

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an eventful and exciting fortnight we have had! KS1 and EYFS have delighted us all with their wonderful Christmas performances to parents. It was lovely to welcome parents to school again. Congratulations to the pupils and staff for all your hard work in making these performances successful.

This week, of course, we have had the excitement of the snow! Thank you for your flexibility with our adjusted opening times and necessary alterations to

some of our events. We were pleased to be able to keep open all week, and it was a joy to see the children (and staff!) working together to build their snow creations.



On Wednesday we celebrated together as a whole school with our annual Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day – there was even a spontaneous singalong to 'Jingle Bells'!

Have a wonderful break and enjoy any celebrations you will be sharing over the coming weeks.

The Oakwood Team

'Who's who?'

Mrs Raghavan

I am Mrs Raghavan and I work in Willow class. I enjoy supporting year 6 pupils with their learning. I am passionate about maths and it is a privilege to work with fantastic mathematicians of year 6. Working as part of the School Council gives me the opportunity to work with some incredible people in KS2 who are full of ideas to make our school even better. Oakwood is very lucky to have such talented and passionate pupils. I learn something new every day.

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

The Christmas Department Store

Author: Maudie Powell-Tuck

Illustrator: Hoang Giang



Key Stage 1

The Night the Reindeer Saved Christmas

Author: Raj Kaur Khaira

Illustrator: Kasia Nowowiejska



Lower Key Stage 2

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs



Upper Key Stage 2

Lost Christmas by David Logan



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...

Wednesday 21 st December	School finishes at 12:20pm for Acorns 12:25pm for KS1 12:30pm for KS2
Thursday 5 th January 2023	First day of term for pupils
Friday 6 th January	January Jog (postponed Santa Dash)
Thursday 12 th January	Year 4 swimming starts
Sunday 15 th January	Deadline for September 2023 Reception applications

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

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

01727 753930

Learning around Oakwood: Poplar

In Science this term, Poplar class have been learning about rocks, soils and fossils. Step one in our learning journey involved classifying rocks by their properties.

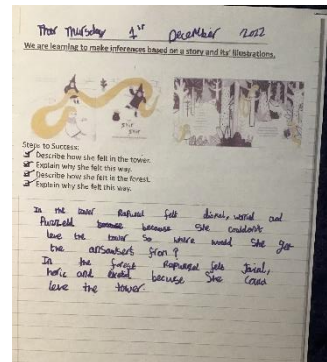


We then used starburst sweets to help remember the different types of rocks and to explain how rocks are formed – we really enjoyed this lesson and hopefully the learning will really stick! Next, we became palaeontologists and took a virtual trip to the Jurassic Coast to ask questions about fossils. Finally, we put together all of our learning to create a 'Poplar Class Museum' showcasing different fossils and how they were formed.



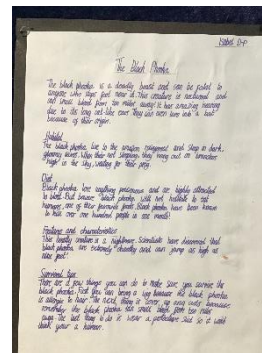
Work of the week!

Evie in Cherry



Cherry class have been learning to describe characters' feelings and to give explanations about why characters feel a particular way. Evie has used amazing adjectives and made good use of the word 'because.' She also included a range of punctuation including commas for a list and a question mark.

