

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 15th March 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,
We have had an exciting two weeks of learning and enrichment! Last Friday, we celebrated World Book Day; it was lovely to see children reading during our moments of “drop everything and read.”

Today, LKS2 have had an exciting and immersive Anglo-Saxon workshop led by the excellent History Off the Page.



We have also had a fabulous start to our OPAL programme; we introduced “Mix Up Monday” this week – more on this to follow! The OPAL working group had an exciting planning meeting and we can’t wait to continue this programme of play.

Many thanks to all parents and carers who came to our Open Classrooms this week, we hope you and your children enjoyed the opportunity to share the wonderful learning that we do!

Have a lovely weekend,

The Oakwood Team

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

School contact details:
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01727 753930

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 [international women’s day](#) themed books.

Reception

Greta and the Giants

Author: Zoë Tucker

Illustrator: Zoe Persico



Key Stage 1

Izzy Gizmo

Author: Pip Jones

Illustrator: Sara Ogilvie



Lower Key Stage 2

Jaz Santos vs the World

By Priscilla Mante



Upper Key Stage 2

Make More Noise!

Various Authors



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 18 th March, 9:15am	Y6 SAPSMA rehearsal at Garden Fields School
Monday 18 th March	Acorns height, weight, vision & hearing screening
Monday 18 th March	Girls’ and Boys’ football vs Mount Pleasant Lane
Tuesday 19 th March and Thursday 21 st March, 4pm- 7pm	Parent Teacher Consultation Meetings (online)
Wednesday 20 th March	Headteacher’s Fun Run for Youth Talk
Friday 22 nd March, 2:30pm	Year 5 performance of Joseph – School Hall
Monday 25 th March, 8:50am	Coffee and Pastries with the Headteacher – all parents welcome
Tuesday 26 th March, 9:30am	LKS2 Performance to Parents, School Hall
Tuesday 26 th March, 1pm	Y6 SAPSMA rehearsal at Alban Arena
Tuesday 26 th March, 7pm	Y6 SAPSMA Concert at Alban Arena
Thursday 27 th March, 2:15pm	LKS2 Performance to Parents, School Hall
Friday 28 th March	LAST DAY OF TERM School finishes at: 1:50pm for Acorns 1:55pm for KS1 2:00pm for KS2

Spotlight on... RE

At Oakwood we have adopted an enquiry-based approach to learning about religions. Each half term we focus on a question that leads us to a better understanding of a certain religion in context. We do not shy away from asking thought provoking and challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging.

We do all this whilst encouraging pupils to explore their own beliefs in light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses.

We aim to provide first hand experiences to help link our enquiry questions with concrete experiences to support students in their understanding of the range of religions we explore at Oakwood.

Key Stage 1 took a trip to St Paul's Church to explore Christianity and Upper Key Stage 2 visited Nanak Darbar Sikh Temple to learn about Sikhism.



We are always looking to make connections with our

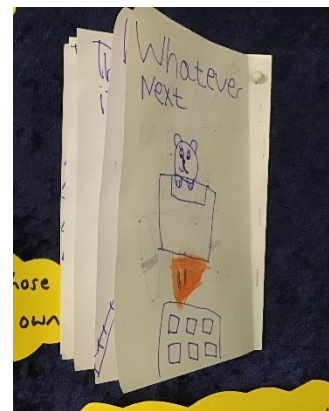
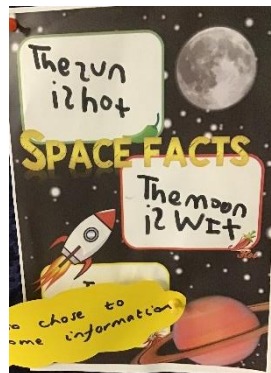
community so if you know of a local Temple, Mosque or Synagogue who would be willing to visit our school or have a group of children visit, please get in touch.

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

[RE | Oakwood Primary School](#)

Work of the week!

Quinn in Acorns 1



We have been learning about space. We read the story "Whatever Next!" Quinn then chose to write her own book. She remembered to re-read her writing to check it made sense. She used a sound mat to help. Quinn also developed her fine motor skills helping to create a collaborative piece of art.

