

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have a lot of learning to fit in to this short half-term and we are so excited to share this learning with you in our fortnightly newsletters.

We started the term with our 'January Jog' (postponed Santa Dash) which was a great way to get energised for the term ahead! The children were brilliant and we were all impressed with their enthusiasm, participation and positivity. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to Shelter and to those of you who came to join in and cheer along the children. Read on for a write-up by one of our Year 6 pupils.

Staffing update: we say farewell to Mrs Fry and Mrs Keenlyside this week. We would like to wish them all the best in their new careers.

Have a great weekend!
The Oakwood Team

'Who's who?' Miss Bird

Hello everyone, I am Miss Bird and I am lucky enough to be the Maple Class teacher. The reason I like teaching in a mixed class so much is that every day I see the children helping one another, pushing each other to work hard and doing so with a bright smile.

As well as my teaching responsibilities, I am the Computing Lead at Oakwood. Computing is such an important subject as it prepares our children for the advancing, digital world. I value an exploratory approach to computing so we can prepare the children for the future of technology, not just the present.

Finally, you can see me every Tuesday morning running around the netball pitch with our fantastic Year 5 and 6 netball players. Seeing our players develop their skills and catch a love for the sport motivates me to keep coaching. Also, it is fantastic to hear that our players continue to play when they reach secondary school.

P.S. Netball is the best sport, right?

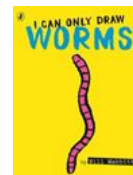
Recommended reading...

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.

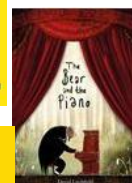
Reception

I can only draw worms
By Will Mabbitt



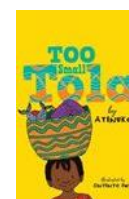
Key Stage 1

The Bear and the Piano
By David Litchfield



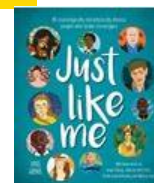
Lower Key Stage 2

Too Small Tola
Author: Atinuke
Illustrator: Onyinye Iwu



Upper Key Stage 2

Just Like Me
Author: Louise Gooding
Illustrators: Caterina delli Carri and Angel Chang and Cathy Hookey and Melissa Iwai



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...

Tuesday 24 th January	LKS2 Mindfulness Workshop
Thursday 26 th January	Sports Hall Athletics at Oaklands College
Wednesday 1 st February, 9am	Year 1 Parents - Helping your child with reading and writing (School Hall)
Thursday 2 nd February, 2:45pm	
Friday 3 rd February, 12:30pm	Online safety workshop for parents
Saturday 4 th February	Cross Country Championships (Westminster Lodge)

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

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Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 2

This week in Acorns 2 we have had a very busy week! We have started our new topic 'Ticket to Ride'. We have been discussing places we have visited, both near and far, and then spent time finding them on maps and globes. We discussed different types of transport and thought about which ones we had used to visit the different places and why. As part of our learning we also thought about why we had visited the places, what we did there and how it was the same or different to home.

We have also been really excited about the weather this week and linked this to our Investigation Station! We went outside on an ice hunt and learned about how ice is formed and looked closely at where we could find it and what it looked like. We then did an experiment, observing if the ice melted more quickly inside or outside.

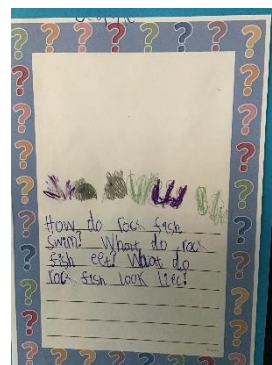


Finally, we have also been learning about Chinese/Lunar New Year. We have learned about how this is celebrated and were excited that this year will

be year of the rabbit and also made our own paper lanterns! We wish you a happy new year if you are celebrating this on Sunday!

Work of the week!

Georgie in Ash



Ash class have been learning to make up their own questions for finding out about things. They looked in non-fiction books to find questions.

Georgie really enjoyed the "What? Where? Why? Questions and Answers about Nature" book and formulated her own "How" and "What" questions about fish.

Well done Georgie!

January Jog

By Elwyn, Sycamore Class

To raise money for charity, each year we see how many laps we can do around the running track and the more we run the more money we raise! This year we did the run because we want to help homeless people. It was going to be a santa dash in December but it snowed too much so this time it was a January jog. This year the money we raised went to Shelter, which is a charity that provides houses to homeless people who cannot afford a proper place to live in. There are 5 different types of homelessness: sleeping rough, sleeping in cars, staying with friends on sofas and on floors, staying in hostels (cheap hotels) and being trapped in a situation at home that could be dangerous. Did you know more than 170,000 families and individuals are homeless and 38,000 young people do not have a home as they have been kicked out or don't like their house anymore?

Some stereotypes exist about homeless people. Some people think they are all refugees as lots of countries had to be evacuated so they had to leave their homes behind. Whilst this is sometimes true it normally is not. Other people might think that homeless people are mainly poor because they are lazy or something but again this is **NOT TRUE!**

Most people do nothing to help homeless people but we wanted to try and we had a great time as we did 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!

'Who's who?' Ms Protsyuk

Hello! I am one of the Teaching Assistants in Ash class this year. My areas of interest are working with children with special educational needs, as well as general mental health and well-being. I truly believe that no child should be left behind and every one of them has special talents to be discovered. I feel very privileged to be part of their journey.

Learning around Oakwood: Maple

Maple Class have been working very hard since the start of term. In particular, we have been enjoying our new science topic which is sound. This week, Maple were learning about pitch and volume.

"Pitch is the highs and lows you can make."

"Volume is loud and quiet."

We identified how you could change pitch and volume using a glass bottle orchestra.



We experimented with tapping the bottles and blowing into the bottles. An interesting finding was that

the bottle with the highest pitch changed depending on if you were tapping or blowing. This was not what we predicted, so we were surprised. This learning in science compliments our music learning where we are practising reading music and playing pieces on the recorder. We hope the Maple parents are looking forward to our recorder recital taking place in February!



Celebration Assembly

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

Over the last week, 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 – Ash



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

Cherry

'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:

(This includes pupils who were Person of the Week in the week prior to the Christmas break.)

Ash – Luna and Jensen
Beech – Elodie and Joseph
Cherry – Izzy and Kaiya
Lime – Imogen and Fergus
Maple – Orli
Poplar – Elsie and Megan
Rowan – Dylan S and Harry B
Sycamore – Emma and Henry L
Willow – Alexis and Rosie



'Who's who?' Mrs Shillum

Greetings from Mrs Shillum. I am a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) and I work across the school providing TA support and pastoral care for children in all key stages, plus occasional teaching cover in class. I find the most rewarding part of my role is seeing the progress the children make on their journey through Oakwood. I am passionate about building trusting relationships with the children, listening to them, sharing ideas and finding solutions together to any problem.

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