

# Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 17th October 2025



Dear Oakwood Community,

As ever, it has been an action-packed fortnight at Oakwood and you can find out more over the next few pages!

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our Open Classrooms last week. It was wonderful to see the engagement between children and their families whilst sharing the impressive learning that children have been doing. Staff are very grateful for the positive feedback we have received following the Open Classrooms - this really does make a difference to us.

On Tuesday, our Year 6 pupils departed for their PGL adventure in Osmington Bay, Dorset. Miss Bird (KS2 Lead) is leading the trip and has been keeping us up-to-date with all the fun and excitement. We look forward to welcoming Year 6 back this evening.

### Staffing updates:

This week we have welcomed Ms Harris to our team as our new HLTA. Ms Harris joins our existing team of HLTAs and will be mainly working in LKS2.

### Guinea pig updates:

We are very excited to announce that we have welcomed back Ginger and Twiglet this week to their brand new, secure home in the Quiet Garden. Ginger and Twiglet are accompanied by two new guinea-pigs - whose names will be determined soon! We would like to thank Mrs Thompson (Beech Class) and her husband, who have gone above and beyond to install the new guinea-pig enclosure to ensure that the guinea-pigs can safely return to Oakwood.

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

### **Parking reminder**

A small yet important reminder to all parents to respect our neighbours when parking in the vicinity of the school. We have been contacted by some of our local community to request that cars parked on the surrounding roads should not block driveways in case of emergencies.

In addition to this, please remember not to park on the markings outside of school and make active journeys to school wherever possible.

### 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 Best Diwali Ever*

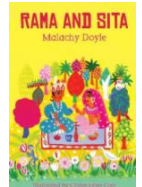
By Sonali Shah



#### Key Stage 1

*Rama and Sita: The story of Diwali*

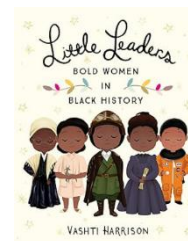
By Malachy Doyle



#### Lower Key Stage 2

*Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History*

By Vashti Harrison



#### Upper Key Stage 2

*Windrush Child*

By Benjamin Zephaniah

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 21st October	Parents' Evening - online
Thursday 23rd October	Parents' Evening- Face-to-face
Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October	Half Term - School closed
Monday 3rd November	Children return to school
Monday 3rd November	Parent SDP event - 6pm
Tuesday 4th November	Governor Visit Morning
Tuesday 4th November	PTA AGM at The Speckled Hen
Friday 7th November	PTA Disco

Our school website address: [www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

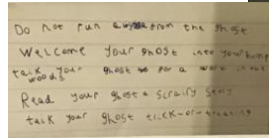
School contact details: [admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)

01727 753930

## Work of the week!

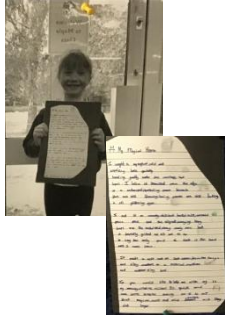
### Toby in Ash

Ash have been using the book, 'How to make friends with a Ghost' to learn instruction writing. Toby used his phonics superbly to help him write some excellent instructions.



### Lyla in Maple

Maple have been exploring the world of free verse poetry. They used expanded noun phrases and prepositions to create vivid descriptions. Lyla has showed a wonderful imagination and used language thoughtfully.



## Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 1

The children in Acorns 1 have got off to a flying start with their phonics learning this term. They have arrived at school each morning already knowing the new sound for that day and have enthusiastically said the tricky word password to enter our classroom!

During Active learning when the children get to play and access all the different activities set out in the classroom, several of Acorns 1 class accepted the challenge to choose a picture, use their new phonics learning to sound out the word and then find the corresponding magnetic letters to complete the cvc phoneme grid. They had to use magnets to search around a box of coloured rice to find the letters they needed.

