

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



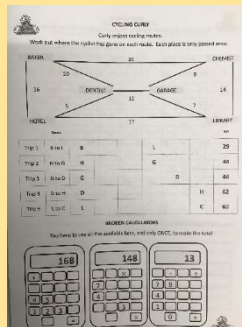
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely half term break.

We have already achieved so much this week!

We are so proud of our talented Year 5 children, who celebrated their fantastic achievement of coming 1<sup>st</sup> in the Maths Challenge at Abbots Hill on Monday. Well done!



Children from the Year 3 and 4 Speed Stacking Club came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 13 schools in the speed stacking tournament on Tuesday. One pupil came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the girls' 363 challenge, completing this in under 7 seconds. The children told us how much they had enjoyed the tournament and how much fun it was.

Our children were praised by teachers from other schools for their behaviour, kindness and team ethic.

Well done Team Oakwood!

Staffing update: next Wednesday we say farewell to Mrs Chan, TA in UKS2. We wish her well in her new ventures.

Have a lovely weekend,  
The Oakwood Team

### Parking reminder

Local residents have requested that we remind parents and carers not to park in front of driveways when dropping off or picking up children from school. There are several roads with available space to park just a few minutes' walk from the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

### 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

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*  
By Eric Carle



#### Key Stage 1

*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*  
By Mo Willems



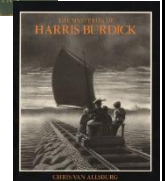
#### Lower Key Stage 2

*The Arrival*  
By Shaun Tan



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*  
By Chris Van Allsburg



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 4 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am	Y6 SAPSMA rehearsal at Garden Fields School
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Netball vs St Peter's (away)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Tag Rugby Tournament
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Girls' football vs Bowmansgreen (home)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day Children can come dressed as a character from a book if they wish
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am	Netball Tournament at Samuel Ryder Academy
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Boys' football vs St John Fisher (away)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 3.15pm	Meeting for Year 6 Parents re SATs
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 3.30pm – 5.00pm	Open Classrooms
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	LKS2 – Anglo Saxon & Viking Day

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

## Spotlight on... History

We are very proud of our History curriculum at Oakwood. We cover a range of topics and historical periods, allowing the children to leave Oakwood with a broad and detailed knowledge of primary history which will serve them well throughout the rest of their education. We believe History is very special because it helps to widen the children's perspective of the world around them. From EYFS to Year 6 their understanding of the present world around them, in comparison to the past, deepens as they recognise the similarities and differences between time periods. This also allows them to strengthen their abilities to empathise with others as we look closely at key figures and discuss what their life was like.



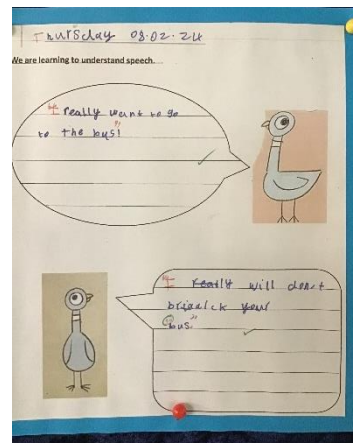
We also believe greatly in the importance of educational visits that allow the children to participate in History. In KS1 we visited St Alban's Cathedral to support our local History topic of the story of Saint Alban. Years 3 and 4 visited the Verulamium museum to support their understanding of the Romans. Finally, years 5 and 6 visited Lincolnshire to support their understanding of World War 2 and evacuees.

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

[History | Oakwood Primary School](#)

## Work of the week!

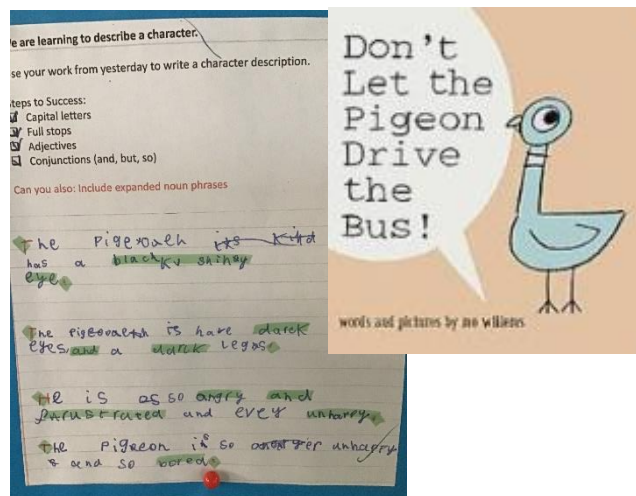
### Hibah in Beech



In Beech Class, we have been reading *"Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!"* The children have been working hard to generate adjectives to describe the pigeon which they used to create a character description.

We pretended that we were the pigeon and tried to convince the bus driver to let us drive the bus!

Hibah thought carefully about what the pigeon might say in order to persuade the bus driver, and has written this as speech.



Hibah has worked hard to follow all of the steps to success within her character description. She has used adjectives, conjunctions and has challenged herself to use an expanded noun phrase.

**Well done Hibah!**

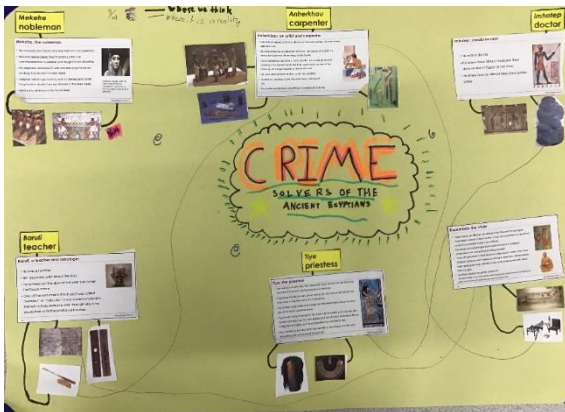
**If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email [safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
For urgent concerns, please telephone the school office**

## Learning around Oakwood: Sycamore

In science, we have just completed a learning sequence on evolution including the work of Charles Darwin. We have now moved on to life cycles and reproduction in plants in animals. We completed the dissection of some daffodils and labelled the various parts of the flower including the male and female parts.



In History, we took on the role of archaeologist detectives to solve which artefacts had been stolen from which ancient Egyptian tomb. This built on our earlier understanding of ancient Egyptian culture and beliefs.



In English, we have written balanced arguments on some fascinating topics such as whether we should pull the plug on AI and other issues close to the children's hearts. On the subject of hearts, we have also been enjoying reading *Pig Heart Boy* together as a class and writing about it. We have enjoyed debates about 'transgenics', with everyone having an opinion on whether animals should be used to improve our life circumstances.

## 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 – Lime

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Beech and Acorns 2



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

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



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

Ash – Blake and Gray  
Beech – Hannah and Evie  
Cherry – Cassie and Olivia  
Lime – Noah and Matthew  
Maple – Sasha and Finlay  
Poplar – Kian D. and Isla  
Rowan – Sienna and Leo  
Sycamore – Alex and Emily  
Willow – Lily and Seb



## Letter to Downing Street



Well done to children in Year 5 and 6 who wrote a letter to the Prime Minister. The children received a reply commending them on their "excellent letter about pollution and building homes in forests."

**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!**