

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Wednesday 17th July 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

What an eventful few weeks!  
It feels a long time ago since our postponed KS2 Sports Day. Children participated with gusto; there were tumbles, close calls and several lost shoes during the races! Well done to all the children and thank you to all of the parents who attended to cheer them on.

We recently held a welcome event for parents of children who will be starting in Acorns in September. The slides from the event can be found [here](#).

Over the past two weeks (and continuing for the rest of this week) Year 8 children from Beaumont have visited us to share the stories they have written for EYFS and KS1 children. Mr Atkinson, Headteacher at Beaumont, has also visited Oakwood to have a look round and to talk with Mrs Thompson about some of our ideas for next year.

Last Thursday was Transition Day and our new teachers, Miss Harvey, Mrs Thompson, Miss Patterson and Mrs Badini came to meet the children. All children had time with their new teachers.

We also had the small matter of Ofsted visiting our school last week! We would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of all our children for their welcoming and friendly behaviour and their positive contributions during the visit.

Year 6 finished the week with an exciting visit to Lee Valley White Water Centre and are now extremely busy putting the finishing touches to their play rehearsals.

Last, but certainly not least, HUGE thanks to the PTA for organising another successful and enjoyable Oakfest which was a roaring success.

We say farewell to Miss Akhtar (UKS2), Mrs Davies, Mrs Downes, Miss Greenwood and Mrs Jarratt this week.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and wish them well for the future.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer break!

The Oakwood Team

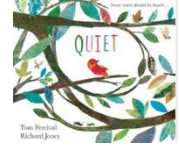


### Recommended reading...

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

#### Reception

*Quiet* by Tom Percival



#### Key Stage 1

*New Arrivals at Willow Farm* by Helen Peters

#### Lower Key Stage 2

*The Deadly Dare Mysteries* by Malorie Blackman



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*The Final Year* by Matt Goodfellow

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...

Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	6pm - Y6 Performance
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	12.15pm - Y6 Parents' reception
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	1.00pm - Y6 Leavers' assembly
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term: EYFS – 1:50pm KS1 – 1:55pm KS2 – 2:00pm
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Acorns family meetings
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Acorns half day starts
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Acorns attend school full time from today

#### Meet the teacher dates:

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September @2:35pm – LKS2

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September @2:35pm – UKS2

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September @2:35pm – KS1

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!

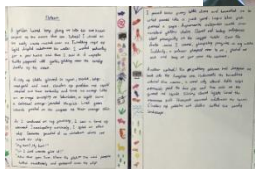
Rowan class have been creating wonderful pieces of writing about Greek Mythology and Max produced a superb piece about Medusa. Well done Max!



Danae wrote a wonderfully descriptive narrative using the book Flotsam as inspiration. She used figurative language and dialogue amongst other techniques.



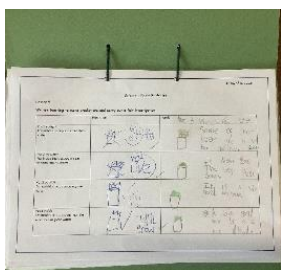
Lime have been learning about biographies through the text Pride. They wrote their own biography about the life of Harvey Milk. Cameron created a wonderful biography using lots of features needed for a biography.



## Learning around Oakwood: Ash

In Ash, we have been learning about plants. We have explored the lifecycle of a plant as well as what conditions they need to grow. In addition to our Young Gardeners unit in Science, we have been busy in Gardening Club growing vegetables and herbs and making scarecrows. "We love strawberries!" Thank you to the parent volunteers who make it so fun.

We carried out an investigation to see what would happen to a plant in different conditions. We predicted what we thought might happen and then three weeks later we made our observations.



In RE we have been learning about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This week we presented our favourite facts in a small assembly in class. We then watched our video and evaluated our performance.



## Spotlight on: Music

My name is Ms Bowden. Alongside teaching Acorns 1 class, I will be responsible for music within the school. This is the start of my musical journey with your children, and I am so excited to find out what has been happening. Already I have seen children learning to play the violin and recorder in Lower KS2 classes – this is such a fantastic opportunity! We also have other instrumental lessons such as flute and guitar happening within school. Music learning at Oakwood begins in the Early Years and continues throughout school. In Early Years and Key Stage 1, children explore music through singing and percussion where they are introduced to pitch, dynamics, pulse, tempo and rhythm. In KS2 during their weekly music lessons, the children learn different genres of music, notation, ensemble skills, listening, composing and performing as well as incrementally building their musical knowledge, and understanding the interrelated dimensions of music, and the history of music.



Going forward, I am excited to be making links with Beaumont school and hope to share more musical experiences with them in the future. I will also be starting a choir, watch this space for further information about this! I believe every child should receive a great music education. Learning about music and having the opportunity to play musical instruments and make music together is a vital part of a rich and rounded education. Music plays a key role in brain development. It helps to develop language, motor skills, emotional intelligence and collaboration skills. Most children will have their first experience of music at school, and it is a partnership between classroom teachers, specialist teachers, professional performers and a host of other organisations.

If you are a musician yourself or have connections with orchestras, bands, ensembles, choirs etc I would absolutely love to hear from you. It would be great to expose the children to as many opportunities as possible to experience live music.

If you have any instruments in your loft that are unused, please also donate to school if possible.

For more information about music at Oakwood please visit our school website page under our curriculum tab



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: Willow

Willow class have been extremely busy since half term.

Along with the rest of Year 6, they completed a Bikeability course (level 1 and 2). They have also spent the last 3 weeks rehearsing for their end of year performance - Go For Gold - which will be performed to parents and families on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July. The play is about the foundation of the Olympic Games in Ancient Greek times. It's been a haven of activity in the classroom as they prepare props, choreograph dance routines and practise their lines.

Alongside this we have been continuing our learning across the curriculum with the children enjoying studying the book 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman and looking at the Ancient Greeks in history among other subjects.

Last Friday, to celebrate the end of their journey at Oakwood, the children travelled to Lee Valley White Water Centre. Whilst there, they were able to play on the inflatables and have a go at paddle boarding.



## End of an Era – Go for Gold

We say goodbye to our amazing Year 6 pupils this week as they move on to secondary school and we would like to wish them all the best for the future and congratulate them for a superb performance of Go for Gold.



## 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 – Sycamore



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

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



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

Ash – Alba  
Beech – Oliver B  
Cherry – Albert  
Lime – Natalie  
Maple – Scarlett  
Poplar – Lars  
Rowan – Jack  
Sycamore – Lola  
Willow – Ted C



## Ofsted

You may have seen Mrs Thompson's letter to parents regarding Ofsted. However, should you have missed it, please find the main points below:

*I would like to start by thanking you for the many messages of good luck and best wishes that you have shared this week. The staff team have been overwhelmed by your support (and the treats have been very welcomed too!) Thank you so much.*

*The Ofsted inspection has now finished and the inspectors will be finalising their report over the next 30 working days. It is important to note that this does not include the summer holidays, so it is likely that the Ofsted report will be shared with us and with you towards the end of September.*

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!

