

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

We're thrilled to be sharing some exciting learning from across the curriculum with you, with some particular highlights this fortnight on maths, science, computing and art. This week we have had a focus on online safety to mark Safer Internet Day, which was on Tuesday. Read on to find out more!

Staffing updates – we recently said goodbye to Miss Schalkwyk and we wish her well in her new ventures. We have welcomed Ms Akthar as our new Teaching Assistant in Sycamore Class.

We will be exhibiting a stand at the St Albans and Dacorum School Jobs Fair at STAGs on Thursday 15th February at 5pm, please do encourage any budding TAs and Teachers to attend!

Have a lovely weekend,
The Oakwood Team

Internet Safety Day

The whole school community have been taking part in activities to mark Internet Safety Day which fell on Tuesday 6th February. This week, each class had a special computing lesson to learn more about internet safety at a level appropriate to their age. We also held special KS1 and KS2 assemblies to learn more about internet safety. Classes across the school have been reading internet safety themed books – check out our recommended reading for some examples!

Children linked their Protective Behaviours learning to their online safety learning. To find out more about how we support children's learning in Computing, Online Safety and Protective Behaviours at Oakwood, please visit the links below.

[Computing | Oakwood Primary School](#)

[Online Safety | Oakwood Primary School](#)

[Protective Behaviours \(PBs\) | Oakwood Primary School](#)

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 [internet safety themed](#) books.

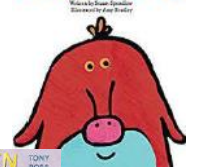
Reception

Penguin Pig

Author: Stuart Spendlow

Illustrator: Amy Bradley

PENGUIN PIG



Key Stage 1

Chicken Clicking

Author: Jeanne Willis

Illustrator: Tony Ross

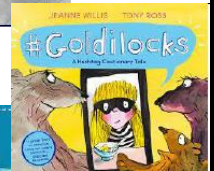


Lower Key Stage 2

#Goldilocks, A Cautionary Tale

Author: Jeanne Willis

Illustrator: Tony Ross



Upper Key Stage 2

Diary of Elle

By Nina Du Thaler



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 12th February	Girl's football vs. Maple (home)
Thursday 15th February	Indoor athletics at Herts Sports Village
Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February	HALF TERM SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Tuesday 27th February	Speed stacking at STAGS
Thursday 29th February	Cross country league at Mandeville
Friday 1st March	Secondary school allocation day

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

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

01727 753930

Spotlight on... Science

Not only is Science a thrilling subject that piques the curiosity and inquisitiveness of all the young minds in our school, but it is also vital for us to understand as it impacts us at all times in our daily lives. At Oakwood, we teach Science weekly and feel passionately that it should be filled with excitement, which is why we spend so much time exploring the world with a range of practical activities throughout the school and curriculum. In LKS2 we have been exploring friction by racing cars along different surfaces; in



UKS2 we put our knowledge of circuits to the test by building our own moving carousels as well as learning about the prehistoric past through fossils; in

KS1 we've been out digging for worms to explore and understand their



microhabitats; and in EYFS we have been exploring seasonal

changes around the school grounds. Our Science learning is supported through a range of wonderful after school clubs such as Awesome Engineers and Coding Club, promoting a love of all STEM subjects which may go on to influence and shape the careers of our bright young minds. We welcome any parent volunteers who work in STEM subjects and can further enthuse the children by talking to them about how you use Science in your daily lives.

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

[Science | Oakwood Primary School](#)

Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

This week Cherry class have finished their money topic in maths. We learnt to recognise the different coins and add them. We even set up our own shop to practise giving change. We have now moved onto our multiplication topic and the children have been working hard to use their 2, 5 and 10 multiplication facts to help them.



In PSHE we have been learning about goals and challenges. We discussed how the more we challenge ourselves to try new things, the more 'flexible', 'bendy' and

'stretchy' our thoughts, attitudes and brains can be. Just like a bendy pipe cleaner. We then made flowers to represent this using a pipe cleaner as a stem. In Computing we have been looking at moving robots. To do this we have been exploring giving commands to a Bee-Bot. We first explored how the Bee-Bots worked and what happened when we pushed each button. We then played a fun game where Miss Denson secretly pressed a number of buttons and once the Bee-Bot had moved we had to guess what buttons she had pressed by pressing our own pretend remotes.



We have had a fantastic week in Cherry, well done Cherry class!

**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: Rowan

We have had very busy half term of learning in Rowan. It's been nonstop! In art we have been building on our knowledge of printing that we gained in Year 4. We looked at the block prints of Elizabeth Cathill and used her technique of reduction block printing to produce prints involving several different colours. We produced one edition that was a detail from her work 'In the Fields' and then we produced a print of our own from a photograph.



We were really pleased with the results and hope you are too.

In science, we have been walking in the footsteps of David Attenborough and the palaeontologists of the Natural History Museum to gain information about living creatures from the past by looking at fossils. We learnt how this helps us understand how creatures have evolved over time. We also joined the ranks of famous Egyptologists such as Howard Carter as we explored this fascinating period of ancient history that lasted over 3,000 years. Our work on chronology and timelines has shown us that this was a much longer duration than other civilizations that we have studied such as the Romans. In English, we have studied diary writing and are currently looking at the language of debate. We imagined that we were Howard Carter and wrote his diary entry for the day that he first saw inside the tomb of Tutankhamen. Finally, Friday afternoons is 'Joseph' time. We are working with some staff and sixth formers from St Albans school to take you 'way, way back many centuries ago...' to the court of Pharaoh Rameses. Rehearsals are well underway for our production of Joseph...Watch this space!

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 Lime

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Sycamore and Acorns 1



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

The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Ash, Beech and Cherry



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

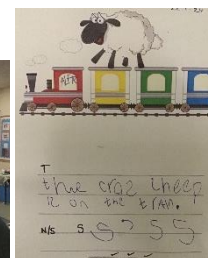
Ash – Elodie M and Lyla
Beech – Erin and Leo
Cherry – Albert and Maila
Lime – Phoebe and Molly
Maple – Ranya and Sasha
Poplar – Frank and Paddy
Rowan – Amber and Emma
Sycamore – Hamish and Olivia T
Willow – Rakshanti and Iona



Work of the week!

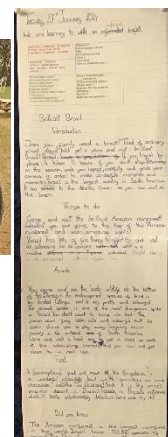
Alfie in Acorns 1

Acorns 1 are learning Phase 3 phonic sounds which includes digraphs and trigraphs. We have been learning to use the digraphs in our writing. We are also learning about the United Kingdom. Alfie has practised his pencil grip and fine motor control when he made a Union Jack flag and he showed enthusiasm for writing when he chose to make a book during Active Learning.



Thomas in Poplar

In Poplar we have been learning how to write an informative leaflet. We started our unit with making inferences and posing questions about Finland. We used conjunctions to extend sentences and expanded noun phrases to enhance writing. Thomas used a chrome book to research essential information about Brazil. He organised his ideas and created a sub-heading for each part, and used rhetorical questions and alliteration to attract the readers.



Well done Alfie and Thomas!

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!