

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

It was great to see so many of you at our recent parent teacher consultation evenings, thank you to those of you who have shared some lovely feedback, it is always helpful to know when we are getting things right! We think that the balance of online and face-to-face has suited most families, please do let us know your feedback.

### School visits

Acorns recently visited the Alban Arena for a musical production of "Dear Zoo." The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were a credit to Oakwood School.

The children in UKS2 were incredibly interested in their visit to the Hatfield Road Mosque and it brought their RE learning to life.

Thank you to all the parent helpers who helped make these visits possible.

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

### Staffing updates:

Today we said goodbye to Miss Akthar, Acorns TA. We would like to wish Miss Akthar all the best as she moves on to her new role. We have been recruiting for new TAs in the school and will update you as soon as we are able.

We would also like to communicate the sad news that Mrs Taylor in the school office will be leaving us later this term.

Mrs Taylor has worked at Oakwood for a total of 13 years across two different occasions. First, as a wonderful TA, supporting children in Acorns and then as the person that parents see when they first arrive here at school, giving her trademark warm welcome.

We are sure you will miss Mrs Taylor as much as we will and we know you will all join us in wishing her the best as she moves on later this term.

We are currently recruiting for a school receptionist and would welcome applicants from the school community and from any contacts you have who you feel may be an asset to our school. The advert can be viewed on Teach in Herts [here](#).

### Recommended reading...

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

#### Reception

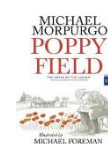
*Aqua Boy*  
By Ken Wilson-Max

**Key Stage 1**  
*Stone Age Beasts*  
By Ben Lerwill



**Lower Key Stage 2**  
*Poppy Field*  
By Michael Morpurgo

**Upper Key Stage 2**  
*Mission Microraptor*  
By Philip Kuvvadias



Please do visit your local library to select from a fantastic range of books. [Locations and opening times are here.](#)

### Important dates for your diary...

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
W/C Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term – School closed
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Secondary School Application Deadline
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 and older Acorns children height, weight, vision and hearing screening (School nurse)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Governor visit morning

### School Crossing Guard:

Should you be interested in supporting our community be safe on their way to and from school, please use the link [here](#) to access information about the county Crossing Guard team.

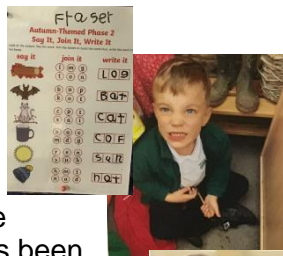
Our school website address: [www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

School contact details: [admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
01727 753930

## Work of the week!

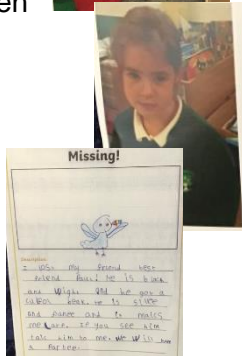
### Fraser in Acorns 2

Acorns 2 have been learning and pronouncing the first few graphemes in the phonetic alphabet. Fraser has been working brilliantly.



### Lexi in Beech

Beech class have been learning interesting puffin facts, how to label diagrams and use capital letters and full stops. Lexi has produced a wonderful missing poster for Paul the Puffin.



### Learning around Oakwood: Beech

Beech have been very busy recently exploring the change in the seasons for our Science topic. We had a class discussion about how we could answer the question:

**How can we find out what happens across the seasons at Oakwood?**

We thought we would like to adopt a tree in the KS1 playground and observe it over the year. We talked about how we could take photos in autumn, winter, spring and summer and compare the images.

We spent some time outside to collect clues that it is autumn and then came back inside to sketch scientific drawings of the tree and what we had observed.

Key points that were raised:

- We chose a deciduous tree as we predict this will change more across the seasons than an evergreen tree.
- We noticed that leaves were many different colours from green to orange and red.



Beech's predictions for what we will observe in winter:

- There will be no more leaves on the tree.
- The ground will be harder.
- We will see fewer squirrels and birds.

