

# Oakwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Oakwood Community,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your families had a lovely break. It has been great to welcome the children back to school and get back into a routine.

## Staff development

Staff returned to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January for a productive and interactive training day which included a focus on a shared whole school ethos, high expectations of behaviour and a focus on the 7 strategies of Protective Behaviours. More information about Protective Behaviours can be found [here](#).

As you know, staff development and wellbeing is important to us at Oakwood. We are pleased to share that our end of term staff survey showed that staff feel well supported by leaders and that CPD supports the development of their practice. Staff have particularly welcomed the additional support that the SENCo has put in place.

## School events

This week, we were thrilled to see the enjoyment and energy of the children (and adults!) during our January jog - see below.

We would like to thank Mrs Cooper for delivering an excellent parent workshop on handwriting and spelling. Thank you to the families who attended this workshop - it was great to see an increased turnout at this event.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.  
The Oakwood Team

## January Jog!

As you will know, unfortunately, we had to cancel December's Santa Dash. However, the children completed the January Jog this week with great enthusiasm. You can still donate to the children's chosen charity: The RSPCA using this [link](#).



## Recommended reading...

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

### Reception

*The Day the Crayons Came Home*

By Oliver Jeffers



### Key Stage 1

*George and the Mini Dragon*

By George Webster and Helen Harvey



### Lower Key Stage 2

*The Matilda Effect*

By Ellie Irving



### Upper Key Stage 2

*A Story Like the Wind*

By Gill Lewis



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 21st January - 9am	Year 1 Parents' Reading & Writing Meeting
Thursday 22nd January - 2:30pm	Year 1 Parents' Reading & Writing Meeting
Friday 30th January	Year 6 Netball Match v Bowmansgreen
Saturday 31st January	Year 6 County Football Finals

## Winter Wellness

Are you interested in learning more about building healthy lifestyles? Beezee Families, run by NHS Hertfordshire are providing a free healthy lifestyle programme delivered by nutritionists across a 12-week period. If you are interested or for further information, see the attached flyers or visit the link [here](#).



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

## Work of the week!

### Arya in Beech

Beech class have been writing letters, learning how to introduce and describe themselves, tell the reader what they are doing and extend sentences using 'and' and 'because'. Arya showed excellent understanding in this writing unit.

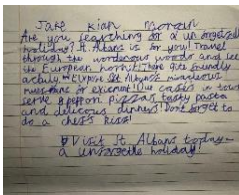


### Learning around Oakwood: Lime

Although we have only been back in school a short while, the children have come back with a brilliant attitude towards their learning and are having fun exploring different subject areas.

**Maths:** We have been learning about multiplication and division and finding related number facts. The children enjoyed exploring multiples of 10 in a range of practical ways such as bingo, making arrays and answering true/false questions using practical materials to support their answers.

**English:** We are learning how to write to persuade our reader to visit a special place. This week, the class worked in groups to persuade people to visit St Albans – here's just one example of their writing where the group used humour brilliantly to entice the reader!



**Music:** We are learning the song *I've Been To Harlem* which is an a cappella song (unaccompanied) and requires us to listen really carefully. We have been adding percussion to the song which is lots of fun and we have been comparing it to other a cappella songs including the American group Pentatonix's *White Winter Hymnal* and Nathan Weller's *Wellerman* sea shanty.

**RE:** our key question this half-term is: *Could Jesus heal people – are these miracles or is there some other explanation?* We started by exploring what makes people an inspiration to us and how Jesus inspires Christians today. It has been fantastic listening to the respectful conversations of the class as they shared their own experiences of who inspires them and how and why they help others. Evie brought in her *You Do You* book of inspirational female quotes to share with the class in response to the lesson.

Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow".  
Nancy Anne Reddick

Once you figure out who you are and what you love about yourself, it all kind of falls into place.  
Jennifer Aronson

## Curriculum celebration: Music

Music is a part of Oakwood's school development plan this year and the focus is ensuring we have a music curriculum designed to inspire creativity and meet all the statutory requirements. The importance of music is clearly stated in the government's music subject report 'Striking the right note'

Last term some of the children in LKS2 had weekly violin lessons taught by a peripatetic violin teacher. It was wonderful to see the children perform to parents and their peers at the end of the year. Learning a musical instrument has so many benefits for children's brain development.



We have also started a choir with children from years 3,4 and 5. This half term Ms Bowden and Mrs Cooper are teaching choir a 'Wicked' medley so that we can join in with the Young Voices singalong on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Singing together is joyous and will build the children's confidence and self-esteem.



