

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

Now that the Autumn term is in full swing, it is great to see so many children participating in the extra-curricular clubs and activities that Oakwood has to offer. Sporting fixtures are well underway; the boys' football team secured a resounding cup victory and the girls' team battled well and improved throughout the match. Well done team Oakwood!

We have already started to arrange trips and visits throughout the school year, and you can read more about the LKS2 visit to Kew Gardens below.

Next week marks the start of Black History Month, and staff have been planning how we can explore the lives and successes of people of colour through our planned curriculum. All classes will also be learning a song or poem to explore the theme of black history. We welcome and value the input of parent perspectives and we will be in touch shortly regarding a new Parent Diversity Forum – watch this space!

Also happening next week is the Year 6 PGL visit, we would like to wish our Year 6 pupils the very best and we hope they have a wonderful time!

Have a lovely weekend!  
The Oakwood Team

### LKS2 trip: Kew Gardens

Last week, LKS2 children had the opportunity to visit Kew Gardens and experience what it's like in a real tropical rainforest. We all agreed the humidity was very high. Albert said that the forest floor was so dense "you wouldn't be able to spot a jaguar" ready to pounce on its prey. We also took part in the Art workshop in which we used observational drawings to sculpt our own 3D forms using natural materials. It was a busy but definitely enjoyable day!

P.S. There was a tree perfect for OPAL but we knew we could not climb it...

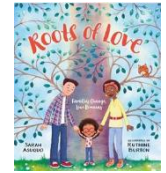
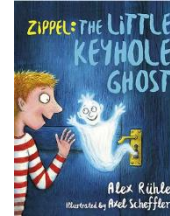


### Recommended reading...

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

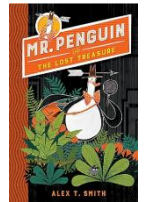
#### Reception

*Roots of Love*  
By Sarah Asuquo



#### Key Stage 1

*Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure*  
By Alex Smith



#### Lower Key Stage 2

*Zipple: The Little Keyhole Ghost*  
By Alex Ruhle



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*Hedgewitch*  
By Skye McKenna

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...

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Year 6 depart for PGL
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 return from PGL
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	School Development Plan meeting - sign up here: <a href="#">School Development Plan Meeting</a>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual and Sibling photographs

### Harvest Donations:

Thank you for your Harvest donations this week. It has been an incredible collection and a show of the generosity we are able to display here at Oakwood. On Thursday, all the children attended assemblies where Diane and Lauren from St Paul's church taught us about Harvest and the impact our generosity has. The church have since invited all of our Oakwood community to a fun day on 6<sup>th</sup> October.



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

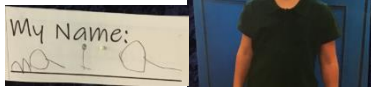
School contact details: [admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

01727 753930

## Work of the week!

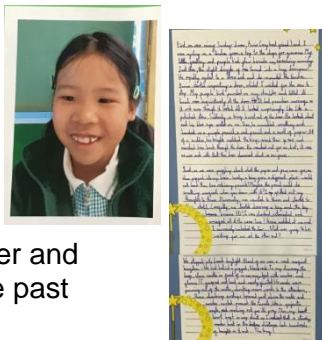
### Maia in Acorns 1

Acorns 1 have begun their writing journey at Oakwood and Maia has tried extremely hard. She has shown staff the range of letters she knows and has written her name.



### Lizzie in Lime

Lime class have been writing recounts based on The Quest. She has used time adverbials, placed events in chronological order and ensured her writing is in the past tense.



## Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

Cherry class have had an exciting week! We have been exploring our "Who Am I?" topic in Science about our body parts and senses. We drew around our different body parts and labelled them to expand our vocabulary. We have also done an investigation about the sense of smell, we were surprised to discover our sense of smell can actually keep us safe, for example if we smell smoke it sends signals to our brain to help us stay safe!

