

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Oakwood Community,

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful break.

It is hard to believe we have only been back for a week! It has been great to see the children returning to school happily and eager to learn.

We have continued to explore our Oakwood values of kindness, curiosity and ambition during our weekly KS1 and KS2 values assemblies and through our everyday learning.

Read on to discover more about what the children have been learning in their first week back.

Staffing update: today we said goodbye to Mrs Shillum and wish her all the best in her new role in construction.

Have a lovely weekend,
The Oakwood Team

Poppy Appeal 2023

The Royal British Legion contacted us just before Christmas to thank all of the families who supported the Poppy Appeal.



Together, we have raised over £200 for the Royal British Legion. Thank you to all of the children, staff and families who gave their support.

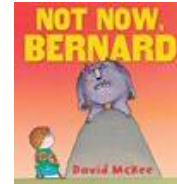
Recommended reading...

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 week's selection of books.

Reception

Not Now Bernard
by David McKee



Key Stage 1

A Place to Call Home
Author: Alexis Deacon
Illustrator: Vivianne Schwarz



Lower Key Stage 2

Leon and the Place Between
Author: Angela McAllister
Illustrator: Graham Baker-Smith



Upper Key Stage 2

My Laugh Out Loud Life: Mayhem Mission
Author: Burhana Islam
Illustrator: Farah Khandaker



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 15th January	Deadline for September 2024 Reception applications
Wednesday 17th January	Acorns height, weight, vision and hearing screening (older Acorns only)
Wednesday 24th January	Parent volunteer briefing (places are limited – please sign up)

Our school website address: www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk
School contact details: admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk

01727 753930

Spotlight on... English

At Oakwood, we believe that English has an important part to play in both education and society. A high quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. English teaches children to speak, read and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others, and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. The process of reading and writing are undeniably connected – the more we read, the better our writing can become.

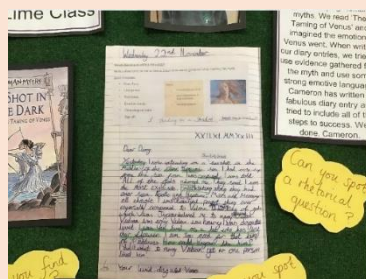
“
Writing comes
from reading, and
reading is the
finest teacher of
how to write.
ANNE PROULX



We aim to foster a love of reading that starts in Reception and continues throughout Primary School. Children in Acorns and KS1

participate in daily Guided Reading sessions which is replaced with Destination Reader and Book Club as they move into Key Stage Two. In addition, we are fortunate enough to have some trained and highly engaging Reading Volunteers work across KS2. We are looking forward to celebrating events such as World Book Day which aims to immerse children in a world of books.

Remember to check our 'Work of the Week' section on the website which showcases our high quality writers at Oakwood. This work is also proudly displayed in the Dining Hall and children are always delighted to see their own and their friends' work.



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

For more information about recommended reading, please visit our updated English page under the 'Curriculum' tab on our school website:

[English | Oakwood Primary School](#)

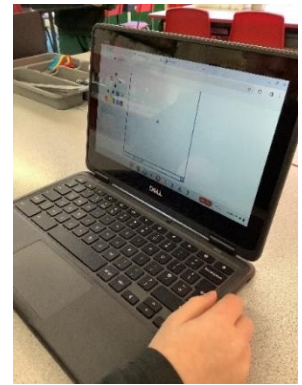
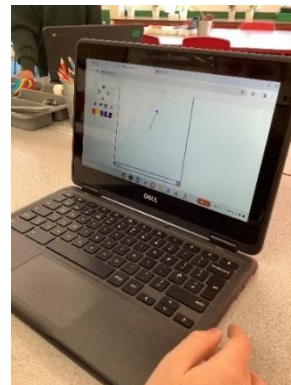
Learning around Oakwood: Maple

Maple Class have had a fantastic start back after the festive holidays. We have been starting new topics in each subject including learning to code in computing lessons. We are using Logo software to learn a text-based coding language.



Maple used their exploratory learning time effectively to investigate how to move the 'turtle' independently.

Commands we learnt include: *FD 100* which moves the turtle forward 100 steps and *CS* which clears the screen.



When we code, we must be accurate or the turtle will not do as we expect. For example, we learnt the space between commands is very important. Some children in Maple even learnt to code a square using a code snippet.



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

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 – Maple

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



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



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

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

Ash – Nathan
Beech – Connie
Cherry – Carys
Lime – Poppy
Maple – Joseph F
Poplar – Ashvin
Rowan – Cameron
Sycamore – Lucy
Willow – Millie



Cycling and scooting to school

Cycling or scooting to school can be a great way of getting exercise, travelling sustainably and motivating children in the morning.

It is important that cycling and scooting are undertaken safely and with consideration for other pavement users. Recently, we have received reports from concerned parents of Oakwood pupils cycling and scooting in a manner that poses risk and has resulted in injuries.

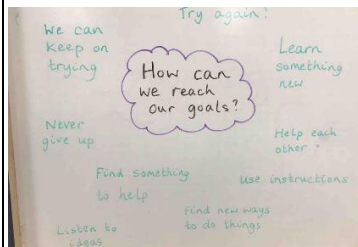
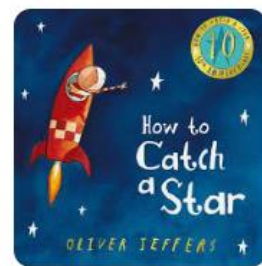
To ensure the well-being of our children and maintain a safe environment for everyone, we kindly request that you

- **supervise your children on bikes or scooters**
- **ensure children wear a helmet**
- **encourage your children to give way to pedestrians**

Thank you for your ongoing support in creating a considerate and safe school environment.

Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 2

Acorns 2 have enjoyed a busy first week back in school. This week we read the book 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers.



We then all thought about things we would like to get better at doing and discussed the ways we could do this. We

agreed we can keep on trying, not give up, we can ask for help from grown ups or friends and we can find new ways to try things. We are going to continue to revisit this all term.



In maths we have continued to practise our subitising, noticing the patterns to see what the total number is. We then played a game of

'subitising bingo' to help embed this skill.

We have also been learning about capacity and have had great fun estimating and then finding out which containers could hold the most water! We practised using the vocabulary of full, empty, half full and half empty.



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.

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!