

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Oakwood Community,

It has been another exciting fortnight of learning at Oakwood! The staff have been learning too, with an INSET day delivered by Hertfordshire Autism Training.

Classes in KS1 and EYFS had an exciting walk to St Paul's Church, find out more below!

Huge thanks to the PTA for organising some exciting events this weekend, we hope those of you attending have a great time!

The Oakwood Team

### Important dates for your diary...

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Deck the Halls entries can be brought in from today
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day – £2 Room donations
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 visit to Marshalswick Library
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December, 2:45pm	Lime Class violin performance to parents
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Netball match against St Bernadette's (home)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December, 9:15am	Ash Class Christmas Assembly
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December, 9:15am	Beech Class Christmas Assembly
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 9:15am	Cherry Class Christmas Assembly
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Dash (wear a festive hat if you have one)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	£2 room at school
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December, 2:15pm	Acorns Christmas Assembly
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch – children may wear a Christmas jumper
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December and Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	UKS2 visits to care homes: Christmas in the community

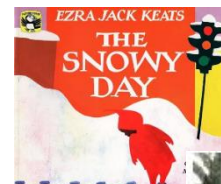
### Recommended reading...

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 Snowy Day*  
By Ezra Jack Keats



#### Key Stage 1

*Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story*  
**Author:** Sean Taylor and Alex Morss



**Illustrator:** Cinyee Chiu

#### Lower Key Stage 2

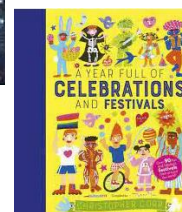
*A Nest Full of Stars*  
By James Berry



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*A Year Full of Celebrations and Festivals*

**Author:** Claire Grace  
**Illustrator:** Christopher Corr



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

### What to do if you have concerns about children's safety or wellbeing

Contact:

Emergency Services if you believe a child is in immediate danger.

Children's Services if you believe a child or family requires intervention beyond the school. Anyone can report concerns to Children's Services on **03001234043** Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) if your concerns are related to incidents within the school setting. Our DSLs are Mrs Thompson, Miss Stubbs, Mrs Jenkins and Ms Buckley.

Please note that school are not able to contact Children's Services about concerns we receive anonymously.

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... Phonics

Reading and phonics are a high priority at Oakwood. In September 2022 we began using the Little Wandle Revised Letters and Sounds scheme. It provides regular opportunities for children to practise their reading. Children need regular practise to enable them to read with fluency and automaticity and, therefore, develop their comprehension. Reading is an important skill - it is something we use all the time! Being able to confidently read helps children to access all other areas of their learning too. Listening to and identifying the sounds all around us in the environment is a great way to support phonics learning.



At Oakwood we also believe it's important to promote a love of reading! We encourage children to use the book corners in our classrooms on a regular basis and share class reading books too. The younger members of our school also feel inspired when the older children come down to read and share stories with them.

If you would like to find out more about Little Wandle please using the following link:  
<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

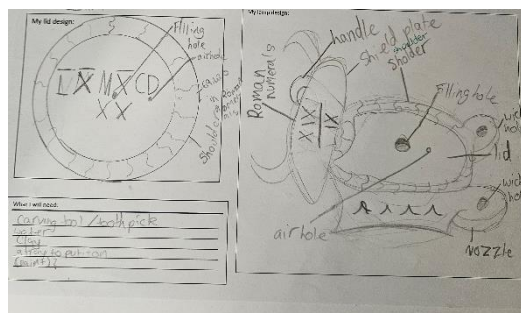
For more information about how we support children's phonics learning at Oakwood, please visit our updated phonics page under the 'Curriculum' tab on our school website:  
[Phonics | Oakwood Primary School](#)

