

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Oakwood Community,

We have had another action-packed and exciting fortnight!

Our KS1 students had an enriching experience during their visit to St Albans Cathedral and LKS2 explored the historical wonders of Verulamium. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who made these visits possible.

On Friday 10th November, remembrance assemblies were held in Key Stages and we observed a 2 minutes' silence. KS2 demonstrated solemnity whilst laying their wreaths and KS1 sang a tear jerking rendition of 'We Will Remember' – you can listen to the song here: ['We Will Remember' \(Song for Choir\) - YouTube](#)

On Tuesday, we welcomed six of our school governors to Oakwood for the morning, you can read more in the 'Postcard from Governors' at the end of this newsletter.

Have a great weekend!
The Oakwood Team

Recommended reading...

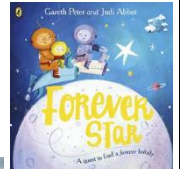
At Oakwood, we really value reading and see it as the gateway to knowledge and one of life's key pleasures!

We hope you and your children enjoy this week's selection of books.

Reception

Forever Star

By Gareth Peter and Judi Abbot

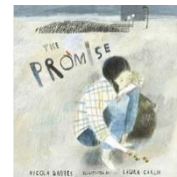


Key Stage 1

The Promise

Author: Nicola Davies

Illustrator: Laura Carlin



Lower Key Stage 2

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson put Astronauts on the Moon

Author: Helaine Becker

Illustrator: Dow Phmiruk



Upper Key Stage 2

The Night Bus Hero

by Onjali Q. Rauf



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

Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Service



This week, we had a visit from the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Service, who shared information about their vital work. Did you know they are not part of the NHS and therefore rely entirely on charity fundraising?

More information can be found on their website:

- Visitor centre tours [Arrange a Visitor Centre Tour Today | EHAAT](#)
- Explore the challenge badge [Challenge Badge for Children & Groups | EHAAT](#)

Important dates for your diary...

Friday 24 th November	INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS
Wednesday 29 th November	KS1 visit to St Paul's Nativity Trail
Wednesday 29 th November, 6pm	Headteacher talk for 2024 Reception admissions
Thursday 30 th November	Acorns visit to St Paul's Nativity Trail
Thursday 30 th November	Last Year 4 swim
Thursday 30 th November	School nursing team in for nasal flu immunisations
Saturday 2 nd December, 1pm – 4pm	PTA Winter Fair

Our school website address: www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk
School contact details: admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk
01727 753930

Spotlight on... Diversity



At Oakwood, we celebrate diversity within lessons, assemblies, events and day-to-day interactions. We

promote tolerance and understanding and

encourage pupils to be engaged in issues surrounding race, faith, gender, disability and other aspects of diversity.

Throughout the curriculum, children learn about people of different backgrounds. Subjects like religious education and history can increase students' religious and cultural literacy. In geography or history, students might research and read about different cultures or migration, sharing stories from their own family where appropriate. In English, students might develop stories, poems or plays that are prompted by pictures, storybooks, songs, literature, films and videos that consider difference. Teachers include counter-stereotypical examples in their lessons in order to challenge group-based stereotypes. For example, when setting problems in maths or science, teachers may refer to female scientists or black professors.



In our book corners we celebrate diversity through the books on offer; we encourage children to speak about their experiences and share how they are celebrating different religions and cultural festivals.

During Black History Month, each class read a book by a black author and we celebrated black composers in our assemblies.



For more information about how we promote diversity at Oakwood, please see our Equality and Diversity Policy on our school website:

[Policies | Oakwood Primary School](#)

You can also read about how we celebrated Diversity Week last year here:

[Diversity Week: Electric Umbrella | Oakwood Primary School](#)

Learning around Oakwood: Rowan

Hello everyone, we have been really busy here in Rowan Class. We honestly can't believe that it has only been two weeks since half term!

We all really enjoyed our visit to the Sikh Gurdwara in London and learnt so much from the knowledgeable guides there. We learned that the value of equality is very important within the

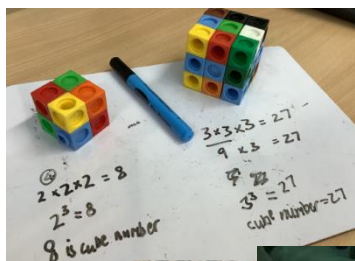


Sikh faith and every single one of us sat on the floor so that none was higher than any other. We all



covered our heads and took our shoes off as a mark of respect. We all enjoyed a lovely drink and biscuit in the langar after our visit too.

