

# Oakwood Primary School

## Newsletter



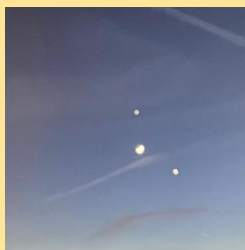
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely half-term break.

As you will see from this newsletter, we have already managed to fit in a lot of learning!

One of the highlights this week was the UKS2 planetarium workshop – it was thrilling to see the planetarium emerge in the school hall and the children learnt some fascinating information about space. Did you see Venus and Jupiter aligned with the moon this week?



Have a great weekend  
The Oakwood Team

### 'Who's who?' Ms Cheek

I am a Teaching Assistant but also an Inclusion support co-ordinator. This year I am based in Cherry Class where I help the children with their learning. I co-ordinate the lunchtimes and enjoy catching up with all the children hearing about what they have been learning about. I am also part of the pastoral care team, I work with the children in small groups or on a 1:1 basis to help them understand their feelings and how to find strategies to deal with them. There are some great resources on the school website.

[Social, Emotional and Well-Being | Oakwood Primary School](#)

### Important dates for your diary...

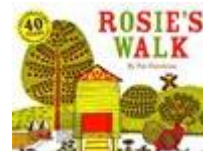
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February, 9:15am	Y6 SAPSMA rehearsal at Garden Fields School
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2:45pm	Y2 Parents SATs meeting
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 8:30am	Y6 Parents SATs meeting
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 9:00am	Y2 Parents SATs meeting
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day – children (and staff!) may come to school dressed as a book character

### 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

*Rosie's Walk*  
By Pat Hutchins



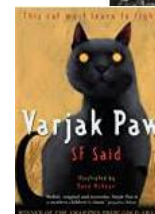
#### Key Stage 1

*Footpath Flowers*  
Author: JonArno Lawson  
Illustrator: Sydney Smith



#### Lower Key Stage 2

*Varjak Paw*  
Author: S F Said  
Illustrator: Dave McKean



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*Hacker*  
By Malorie Blackman



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

### Sport at Oakwood

**Cross country** - Several of our year 5 and 6 pupils competed in the County cross country championships held at Verulamium Park and did Oakwood proud in a very competitive and hilly race.



**Indoor Athletics** - Our year 6 team took part in St Albans District Indoor Athletics competing in a range of track and field events. They finished in the top 6 schools so have qualified for the next round.

**Football** - Both the boys' and the girls' teams have been in regular action against various local schools, showing great teamwork and competitive spirit. It has been wonderful to see some new faces joining the teams and showing fantastic progress.

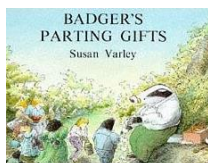
Our school website address: [www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
School contact details: [admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
01727 753930

## Learning around Oakwood: Ash

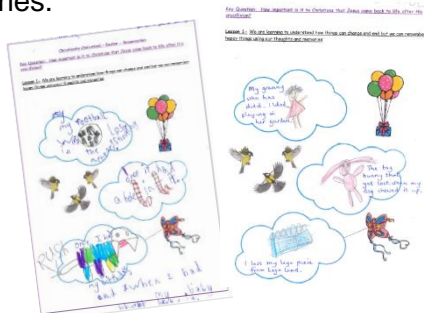
In Ash class, we have started a new theme in RE this half term where we will be looking at the key enquiry question of **“How important is it to Christians that Jesus came back to life after His crucifixion?”** This week we explored our understanding and our ideas about life, death and rebirth. We thought about how sometimes things can end and other things start and how sometimes things can come back, like:

- Winter changing to spring
- Ending Reception, finishing the school year and then starting a new school year in Year 1.
- Finishing a good book and reading another book, later deciding to reread that book.

We also read the wonderful and moving story **“Badger’s Parting Gifts”** by Susan Varley and learned that sometimes we can lose things but even if we can’t do something or see something again we can see them inside our heads in our memories.



We shared happy memories of things we had lost, like a special toy, a grandparent, pet or an exciting day out.



## Year 6 Aldwickbury Maths Challenge

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, four intrepid Year Six mathematicians ventured over to Aldwickbury School to represent our school in an inter-school Maths Challenge. They all performed magnificently and gave fully of their best. Very well done Darcy, Charis, James and Avijit. We are all very proud of you! Thank you too to Mrs Raghavan for accompanying our young mathematicians and for her non-stop marking throughout the whole event!

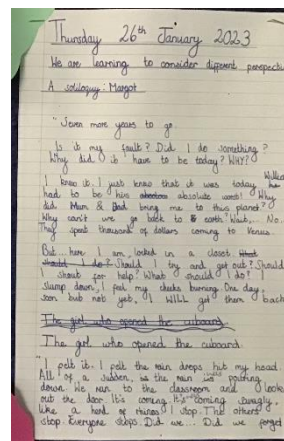
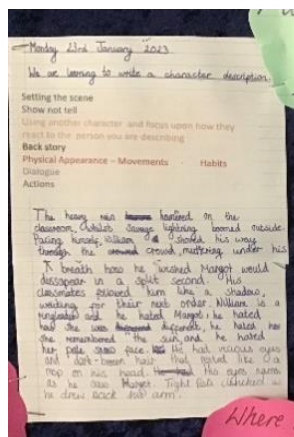
## ‘Who’s who?’ Miss Denson

Hello! My name is Miss Denson and I am the class teacher in Cherry. That means I have the pleasure of teaching the lovely year 2 pupils at Oakwood. I have lots of special interests but just a few are: reading, history and writing. I love books and I always have at least one book on the go! I love exploring history and writing lessons with Cherry class. I find my position at Oakwood very rewarding and building positive relationships with all the children has been my favourite part. I relish lessons where everyone can make mistakes because I think that making mistakes is the best way to learn. If any parents/ carers have any queries, please feel free to speak to me or email the office to arrange an appointment.

