

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 13th September 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,
Welcome back!

It already feels like the summer break is a distant memory, especially with the autumnal weather that has arrived, so it is great to see the children's smiling faces return to school ready for another year of discovery, growth and community.

Last week, we welcomed four new teachers to our school community: Miss Harvey (Ash Class teacher), Mrs Thompson (Beech Class teacher), Miss Patterson (Maple Class teacher) and Mrs Badini (Rowan Class teacher – Fridays). All KS1 and KS2 teachers hosted "Meet the Teacher" events this week – we hope you found these useful.

Of course, we have also welcomed some new children and families to Oakwood, there was an excellent turnout at the Acorns families picnic last weekend. A huge thank you to the PTA for organising this. The PTA are an incredible asset to the school and always welcome new ideas and support, please do get in touch if you would like to be involved: oakwoodptachair@gmail.com

It has been great to visit classes and see the purposeful learning that is already taking place. We will be sending out a newsletter every two weeks to share and celebrate the learning, successes and achievements of our community here at Oakwood with you. We will also include key dates for your diary of upcoming events, important reminders and useful links.

September is a time of big changes and transition in schools and it can feel very overwhelming. Please do speak with your child's class teacher if you have any concerns, we are always happy to help.

Have a lovely weekend!
The Oakwood Team

Parking outside of school:

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.

Recommended reading...

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

Reception

I'm Fine. Thanks!
By Jono Ganz



Key Stage 1

The Best You
By Nima Patel



Lower Key Stage 2

The Danger Gang
By Tom Fletcher



Upper Key Stage 2

The Time Tider
By Sinéad O'Hart



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 17 th September	LKS2 visit to Kew Gardens
Tuesday 17 th September	Acorns Parents - Phonics Presentation - 9am
Wednesday 18 th September	Whole School Nasal flu Immunisation
Thursday 19 th September	Year 6 Parents – PGL meeting - 3:30pm
Monday 23 rd September – Thursday 26 th September	Harvest Donations Please
Thursday 26 th September	Year 4 Swimming Starts

Harvest Donations:

We will be collecting food donations in support of the St Albans and District Foodbank from Monday 23rd September to Thursday 26th September. Harvest is a time for reflection, gratitude and community as we help those in need. We would welcome your donations in line with the foodbank guidance letter (see attached). Donations can be taken to your child's classroom during the collection week ready for our Harvest Assembly on Thursday 26th September. Thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting us.

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

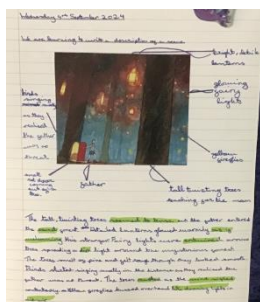
School contact details: admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk

01727 753930

Work of the week!

Lucy in Willow Class

Willow class have been exploring the book 'Return'. Lucy's scene description shows excellent use of unique personification and powerful vocabulary choices. Well done, Lucy.



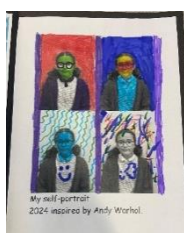
Learning around Oakwood: Maple

In Maple class we have had a fantastic first week of school! We have loved getting to know each other better, making new friends and learning to work as a team both inside and outside of the classroom.

In our first art lesson, we looked in detail at Andy Warhol's Pop Art (in particular, his fascination with recreating soup cans!) and discussed the key features we could see. We then created our own Pop Art self-portraits inspired by his work, concentrating on creating contrast between each photo with our choice of colours.

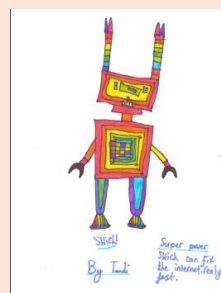
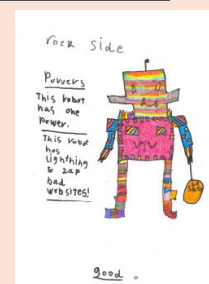
The children found the activity both fascinating and hilarious, mentioning how Andy Warhol's work is so vibrant, and how they look funny with multi-coloured eyebrows!

This week we also began our English work on the picture book 'Quest' by Aaron Becker. We used our senses to create a description of one of the scenes in the story, focusing on our use of interesting adjectives to capture the reader's imagination. Maple are looking forward to creating our own recounts of the story next week.



Curriculum celebration: Computing

At Oakwood, our computing lessons aim to equip all pupils with the skills and knowledge needed to become active participants in the ever-changing digital world. An important aspect of this is using the internet safely. To promote internet safety Oakwood, we take part in Internet Safety week annually. We also ran an internet safety competition where children at Oakwood, from Reception to Year 6, could design an e-safety character to use in computing lessons. The amount of entries we had was staggering and it was hard to choose. For the first time ever, please welcome our e-safety characters to the Oakwood newsletter! I think you'll agree the children did an excellent job and these characters will be very helpful in teaching the concepts of internet safety.



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: Ash

The first two weeks in Ash Class have been filled with excitement and creativity! We have been exploring the beautiful wordless book *Journey* by Aaron Becker. Inspired by the story, we worked together as a class, using our imaginations to create our own magical doors and envisage the thrilling adventures that await us on the other side.

Through this activity, the children learned how to express their ideas through storytelling, even without words, and how to work collaboratively to develop their imaginative thinking. What surprised many of them was how different each adventure turned out, even though we all started with the same magical door! It showed us that everyone's imagination works in its own unique and wonderful way. Take a look at our wonderful work!



Our amazing extra-curricular clubs:

You will have noticed through our school website the amazing job Mrs Taylor has done in sourcing so many wonderful clubs for the children at Oakwood to experience. There are still spaces left in some of the clubs so if they are of interest make sure to book on through the website. The following clubs have spaces:

- Junior Karate
- Art
- Apprentice Engineers
- Cricket
- Fencing
- Mini Olympics
- Mad Science
- Engineering with Lego
- KS1 Football
- Basketball

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 – Ash and Acorns 1



'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 – Lime and Willow



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

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

Ash – Erin and Meg
Beech – Morgan and Quinn
Cherry – Hibah and Freya
Lime – Jensen and Lizzie
Maple – Rosario and Chloe
Poplar – Bethan and Evie
Rowan – Xanthe and Finlay
Sycamore – Sam and Kian
Willow – Hamish and Archer



Oakwood Values Competition

Mrs Thompson introduced our values competition in assembly on Tuesday 3rd September. All entries are due on Monday 16th September so you only have 1 more weekend if you wish to enter.

Choose ONE value and ONE task
Practise first then copy it very neatly
Give it to your teacher by Monday 16th September

Values display competition!

Poster (A4) for ONE of the values (word and picture)
A short poem (A5 or smaller) about ONE of the values
A short description (A5 or smaller) about what the value means

Please remember if you have any queries or questions, do make an appointment to come and speak to a member of staff. We are always very happy to meet with you. Don't let a little worry become a big one!