

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

A highlight of our fortnight has been the UKS2 Mayan workshop and Sycamore's learning showcase to parents. The inspirational and interactive workshop brought children's learning to life with opportunities to explore artefacts, make music and dress up. Sycamore shared their Mayan artwork, as well as performing a poem by Benjamin Zephaniah and an ambitious and entertaining song about subordinating conjunctions!

### School Development

As part of our school development journey, we invited our School Effectiveness Adviser in to school last Thursday morning. The adviser spoke to subject leaders and visited classes. She was impressed with the progress that has already been made since the Ofsted visit. Thank you to all the staff and pupils who contributed to this visit, and a huge well done to all pupils whose excellent behaviour was noted by the adviser. We are holding a further parent event in March to update you on our school development progress.

### Staffing updates

We have recently welcomed Miss Brannigan, midday supervisory assistant (MSA) and part of our Play Team. We also had a very successful outcome to our admin recruitment and will make an announcement very soon.

### Governor vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Please see the letter from Jacky Elliott, our Chair of Governors, which was emailed to you from the school office on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The deadline for applications is this Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

We hope you had a lovely weekend and enjoyed the PTA Winter Fair if you attended.

The Oakwood Team

## Poppy Appeal 2024:

We are delighted to announce that the St Albans Poppy Appeal have confirmed we raised £226.73 as a school for the poppy appeal this year.

Thank you for joining us in this worthy cause and donating to the appeal.

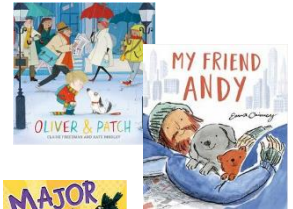


## Recommended reading...

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

### Reception

*My Friend Andy*  
By Emma Chinnery



### Key Stage 1

*Oliver and Patch*  
By Claire Freedman

### Lower Key Stage 2

*Major and Mynah*  
By Karen Owen



### Upper Key Stage 2

*The Dollmaker of Krakow*  
By R. M. Romero



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

## Important dates for your diary...

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December – 2pm	LKS2 Christingle making with parents
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December (Noon)	Deadline for Parent Governor nominations
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December – 2:50pm	Rowan sharing assembly
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA £2 room
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December – 9:15am	Ash sharing assembly
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – 9:15am	Cherry sharing assembly
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December – 9:15am	Beech sharing assembly
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December – 2:30pm	Acorns sharing assembly

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)

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## Learning around Oakwood: Ash

This week, Ash Class visited St. Paul's Church for a wonderful Nativity Trail. The children explored the story of Christmas through exciting activities, including making a beautiful birthday card for Jesus and sharing bread as part of the experience. They also visited the nativity scene, bringing the story to life in a truly special way.

We have also been learning about the meaning of Advent and how different types of Advent calendars help us prepare for Christmas in special ways. Inspired by this, we're excited to start designing our own Advent calendar, adding a personal touch to the countdown. The children in Ash class have been busy practising for our upcoming assembly, showing lots of effort and enthusiasm as we enjoy this magical time of year together!



## After school reminder:

Could we please ask that all parents keep their children with them after school. Please do not allow children to use the mud kitchen or fixed climbing equipment.

Our school OPAL equipment should only be used under the supervision of school staff who have been trained in the use of dynamic risk assessment.

## 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 Sycamore

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Acorns 2 and Lime



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

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



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

Ash – Edith and Thomas  
Beech – Isla and Charlotte  
Cherry – Freya and Benjamin E  
Lime – James and Jessie  
Maple – Harrison and Phoebe  
Poplar – Kaiya and Olivia  
Rowan – Fergus and Leen  
Sycamore – Mondira and Harry  
Willow – Sienna and Suzy



## 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!