

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 15th November 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

Once again we have had an action-packed fortnight here at Oakwood!

Last week, some of our School Governors came in to school for the morning to find out about the progress we are making on our School Development Plan, you can find out more below! If you missed our School Development Plan parent meeting in October, you can view the slides and Q & A on the website [here](#).

This week, Willow Class delighted parents, staff and pupils with their entertaining and informative learning showcase about the Mayans.

Today we say a sad farewell to Mrs Taylor, who leaves us for her worthwhile new role at Rennie Grove Peace Hospice. Mrs Taylor will be very much missed but we are so happy for her to have this exciting opportunity. Please see a message from Mrs Taylor below.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.
The Oakwood Team

POSTCARD FROM THE GOVERNORS

Governors visited the school last Thursday as part of their termly schedule of visits. We were invited to join the assembly that morning and had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the children and staff. We then focused on some of the priorities of the School Development Plan including history, DT and writing.

We are grateful to Miss Denson and Mrs Radomska for talking to us about History and DT respectively. They explained how they are linking subjects across the curriculum with golden threads providing layers of learning. They outlined the support and training they are providing to staff and how they evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the curriculum.

Mrs Roche explained what is being done to improve writing throughout the school as this has been identified as an area that needs to be worked on. She told us that the Essentials English scheme is being used for Years 1-6. We also had the opportunity to visit classes in KS1 and KS2 to see how writing is being taught. We were able to speak to some of the children and look at their work during our visit.

We also met two new members of staff to hear how they are settling into school and for them to have the opportunity to meet Governors.

Governors always enjoy the opportunity to visit the school and to speak with the children and staff. We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Thompson, Mr Stanway and the other staff members for giving up their valuable time to provide us with insights into some of the important areas of the school.

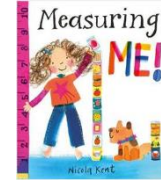
Jacky Elliot, Chair of Governors

Recommended reading...

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

Reception

Measuring Me!
By Nicola Kent



Key Stage 1
Along Came a Different



By Tom McLaughlin

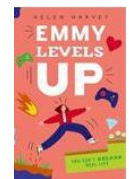
Lower Key Stage 2
The Hundred Dresses



By Eleanor Estes

Upper Key Stage 2

Emmy Levels Up



By Helen Harvey

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

Important dates for your diary...

Tuesday 19 th November	2pm - Acorns' parents Stay & Play
Wednesday 20 th November	UKS2 Mayans workshop
Monday 25 th November	Cherry class nativity trail – St Paul's
Tuesday 26 th November	Year 6 Lancaster model – School Nurses
Tuesday 26 th November	Beech class nativity trail – St Paul's
Wednesday 27 th November	9.05am - Sycamore class showcase
Wednesday 27 th November	Ash class nativity trail – St Paul's
Friday 29 th November	Acorns nativity trail – St Paul's

Winter Reads

Please see the attached flyer for the Winter Reads challenge run by the local library for a chance to win a free iPad.

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

School contact details: admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk
01727 753930

Learning around Oakwood: Poplar

This half-term, Poplar class have been learning about Rocks, Soils and Fossils. We have classified the rocks by their properties and explored some scientific vocabulary, e.g. streak, permeable, friable, etc.



In English, we have written narratives to entertain an audience. Poplar class chose Acorns children to read their stories to. We visited their classrooms earlier this week and it has been a thrilling experience; many year 4s stated they had felt nervous but definitely excited and motivated to share their learning with another year group next time.



In Art, we have been developing our sketching techniques of stippling, hatching, cross hatching and using random lines. Inspired by Henri Rousseau, we decided to create one piece of artwork combining individual pieces in sequential order.



Can you spot the creature ready to pounce on its prey?

Anti-bullying week

We have been recognising anti-bullying week across school this week. The children have taken part in numerous activities to recognise the important message that all people are unique and it is important to 'Choose Respect' – this year's theme.

Some children have created shadow puppets to share important messages through stories. Others have completed BBC live lessons focusing on anti-bullying.

The whole school took part in Odd Socks day on Tuesday to recognise all people being unique.



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 1 and Sycamore



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



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

The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Beech, Cherry and Ash



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

Ash – Barney and Sophie M
 Beech – Felix and Edward
 Cherry – Amelie and Erin
 Lime – Albert and Timo
 Maple – Elâ-Nicole and Oliver M
 Poplar – Harry and Stanley
 Rowan – Johnny and Olive
 Sycamore – Jehaan and Lisia
 Willow – Ellie and Jessica



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!

Electric Umbrella

Should you have been present at school on Thursday afternoon, you may have noticed the cacophony of noise in the hall. That noise was the presence of the Electric Umbrella band who led a workshop with our KS2 children.

If you aren't lucky enough to have heard of Electric Umbrella previously, they are a musical act whose aim is to celebrate difference and inspire community connection.

Their mission is to create a more inclusive society. They empower people with educational needs and neurodiversity to foster confidence, skills and leadership potential.

If you want to learn more use the link [here](#).

Some of our children will be lucky enough to visit their 'Shine a Light' performance at St Albans Cathedral later on this academic year.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their performance and the feeling was mutual as Electric Umbrella musicians claimed the performance was one of – if not the – best they have ever done.



A Message from Mrs Taylor

I just wanted to take this opportunity to send my heartfelt thanks for your incredibly kind, thoughtful and heart-warming words of goodbye, good luck and thank you. I have truly been overwhelmed by the messages, both from parents and the children, and wanted to thank you so much for them - it really is quite humbling reading these very special messages.

I have been lucky enough to work at Oakwood since 2010 and in that time have seen so many children grow from young Acorns to Sixth Formers who pass me in the street walking to school! Some of you know me as one of the office ladies, and some from my days as a TA in Acorns - both have brought me so much joy and fulfilment and I can honestly say it has been a privilege.

Oakwood has been part of my family's life since my son started in 2009 so knowing that my journey here is now at an end I cannot help but feel a little sadness. I am so excited about my new role and the time to move on is absolutely the right one, but still I know a little part of me will stay with Oakwood.

From
Mrs Taylor

Lost Property

Please could we remind parents to name any uniform as this helps with getting it back to your child should they lose it. The photograph shown is of three bags, containing unnamed uniform. We would invite parents to come and check if any of their child's belongings are inside the bags.

