

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

Welcome back! We hope you had a great Easter break with your children – it feels a long time ago now!

It has been great to see the children so enthusiastic on their return to school and you can see a snapshot of their learning over the past two weeks below.

Staff began the term with a positive and productive INSET day where we identified what we treasure at Oakwood as well as some of the changes we could put in place to make it even better!

Children will be having their own “treasure, tweak or trash” sessions in classes – we can’t wait to find out their ideas!

This week, Mrs Thompson ran the first of the parent sessions. There will be a further session next Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, at 9am. Please do come along and share your views!

If you are not able to attend, we will send out a summary and a short survey.

We will also be contacting you shortly to introduce our new Play Policy and to consult with you on changes to our Behaviour Policy. Your views are so valuable to us and help us shape the Oakwood that you want for your children. We welcome all feedback.

Have a great weekend!  
The Oakwood Team

### Oakwood in the top 500 schools in England

You may have read in the press that Oakwood featured in The Sunday Times Parent Power league table of the best primary schools in England, one of just 5 St Albans primary schools to feature in the top 500 schools in England. The league table was based on English, grammar and maths scores, and we are so proud of everyone for this impressive achievement. Well done! You can read more by clicking on the following articles:

[HertsAd](#)  
[The Times](#)

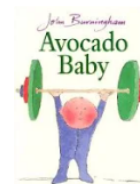
### Recommended reading...

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.

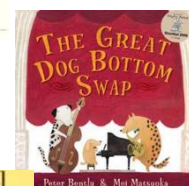
#### Reception

*Avocado Baby*  
By John Burningham



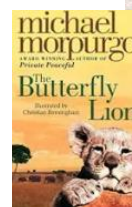
#### Key Stage 1

*The Great Dog Bottom Swap*  
Author: Peter Bently  
Illustrator: Mei Matsuoka



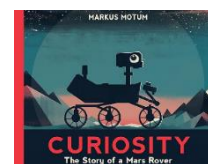
#### Lower Key Stage 2

*The Butterfly Lion*  
By Michael Morpurgo



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover*  
By Markus Motum



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 29 <sup>th</sup> April 9am	Parent Volunteer Briefing
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May, 9am	New Headteacher Parent view event - sign up here: <a href="#">Welcome event</a>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Netball Club visit to the Copperbox Arena

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

## Thank you for making Lend a Hand Day a success!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in making our recent Lend a Hand Day such a resounding success! The dedication and hard work put in by our PTA, parents, and carers have truly made a significant impact on our school grounds, enhancing the outdoor experience for our children.

We are thrilled to announce the exciting transformations that have taken place as a result of your efforts. The KS1 quiet garden has undergone a remarkable makeover, providing our children with a serene and tranquil space to unwind and connect with nature. Additionally, the hedge garden has been revitalised, with the unveiling of benches and stepping stones, creating yet another inviting area for our children to enjoy quality time with their friends.

We are excited to inform you that both the KS1 quiet garden and the hedge garden will be open for the children from Monday – we can't wait!



The Brambles has also undergone a makeover, featuring a clear walkway and challenging stepping poles. To ensure the safety and supervision of our children in this area, our staff will be undergoing training later this term.

Watch this space!



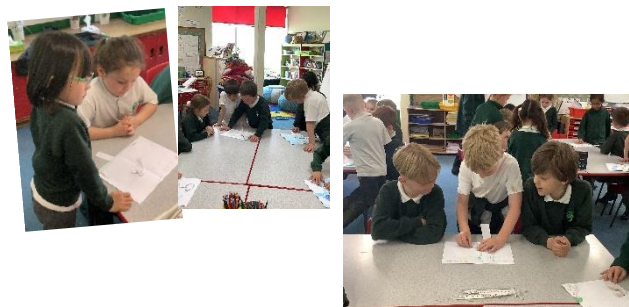
## Learning around Oakwood: Maple

Maple have had an enjoyable first two weeks back at school. We have been learning about how to give first aid to someone who has had a head injury. We can now identify if someone has had a minor or a major head injury based on their symptoms, like dizziness or unresponsiveness. Maple class practised how to give first aid to someone who has had a minor head injury following these steps:

1. Help the casualty to sit up
2. Ask them if they feel dizzy or sick and look out for other symptoms
3. Get an ice pack or cold compress
4. Keep watching the casualty throughout the day because it could turn into a major head injury



On Friday, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Beech class. Beech class were showing us their Design and Technology lever animals. We asked them questions and said positive comments about their work. Last term, we went into Beech class to showcase our D&T lever posters that educated on protecting the oceans so it was fantastic to have the same enthusiasm reciprocated by Beech class.

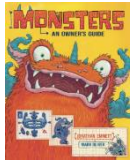


**If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email [safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
For urgent concerns, please telephone the school office**

## Learning around Oakwood: Ash

In Ash, we have had a very busy start to the summer term! Here is a snapshot of the learning that has taken place over the first week back in school.

In maths, we have been learning about measure. We have been comparing and measuring mass and volume. We particularly enjoyed a scavenger hunt around the classroom where we measured the mass of objects using non-standard units, particularly weighing our shoes!



English this week has been based on the book 'Monsters – An Owners Guide' by Jonathan Emmett. We have practised using adjectives to describe the monsters and have given them some funny names!

In Geography, we have been learning to identify differences between seasonal and daily weather patterns and have started to keep a weather journal. We have seen many different types of weather in just one week!



We thought of as many different types of weather as we could, drew pictures to represent them and put them into groups.

In RE, this half term our theme is Judaism and our key enquiry question is "Is Shabbat important to Jewish Children?"

We have started off by learning what Jewish children do during Shabbat and why Shabbat it is important to them. We watched a video about a boy named Charlie and we saw how his family spend Friday from sunset and into the next day to observe Shabbat.

In PSHE, we have been learning about what makes a family and we used these questions in our discussions. What is a family? Are all families the same? Who is in my family? How does it feel to be part of a family? Can some people be in your family and not live in your family home?

We have also been busy with art, PE, phonics, science, spellings, reading and computing! We think we have had a fabulous, productive and exciting week!

## Celebration Assembly

Every week, Key Stage 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 – Cherry and Ash

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Lime and Sycamore



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Willow and Acorns 1

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



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

Ash – Milly and Alice B  
Beech – Zac and Hannah  
Cherry – Isabella and Max  
Lime – Jolie and Matthew  
Maple – Xanthe and Gabriella  
Poplar – Jonida and Mondira  
Rowan – Jehaan and Jessica  
Sycamore – Harry K and Harry B  
Willow – Barney and Freddie R



## Work of the week!

We will be starting our 'Work of the Week' display next week. Every week an exemplary piece of learning is chosen to be displayed in our school dining hall. This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn from one another because the knowledge, or skills exemplified in the piece are highlighted for all to see and celebrated in our newsletter.

Previous work of the week can be found on our website here:

[Work of the Week | Oakwood Primary School](#)

**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!**