th December 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The PTA kicked off our Christmas festivities two weeks ago with their wonderful Winter Fair, spreading holiday cheer throughout the school. The celebrations have continued with a fabulous Christingle making session, which brought together LKS2 pupils, parents, carers and staff in a truly joyful community event. This week, we have had our hearts melted with the endearing Christmas performances from KS1 and EYFS classes, continuing the festive spirit. The excitement continues next week with our Christmas dinner day on Wednesday (remember you can wear a festive jumper!) and our Santa Dash on Thursday.

We are sure you will join us in extending our heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff team, who have worked tirelessly to organise these special events alongside their usual day-to-day teaching responsibilities. Their hard work truly shines through in all the celebrations.

Staffing updates

This week, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Gee to the school office, we are excited to have her join our team and we know you will give her a warm welcome.

At the end of term, we say farewell to Miss Baines, our Acorns 2 teacher. We wish Miss Baines well in her future endeavours.

We wish all our staff, parents, carers, governors and of course, our wonderful pupils, a very Merry Christmas! We hope that you all have a great final week of term and a wonderful break.

The Oakwood Team

Thank you!

Over the last two weeks, our wonderful PTA have been working hard to organise a plethora of amazing events which parents, children and staff have supported wonderfully. We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for all of their efforts in giving our community such wonderful occasions to enjoy from the Christmas Fair to the £2 room and class hampers! In addition, the school office have sent out a link to a Just Giving page in support of our Santa Dash next Thursday. The chosen charity this year is Rennie Grove Hospice in St Albans.

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 Christmas Eve Tree
By Delia Huddy



Key Stage 1

The Snowflake
By Benji Davies



Lower Key Stage 2

The Night I met Father Christmas
By Ben Miller



Upper Key Stage 2

Lost Christmas
By David Logan

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

Important dates for your diary...

Tuesday 17 th December and Wednesday 18 th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carols at care homes (festive hats)
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner Day (festive jumpers)
Thursday 19 th December – 9.30am	Deadline for parent governor voting
Thursday 19 th December Santa Dash	EYFS - 9am / KS1 - 10am LKS2 – 11am UKS2 11.30am
Friday 20 th December	End of term School finishes at: 12.20pm – Acorns 12.25pm – KS1 12.30pm – KS2
Monday 6 th January	INSET day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 7 th January	Children return to school
Tuesday 14 th January – 9am	Parent volunteer briefing
Wednesday 15 th January	Reception September 2025 application deadline

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

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

01727 753930

Work of the week!

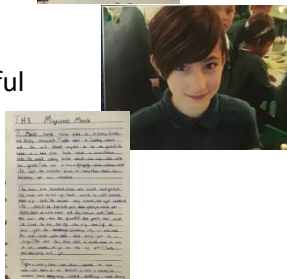
Orla in Poplar

Orla has written a wonderful fable using a range of conjunctions, expanded noun phrases and carefully chosen vocabulary to engage the reader.



Maila in Lime

Maila has also written a wonderful fable showing understanding of prepositions and expanded noun phrases.



Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

Cherry class recently went on a trip to St Paul's church to take part in the nativity trail. We were led around the church and travelled through the nativity story. We went to Joseph's work shop, the fields where the shepherds were and Mary's house. We also made Christmas cards for our friends and family.

In English, we have been using adjectives to describe nouns and we have been learning how to use expanded noun phrases. We looked at a recipe book based on *The Gruffalo* and we made a mud pie. We collected items from the woodland and used expanded noun phrases to describe them. We found crunchy, golden leaves and twisted, brown sticks to put in our mud pies.

In Science, we have been exploring light. We learnt the vocabulary opaque, transparent and translucent and we looked at different materials and categorised them based on their properties. We then made shadow puppets from opaque material so that they would create shadows.



Curriculum celebration: Geography

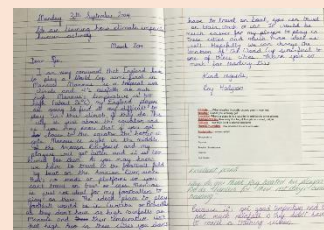
At Oakwood we aim for our Geography lessons to help children learn about, understand and appreciate the world around them as well as being a platform to launch their curiosity about people and places.

To support children in progressing their geographical skills and knowledge, we provide a range of activities such as our engaging units of study, local field work, and even everyday exploration, for example, we might investigate the impact of seasons on our OPAL sessions.

Where will you go this holiday season? Whether it is on a plane, train or by foot, this is a great opportunity to discuss and explore the world around you. You could use a Santa Tracker (there are plenty of apps) or perhaps you would rather get out a good old fashioned map and plan a route to granny's, the shops or somewhere further afield. Help your child to flex their mapping skills and get involved in planning a journey.

Recently Lower Key Stage 2 went to Kew Gardens alongside their Rainforest topic. In Key Stage 1 children have just walked to St Paul's church for a RE lesson but enjoyed looking at the route and talking about the way they walk to school.

We are looking forward to our topics next term and how they all link to our local geography. Let us know if you are an expert in the field or would like to share with us your geographical skills.



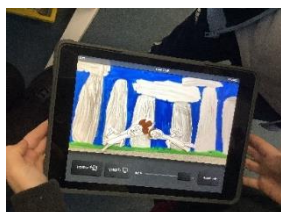
If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk
For **urgent** concerns, please **telephone** the school office

Learning around Oakwood: Maple

In Maple class we have had a fantastic week of learning and creating together!

As part of our Lower Key Stage 2 Religious Education topic this half term around Christianity, we invited all Parents/Carers from year 3/4 to a festive Christingle making session. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the joy of the season. Together we learnt about the history of the Christingle and made our own.

This week, we also created our own stop-frame animations in our computing lesson, based on 'The Stone Age' (our history topic this half term). Over the previous lessons, we had practised using the iMotion app to make stick-men animations, created our own story-boards, and designed our own characters and settings for our stop-frame animations. The children had great fun putting all their hard work together and are looking forward to evaluating their creations next week.



Thank you!

We would like to say thank you to Herts Tree and Garden Services for their generous donation of tree stumps and logs to our kitchen and role play area. The children have had great fun using these since their introduction a couple of weeks ago.



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 and Cherry

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Beech and Cherry



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Cherry and Beech

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



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

Ash – Willow and Annabelle
Beech – Gray and Theo
Cherry – Oliver E and Lila D
Lime – Finlay and Thomas
Maple – Isabella S and Aaliyah
Poplar – Hannah and Alison
Rowan – Emily and Thisan
Sycamore – Joey and Paris
Willow – Thomas and Felicity



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!