

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Oakwood Community,

The past fortnight seems to have flown by and has been packed with a wide range of learning activities, parent events and extra-curricular opportunities.

Parent events

Thank you to all of the parents who came along to our recent Y1 Reading and Writing meeting, where Miss Insall demonstrated elements of what a phonics lesson looks like. We were impressed with the parent participation!

Our parent events continue next week with our Open Classrooms, please see Mrs Thompson's letter sent earlier today.

Beaumont visit

Yesterday, we welcomed drama students from Beaumont School who performed an interactive and immersive drama about the Big Bag of Worries. Children in Year 4 and 5 demonstrated excellent behaviour and active participation and collaboratively came up with ways to share and overcome worries.

Sporting updates

We would like to wish our Year 6 netball team, our Y6 boys' football team and our Y3 speed stacking team the best of luck in their upcoming matches and tournaments.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Stanway and his wife on the safe arrival of their baby boy, Nate. Mr Stanway will return from paternity leave on Thursday 12th February.

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

Wicked Singalong

On Thursday 22nd the Oakwood Choir had a 'wicked' time singing along to the YV Wicked Worldwide Singalong. Singing is a fantastic way to develop children's wellbeing, mental health and self-confidence as well as building a sense of community. The choir sang warm-ups alongside choirs from all over the country and then joined in the Wicked Medley alongside choirs in the O2 and the current West End Elphaba actress and singer Emma Kingston. It was so much fun! Thank you to Mrs Bowden & Mrs Cooper for organising this.



Recommended reading...

All of the recommended reads this week are from Empathy Lab which celebrates the power of stories to increase real-life empathy.

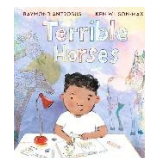
Reception

Troll by Frances Stickley
The Cat Who Couldn't Be Bothered by Jack Kurland



Key Stage 1

Terrible Horses by Raymond Antrabus
Luna Loves Gardening by Joseph Coelho



Lower Key Stage 2

Find Peace in a Poem collection
The Cheat Book by Ramzee



Upper Key Stage 2

The Last Dragon by Polly Ho-Yen
The Wrong Shoes by Tom Percival



Important dates for your diary

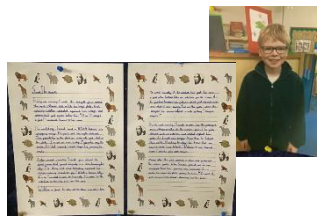
Friday 30 th January	Y6 netball match vs Bowmansgreen
Saturday 31 st January	Y6 County Football Finals @ Parmiter's School
Tuesday 3 rd February	Y3 Speedstacking competition
Thursday 5 th February	Open Classrooms 3:20pm – 4pm
Friday 6 th February	Number Day in school
Monday 9 th February	Y6 football match vs Cuffley @ Beaumont
Tuesday 10 th February	Parents' Evening (face-to-face) 3:50pm – 7pm
Thursday 12 th February	Parents' Evening (online) 4pm – 7pm
Friday 13 th February	Y6 football match @Bowmansgreen

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

Work of the week!

Thomas in Maple

Thomas has done an excellent job creating his narrative using pronouns, expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials. He also worked hard to edit his writing. Well done, Thomas.



Izzy in Sycamore



Izzy chose her vocabulary carefully and structured her PEE paragraphs carefully in her formal letter – she also explained how animals can inspire the values of creativity and curiosity – great work Izzy!

Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 2

In Acorns 2 we have been exploring seasonal changes as part of Active Learning. In our investigation station we discovered that some penguins had been trapped in balls of ice. We experimented with different tools to break and melt the ice. We discussed how the water came to be frozen, what changes occurred and what is happening now that it's melting.

In Maths we have been securing our knowledge of the numbers 1 to 5. We have been representing these numbers in lots of ways and finding 1 more and 1 less. We have been creating number pictures with paint and sponges to represent different amounts.

In Phonics we have been learning about a range of digraphs, including 'nk', 'ow' and 'ar'. To explore these digraphs further we created owl pictures and wrote thank you cards. It has been wonderful to see the children using these digraphs as part of creative activities.

We have also loved using the puppet theatre to retell our class stories and make up our own. We have been using the puppets to sing well known nursery rhymes and even tell exciting stories about lions and tigers!



Curriculum celebration: MfL (French)

Since the start of the academic year we have been learning lots of French. The topics have been reviewed, updated and validated to ensure continued progression.

Lower Key Stage 2, have been focusing on the Early French stage. So far, they have covered two topics: - **'I am learning French'** - where they have acquired knowledge and skills to be able to introduce themselves, say how they feel and have a wider appreciation for the countries where French is spoken. - **'The seasons'** – children learnt the 4 seasons of the year and how to say which is their favourite season and why.



They are now learning about, **'I am able'** and will cover ten familiar activities that they are able/unable to do in French. This is one of the first units introducing the negative form, allowing the children to build more interesting and complex sentences including the option of using conjunctions.

Upper Key Stage 2, are focussing on the intermediate stage of French. They should be able to recall a range of core vocabulary (colours, numbers, basic greetings, reply to/ask simple questions) and should be beginning to grasp basic grammar concepts (gender, determiners, and plurality). They have been doing this through the following topics. - **'The date'** - covering days of the week, months of the year and numbers 1-31. – In **'The Tudors'** - a cross-curricular unit, they were taught the skills to read, listen and understand slightly longer and more complicated text using cognates and more familiar language to decode unknown language. They used their previous history knowledge and literacy skills promoting a deeper understanding of the role of verbs, nouns, determiners and adjectives in sentences.