**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!**

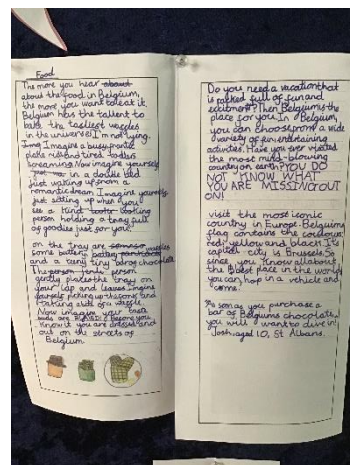
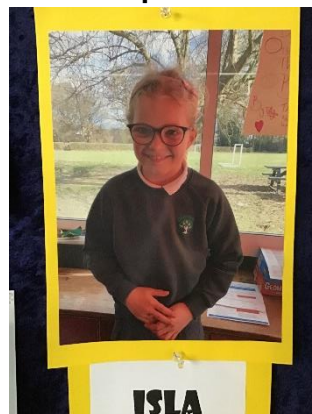
## Work of the week!

### Zara in Rowan



Rowan class have been reading the science fiction short story ‘All Summer in a Day’ by Ray Bradbury. The class used this story to explore how authors develop character. Zara used metaphor and simile to write her own character description. She used repetition to build tension and emphasis.

### Isla in Maple



Maple class have been writing persuasive information leaflets about European countries. This links to their geography and art learning. Isla’s leaflet showed her creativity and appropriate humour when writing persuasive sentences. She repeats ‘Imagine’ as a sentence starter to get the reader to focus on the beauty of Belgium and uses unique rhetorical questions that engage the reader.

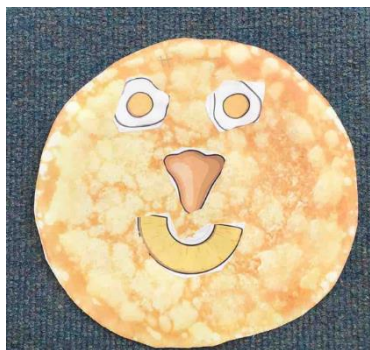
### Well done Zara and Isla!

## Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 1

This week in Acorns 1 we have had a very busy week! We have continued with our topic 'Ticket to Ride', but have focused our learning on Space. We have explored the different planets, rockets and learnt all about astronauts and what it is like in space. Some of the children in Acorns 1 were curious to find out the answers to some interesting questions about space – "how far away is space?", "is it warm or cold?" and "how bright is the moon?" so we used various information books (and the help of google!) to help us find the answers. To support our learning on space in an artistic way, we have been creating our own pictures of the Solar System. We looked carefully at the colours and shapes of the planets and splattered the paint to make the stars, and then we used oil pastels to draw the planets.



We have also been learning about Pancake Day / Shrove Tuesday this week. We discussed what Pancake Day is, when it is celebrated and why people eat pancakes on this day. We then continued our learning during Active Learning and had the choice to complete many pancake-themed activities! Some children in Acorns 1 chose to practise their cutting skills by making a pancake face. They carefully cut out the features that they wanted to use and stuck them on the pancake. Other children chose to use their mathematical skills to complete a Pancake Day problem-solving activity. They had to look carefully at the numbers and the



toppings and sort the 'pancakes' onto the grid. We have had a fantastic week of learning in Acorns 1, and we look forward to the upcoming topics for the rest of this year!

## Celebration Assembly

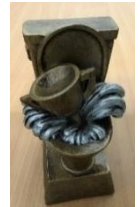
Every week, a celebration assembly is held to mark children's successes, efforts and achievement individually and as a class.

In the two weeks before half-term, the following prizes were awarded to...



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

'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets Acorns 1, Beech and Cherry



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

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



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

Ash – Alexandra and Robyn  
Beech – Timo and Harriet  
Cherry – Kaiya and Henry  
Lime – Gabriella and Leen  
Maple – Paddy and Lars  
Poplar – Emily and Emilia  
Rowan – Elsie and Felix  
Sycamore – Rosie C and Finley  
Willow – William J and Sienna



## 'Who's who?' Mrs Jarratt

Hello, I am Mrs Jarratt and I work in Poplar as a Teaching Assistant alongside Mrs Brown and Mrs Johnston. As well as helping the children with their learning, I also help Mrs Raghavan run the School Council and help Miss Bird run the Netball club. I am passionate about encouraging everyone, both staff and children, to be more environmentally friendly and, with the enthusiastic support of the School Council, I hope we can make our school as eco-friendly as possible. I continue to be amazed by how much I enjoy getting to know the children and helping them with their learning each year, especially their reading. I love to see them enthuse about a book they have read and pass that enthusiasm on to their friends. We have some fabulous readers in Poplar Class !

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