Finally, if you are a reading this and play an instrument, we would love to have you visit us – this could be to play in a class and answer children's questions or to play in an assembly. We would also welcome visits from music making ensembles of any genre – rock bands, jazz groups, string quartets, brass bands, recorder groups, singing groups.... The list is endless. We want our children to experience all types of music and be inspired to learn an instrument, join a choir and understand how much value there is in learning and appreciating music.

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

## Learning around Oakwood: Rowan

Rowan Class have started the term feeling excited and motivated about their new learning, with lots of engaging activities across the curriculum.

In Art, we have been exploring sculpture and reflecting on how different pieces make us feel and think. The children discussed the impact art can have on people and began making links between art and its effect on the environment. Inspired by this, pupils designed and created their own unique sculptures with the intention of making others feel something, showing thoughtfulness, creativity and individuality.

In Science, we dissected a plant to identify its different parts and learned about the role each part plays, particularly those involved in reproduction. The children approached this practical lesson with curiosity and care, using scientific vocabulary to explain their observations.

In Maths, we are securing our understanding of column multiplication and have already realised just how important the automatic recall of times tables is. Pupils are growing in confidence as they apply these skills more fluently and accurately.

In English, we have been learning about modal verbs and hyperbole to support our persuasive writing. The children will be using these techniques to write letters to Mrs Thompson, the headteacher, persuading her to consider changes they would like to make at school.

PE has been great fun, with a focus on improving stamina and fitness through circuit activities. The children have been challenging themselves to beat their own scores — how many jumping jacks can you do in 30 seconds?

We are really grateful for these exciting learning opportunities and look forward to everything else this term has to offer.



## Celebration Assembly

Every week, Celebration Assemblies are held to mark children's successes, efforts and achievement individually and as a class. In the last two weeks, the following prizes were awarded to...



'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Ash and Acorns 2

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



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

The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Sycamore and Ash



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

Acorns 1 – Zoe and Oscar  
Acorns 2 – Saoirse and Yazan  
Ash – Meliha and Noah  
Beech – Mariella and Haamid  
Cherry – Willow and Dilan  
Lime – Freddie and Evie  
Maple – Finley H and Avery  
Poplar – Lizzie and Iela  
Rowan – Bethan and Sophie  
Sycamore – Alex and Ellis  
Willow – Seren and Thisan



## Holiday Camp

One of our external club providers, Sports 2 Inspire are hosting a holiday camp in February at Wheatfield's Junior School. Many of the children will know Sports 2 Inspire and their coaches from their extra-curricular activities. Please see the flyer for more information.



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!

# PTA Corner



A very Happy New Year to all our Oakwood families. We hope you enjoyed a restful break and are feeling refreshed for the term ahead. We're excited to begin 2026 with a packed calendar of PTA events, activities and opportunities to come together as a community.

## Our Goal for the Year

With two terms still ahead of us, we are pleased to have already raised around 40% of our £20,000 target. There are plenty more events planned, but if you have ideas for fundraising activities that could help us reach our goal, we would love to hear from you.

## Our Events & Fundraising

Here are a few dates for your diary and a glimpse of what's coming up:

- **16th January:** Second Hand Uniform Sale (weather dependent)
- Cinema Night
- Easter Extravaganza
- Parents Quiz night
- **5th June:** Summer Disco
- **11th July:** Oakfest (we are already accepting raffle prize donations!)

All of these events are organised by parent volunteers, and we're grateful for any help you can offer. Our [website](#) lists a range of volunteer tasks, please sign up if you're able to support.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to **Marie Shenton**, whose *Mum's March* fundraising challenge raised nearly **£650** for the PTA. Marie has also applied for matched funding through her employer, which could further increase this fantastic contribution.

And a big thank you to **Tesco**, who provided a 20% top-up of nearly **£470** through their employee fundraising scheme, generously supported by an Oakwood parent. We are incredibly grateful for this contribution.

## How You Can Help Beyond Events

There are lots of simple ways to support the PTA outside of attending events:

- **Easyfundraising:** Download the app and select *Oakwood Association* as your cause. We receive a percentage of sales directly from retailers.
- **Company match funding:** Many employers offer match-funding schemes, which can significantly boost donations.
- **JustGiving:** You can donate at any time through our JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/charity/oakwoodassociation>
- **Retail employees:** If you work in retail and have access to an employee discount, we would be so grateful for your support. We're always looking for ways to keep costs down when buying supplies for PTA events, and even small savings make a big difference.

## Stay Connected

Alongside emails, WhatsApp, and now this newsletter, you can find us on:

Instagram: @oakwood\_pta

Facebook page: Oakwood Primary School PTA St Albans

Or email us at oakwoodptachair@gmail.com with feedback and suggestions.

## PTA Committee

Elaine Tittanegro Correa, Amy Wright & Laura Fyfe