

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 14th June 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

This half term Ms Bowden (Acorns 1 Class Teacher) and Mr Stanway (Deputy Head) have joined our team. Thank you to everyone who has helped them feel so welcomed.

It has been another busy fortnight here at Oakwood with lots hard work going on across the school. Year 1 have been completing their phonics screening check and Year 2 have been undertaking their end of key stage assessments. Year 4 have been racing against the clock to complete their multiplication check – with 6 seconds to answer each question! Year 6 pupils have been outside taking part in their Bikeability course and seem to be enjoying this in spite of the changeable weather. Well done to all of our pupils for demonstrating our Oakwood value of ambition.

Like the rest of you, the staff team have been thinking about what we can “tweak” at Oakwood to make it even better. Many staff wanted to find more opportunities for the whole school community to come together, and we have now started to hold weekly celebration assemblies that include both KS1 and KS2. EYFS have begun to join KS1 for singing assembly. We hope that the children enjoy celebrating with their older and younger peers and siblings.

Thank you to the PTA for organising another successful disco last week and to all the parents who came along to support the evening. The children had a great time and danced off a lot of energy! There were even some teachers demonstrating their moves on the dancefloor!

The Oakwood Team

OPAL update

Following the recent parent and pupil surveys, which both showed significant support of further developing the OPAL programme, we are now “mixing up” every day! Staff have now received training on risk benefit analysis and we have now adopted our new Play Policy, which is published on the website [here](#). The next step will be to introduce some new activities to the children in our Play Assemblies. The OPAL working group will be in touch soon with further details, and Mrs Thompson will be in touch with other outcomes from our surveys very soon!

Recommended reading...

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

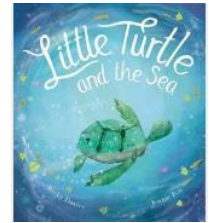
We hope you and your children enjoy this fortnight’s selection of books.

Reception

Little Turtle and the Sea

Author: Becky Davies

Illustrator: Jennie Poh



Key Stage 1

The Runaway Pea

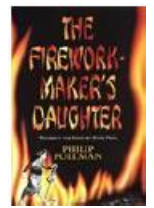
by Kjartan Poskitt



Lower Key Stage 2

The Firework Maker’s Daughter

by Phillip Pullman



Upper Key

Cogheart

by Peter Bunzl



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 17 th June	Y1 Florence Nightingale workshop
Tuesday 18 th June	Violin performance 2.15pm – Poplar class 2.45pm – Maple class
Tuesday 18 th June & Thursday 20 th June	District athletics
Thursday 20 th June	Y2 Florence Nightingale workshop
w/c 24 th June	Diversity Week
Monday 24 th June	KS2 author visit
Tuesday 25 th June	Sports Day
Wednesday 26 th June	Governor Visits

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

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

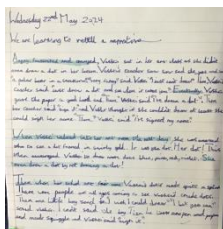
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Work of the week!

William in Maple

Maple have been reading 'The dot' by Peter Reynolds. Their focus has been on correct sentence structure and expanding sentences.

William's recount shows evidence of both a subject and verb in every sentence. He has also expanded his sentences with creative and unique adjectives like 'crude' and a variety of conjunctions.



Lewin in Acorns 2

This week Acorns 2 have been looking at all of the minibeasts they know. They have described their physical attributes and their characteristics.



Acorns 2 have also learnt about their habitats and planned a mini beast hunt to find them!

Learning around Oakwood: Beech

We have had lots of exciting and active learning taking place in Beech. Our Year 1 children completed a research project on the different continents -

combining their computing and geography skills! They shared their presentations with our Year 2 pupils, who were enthusiastic about learning some new facts and checking out the digital typing skills!



In History, we are very, very excited about our new Florence Nightingale topic! The children loved using the history timelines in our books to compare this period of time to the others that we have studied this year. We also used our chronology skills to put them into order!



Our class have also kicked off our new science learning with a plant hunt around the school! The children were proactive in using their learning about habitats and classification from earlier in the year to identify the wildlife that we are lucky to have at Oakwood!



Spotlight on: Art

At Oakwood, art and design is an essential part of the primary curriculum. We aim to teach Art in a fun and creative way to provide children with the opportunities to develop their imagination and to express their individual thoughts and ideas creatively. Our aspiration is to ensure that children are engaged, inspired and challenged throughout each topic acquiring new skills and techniques.

Art is a vital subject at Oakwood and according to the Tate Gallery, schools that integrate art into their curriculum show improved pupil performance in Maths and English. Art education also helps with developing critical thinking and verbal skills. Studying art at Oakwood incorporates independent learning and collaborative activities. Children are encouraged to evaluate their own work as well as explore different artists, sculptures and designers. Through our art teaching, children are taught determination and resilience. These qualities will be fundamental in any career later in adulthood.

Highlighting the importance of art at Oakwood allows children to express themselves and develop a greater understanding of our diverse society. Art is a favourite subject of many at school and learning about different cultures and countries is vital.



For more information about how we support children's art learning at Oakwood, please visit our updated Art page under the 'Curriculum' tab on our school website:

[Art | Oakwood Primary School](#)

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: Sycamore

In Sycamore recently, we have been doing a lot of learning around Ancient Greece. This has included rewriting Greek myths including Perseus and Medusa, making sure we include dialogue to move the story forward and adding plenty of detail in our description using 'show not tell'.

In Art, we used the technique sgraffito (from the Italian word for scratch) to create Greek Pottery pictures, where the top layer of acrylic paint is scratched off to reveal the coloured oil pastel below. This learning was further brought to life by our trip to the British Museum, where we were able to see the actual ancient pots in real life! "I didn't realise quite how detailed and lifelike the pictures on the pots would be," said one year 6.

We also used the vanishing point to create perspective in our pictures of an ancient Greek temple. In Computing, we used Google Drawings to create a vector drawing of Greek myths.



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 – Acorns 2 and Maple



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



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Lime and Acorns 2



The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Acorns 1 and Lime

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

Ash – Charlotte and Ben H
Beech – Alan and Callie
Cherry – Rosabella and James
Lime – Tandia and George
Maple – Stanley and William S
Poplar – Ellis and Milo
Rowan – Adriana and Theo
Sycamore – Josh S and Elsie J
Willow – Bertie and Henry



Sports Update:

Well done to our cricket team this week who performed admirably in changeable weather conditions – including hail – against Maple. Unfortunately, the match ended in defeat but all of the team competed with pride. A particular well done to William who was voted player of the match by the opposition.

In other sporting news, congratulations to Bertie who came 2nd in the county championship 600m race. A wonderful achievement and we are all extremely proud of you!

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!