## Learning around Oakwood: Poplar

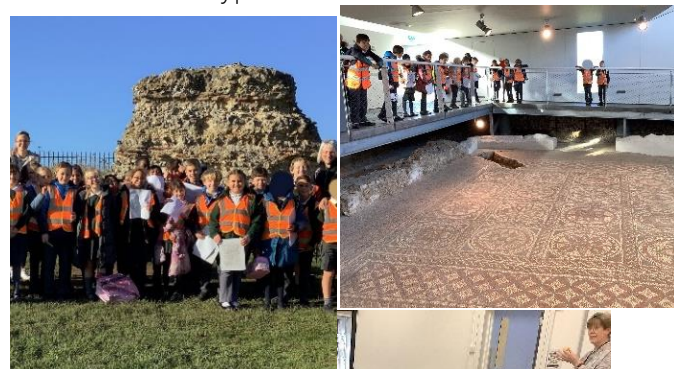
This half-term, Poplar class have been learning about the Romans. We explained what had caused them to invade Britain. We also learnt to describe what their life was like.

*Did you know that they had to use a sponge on a stick as toilet paper hadn't been invented yet?*

We linked our D&T to this theme and researched and designed a roman oil lamp. We are looking forward to use our techniques to make a 3D object next week.



The biggest highlight this half-term was undoubtedly the LKS2 visit to Verulamium Museum. We began our experience with a trip to the remains of the Roman theatre and the hypocaust.



We spent some time looking at all the artefacts in the museum. Lastly, we were given the opportunity to dress up as the Romans of Verulamium and investigate the market in order to find the Roman objects on our shopping lists.

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

## 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 – Ash

'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 – Rowan

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



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

Ash – Morgan  
 Beech – Oliver E and Scott  
 Cherry – Alex  
 Lime – Sajeev and Reham  
 Maple – Olivia and Thisan  
 Poplar – Jayda and Imogen  
 Rowan – Jack and Maxim  
 Sycamore – Alexander and Alice G  
 Willow – Dylan and Iona



## Learning around Oakwood: Beech

In Beech class, we have been learning about the Christian Christmas story in our RE lessons. The children have enjoyed learning about the gifts given to Baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men and the significant meanings of them. We were surprised to learn that the gift of myrrh links to the story of Easter, as a symbol that Jesus would suffer one day.



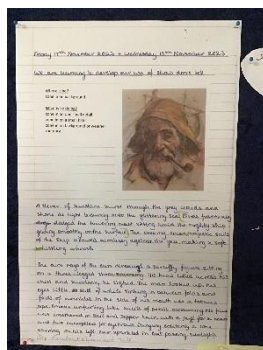
The children made their own figures of characters from the story and had great fun using them to re-tell the story in their table groups.



## Work of the week!

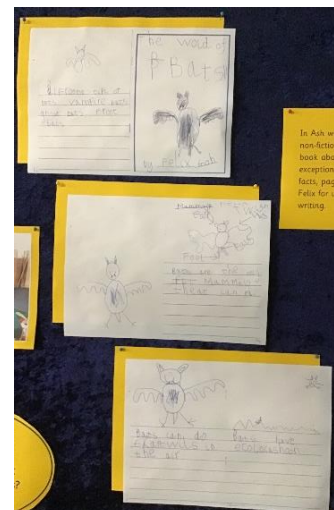
### Rakshanti in Willow

In Willow we are developing our use of "show not tell." The children learned to use clues that alluded to the fact the character is an old fisherman without saying those words. For example, they may highlight that his beard is grey and tangled or his skin is wrinkly. Rakshanti used lots of really powerful descriptions, similes and synonyms to create a wonderful description. Her spelling is impeccable, her punctuation is used purposefully and with control and her presentation is beautiful.



### Felix in Ash

In Ash we have been looking at features of non-fiction books. As a class, we each write a book about bats. This is Felix's bat book. It is exceptional because it contains great writing, facts, page numbers and a diagram. Well done Felix for using the word "echolocation" in your writing.



**Well done Rakshanti and Felix!**

**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!**