

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Oakwood Community,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The PTA Christmas Fair was a tremendous success, bringing our school community together for a day of festive fun. A big thank you to the PTA for their hard work and dedication in organising this wonderful event, as well as the £2 room at school on Monday.

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the heart-warming KS1 and EYFS Christmas assemblies. The joyous performances by our younger pupils brought smiles to everyone's faces. A round of applause is also due to our dedicated staff for their commitment to making these events memorable for the children.

A message from the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance service: "a huge thank you for your support. I've seen your just giving page following the Santa Dash and all I can say is Wow! What an incredible fundraiser!" Together, we have raised over £1000 – many thanks for your generosity.

A festive feast awaited our students during the Christmas dinner on Wednesday, and the school was a sea of colourful jumpers as we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day.

Our UKS2 students spread the joy of the season by visiting local care homes and sharing the gift of music. Their heart-warming performances brought smiles to the faces of residents, reminding us all of the importance of community and connection during this special time of year.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday season!
The Oakwood Team

Important dates for your diary...

Wednesday 20 th December	LAST DAY OF TERM School finishes at 12:20pm for Acorns 12:25pm for KS1 12:30pm for KS2
Thursday 4 th January	First day of term
Week beginning 8 th January	Clubs and music lessons start this week
Thursday 11 th January	Year 4 swimming starts
Monday 15 th January	Deadline for September 2024 Reception applications

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

The Jolly Christmas Postman
by Janet and Alan Ahlberg

Key Stage 1

Lucy and Tom at Christmas
By Shirley Hughes

Lower Key Stage 2

Letters from Father Christmas
by J.R.R. Tolkien
edited by Baillie Tolkien

Upper Key Stage 2

A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig



Please do visit your local library to select from a fantastic range of books. [Locations and opening times are here.](#)



Opening Times

From everyone at Stevensons, we're sending you our best wishes and a little note to say that we are closing our stores over the Christmas holidays so staff can spend time with their family and friends.

We're closed from 18th December until 1st January.

We re-open on the 2nd of January

You can still order for home delivery or Click and Collect once the store re-opens.

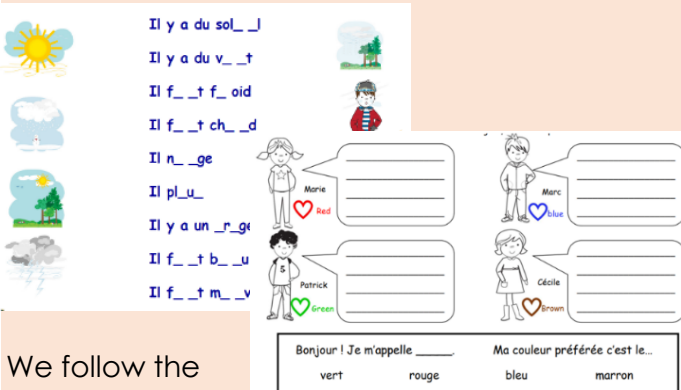
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
Spotlight on... French

Our aim at Oakwood is to develop an interest and thirst for learning another language. We aim for our pupils to understand what it is to become global citizens, by being able to communicate in a different language, as well as respect and appreciate the similarities and differences between the French language/culture and our own.

At Oakwood, we try to foster a 'can do' attitude towards all subject areas. We encourage the children to think positively about their learning and we believe in their ability to succeed. Our pupils have been taught to believe that they 'can do' French. Instead of saying, 'I can't do it!' the children follow the sentence with YET! This growth mindset approach towards French helps the children to achieve more.



Il y a du sol_ _
Il y a du v_ _t
Il f_ _t f_ _oid
Il f_ _t ch_ _d
Il n_ _ge
Il pl_ _u
Il y a un _ _r_ _ge
Il f_ _t b_ _u
Il f_ _t m_ _v

Marie  Red
Marc  Blue
Patrick  Green
Cécile  Brown

Bonjour ! Je m'appelle ____ Ma couleur préférée c'est le...
vert rouge bleu marron

We follow the Language

Angels Scheme of work which ensures that we offer a relevant, broad, vibrant and ambitious French curriculum that inspires and excites our pupils by using a wide variety of topics and themes.

During lessons, children practice the key skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, they also have opportunities to learn songs and play board games as well as games on the interactive whiteboard.

At home, you can support your child by watching a French movie together or reading a book. Talk about French cuisine and follow some delicious recipes.

Download some French puzzles or perhaps buy some flash cards or board games.

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

[French | Oakwood Primary School](#)

Learning around Oakwood: Willow

In Science this half term, we have been learning all about light and shadows, how light rays travel in straight lines meaning they are blocked by opaque objects thus creating shadows.

