

Oakwood Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 18th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,
Last Friday was remembrance day and we came together in Key Stages to commemorate soldiers around the world.



This week has been Anti-Bullying Week. KS1 held a special anti-bullying assembly. The children made posters about what makes a kind community: “invite people to play your games” “ask others how they are if their face is telling us they are sad” “share smiles” “talk to the adults”

All classes have continued with their Protective Behaviour lessons. In our Protective Behaviours lessons we have been learning that “Everybody has the right to feel safe all of the time” and this work helps us to notice when we, or others, might be feeling unsafe in some way. Being in a kind community helps us all to feel safe. We also held our parent workshop on behaviour and anti-bullying. If you missed this, we will be sharing a summary on our website next week.

We were very proud to share our fantastic learning with our governors this week, see the 'Postcard from the Governors' below for more information!

Have a great weekend,
The Oakwood Team

'Who's who?'

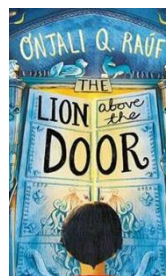
Miss Vazir

Hello my name is Miss Vazir and I'm a Teaching Assistant in Ash Monday and Friday and Cherry class Tuesday to Thursday. I am delighted to be able to support the children in their learning, expanding their knowledge, playing a positive role in school life and making sure each child feels valued and safe. I really enjoy maths because it keeps you on your toes and helps better problem solving about a situation. You can have fun when doing maths by playing games and making it relevant to the children's interests.

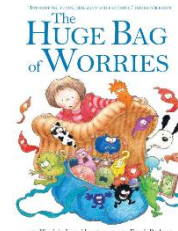
Recommended reading...

At Oakwood, we really value reading and see it as the gateway to knowledge and one of life's key pleasures!

This week we are sharing two key books linked to last week's theme of Remembrance and this week's theme of Anti-Bullying.



The Lion above the Door
By Onjali Q. Rauf



The Huge Bag of Worries
Author: Virginia Ironside
Illustrator: Frank Rodgers

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

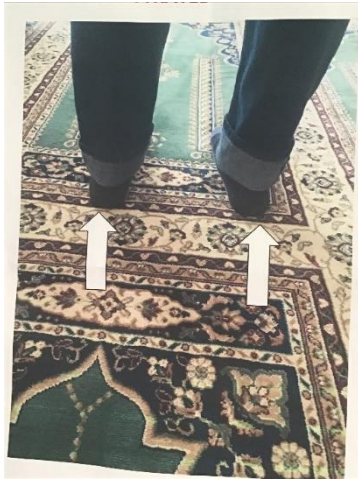
Important dates for your diary...

Wednesday 23 rd November	Nasal Flu catch-up session
Thursday 24 th November 5:30pm	Acorns Parents Phonics Meeting (online)
Friday 25 th November	UKS2 Mexicolore Workshop
Monday 28 th November	INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS
Tuesday 29 th November 6pm	Headteacher talk for 2023 Reception admissions
Thursday 1 st December	Acorns visit to St Paul's Church Nativity Trail
Sunday 4 th November	PTA Winter Wonderland
Monday 5 th November	Non-uniform day – £2 Room donations

Our school website address: www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk
School contact details: admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk
01727 753930

Learning around Oakwood: Sycamore

In RE this term, Sycamore have learned about how Muslims can show commitment to God. We considered what the five pillars of Islam mean and how they can be followed in Muslims' daily lives. We walked to a local mosque, where we heard the Qur'an being read and went into the prayer room, where the carpet is made up of lots of individual mats for people to pray on!



We saw where people prepare for prayer by washing (wudhu) and saw the special clock that tells people when to come to pray.

We are now learning about Christianity in the run up to Christmas and considering Mary's role as the mother of Jesus.

POSTCARD FROM THE GOVERNORS

As part of our monitoring education across the school, Governors enjoyed a recent visit to gain a better understanding of some aspects of the curriculum. On this occasion, we looked at phonics and computing. We visited Acorns 1 and Beech classes to observe the new phonics programme, Little Wandle, being taught. It was good to see the children so engaged in their learning and the progress being made.

