

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

We hope you all had a lovely long Bank Holiday weekend and have enjoyed the warm weather (at last!)

Everything is feeling very exciting at Oakwood; we have had some brilliant suggestions from our parents during the Headteacher Welcome Events. If you were not able to attend, you can read a summary [here](#) and give your views via the survey that went to all parents yesterday.

Last week, the OPAL Working Group had an action planning meeting and we are very excited about some plans and ideas we have to take forward the OPAL scheme. You may notice that children have started to talk about Together Tuesdays as well as Mix-up Mondays as we expand the OPAL project to other days of the week.

This week was Teacher Appreciation Week – many thanks for the kind messages of support and gratitude that you have sent to our wonderful teachers and TAs, we are truly blessed to have such a fabulous team!

Finally, we would like to wish our Year 6 pupils the very best of luck in their SATs next week. You've got this!

Have a great weekend!

The Oakwood Team

### Mayoral visit

Yesterday, children and staff in KS1 and KS2 were privileged to meet The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City and District of St Albans. The Mayor visited with the Mayoress and the Civic Officer (who used to attend Oakwood herself!)



The Mayor talked about the role of the Mayor as well as the history of the Mace Bearer. The Mayor then kindly gave some children the opportunity to act in role as the Mayor and the Mace Bearer.

### 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 week's selection of books.

#### Reception

*The Giant Jam Sandwich*

By John Vernon Lord and Janet Burroway



#### Key Stage 1

*The Book with no Pictures*

By B. J. Novak

The Book With No Pictures

#### Lower Key Stage 2

*A Trapezoid is not a Dinosaur*

By Suzanne Morris



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice* By A.F. Harrold

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...

Week commencing 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs tests – good luck to all our Year 6 pupils!
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	UKS2 visit to the British Museum
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Class Photographs and Year 6 Leaver photos
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 4 visit to Pizza Express
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May and Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	UKS2 Moving Toys D&T Workshop
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half term <b>SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Pupils return to school

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

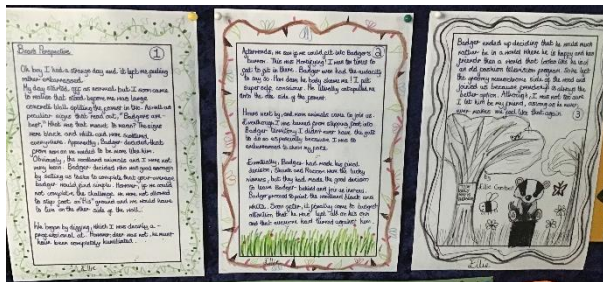
## Work of the week!

### Ellie in Sycamore

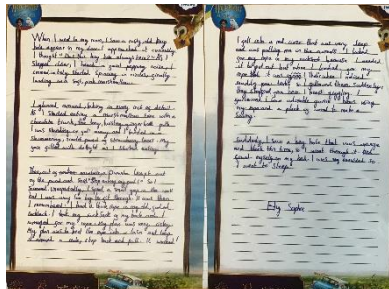
UKS2 read the book *The only way is Badger* on World Book Day. We then wrote a diary entry based on the story from the perspective (point of view) of one of the characters. Ellie chose to write as Bear.



Ellie maintained interest for the reader by using a range of punctuation, vocabulary and sentence starters.

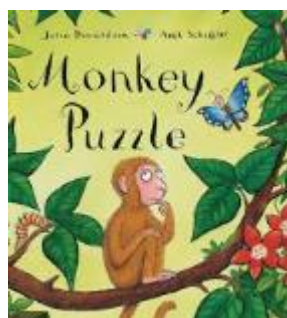
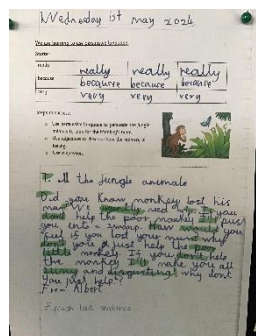


### Sophie in Lime



This half term, Lime have been looking at how J K Rowling uses suspense in her Harry Potter books. Lime have also been working hard on adding fronted adverbials into their writing. Sophie used fronted adverbials, adjectives and similes to create her piece of suspense writing.

