

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Thursday 28th March 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

Over the past two weeks we have been treasuring special moments with Ms Buckley to celebrate her dedication to Oakwood over the past 23 years.

Many thanks to all parents and carers who came for Ms Buckley's farewell coffee morning, we hope you enjoyed this opportunity to celebrate Ms Buckley's time at Oakwood.

Ms Buckley held an assembly for KS2 children this week to share some photographs from Oakwood's past; children were thrilled to see there used to be a swimming pool at Oakwood!

This morning, the children and staff held a special celebration assembly for Ms Buckley and sang some of her favourite Oakwood songs, as well as presenting her with some special keepsake gifts from the whole Oakwood community.

All the staff at Oakwood would like to thank Ms Buckley for her support and leadership and to wish her all the best in her next exciting endeavours!

Today, we have also said goodbye to Mrs Jenkins and we would like to wish her the very best of luck at her new school.

Thank you to all the children, parents, carers and staff who participated in the charity fun run last Wednesday and have made donations. So far, an impressive £735 has been raised for Youth Talk. Representatives from Youth Talk visited us last Thursday to talk about the important work they do.

We have also continued with our usual exciting learning activities, including LKS2's brilliant performances to showcase their learning about the Anglo Saxons. Well done LKS2!

Thank you to the PTA for Friday's cinema night and Sunday's Easter Eggstravaganza; these events were very well organised and were a great success!

We hope you have a lovely break and enjoy any celebrations you may be having!

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!

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

Reception

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns

Author: Hena Khan

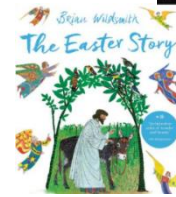
Illustrator: Mehrdokht Amini



Key Stage 1

The Easter Story

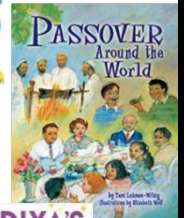
By Brian Wildsmith



Lower Key Stage 2

Passover Around the World

By Tami Lehman-Wilzig



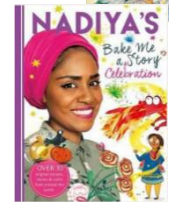
Upper Key

Stage 2

Nadiya's Bake Me a Celebration Story

Author: Nadiya Hussain

Illustrator: Clair Rossiter



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 15 th April	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Tuesday 16 th April	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 17 th April	Guitar lessons start
Wednesday 17 th April	Y5 6-a-side football prelims
Thursday 18 th April	Year 3 swimming starts
Friday 19 th April	Woodwind lessons start
Saturday 20 th April	Swimming Gala
Sunday 21 st April	PTA Lend a Hand Day
Monday 22 nd April	Clubs start this week
Wednesday 24 th April	Y6 6-a-side football prelims
Thursday 2 nd May	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

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

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

01727 753930

Spotlight on... Design and Technology (DT)

Design and Technology at Oakwood is all about children's creativity and imagination to design and make an appealing and purposeful product. We explore creating simple models using a variety of materials and evaluate our finished products against a design brief.



D&T also has a focus on food preparation, hygiene, healthy and balanced diet and we explore foods from around the world. There are clear links between Science, Geography, History, English, Maths and Art.



This term, in Key Stage One, children designed and created moving images of animals, and made a sliding mechanism so that the animals moved. Lower Key Stage Two have been learning about levers and linkages. Children created persuasive posters to educate younger students about the importance of recycling in preserving our oceans. Soon, Upper Key Stage Two will be studying about mechanical systems joining in a practical workshop to learn about controlled movement with a cam mechanism.

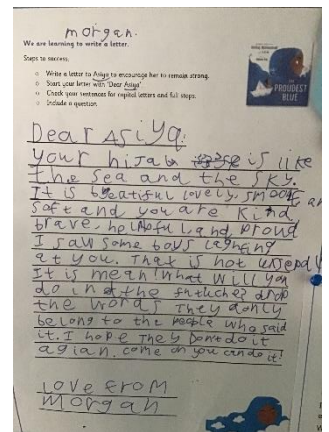
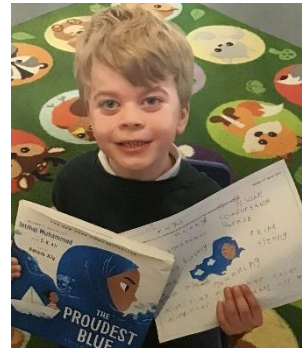


For more information about how we support children's design and technology learning at Oakwood, please visit our updated design and technology page under the 'Curriculum' tab on our school website:

[Design and Technology | Oakwood Primary School](#)

Work of the week!

Morgan in Ash



In KS1 we read "The Proudest Blue" as part of our World Book Day celebrations. We loved the way the author described Asiya's hijab and we collected our own adjectives to describe both Asiya and her hijab. Morgan tried his adjectives out in his sentences. He then used these to write a letter to Asiya, supporting and encouraging her to remain strong when people were being unkind.

Well done Morgan!

OPAL

We recently sent you a letter introducing you to the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) scheme that we are excited to be introducing at Oakwood. The OPAL scheme is based on extensive research on the importance of play in children's lives. More information can be found in the "Power of Play" booklet attached to this newsletter, which can also be found on our website here:

[Outdoor Play and Learning \(OPAL\) | Oakwood Primary School](#)

We have set up a working group who will be meeting regularly to plan our progress. This group consists of:

- Miss Bird – Curricular Lead for Play
- Mrs Hill – Play Governor
- Mrs Hogarth – Parent Rep
- Miss Hunt – Play Coordinator
- Mrs Raghavan – Play Coordinator
- Mrs Thompson – Strategic Lead

Staff have already started to hold regular Play Assemblies for children, introducing them to the new activities and talking through creative ideas for play, as well as how to keep play safe for everyone. We have received lots of positive feedback from "Mix-up Mondays" and plan to extend this approach soon! Thank you so much for your continued support and donations.

**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: Willow

The children in Willow, alongside the rest of Year 6, have dedicated a lot of time, effort and steps to learning a repertoire of songs to perform as part of the SAPSMA choir at the Alban Arena this week – what a wonderful opportunity and every single person has loved it! The theme was One World and we learnt songs from all over including an Indian lullaby, Polish nursery rhyme and even a song in Swahili.

“It was fun and exciting to perform and to sing the songs in such an enjoyable atmosphere”

“Going on stage with blood pumping”

“I really enjoyed singing in the Alban Arena and it felt incredible to be on stage”

“Even though I was nervous at the start, it was something that I will remember forever”



We have had our heads down ploughing through lots of maths work but alongside it, in D&T we have been learning all about seasonal foods, food choices (or lack thereof) during WWII and food preservation techniques, all building up to designing and making our own wartime recipes thinking about the ingredients that we might want to use, and carefully considering what we would have to substitute in instead based on what was available during the war.

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 – Rowan

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



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

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



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

Ash – Lisa
Beech – Aiyla
Cherry – Tazeem
Lime – Harriet
Maple – Johnny
Poplar – Nourreen
Rowan – Orli
Sycamore – Olivia E
Willow – Finley



Friendly Reminder – cycling on school grounds

Adults, please refrain from cycling or scooting on school grounds. Let's ensure the safety and security of our children by keeping these areas clear for their use. Thank you for your cooperation!

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!