

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 10th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We all thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day last week and gathered together as a whole school to appreciate each other's costumes and to share a story. Huge thanks go to Mrs Brown and Mrs Roche for organising this day, and to the PTA for their eco-friendly second hand costume sale.

Staffing updates:

We have recently said farewell to Miss McQueenie and Ms Cheek who are both moving on to other roles. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss McQueenie and Ms Cheek for their hard work and contribution to Oakwood, and to wish them well in their future careers.

We are very pleased to welcome Ms Van Schalkwyk and Ms Chan to our Teaching Assistant Team in Rowan Class. Welcome to Oakwood!

Have a great weekend

The Oakwood Team

Spare uniform

We would be very grateful for donations of spare underwear and trousers (preferably jogging bottoms) for KS1 – please bring all donations to the school office. Thank you!

Important dates for your diary...

Monday 13 th March 9:15am	Y6 SAPSMA rehearsal at Garden Fields School
Thursday 16 th March	NEU Teacher Strikes – some classes closed (see separate communication)
Tuesday 21 st March 4pm – 7pm	Parent Teacher Consultation Meetings (online)
Thursday 23 rd March 4pm – 7pm	
Friday 24 th March	Year 2 – Great Fire of London Workshop
Friday 24 th March 2:30pm	'Joseph' performance to Year 5 parents

Recommended reading... World Book Day Special!

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

Zog

Author: Julia Donaldson

Illustrator: Axel Scheffler



Key Stage 1

Horrible Histories: Frightful First World War

Author: Terry Deary

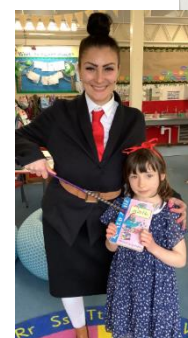
Illustrator: Martin Brown



Lower Key Stage 2

Matilda

By Roald Dahl



Upper Key Stage 2

Lockwood & Co:

The Screaming Staircase

By Jonathan Stroud



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



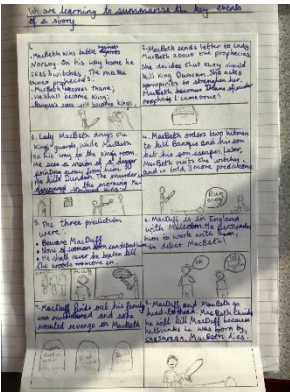
Our school website address: www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk

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Learning around Oakwood: Sycamore

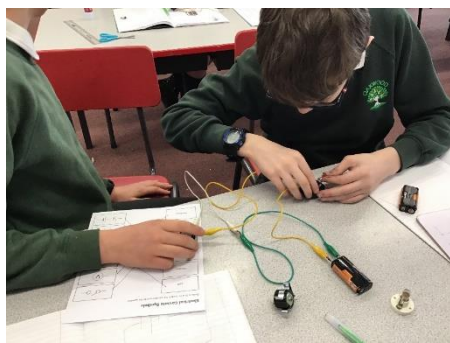
In our English lessons, Sycamore have been enjoying Shakespeare's play Macbeth. We have learned the whole story and summarised it in different ways. We acted out part of the play and worked out what some of the unusual language meant.



As part of our learning, we wrote a letter in character from Macbeth to his wife about how he felt when he heard the prophecies from the witches.

In Science, we have started learning about electrical circuits. We made and drew

the circuits including different components such as motors, batteries and lamps. We have also been considering how electricity can be stored in different ways and how devices can be powered by batteries or mains electricity.



In Geography we have been studying the local area and completed a survey on the streets around school. We have been considering

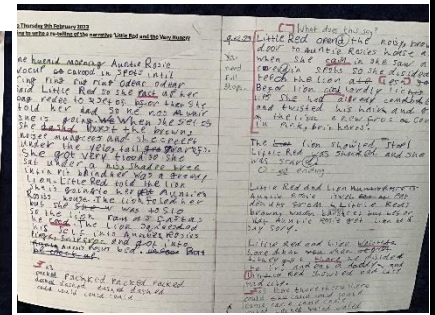
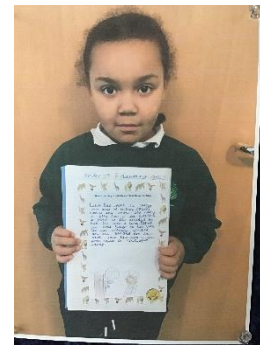
the different ways land is used around St Albans and how various stakeholders are affected when these uses change.