### Albert in Cherry

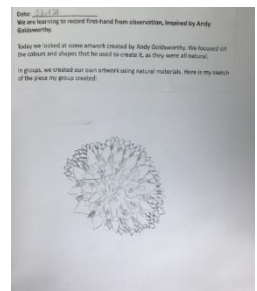


Cherry Class have been reading *Monkey Puzzle* by Julia Donaldson. We then wrote persuasive letters to persuade the animals to help monkey find his Mum. Albert used a range of punctuation including question marks and exclamation marks and made good use of persuasive language – including threats! He also presented his work beautifully, using joined up handwriting.

**Well done Ellie, Sophie and Albert!**

## Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

This week Cherry have been doing some super learning! In Art, our topic for this half term is "Mother Nature" and we have looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy. We then used our beautiful outdoor areas to create our own nature art which we then sketched into our books.



In PSHE we have been looking at relationships. We discussed friendships and what makes a good friend. We then separated different items into whether they are things we look for in a friend.



For some of the options we had different opinions, which is great because it meant that we could have a calm, friendly and supportive class discussion about friendships and what they mean to us.

## Spotlight on: PE

PE has been thriving at Oakwood in recent times. Children have been enjoying 2 lessons of physical instruction together with more active break and lunchtimes thanks to the introduction of the OPAL outdoor play initiative. 2 new basketball stands in the KS2 playground funded by the PTA have given additional opportunities for the children to keep moving and practice their ball skills. Every KS1 and KS2 class has benefitted from Hertfordshire Cricket providing expert coaching in PE lessons and they are currently running an after school club.

Extra-curricular sporting activities have included football, netball, cross-country, indoor athletics, speedstacking and swimming, where Oakwood have competed well against local schools. Coming up this term, we have the district athletics competition, sports day, league cricket matches and a whole school paralympic roadshow, where the pupils will have the opportunity to try out various events from the paralympics.



We are encouraging as many of our pupils to take part in the Wheathamstead 2k Fun Run on Sunday 19th May and the family fun run part of the St Albans Half Marathon on Sunday 9th June. The school with the highest percentage of entries wins a prize!

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

Welcome to learning in Rowan! Last week, we participated in the Knex challenge run by Herts Setpoint. Running over many schools in Hertfordshire, this challenge tested engineering skills and teamwork. We were required to design and build a crane to move a heavy load. Finally, we had to present our creations to our visiting tutor.



In science, we have been learning about the circulatory system and its role in delivering oxygen to our cells and removing waste carbon dioxide. Take a look at our models of a pump that represents one of the four chambers of the heart.

Learning this term is all Greek to us! We are immersing ourselves in the life of Ancient Greece. In art, we have been studying the pottery of the Ancient Greeks and are looking forward to seeing the real thing in our forthcoming trip to the British Museum. Using the 'zoom in' technique has helped us develop detailed, multi-layered character descriptions in English. Without a doubt, the characters of the Greek myths have provided us with endless inspiration. We have all enjoyed meeting creatures such as the Minotaur and Medusa. Important strategies such as varying the way we start our sentences and using contrast sentences have helped us improve our writing style. In fact, how many ISPACE sentence starters can you spot in this paragraph?



## 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 – Lime and Beech

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Cherry and Poplar



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

The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Ash and Acorns 2



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

Ash – Blake and Rex  
Beech – Luna and Erin  
Cherry – Lilly and Ollie  
Lime – Joseph and Sajeev  
Maple – Scarlett and Henry  
Poplar – Mondira and Eva K  
Rowan – Emelia and Finley  
Sycamore – Archer and Ellie  
Willow – Callum and Dylan



## Fencing

At Oakwood, we pride ourselves on our offering of diverse school clubs. On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, Joseph and Ashvin did a fantastic job representing Oakwood at a local fencing competition. Both Joseph and Ashvin displayed a great attitude and determination and most importantly thoroughly enjoyed themselves! We thank our fencing Head Coach, Paul Davies, for providing this opportunity. Mr Davies emphasises a good positive mental attitude to reach success which reflects our school value of ambition. Well done Joseph and Ashvin!



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!