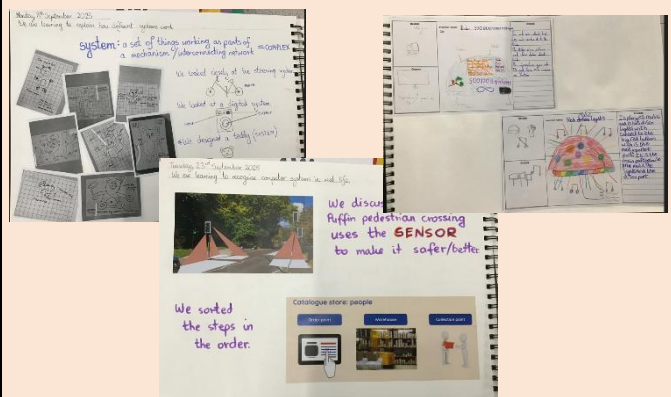
As you can see from the pictures the children were very happy they could demonstrate their newfound understanding as they begin their reading journey. "Look I made pig" Ollie exclaimed! You're all phonics superstars Acorns 1!



## Curriculum celebration: Computing

At Oakwood, we want to equip pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to enable them to become active participants in the ever-changing digital world. We want our pupils to develop as respectful, responsible and confident users of technology, aware of how to keep themselves and others safe online. We ensure that e-safety is a concept that runs throughout all our computing units. Our pupils value their exploration time during lessons where they are given time to navigate new software and concepts independently, thus better equipping them to confidently explore new technology of the future. We follow the Teach Computing curriculum and we are excited to announce that computing at Oakwood is going to go through some exciting changes. Please look out for news of new computing golden threads enabling children to make links from their learning in reception all the way to Year 6. Through the creation of these golden threads, we aim for children to build deeper, more connected knowledge over time.

We recognise that our children access different games and sites when they are at home; the children at Oakwood report that they value their time on technology. Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace, so it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they are doing online. To help keep your child safe we recommend keeping an open and ongoing discussion around online safety. This means that when they do have worries, they are more likely to come and speak to you. Resources like Talk PANTS and Techosaurus are great for opening discussions with younger children.



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: Ash

RE - Awe and Wonder

In our RE lessons we have been asking the question:  
*Does God want Christians to look after the world?*

We went for a walk about and discovered how amazing things are in nature. We discussed the importance of looking after the world around us and the challenges that we face when people do not look after the environment. We all laid down on the grass and thought about what we really appreciate about the world around us. Here are some of the things that Ash class love:

'I love looking at the clouds.'  
'Rainbows are so pretty to look at.'  
'I love walking in the woods.'

We are looking forward to finding out more ways to look after the world around us.



## 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 – Acorns 1 and Rowan

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



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

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



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

Acorns 1 – Ollie and Makai  
Acorns 2 – Yazan and Smit  
Ash – Lana and Noah  
Beech - Alice and Edith  
Cherry – Quinn and  
Lime – Jake and Aiyla  
Maple – Ben and Thomas  
Poplar – Charlie and Lilly  
Rowan – Oliver and Henry  
Sycamore – Noureen and Poppy  
Willow – Jamie



### Sports Update:

Well done to our Year 5 runners for their effort in the 2nd cross-country race of the year at Fleetville. They competed superbly against other local schools comprised mostly of Year 6 runners. Updated results will be posted in school once we receive them.

Another well done to our Year 5 and 6 girls who competed in their first football match of the season against STAHS recently. Unfortunately, the girls were unable to come out victorious but showed excellent growth as a team. Mrs Thompson (Beech class teacher) was impressed with the resilience and hard work on show. She is so excited by the number of girls interested in playing this year. Keep up the hard work!

Our Year 5 boys' football team will begin their season after half term and Miss Yalden is extremely excited to get under way. Following our Year 6 boys' cup win, our league matches will begin after half term with games against Bowmansgreen, Mandeville and Samuel Ryder to come. Mr Stanway has also entered the boys into the Hertfordshire 9-a-side FA Wix Cup. Our first match will be away to Peartree Spring in Stevenage, date to be confirmed. We are awaiting further information on the next round of the 6-a-side tournament following last year's St Albans win.



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!