We are also building towards creating our own self portrait in Art. To support us with this we have been exploring the different types of lines and the pencil control and movement we need to achieve them. We made the most of the lovely weather and our KS1 garden and did Art outside!

Finally, in Maths we have been partitioning two-digit numbers, we were surprised to find out how many different ways we can partition numbers, not just into tens and ones! We used practical equipment to explore this before moving onto work in our books.



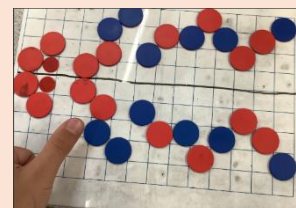
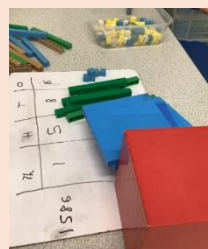
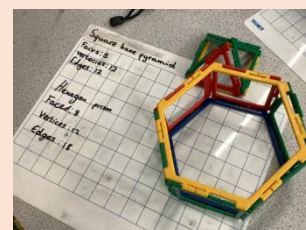
## Curriculum celebration: Maths

Hello! Welcome to all things maths. Here at Oakwood, our aim is to encourage every child to develop an appreciation of mathematics in their world and foster a belief in themselves as mathematicians. As such, we adopt a 'hands on' approach throughout the school, right from EYFS through to Year 6, working with a range of practical apparatus and manipulatives to expose and explain the reasoning behind an answer.

Since starting term, children have used maths to 'become' bakers, climate data analysts and catering managers amongst many other roles. Children are encouraged to observe closely, noticing the similarities and differences between examples and to use full sentences with accurate mathematical vocabulary to explain their thinking.

Mistakes are celebrated within every class in order to reveal opportunities for learning and build confidence. Children are encouraged to consider why a particular error is likely to occur. In order to deepen their understanding, they are helped to consider the importance of explaining both why an answer is correct but also why another value is not correct.

We enter various national competitions such as the Primary Maths Challenge (Years 5 and 6) First Challenge (Years 3 and 4) and local inter school competitions. We were so proud to be the winners in our year 6 category last year! There is lots more planned for the upcoming year so watch this space!



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

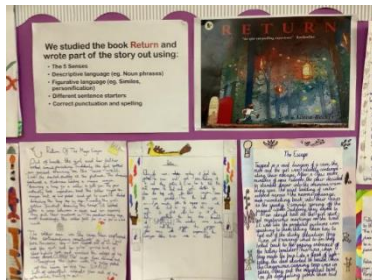
## Learning around Oakwood: Rowan

Rowan have kicked off the year with some excellent writing based on the picture book 'Return'. We used our 5 senses to describe the setting in detail and put into words what we thought was happening in the story.

In Science, we have been learning about thermal conduction and insulation of various materials. We designed an investigation placing butter on spoons made from different materials and measured which conducted heat best by how well the butter melted. We also tested how well different materials insulate heat by wrapping ice cubes in them and seeing how much each melted.

We have linked together our Geography topic of South America by creating Mayan masks in Art and collaborating our topic research on Google Slides in Computing.

In RE, we have been learning about the different ways Muslims show commitment to God and are looking forward to seeing this in action when we visit a mosque in a couple of weeks.



## 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.

## 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 – Maple and Rowan



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



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Acorns 1 and Rowan



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

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

Ash – Lewin and Suraya  
Beech – Isobel and Lexi  
Cherry – Erin and Kimberly  
Lime – Lilly and Zac  
Maple – Harrison and Jolie  
Poplar – Charlotte and Amaarah  
Rowan – Jonida and Paddy  
Sycamore – Megan and Joey  
Willow – Ellie and Tilly



## School Uniform

Following the success of changing our uniform policy this year to allow bottle green polo shirts, we can confirm that children have the option of wearing bottle green t-shirts or the current white t-shirts for PE.

These t-shirts may or may not contain the Oakwood Primary School logo as we understand there may be cheaper options available without the logo.

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!