

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th September 2025



Dear Oakwood Community,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year. The Autumn term is already well underway and we have been incredibly impressed with how well the children have settled back into the routines in their new classes.

We will be sending out a newsletter every two weeks to share and celebrate the successes and achievements of our community here at Oakwood with you. We will also include key dates for your diary of upcoming events, important reminders and useful links.

If you have any questions or queries, the best person to ask is your child's class teacher. We are always happy to help.

Daisy Cooper visit

A highlight at Oakwood this week has been a visit from Daisy Cooper, MP for St. Albans. Daisy held an assembly for children from Years 1 to 6, where she shared information about the role of an MP. Daisy was bowled over by the intelligent questions that children asked, such as: "What is the difference between an MP and Prime Minister?" and, "Why did you want to become an MP?" Following the assembly, Daisy met with Mrs Thompson to talk about some of the challenges facing schools, and the potential solutions.



Donations

We are very grateful for families looking to support the school, however we have had a declutter over the summer break and ask that you do not bring donations to school, except for items that have been specifically requested by a member of staff.

PTA

There was an excellent turnout at the Acorns families picnic last weekend. A huge thank you to the PTA for organising this. Keep your eyes peeled for PTA updates on further upcoming events. The PTA are an incredible asset to the school and always welcome new ideas and support, please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. Further information can be found here: [Oakwood PTA | Instagram, Facebook | Linktree](#)

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

Recommended reading...

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

Reception

Luna Loves Gardening

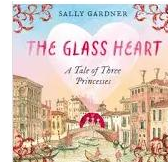
By Joseph Coelho & Fiona Lumbers



Key Stage 1

The Glass Heart

By Sally Gardner



Lower Key Stage 2

The Wonder Brothers

By Frank Cottrell Boyce



Upper Key Stage 2

The Ice Children

By M.G. Leonard



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...

Thursday 25 th Sep	Y4 Swimming Starts
Thursday 25 th Sep	Harvest Assembly
Thursday 25 th Sep	Y5/6 Cross Country
Friday 26 th Sep	LKS2 Workshop
Friday 26 th Sep	EYFS Curriculum Workshop – 9am
Friday 26 th Sep	Diversity Forum – 2pm
Monday 29 th Sep	Y6 boys' football match (home)
Tuesday 30 th Sep	Girls' football match (home)
Wednesday 1 st Oct	Flu immunisations

Oakwood Recognised

We are delighted to announce that Oakwood has been recognised for its work in the development of staff. We are one of just five schools in St Albans to be awarded a golden plaque by the Alban TSH for our commitment to staff at the school. This means across the last year, we have worked with Alban TSH to support initial teacher training, early career teachers and national professional qualifications. In the current climate of teachers leaving the profession and recruitment proving difficult, it is essential that we show our staff Oakwood is a place that will invest in their future!



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

Work of the week!

Annabel in Beech

Beech class have been gathering phrases to describe Rat from *Frog and the Stranger* by Max Velthuijs. Annabel has used paper strips to practise retelling parts of the story using. She focused on using nouns and verbs in her writing.



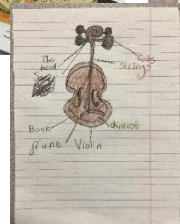
Learning around Oakwood: Maple

We've had an excellent week in Maple Class, full of creativity, curiosity, and exciting new beginnings!

In English, we've been diving into the world of Norse mythology through *Arthur and the Golden Rope*. Inspired by the story, we've been planning and writing our own narrative missions, which we'll be turning into our very own graphic novels. The imagination and storytelling on display have been amazing!

Our topic lessons took a more explosive turn as we explored volcanoes! We looked at the different parts of a volcano and then used what we'd learned to create our own vibrant volcano collages. It was a brilliant mix of geography and art, and the results look fantastic!

We also began our violin lessons this week, which will be continuing throughout the term. We started by learning the different parts of the violin and carefully labelled our own diagrams. Everyone was measured to find the right size violin, and we're looking forward to developing our musical skills in the weeks ahead.



Curriculum celebration: History and Geography

At Oakwood we have mapped Golden Threads throughout our History and Geography curriculum. The aim behind this is to support the children with making purposeful links between the topics and areas of learning. This curriculum allows the children to build a strong understanding of Historical and Geographical concepts through the connections they make, rather than looking at topics and events in isolation.

This also helps to manage the children's cognitive load. We recognise that there is a finite amount of information that we can store in our working memories. Making these thoughtful and purposeful connections helps the learners to store important information in their long-term memory and bring it into their working memory when it is needed.

We are in Cycle A of our two-year curriculum currently which means the children will learn about periods of history such as World War 2, The Romans, Vikings and Ancient Greeks amongst others.

In Geography, the children will explore volcanoes, our extreme earth, their local area and different weather patterns as well as a range of different topics.

As always, if you would like to know more about our curriculum, our school [website](#) contains a lot of information.



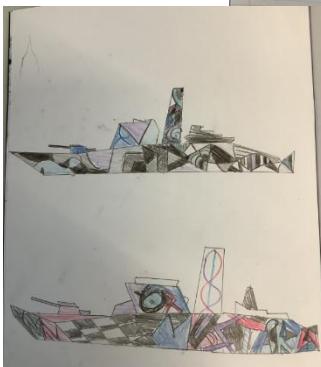
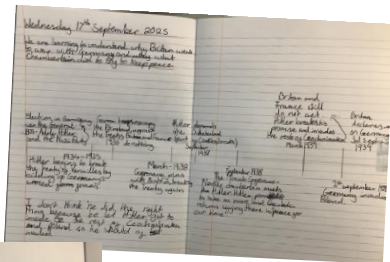
If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk
For **urgent** concerns, please **telephone** the school office

Learning around Oakwood: Willow

Willow have had a fantastic start to the new academic year and we have been particularly enjoying learning about World War II. In history, we plotted events leading up to WWII chronologically on a timeline. Please ask us to tell you some interesting facts about Neville Chamberlain and whether we agree with his continued calls for peace.

We continued our fascination with this point in history in our art lessons, where we looked at dazzle camouflage and how this was used in WWI and WWII to deceive enemy submarines. We are very proud of our own dazzling designs!

We are also reading *Letters from the Lighthouse* in Destination Reader - a book set during wartime following the mysterious tale of Olive and her family. Willow class have answered comprehension questions in an impressive manner by fully explaining their point.



Harvest Donations:

It is that time of year again where we support our local foodbank and those who require their services in a time of need. Should you be able to support, we will welcome your donations into school from Monday 22nd September to Thursday 25th September. At this time, the collection will cease and the foodbank will collect our harvest. Our annual Harvest assembly will be led by St Paul's church on Thursday 25th September.

Please see the attached shopping list with suitable items for donation and thank you for your kind generosity in advance.

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 – Sycamore and Acorns



'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Acorns 2



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



The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Maple and Lime

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

Ash – Amina and Beau
Beech – Siyanna and Julieo
Cherry – Arlee and Eddie
Lime – Hibah and Kimberly
Maple – Elodie and Junie
Poplar – Annie and Harrison
Rowan – George and Tara
Sycamore – Milo and Poppy
Willow – Billy and Fergus



Let's Talk Journeys to School in St Albans!

Hertfordshire County Council invite your views on the school journey. Whether your family walks, cycles, scooters, drives, or uses public transport, we want to hear from you!

Your experience and ideas will help us plan improvements to local streets to make it easier, safer and more appealing for families to travel actively.

Follow the link below to take part

<https://letstalktransport.hertfordshire.gov.uk/school-journeys-st-albans>

The survey is open until Friday 3 October and your feedback is greatly appreciated.

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!