

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 28th June 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

The past two weeks have flown by with a wide range of exciting events at Oakwood!

Last week, Year 4 pupils delighted their parents and carers with a performance on the violins.

The boys District Athletics team came third and everyone who competed gave it their all in a variety of fields and track events.

Last Saturday, over 40 Oakwood pupils from the Glee and Acro clubs participated in the Performing Herts Showcase in Harpenden. They did a great job and showed incredible talent.

EYFS and KS1 had a wonderful sports day on Tuesday morning, and showed great resilience with nerves, tumbles and some very nail-biting races! We would like to thank you so much for your understanding and support with the postponement of the KS2 sports day.

On Wednesday, some of our governors visited history lessons and spoke to children about their history learning. Governors were really impressed with how articulate the children were about their learning.

Other events over the past two weeks have included the author visit to KS2, the World Games Day at Oaklands college and the History off the Page workshop for KS1. More on all of these events below.

Finally, we are delighted to announce the safe and happy (and 11 days late!) arrival of Mrs Marshall's baby girl. Mrs Marshall and baby are both doing well.

Have a lovely weekend!
The Oakwood Team

History off the Page

Year 1 and 2 were extremely fortunate last week to enjoy a look back in time with their history workshop taking them to the time of Florence Nightingale. The children created various items and role-played a scene from the hospital in Scutari.



Recommended reading...

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

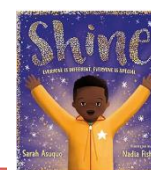
Reception

All the Ways to be Smart
By Davina Bell



Key Stage 1

Shine
By Sarah Asuquo



Lower Key Stage 2

The Thames and Tide Club: The Secret City
By Katya Balen



Upper Key Stage 2

Amari and the Night Brothers
By B B Alston



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...

Monday 1 st July	Paralympic Day
Tuesday 2 nd July	Final Year 3 swimming day
Wednesday 3 rd July	KS2 Sports Day 10am-11:30am
Thursday 4 th July	SCHOOL CLOSED (Polling day)
Thursday 4 th July	New Acorns Parent Meeting
Thursday 11 th July	Transition Day
Thursday 11 th July	New Acorns (10am-11:30am)
Thursday 11 th July	Acorns Picnic (2:15pm)
Friday 12 th July	Year 6 visit to Lee Valley White Water Centre

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

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

01727 753930

Work of the week!

Junie in Ash

Ash have been working on writing setting descriptions recently. They are learning about setting the scene using their senses and including as much detail as possible to make their description interesting.



It is a sunny day in the ocean a queen the turtle only swim past On the turtle back there is a big city The city is made of Very smart caterpill shells In the shells breathe there are min cities living in them The turtle is swimming very fast and calmly The shells have lots of digress patterns I can smell the salty water sea I can feel the big blue sea

Oliver in Beech

Oliver worked hard to create a wonderful character description. He has used precise adjectives, carefully chosen verbs and a correctly used comma in a list. He even challenged himself to use a thesaurus to improve his vocabulary.



The children help me to keep the small and good things small I always try to be happy and smile out how the things people and things work and how they are like in the world and is an exciting ball that is something from everyone in the park we get to the top of the story and some are written here

Spotlight on: OPAL

This year, we have launched the OPAL programme at lunchtimes with the aim of improving opportunities for physical activity, cooperation, resilience, creativity and enjoyment through improved play. OPAL is an award-winning programme found in 800 schools around the world. This number continues to grow. In 2020, OPAL received funding from both The National Lottery and Sport England following a survey showing that the biggest motivator of physical activity in 5-11 year olds is 'play'.

OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as worthwhile and beneficial as possible.

You can help your child have the best lunchtime possible. Let your child know that it is okay to get messy and muddy. Encourage your child to play different games, play in different areas and play with different people. We are also looking for donations to improve the play resources we offer. Currently, we are looking for donations of spades, hand trowels and wheelbarrows in good condition and cardboard boxes (the bigger, the better).

For further information about OPAL, please see the following information:

[OPAL website](#)

[School play policy](#)

[OPAL – The power of playtime](#)



Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 1

Acorns 1 have been having an amazing time developing their Understanding of the World. They have been finding out about our natural world, and lots of fascinating facts about Mini Beasts.

They have explored the life cycle of a butterfly and observing real caterpillars in the classroom. They are currently in the chrysalis state and we are all very excited to see them turn into butterflies! Watch this space!

The children have been really inspired, many of them bringing in fact books to share with the class. We have had books about bees, butterflies and spiders so far.

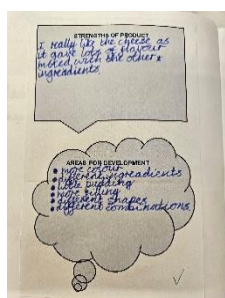
Building bug hotels has been a very popular activity this week. The children have been creating collaboratively, sharing ideas and resources, using tools and junk modelling materials to make suitable homes for the mini beasts. We will be putting our bug hotels into the Acorn garden area!



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: Poplar

In Poplar Class, we have been learning about a healthy and varied diet. We talked about a balanced diet and looked at the EATWELL Plate to explore the representation of different food groups. We designed a healthy packed lunch, made some sandwiches and ate them all!



We have also been learning how to play the violin this year. First, we had to make sure we held the violin and bow properly. Next, we learnt how to understand musical notes. Finally, we played notes, parts of songs and longer compositions. At the end of our journey with violins, we played few songs to entertain our parents.

The concert was a great success!



Mrs Smith (our specialist music teacher) prepared a surprise in which the children from the Recorder Club could show what they have learnt too.



World Games 2024

Some of our children attended Oaklands College last week to compete in World Games Day 2024. It was a wonderful day and Mrs Jarratt was incredibly proud of the effort that everyone put in to their events.



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 – Beech and Sycamore



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



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

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



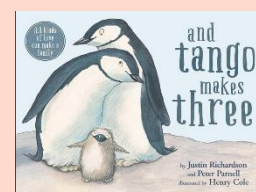
'Person of the Week' for demonstrating values which are important to everyone in our school:

- Ash – Charlotte
- Beech – Meadow
- Cherry – Arianne
- Lime – Charlotte
- Maple – James
- Poplar – Orestis
- Rowan – Oxley
- Sycamore – Jake
- Willow – Felix



Diversity Week

We have enjoyed a wonderful week built around celebrating diversity. On Monday, KS2 enjoyed a fantastic visit from children's author Onjali Rauf who then spent more than an hour after school signing books for children. Across the school there have been lessons on racism, celebrating historical figures such as Mary Seacole and wonderful books shared celebrating diverse backgrounds.



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!