Last week, Willow had a creative Science lesson, linking our learning and our artistic skills to create Christmas themed shadow puppet shows. We made shadow puppets using black opaque paper and split pins to create silhouettes, and a torch as our light source in order to create the shadows. We demonstrated real teamwork, collaboration and imagination to create some very exciting and entertaining story lines – mostly

resulting in some form of misfortune for Santa!



On the festive theme, we have been to Clare Lodge and Orchard Care

Homes to sing carols to the elderly spreading cheer and joy to our community. Everyone sang with their most angelic voices!

Fantastic Fencing!

Congratulations to pupils who represented Oakwood in the School Fencing Winter Championships 2023 against pupils from other Hertfordshire schools.

A fencing match consists of three rounds. Points are earned by striking the opponent with the sword in a valid area.

The pupils put in maximum effort and performed some awesome moves! Well done to all of those who took part.



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 – Lime

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



'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 2



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

- Ash – Isobel and Isla
- Beech – Finley H
- Cherry – Rosabella and Patrick
- Lime – Jolie
- Maple – Rosa
- Poplar – Evie
- Rowan – Aila
- Sycamore – Digby
- Willow – Bertie



Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 1



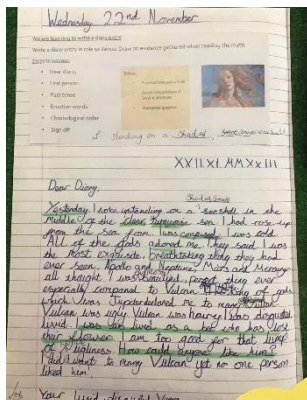
It has been a very busy week in Acorns 1! We have been learning about the Christian celebration of Christmas and lots of Christmas songs. We then had our first opportunity at Oakwood to perform in our school hall! We shared our learning in our Christmas assembly with our audience, explaining what we have learned.



In maths we have been learning to order by length and then used this skill to order paper from longest to shortest and created our own Christmas trees. Additionally, we have also been making snowflakes, observing how they are symmetrical. This week we also had our first Christmas lunch at school, enjoying being served by the adults at our tables and pulling the Christmas crackers!

Work of the week!

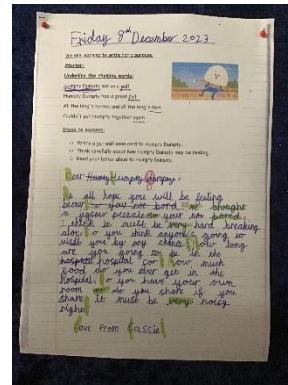
Cameron in Lime



In Lime Class we have been studying Roman myths. We read "The Taming of Venus" and imagined the emotions Venus went through. When writing our diary entries, we tried to use evidence gathered from the myth and use some strong emotive language. Cameron has written a

fabulous diary entry and tried to include all of the steps to success.

Cassie in Cherry



Cherry Class have been reading The Jolly Christmas Postman. We have been learning how to write letters. We wrote get well letters to Humpty Dumpty who is in hospital after falling off the wall again! Cassie used super adjectives in her letter as well as including conjunctions and

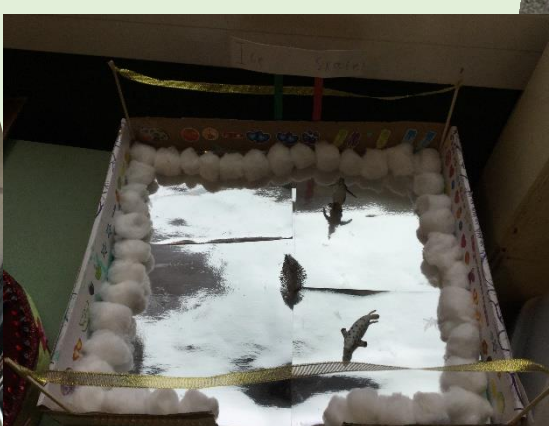
questions (with question marks). Cassie made sure that she used capital letters for names.

Well done Cameron and Cassie!

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!

Deck the Halls!

Well done to all of the pupils who entered this year's Deck the Halls competition. The children showcased their incredible talents by creating beautiful Christmas decorations for our dining hall, which helped bring joy and sparkle to our festive celebrations. The competition was judged by Sharon, our chef, who was impressed by the children's imagination and artistic flair, as well as the independence children have demonstrated by creating these dazzling decorations.



Congratulations to the winners... ...and the runners up:

Suraya
Rex
Ashvin
Ellie G

Arlen
Thomas
Evie
Olivia E