Bertie in Willow



Be a Hero

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

This piece is intended for every adult on the planet who has watched our wonderful world be poisoned, and chosen not to do anything about it. However, I hope that after reading this, you will feel two emotions: hope and determination. Because that is what we need to save our planet and the spectacular creatures on it. I know that the easy option is to sit back and watch the world practically dissolve in front of our eyes, which is what the majority of you have done. Despite this, I ask you not to take the easy option. I ask you to take the right one.

This planet means so much to me, and every other child in the UK and beyond. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for everyone. I dream of a world where wildlife fits every corner, and we all, humans and animals, can live our lives without the constant threat of climate change. Having said that, this dream is in serious danger of melting like water vapour in the sun. The world is poisoned and grieving, yet still left with a glimmer of hope. That hope is you, and every other human on the earth. By 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. I, for one, find this unbearable. If you do not give everything you have to have to avenge the world's spectacular, innocent creatures, we will never forgive you.

Climate change is widely considered as the greatest problem of modern-day life. Yet it is more than a problem. It is a catastrophe, one which affects animals even more so than us. There are 44,000 species in the world that are threatened with extinction, from anteaters to elephants, pangolins to tigers, rhinos to orangutans. But please ask yourself this question: what did they do to us? Take sharks, one of the most feared animals on the planet, for example. Approximately 10 humans are killed by sharks every year. However, humans murder over 100 million sharks annually, which is about 3 per second. Is that really what you want? In addition to this, if we and, or at least, massively reduce, deforestation, global warming will improve in leaps and bounds due to the trees consuming CO2 from the atmosphere. Not only this, but entire ecosystems will be restored, saving hundreds upon thousands of species. There is indeed hope, but only if we look in the right places.

I could write all day about what needs to change. But it all links back to one thing: Mindset. Right now, we think that the world belongs to us, and only us. That is incorrect. We, as human beings, are no more important to mother nature than a black-crested gibbon, or an Andean bear, or a rockhopper penguin. Change our mindset, and the rest will come as a result.

The planet is no longer yours to direct in whatever direction you wish. You have given up that right. Like a sinking black mamba snake, your selfishness is proving fatal for the planet. Our world is falling apart, and we must act now. Distraught souls grasp onto a glimmer of hope, hope that must be protected like anything else we have ever had. The world is reaching not just for a hero, but an army of them. But if we unite, the impossible is possible.

In Willow we have been writing persuasive speeches. Bertie used emotive language to write an incredibly powerful speech about climate change. He used repetition and rhetorical questions to ensure his speech had impact.

Well done Quinn and Bertie!

Reminder – healthy snacks

All children in KS2 may bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable for a mid-morning snack. Please do not give your child chocolate, biscuits or crisps for their snack. If you feel your child has additional needs requiring them to have more than a piece of fruit or vegetable, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance.

**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 to explore movement and balance by creating bridges. We first created individual bridge balances and focused on extending our fingers and toes. Then, we worked collaboratively to make pair bridge balances where we were connected to our partners. We even explored using a variety of apparatus to create a bridge with two different levels.



We have linked our Science to this theme and we constructed a bridge using pieces of recycled paper and some pencils. We tested how many pencils our bridges could hold before collapsing.

The children have quickly learnt that without any additional support, their bridges would not be functional.

Key questions:

How could you make your bridge stronger?

What would happen if we add extra resources?

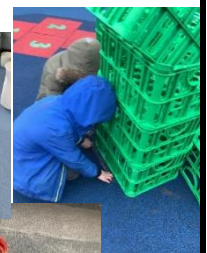
How could you make your bridge hold more weight?

How could you make your bridge longer?

Learning around Oakwood: Beech



Beech class have loved diving into our measures unit in mathematics! We have explored using non-standard measures, including measuring objects with cubes and paperclips, and discussing the drawbacks of these. We then moved on to measuring in centimetres and metres, as standard units, where the children were thrilled to measure objects around our classroom and outside! The children have learned how to measure items accurately with rulers and metre sticks, and used fantastic team work to be successful with larger items.



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 and Poplar

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



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

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



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

Ash – Felix and Clara

Beech – Finlay E and Finn

Cherry – Hawa and Timo

Lime – Izzy

Maple – Olive

Poplar – Sam

Rowan – Megan and Heidi

Sycamore – Tygar and Danae

Willow – Eliza and Charlotte



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!