They are currently learning about **'What is the weather?'**. By the end of this unit children will have the knowledge and skills to describe the weather and present their own weather forecast in French. This enables us to link the weather vocabulary with map work, compass points and general geography, incorporating both language and cultural knowledge.



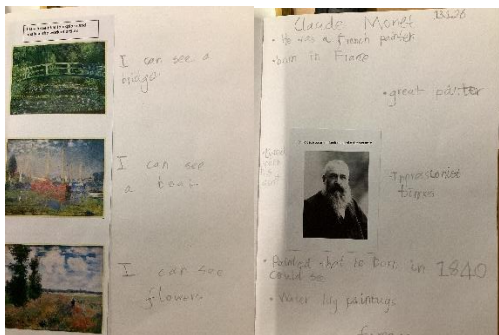
If you have any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about bullying, please email safeguardingteam@oakwood.herts.sch.uk
For urgent concerns, please telephone the school office

Learning around Oakwood: Ash

Ash class have become fantastic artists since the beginning of the year. In our Art unit this term we have been learning about the famous impressionist artist Claude Monet. Here are some facts we found out about Claude Monet:

- He was a famous painter.
- He was born in France in 1840.
- He painted lots of waterlily paintings.

We went on to analyse some of Monet's work and talked about what we could see and how it made us feel. We then practised different collage techniques such as ripping, cutting, folding and gluing. We used these skills when making lily pads and waterlilies to recreate Monet's famous painting. We hope you like it!



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 – Maple/Ash



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



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



The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Acorns 1/Rowan

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

Acorns 1 – Bernard/Lily
Acorns 2 – Marcus/Aarya
Ash – Kash/Annabel
Beech – Mae/Siyanna
Cherry – George/Nikita
Lime – Olivier/Leo
Maple – Clara/Max
Poplar – Ollie/Arianne
Rowan – Sasha/Amaarah
Sycamore – Izzy/Orestis
Willow – Jacob/Thomas



Parent Spelling & Handwriting Workshop

A huge thank you to those parents who joined Mrs Cooper and Mr Stanway at the recent spelling and handwriting workshop. We received some wonderful feedback from parents. The information shared with parents in the workshop has now been shared on the school website for all parents [here](#).

Should you have any further questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

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!

Panshanger
PART

Nature EXPLORERS

COME AND JOIN OUR MONTHLY NATURE EXPLORERS SESSION FOR 8-12 YEAR OLDS. WHERE CURIOSITY LEADS THE WAY 🌿

OUR SESSIONS ARE PACKED WITH FUN, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES THAT HELP CHILDREN LEARN AND DEVELOP OUTDOOR SKILLS WHILE NURTURING A LOVE FOR THE NATURAL WORLD. EVERY SESSION IS DIFFERENT, WITH A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO BUILD BOTH KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL SKILLS.

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
10:00-12:00

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON THE FANTASTIC ARRAY OF TREES IN THE PARK. YOU'LL BE LEARNING HOW TO:

- IDENTIFY TREES IN THEIR WINTER STATE
- MEASURE THEM
- DISCOVER HOW TO AGE TREES

PERFECT FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS WHO LOVE BEING OUTDOORS AND GETTING STUCK IN!



Scan here to book!



TARMAC
A CRIB COMPANY

Mandeville Primary School, St Albans

Happy Lunar New Year 2026

新年快乐



Saturday, 7 February 2026
5pm to 7pm

Mandeville Drive, St Albans AL1 2LE

£6.50 per adult • £3.50 per child (3-12 years old)
Under 3s free

Fireworks, lion dance, food & drinks, music, tuck shop, arts & craft

Scan to book tickets on Eventbrite

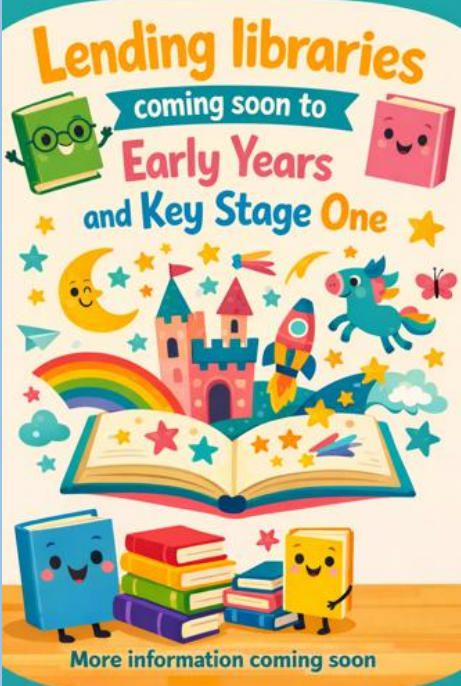


This event is taking place at Mandeville Primary School with tickets in advance or on the door.

Lending libraries

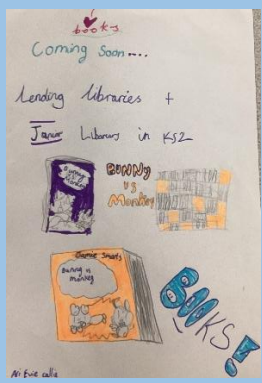
coming soon to

Early Years and Key Stage One



More information coming soon

More details about Oakwood Class Lending Libraries and Junior Librarians coming soon as well as details of this year's World Book Day!



PTA Corner

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

