

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, KS1 and KS2 pupils have been completing their SATs over the last fortnight. A huge well done to all Oakwood pupils for their exemplary behaviour during this time. Thank you also to our wonderful staff who have all worked incredibly hard to organise everything.

This week has been mental health awareness week and UKS2 had a workshop with the NSPCC, linked to our Protective Behaviours work. Across the school, we have set up a lunchtime club for pupils who may find lunchtimes difficult. We are also excited about new 1:1 and small group mindfulness sessions which will be starting soon. If you feel your child would benefit from any additional support, please talk to their class teacher.

We have welcomed the boost that the bright, warmer weather has given us, and classes have been enjoying lessons outside, from art to science to writing.

Have a lovely 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 fortnight's selection of books.

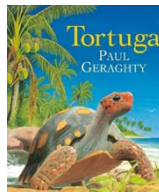
#### Reception

*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*  
By Mo Willems



#### Key Stage 1

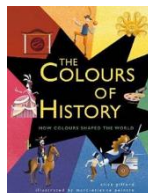
*Tortuga*  
By Paul Geraghty



**Lower Key Stage 2**  
*Shackleton's Journey*  
By William Grill



**Upper Key Stage 2**  
*The Colours of History*  
Author: Clive Gifford  
Illustrator: Marc-Etienne Peintre



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

### Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 1

This week in Acorns 1, we have shared the story of The Gingerbread Man. We began the week by retelling the story using our story maps and puppets, making sure that we included story language such as "once upon a time" and "happily ever after". We realised that the gingerbread man faced a problem at the end of the story - how to cross the river!



We have been really excited to use our Investigation Station this week, where we have been predicting and testing which materials would float or sink. This helped us to design and create our boats, carefully thinking about which materials would be best to keep the gingerbread man afloat and dry!



### Important dates for your diary...

Week beginning Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 6 Bikeability (all week)
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 9am	Parent volunteer safeguarding briefing
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half term <b>SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Pupils return to school

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

## Showtime!

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May Oakwood's Glee Club and Acro Club took to the stage at the Eric Morecombe Theatre in Harpenden as part of the **Performing Herts Showcase** alongside some other local schools.



The children arrived at the theatre early and their day was busy with a health/safety meeting, full rehearsal in costumes, including costume changes, sound and lighting rehearsals before show time. The excited audience watched the culmination of their hard work and it was just fabulous!

Glee Club were phenomenal performing songs from the musicals *Juliet* and *Into The Woods* whilst the incredible Acro troop performed choreographies to *Jai Ho* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

The finale was spectacular with over 400 children coming together to sing *You Can't Stop the Beat* from *Hairspray*.

"There were loads of people. It was such fun and I got to do something I've never done before" - Imogen

"I liked it because I got to see others performing" - Gabriella

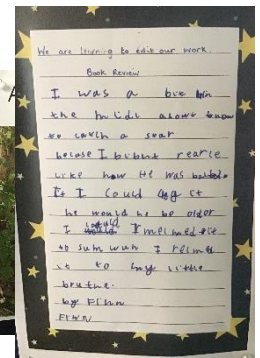
"The lights were so bright - I couldn't see my parents but I knew they were there!" - Seren

What lucky children (and lucky families and friends!) to take part in such an amazing experience and receive a medal for performing for the first time. Thank you to Performing Herts for making this possible and **a massive well done to all of the Oakwood Children** who, during the entire eight hours at the theatre, were real ambassadors for our school. We are so proud of them all!

## Work of the week!

### Finn in Ash

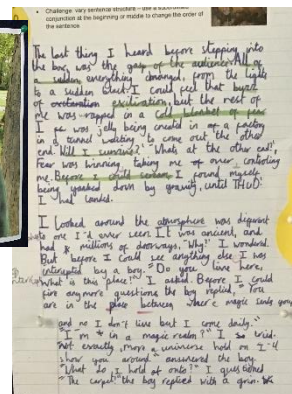
Ash class have been learning how to write for a range of purposes and have written a book review



about the book *How to Catch a Star*. Finn thought carefully about what he liked or disliked about the book. He explained his reasons, giving examples. He talked about what he would change about the book. Finn also thought about who else might like the book. Finn carefully evaluated and redrafted his work to write a well-presented final draft.