In Maths we have been learning about the properties of prime numbers, square numbers and cube numbers and enjoyed manipulating blocks to create cubes and squares to identify any patterns within the numbers.



We have also been playing games to explore factors and multiples.



In Art we have been working hard on our stained glass windows which are based on the Baptistry window in Coventry Cathedral. We learned that Coventry was heavily bombed during the Second World War and that a new Cathedral was built alongside the old in which a beautiful window designed by John Piper takes pride of place. We loved looking at how the use of colour and outline can convey messages of hope and reconciliation.

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 – Rowan and Willow

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



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

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



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

Ash – Morgan and Junie
 Beech – Jessie and Jensen
 Cherry – Cerys and Arianne
 Lime – Isabella and Hannah
 Maple – Keir and William J
 Poplar – Orestis and Sophia
 Rowan – Oxley and Aditri
 Sycamore – Britta and Thomas
 Willow – William and Barney



Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

Recently, Cherry class have been learning about the history of St Albans. Building up to our trip, Cherry class used fact cards to research different historic buildings in St Albans, including the cathedral. We also learnt about the Roman Wall, the Hypocaust, the Clocktower, the Town Hall and the Roman Theatre.



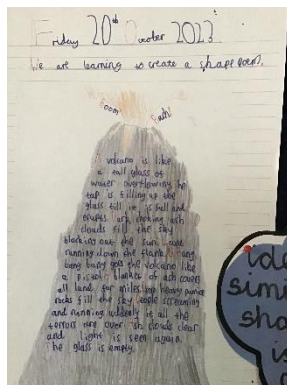
Last Thursday, we then went on a trip to St Albans Cathedral. We acted out the story of Saint Alban and we made mosaics. We are so lucky to live in such a historic city!



Work of the week!

Finlay in Maple

Recently, Maple have been writing haikus, cinquains and shape poems. We used simile and onomatopoeia in our shape poems. Finlay's work was chosen for his creative, powerful word choices.



Charlie in Acorns 2

We have been learning about pets and read the story *Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy*. Charlie was able to count the words in his sentence and used his phonics to write a sentence independently.



Well done Finlay and Charlie!

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!

POSTCARD FROM THE GOVERNORS

Governors enjoyed a visit to school on Tuesday as part of their termly schedule of visits. We had the opportunity to focus on some of the priorities of the School Development Plan including wellbeing, teaching and learning, curriculum and diversity. We were given an explanation of protective behaviours and had the opportunity to see these being taught in Sycamore, Willow, Maple and Poplar classes. Miss Stubbs and the children from KS1 talked to Governors about the new Calm Corner and how it is used. The children were familiar with when they can use it and how to understand their feelings.

We also met with groups of children from LKS2 and UKS2 who proudly showed us some of their work in English, geography, history and art. They talked about what they enjoyed learning and read out some extracts from their workbooks. It was encouraging to hear them speak so confidently and proudly about their work.

During our visit we had the opportunity to meet some new members of staff to hear how they are settling into the school and for Governors to introduce themselves.

Governors were given an update on the Little Wandle phonics scheme by Mrs Jenkins. We had looked at it this time last year when it had first been introduced into the school. It was good to know how well the scheme has been accepted by the children, staff and parents and to see the progress being made.

Governors always enjoy the opportunity to visit the school to speak with the children and staff. We would like to extend our thanks to Ms Buckley, Mrs Thompson and the other staff members for giving up their valuable time to provide us with insights into some of the important areas of the school.

Jacky Elliott, Chair of Governors

Spotlight on... Feeling safe:

At Oakwood, we are really proud of our focus on pupils feeling safe in school. In addition to regular staff training and updates, last year we launched the Protective Behaviours programme across the school. All classes had a weekly lesson to explore the themes and strategies of Protective Behaviours. All classes now have a weekly assembly to refresh their understanding. In addition, we offer 1:1 sessions for children who need further support. Ask your children what the Protective Behaviours themes mean to them!

If you have concerns about a child's safety, anyone can make a referral by calling Children's Services on 03001234043

For more information about how we support all children's safety at Oakwood, please visit our updated 'Mental Health and Wellbeing' website pages under our 'Curriculum' tab:

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

More information about Protective Behaviours can be found here: [Protective Behaviours Training Partnership - We All Have The Right To Feel Safe Booklet](#)

