

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Oakwood Community,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been another busy fortnight at Oakwood!

Year 6 Residential Visit: Our Year 6 students have embarked on their much-anticipated residential visit, and we are delighted to report that they are having a fantastic time! From the stories we've heard, they are making wonderful memories and learning valuable life skills. We look forward to hearing more about their adventures upon their return this evening.

LKS2 Earthquakes and Volcanoes Workshop: Today, LKS2 had the incredible opportunity to participate in an engaging workshop focused on earthquakes and volcanoes. The children were captivated by the interactive learning experience. For further details and insights, please stay tuned for our next newsletter.

This week, staff have met to discuss how we will mark this year's World Mental Health Day on Sunday 8th October, we are looking forward to sharing more with you in our next newsletter.

We have also been planning our class reading books for Black History Month in October, please see our recommended reading feature for some suggestions of books you could read at home.

Have a great weekend!

The Oakwood Team

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

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

01727 753930

Recommended reading...

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

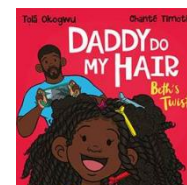
We hope you and your children enjoy this week's selection of **Black History Month** themed books.

Reception

Daddy Do My Hair: Beth's Twists

Author: Tola Okogwu

Illustrator: Chanté Timothy



Key Stage 1

We Sang Across the Sea The Empire Windrush and Me

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah

Illustrator: Onyinye Iwu

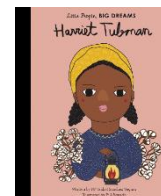


Lower Key Stage 2

Little People, BIG DREAMS: Harriet Tubman

Author: Isabel Sanchez Vegara

Illustrator: Pili Aguado



Upper Key Stage 2

The Place For Me: Stories About the Windrush Generation

Authors: Dame Floella Benjamin, K. N. Chimhiri, E. L. Norry & Judy Hepburn



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...

Sunday 1 st October	PTA Lend a Hand Day
Monday 2 nd October, 4:15pm	Girls' and boys' football vs Alban City (home) *Note later start time
Thursday 5 th October	Year 6 visit to Crucial Crew
Thursday 5 th October 3:30pm	Boys' football vs Bowmansgreen (away)
Sunday 8 th October	World Mental Health Day
Monday 9 th October	School Nursing team in for Year 6 checks
Tuesday 10 th October 3:30pm – 5:00pm	Open Classrooms
Tuesday 10 th October 3:30pm	Girls' football vs Maple (away)
Thursday 12 th October	UKS2 visit to Lincolnsfields

Spotlight on... Maths

Our aim at Oakwood is to help every child develop an appreciation of maths in their world, and so learn to believe in themselves as mathematicians.

Children are encouraged to become mathematically observant, noticing the similarities and differences between examples. They learn to view mistakes as an opportunity for learning considering why a given example may be incorrect. They certainly love being the teachers!

We love to encourage the children to use precise mathematical vocabulary to explain their reasoning using full sentences.

At home, you can support your child by talking about maths positively in your daily life, encouraging your child to count objects in your daily routines, calculate change, share items out within the family etc. Play board games and take notice of numbers in the environment – make it fun! This all helps hugely in developing a child's appreciation of the role of mathematics within the world. It is great when children come into school talking about maths and 'numbers.'

Maintaining instant recall of key facts such as addition facts to ten, times tables etc. significantly helps a child to avoid overloading their working memory, thereby making it that bit easier to learn new concepts. Regular practice of these at home has a great impact on how well the children remember them and can then apply them in school.

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

[Mathematics | Oakwood Primary School](#)

Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 2

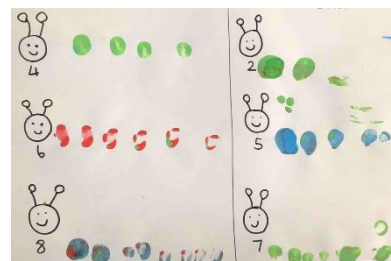
In Acorns 2 we have been very busy! This week we have been learning about Harvest Festival. We have been learning what harvest is, what happens and identifying where our food comes from. We also learned the song 'Big Red Combine Harvester' and have spent time practising singing this with actions.

We also conducted an experiment and have been observing it closely! We put our unwashed hands on some bread and then left it. We could see



the mould has grown where we had germs on our hands. We are now all going to practise washing our hands thoroughly!

This week we have also continued to learn the skill of printing and have used a variety of objects including sponges, fingers and bubble wrap to create different shapes and textures. We also used this skill in our maths learning!



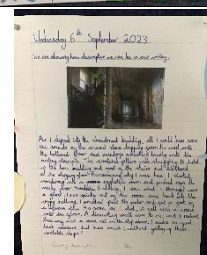
Work of the week!

Alice in Sycamore



Sycamore Class have been showing how

descriptive they can be in their writing based on an image. Alice demonstrated the use of vivid language and descriptions of the five senses to create an atmosphere in her



setting. She used fronted adverbials and rhetorical questions and presented her work clearly and neatly.

Well done Alice!

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...

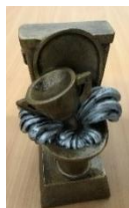


'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Willow and Ash

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Acorns 2



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



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

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

Ash – Elodie M and Caelan
Beech – Oscar and Aarvi
Cherry – Iela and Georgie
Lime – Orla and Alex
Maple – Jamie and Iyla
Poplar – Thomas and Seren
Rowan – Aditri and Amaan
Sycamore – Noah
Willow – to be announced...



St Paul's Church

You are invited to join us at...

SUNDAY FUN DAY

01.10.2023 | 10.30 AM
St Paul's Church

Harvest Special

Coffee, Pastries, LEGO, Table Football, Creative Activities, Table Tennis, Pool, Community, Action Songs, Bible Story, Toddler Zone...
Come and try church as you've never seen it before!

Tori, Diane and the team at St Paul's Church had a wonderful Harvest Assembly with the children. They would love to invite all of the Oakwood families to their upcoming Harvest Sunday Fun Day on Sunday 1st October at 10:30am. Craft activities, LEGO, action songs, games and much more (plus pastries and coffee for parents!)

Learning around Oakwood: Maple

This year, Lower Key Stage Two have the exciting opportunity to learn the violin. In our first lesson, we were taught how to care for our violin and the different parts of the violin. Some key words included the neck, the bow and the strings. To help us remember the order of the strings we were taught a very funny mnemonic: Greedy Donkeys Always Eat. Luckily, we also had time to learn our first song. We read the music with crotchets on a stave and we happily plucked along to the beat of the backing track. Maple are looking forward to more violin lessons with the fantastic violin specialist Mrs Smith.



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!