### Sophia in Poplar

Poplar Class have been writing a first person narrative



based on the story *Leon and the Place Between* by Grahame Baker-Smith.

Sophia's narrative is full of descriptive vocabulary

describing the sight in the Place Between. She has used some excellent vocabulary detailing her thoughts and feelings as she fell into the darkness. Sophia has also included some excellent fronted adverbials and prepositional phrases to make her writing interesting for the reader.

### Well done Finn and Sophia!

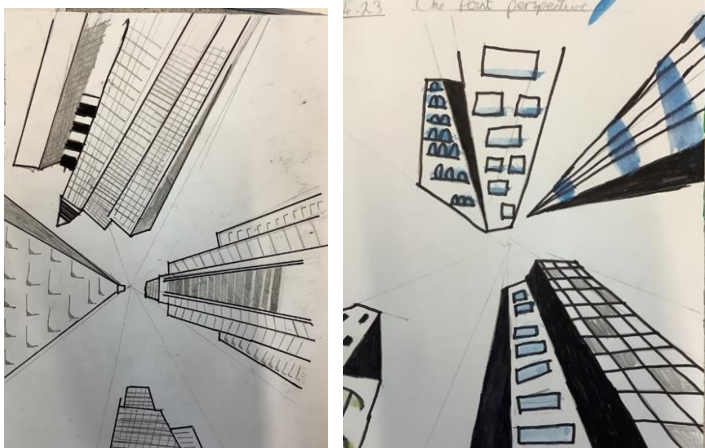
## 'Who's who?' Mr Cowan

I teach the wonderful Year 5 and 6 children in Sycamore Class together with Mrs Roche. I particularly love helping the children challenge themselves in their Maths and get their creativity flowing in English. I get excited doing Art alongside the children and hands-on investigations in Science are always a great practical way to learn. I am the PE Lead at Oakwood and spend a lot of my time coaching and managing some of the various school sports teams. I like to play golf and cricket outside of school too when I get the chance.

**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!**

## Learning around Oakwood: Rowan

Life has been very busy for us here in Rowan class since we last wrote a few weeks back. In English we have really enjoyed reading the inspirational story of the tightrope walker Philippe Petite in Mordecai Gernstein's book *The Man Who Walked Between the Two Towers*. We became literary critics as we wrote formal book reviews and explored one-point perspective further as we drew the view from the ground looking upwards to watch.



In D.T we are investigating the food supply chain of tomatoes and have been evaluating various shop bought salsas and will be making our own in the coming weeks as we learn to cook economically. We have followed this up in English by honing our descriptive writing skills to entice you to try our food. After all, this is not just food, this is Oakwood food! Yes, we have been taking some writing inspiration from some very well known food adverts!

Finally, in computing we are becoming animators and preparing our story boards to film.



## Maths Challenges

We have been busy keeping up our profile in some recent inter-school maths challenges. From Year 5, William, Alice, Bertie and Jake represented us at Abbots Hill School and from Year 4, Thomas, Max, Ellie and Cameron represented us really well at Aldwickbury School. We are all really proud of them; they competed magnificently and held the flag up high for Oakwood. Well done!

## Celebration Assembly

Every week, a celebration assembly is held to mark children's successes, efforts and achievement individually and as a class.

This week, and in the weeks before Easter, the following prizes were awarded to...



'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Rowan

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



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

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



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

Ash – Alex, Zac and Charlie  
Beech – Hawa and Alex  
Cherry – Sasha and Benjy  
Lime – Finlay and Imogen  
Maple – Jessica and Olivia  
Poplar – Archer and Digby  
Rowan – Charlotte and Arya  
Sycamore – Henry D and Rakshanti  
Willow – Callum and Iliana



## 'Who's who?' Mrs Rowe

Hello, my name is Mrs Rowe and I'm the Premises and Health & Safety Manager. Together with the children's help, I look after the school to provide a safe and welcoming place for all. We arrange lots of work behind the scenes, to check equipment is safe and suitable for everyone to use. We like to reduce, reuse and recycle where possible, and always look for the most sustainable and environmentally friendly options. Children can let me or their class teacher know if they spot something that's broken or seems a bit wobbly. I love to hear ideas from children on how to improve our school.

**If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email [safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)**