In Art, our topic is 'Portraits' and we have been exploring different techniques for drawing self-portraits. Last week, we took a photograph of half of our faces and used pencils to draw the matching half. We explored symmetry and observed the shapes of our features carefully. Here are some of the wonderful results!

## Curriculum celebration: History

We are very proud of our History curriculum at Oakwood. We cover a range of topics and historical periods, allowing the children to leave Oakwood with broad and detailed knowledge of Primary History which will serve them well throughout the rest of their education.

We believe History is very special because it helps to widen the children's perspective of the world around them. From EYFS to Year 6 their understanding of the present world around them, in comparison to the past deepens as they recognise the similarities and differences between time periods. This also allows them to strengthen their abilities to empathise with others as we look closely at key figures and discuss what their life was like. We also believe greatly in the importance of educational visits that allow the children to participate in History. Last year, in KS1 we visited St Alban's Cathedral to support our local History topic of the story of Saint Alban. Years 3 and 4 visited the Verulamium museum to support their understanding of the Romans.

Finally, Years 5 and 6 visited Lincolnsfield to support their understanding of World War 2 and evacuees. We are very excited for the trips and workshops we have planned for this year. This month, we have also been celebrating Black History Month. Each class have learnt a song or poem by a Black Artist and will perform these during a whole school assembly.

For more information, please visit our History page on the [Oakwood website](#).

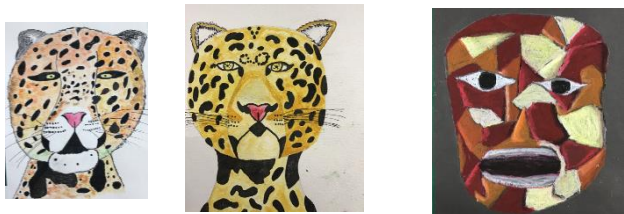
If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email [safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
For **urgent** concerns, please **telephone the school office**

## Learning around Oakwood: Sycamore

We have had a really busy half term here in Sycamore class. In English, we have loved exploring the book *'Night of the Gargoyles'* by Eve Bunting. We used the writing as an inspiration for our own short stories about things that 'go bump in the night'. Using relative clauses to add detail, a zoom in approach and precise well-chosen vocabulary has really helped us to develop some spectacularly eerie moods. We are now busy typing some of them up for the BBC 500 Words Competition, so watch this space. Could we have the next winner lurking in our midst I wonder?

We have travelled the length and breadth of South America in our geography lessons, and our recent art work was based upon the animals to be found in the rainforests of Brazil or the Andes mountains in Chile and Peru. Year 5 produced some wonderful mixed media studies of the magnificent jaguar and we all studied how artists use light and shade to create a 3D effect when we created some masks in oil pastels based upon the jade masks of the ancient Maya.

In science we applied our knowledge of the properties of materials to help solve the crisis concerning plastic waste. We all thought hard about a suitable material to replace the plastic in our drinking bottles. We knew it had to be transparent, lightweight and waterproof just like plastic but crucially, we also wanted it to be biodegradable. Recently, we visited the local mosque to enrich our study of the Islamic faith in RE and we all enjoyed a really informative morning.



## Smartphone Free Childhood:

At the end of last year, parents of Oakwood children gathered to discuss the impact of smartphones on children and their childhoods. This initiative is gathering pace and is now recognised by parents nationally with over 70,000 parents signed up to the pact. Hertfordshire currently leads the way with nearly 4000 families signed up. Here at Oakwood, we have 41 families signed up to the pact. This is some way short of the county leaders and we would like to see Oakwood's name at the top of that leader board. For more information and access to the leader board, click [here](#). The message this supports is in line with our smartphone free school pledge. Let's make Oakwood No. 1!

## 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 – Rowan



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



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



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

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

Ash – Julieo  
Beech – Jake H  
Cherry – Clara  
Lime – Maila  
Maple – Charlie  
Poplar – Anaya  
Rowan – Eva  
Sycamore – Thomas  
Willow – Maxim



## Parking 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 pavements, double yellow and Zig Zag school lines is illegal, at certain times for the latter.

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!