'Who's who?' Mrs Westcombe

Hello, I work as the Teaching Assistant in Sycamore Class which is a year 5/6 split class. Every day, I look forward to working alongside the Oakwood children and colleagues. Sport is a subject I think is an important part of the curriculum, I love sport! Presently, I am helping Mr Cowan with the girl's football team. To watch the girls learn new skills, develop their game play and fitness is great to see. Sport is a positive and important part of the school day as it develops resilience, communication and general wellbeing. At Oakwood we have many sports the children can try. Even, if a child is not keen it is important to give it a go as you never know, you might enjoy it!

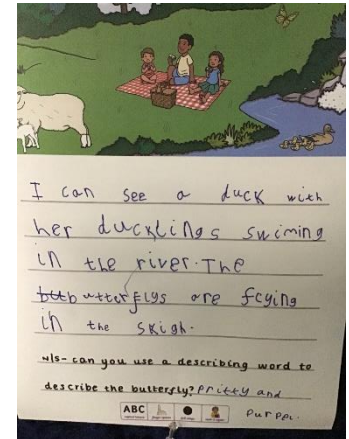
Please remember if you have any queries or questions, do make an appointment to come and speak to a member of staff. We are always very happy to meet with you. Don't let a little worry become a big one!

Work of the week! Harriet in Beech



In Beech class we have been learning about narrative texts. We read the story 'Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion' and created comic strips to show the main events in the story. For her retelling of Little Red, Harriet thought carefully about the adjectives that she used to make her expanded noun phrases exciting. She also worked hard to make sure that each sentence started in a different way, to avoid repetition. Before publishing her favourite paragraph from her story, Harriet edited her whole story by responding to adult feedback.

Evie in Acorns

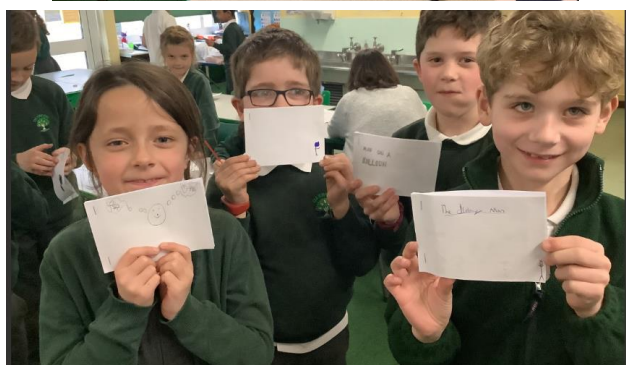


This week we have started our new topic 'Come Outside' and we have been learning all about Spring. We have been thinking about some of the changes that happen in spring and went on a walk to look for signs of spring. Evie was particularly interested in our new topic and she chose to use her phonics knowledge to write about what she could see in the picture of spring. Evie worked hard to sound out each of the words, and then wrote the correct graphemes.

Well done Harriet and Evie!

Learning around Oakwood: Lime

In Computing this half term, Lime Class have begun looking at how animations can be made from still images. Last week, we did this as an "unplugged" lesson, working on paper to create animation flip books. We then moved these skills onto the iPads, using an app called StopMotion. On our whiteboards, we drew a picture (or "frame" to use the proper computing word!) and took a picture. We then changed one small part, taking another picture each time, to create a sequence of images that we could then run as an animation. We had to make sure that we only changed one small bit of the picture, and that we kept the iPads still to stop the image from jumping around when the animation ran. Our longest animation had over 15 frames!



Celebration Assembly

Every week, a celebration assembly is 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 Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets
Acorns 1



'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 – Beech



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

Ash – Carys
Beech – Max and Olivia
Cherry – Reham and Izzy
Lime – Joseph E
Maple – Jonida
Poplar – Paris
Rowan – Zara
Sycamore – Isla
Willow – Irene



'Who's who?' Mrs Brown

Hello everyone! My name is Mrs Brown and I have the pleasure of teaching Poplar Class this year. I love being part of the Oakwood community. There's never a dull day in teaching and every day is different, which is one of the many reasons I love teaching.

As well as my teaching responsibilities, I work alongside Mrs Roche as English subject lead. I'm passionate about reading and value the wide ranging benefits that reading has on education. You may occasionally see me outside on the netball court supporting the netball team as I enjoy watching and playing netball! If you have any questions or queries you are welcome to speak to me at pick-up or you can arrange an appointment via the school office.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk