

Question and Answer Time

January 2025



At Oakwood, we value the views of our pupils and also want Oakwood to be the best it can be. With this in mind, the children were invited to speak with Mrs Thompson about learning, the running of the school and suggestions they had. The children from KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 asked the following questions:

Q: Do we have to have homework every week?

This is a good time to ask this question because Mr Stanway and Miss Bird are in the process of doing some surveys for parents, children and staff about homework. This means everyone will get the chance to give their thoughts and suggestions. We will then look at these and possibly make some changes. It is important to complete homework. (The children were able to give some responses about why, including giving the chance to recap learning and further develop learning.) It also helps children develop their independence and ability to prioritise tasks, skills they will need at secondary school.

Q: Can we have multi sports clubs in Year 5 and 6 and some longer breaks?

(The children suggested 25 minutes for break time in the morning opposed to the 15 minutes it is currently.)

Outdoor learning and chance for play is extremely important. I would love to extend break but the amount of work children would need to do would not change, so what could the solution be? For instance, working harder and faster in lessons or longer school days?

Multi-sports clubs currently happen in Years 3 and 4. The children listed an extensive number of clubs that the children can take part in during Year 5 and 6. We can ask the multi-sports club provider to see if there is the capability to offer a similar club for Years 5 and 6. We do also need to consider when and where this could happen.

Q: Can there be more non-school uniform days?

(The overwhelming majority of children wanted more non-school uniform days; about half of the children said they would prefer never to wear uniform.)

What could the purpose of non-uniform days be? Non-uniform days are good ways of helping those less fortunate by using the day as an opportunity to make donations. Children noted we could donate to charities and named some charities they would like to donate to. This is something the School Council can discuss.

Q: Can we become eco-friendlier?

This is an excellent idea! How this could happen. Ideas included:

- *More sustainable clothing*
- *Plant more trees on the school grounds*
- *Golden award for being more sustainable*

It would be great to think about ways we can be more sustainable in school. I have heard of ideas such as recycling our used pens.

Q: Can we have a staff appreciation day where we thank everyone for their help?

*This would be a wonderful idea! What sort of things could we do? (Children thought of suggestions such as making cards, cakes and celebrating how long staff have been here.) I will speak to staff about this idea - we could use 'National Thank a Teacher Day' to celebrate all of our staff here at Oakwood as they all do an excellent job. (**National Thank a Teacher Day is on Wednesday 18th June 2025**)*

Q: Can we have a LKS2 football team?

I would love for this to happen; what challenges might there be? (Children suggested other schools may not
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have a team, the availability of the pitch and buying kits.) Currently, Mr Cowan and Mr Stanway run teams in their own time and it wouldn't be fair to ask the same staff to run another team. We can find out if there is a possibility that anyone else can help with this.

Q: Could we have a cooking club?

I love this idea! Who would like a cooking club? (The overwhelming majority of children agreed it would be good idea.) There would be things we would need to think about (who could help, when and where it could happen). However, I am going to find out if this is a possibility as this is something I would like to happen.

Q: Could we have a treehouse in one of the trees?

Wouldn't this be amazing? The children agreed with this. The children suggested we may need to think about how to make it stable and safe and how to source the materials to build it. We will speak with the OPAL team about the possibility of this. Our wonderful parents and PTA may be able to support us through a lend-a-hand day. If this is something that can happen, we would need to talk about it in OPAL assembly for a risk-benefit analysis.

Q: Can we bring back hot dogs to alternate with fish and chip Friday?

I will discuss this with Sharon to see if it is a possibility.

Q: How can we be kind to children who are finding learning difficult?

That is a very thoughtful thing to consider. If children are finding their learning difficult, we can be kind by showing support and offering help. Some children suggested it is important for all children to make the right choice. This helps everyone.

Q: How many emails do you send each day?

I get a lot of emails! I receive approximately 50-100 emails every day. Some of them I don't reply to if they are trying to sell something. I try to reply first to emails from parents and staff in the school, those are usually the most important emails. As an estimate, I send approximately 30-50 emails per day.

Q: What changes would you like to see in school?

There are lots of changes I would like to see. At the moment, I would like the school to be tidier and less muddy. We often see toys ruined by the weather because they haven't been tidied away. There is also a lot of mud inside as some children are coming into the school in their muddy shoes. This is why we are making changes to prevent this.

Q: Could we have some class pets? (This question was asked by both KS1 and LKS2)

I absolutely want to get a school pet! This is a question that was asked during the Treasure, Tweak and Trash surveys last year. Since then, we have been working hard to get a school pet, probably guinea-pigs. There is a lot to think about before this can happen and that is why it takes a little bit of time to organise. (The children suggested we need to think about cages, materials, animal waste and a grown-up to look after the pet.) These are all excellent suggestions we need to consider. We also need to make sure the animals are safe for children so that they don't bite or scratch, and we need to make sure the animal is safe and doesn't become worried or scared by the school environment. (The overwhelming majority of children said they would like us to get a school pet).

Q: What's your favourite job in school? (This question was asked by both KS1 and KS2)

I really enjoy saying good morning at the gates in the mornings – this is my favourite part of the day! Lots of children say good morning, and say they hope I have a nice day. I really love seeing everyone coming into school happily with smiles on their faces. I also love visiting classes and seeing all of the learning that you are doing through the day.