Isabel in Sycamore

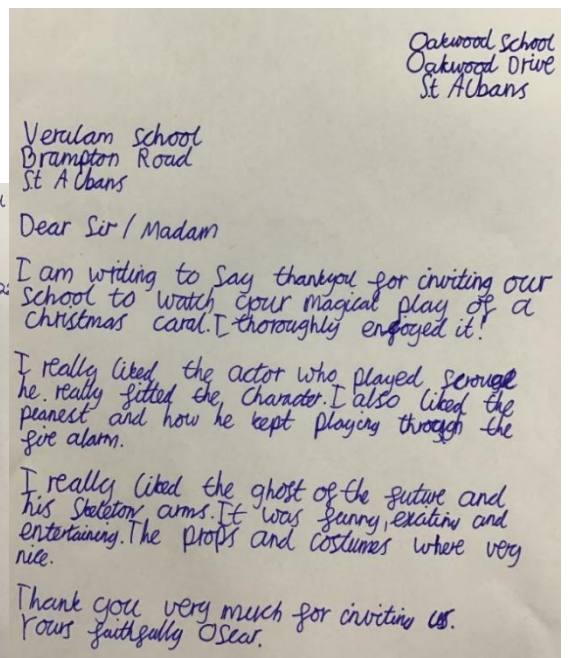
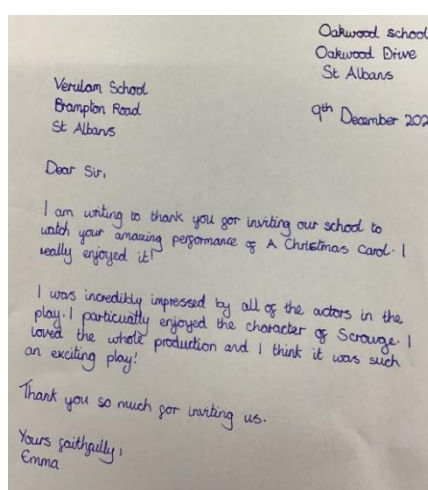
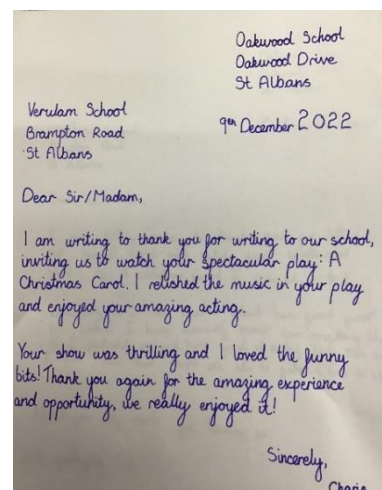


Sycamore class have been writing information reports about mythical creatures. The challenge was to make the creatures sound realistic through using the features and tone of a report. Isabel presented her work well, using subheadings and paragraphs to help the reader. She edited her work independently to improve the accuracy and style of her writing and the vocabulary chosen.

Well done Evie and Isabel!

Verulam School: A Christmas Carol

UKS2 were treated to a delightful performance of 'A Christmas Carol' by the drama group of Verulam School on Thursday 8th December 2022. The children loved it! They were impressed in particular by Scrooge.



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!

Winter Mini Challenge



Following the successful Summer Reading Challenge earlier this year, Marshalswick, St Albans and Harpenden libraries are promoting and supporting the Gadgets and Gears Winter Mini Challenge, managed by the Reading Agency and Science Museum.

The aim is to encourage children to continue reading for enjoyment during their Christmas holidays.

The Challenge runs from 1st December to 20th February 2023; it is managed online and can be accessed using the following link : [Winter Mini Challenge](#)

The challenge is to read 3 books during this period; each time children finish a book they add it to their Challenge website profile, leaving a short book review. They will unlock awards and receive a downloadable certificate once the challenge is complete.

The mini Challenge does not require the children to visit libraries to talk about their books; however, if they wish to talk about what they have read, the library team will be very happy to listen. There are stickers to give those who visit libraries and talk about their involvement in the challenge and there are some other giveaways as well.

Happy reading!

Celebration Assembly

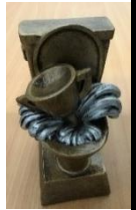
Every week, a celebration assembly is held to mark children's successes, efforts and achievement individually and as a class.

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 – Acorns 2



'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Acorns 1

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



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

Ash – David and Carys
Beech – Oliver and James
Cherry – Hannah and Alison
Lime – Keir and Johnny
Maple – Audrey and Aqilah
Poplar – Lucy and Thomas
Rowan – Isaac and Bethany
Sycamore – Elwyn and Theo
Willow – Olivia and Emily



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