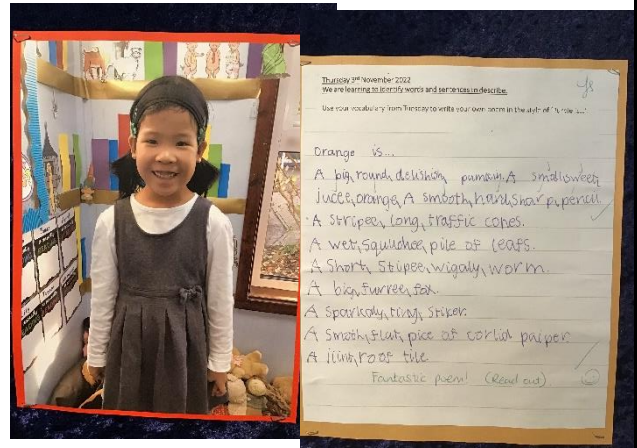
Miss Bird, the subject leader for computing, gave us a thorough overview of how computing is being taught in the school from the very early stages to KS2. A number of children from across the school came to speak to us about what they had been learning and to tell us how much they enjoy the subject. Governors were very impressed with the enthusiasm of both Miss Bird and the children. Governors also had the opportunity to meet some of the new staff members as well as have an update on safeguarding from the Governors' perspective. It is always a pleasure for us to visit the school and to be able to focus on various aspects of school life.

Jacky Elliott, Chair of Governors

Work of the week!

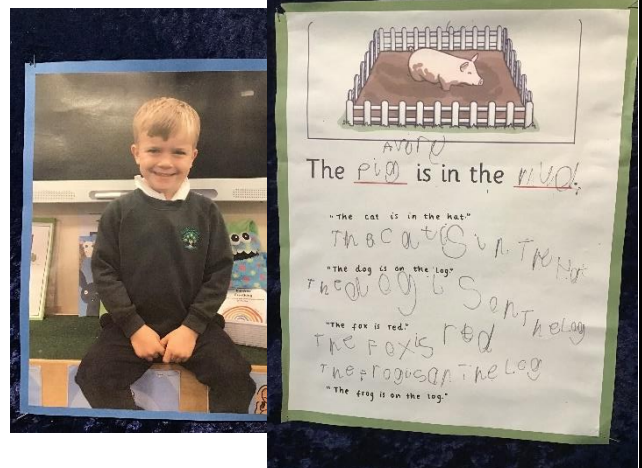
Every week an exemplary piece of work is chosen to be 'Work of the Week' and is displayed in the school dining hall. Please do come and have a look.

Lizzie in Beech



Beech class have been learning about free verse poetry. We read a poem called 'Purple is...' and had a think about all of the things that can be purple. For her poem, Lizzie thought carefully about which nouns can be orange and the adjectives she could use to describe them. She has used fantastic imagery and commas to separate the ideas within her writing.

Avery in Acorns 1



Acorns have been working really hard in their Little Wandle Phonics lessons. Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps us to hear, identify and use different sounds. Avery has chosen to continue to practise his phonics during Active Learning. Avery completed our writing challenge using the phonics he has learned, and he was able to identify the tricky words and fill in the missing words by sound-talking. Avery then chose to challenge himself by thinking of his own sentences to write independently.

Well done Lizzie and Avery!

Learning around Oakwood: Lime

This half term in Lime Class, we have been developing our problem-solving and teamwork skills in P.E. In our lesson this week, we were working as a team to place a pencil on its end on without crossing an imaginary line on the floor, to see how far we could get it to stand away from us. We worked in groups of five and six, with each team member having an important role to make sure the team could succeed and improve on our previous attempts.



This challenge needed good balance and coordination in addition to our growing teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Once we had had a few attempts in each role, we talked about what had helped us with the challenge.

We realised the most important factor was communication - "it worked better when we talked to each other before we started" (Scarlett) - and sharing out the roles each time - "you have to share to be a good team" (Humayra).

We're looking forward to trying another team-building activity next week, this time based on cave-crawling (through mat and bench caves) - a great link to our Stone Age topic in History!



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 two weeks, the following prizes were awarded to...



'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Lime and Ash



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



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

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



Congratulations to Lime class who have achieved their mission to become the first class to win all four awards this year!

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

Ash – Aaliyah
Beech – Lizzie and Patrick
Cherry – Orla
Lime – Thomas and Joseph E
Maple – Theo and Emma
Poplar – Jack and Felicity
Rowan – William and Alice B
Sycamore – Charis and Polly
Willow – Isabella and Peggy



'Who's who?' Mrs Downes

Hello Oakwood Parents and Carers, my name is Mrs Downes and I currently teach at Oakwood every Wednesday. I primarily teach in Rowan Class but also teach French to Sycamore and Willow Class. As French Lead in the school, I recommend the Duolingo app as it is a fun and engaging way to learn a language. I get a great sense of achievement from seeing children develop and grow as individuals and I am passionate about ensuring that all children reach their full potential. Those "light bulb" moments are what makes my job most rewarding!

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!

