

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Oakwood Community,

As we reach the end of the first half of the spring term, it's wonderful to reflect on our achievements over the past two weeks. Notably, achieving our Platinum Award for our OPAL project - the first (and currently only) school in St Albans to achieve this award. A huge well done to all the children and staff for their sustained efforts and engagement with this project.

This week, Mrs Thompson has been visiting English lessons to observe progress on our School Development Plan objective of developing writing across the school. It has been inspiring to see the enthusiasm of children for writing and their understanding of a range of literary devices to ensure their writing is exciting for the reader. Well done Oakwood children!

Thank you to all the parents and carers who engaged with our recent information sharing events: our Open Classrooms and Parents' Evenings. We hope you found these useful. As always, please speak with your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Sporting updates

Congratulations to the Y6 netball team who secured a fantastic victory against Bowmansgreen in their recent match.

Well done to the Y6 football team who showed excellent skill to finish 4th in the County football finals with just one defeat. We wish the team the best of luck with their upcoming fixtures.

Last week, the Y3 Speed stacking team competed in a competition at STAGs - read on to find out more!

Staffing updates

Yesterday, we welcomed Mr Stanway back to school following his paternity leave. Congratulations again to Mr Stanway on the birth of his son, Nate.

Today we say farewell to Miss Harris who leaves us to explore other opportunities. We wish Miss Harris all the best with her future endeavours.

After half-term, we welcome back Mrs Protsyuk, who has been completing her teacher training placement. Mrs Protsyuk will soon come to the end of her training and we are delighted to announce that she will be joining us as a Class Teacher on a permanent basis in the summer term.

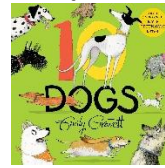
We hope you all have a lovely half term and we are looking forward to seeing you return soon.
The Oakwood Team

Recommended reading...



At Oakwood, we really value reading and see it as the gateway to knowledge and one of life's key pleasures! To tie in with **Number Day** this selection of books are all maths themed.

Reception



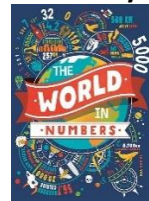
10 Dogs by Emily Gravett – an interactive counting book

Key Stage 1



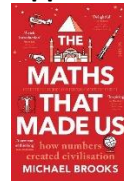
Little People Big Dreams: Ada Lovelace – be inspired by her love for code!

Lower Key Stage 2



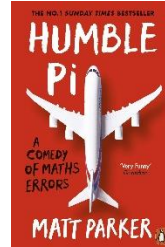
The World In Numbers by Clive Gifford – over 2,000 fascinating facts and figures about maths.

Upper Key Stage 2



Maths That Made Us by Michael Brooks – packed full of interesting maths facts

And one for the grown-ups...



Humble Pi by Matt Parker – what happens when maths goes wrong in the real world? Read this to find out.

Please do visit your local library to select from a fantastic range of books. [Locations and opening times are here.](#)

Speed Stacking Competition

On Tuesday we went to STAGS (St Albans Girls School) to do speed stacking - along with Oakwood there were 10 teams in total. We went to the sports hall to start practising. Then the action happened...the girls got up and after 15 minutes the boys were up. After all the excitement, the scores came through. We came 5th but the experience was worth it - let's keep practising for next time!
Report by Leo

Well done to all the team: Milly, Lisa, Elodie, Maila, Benjamin, Oliver, Leo & Scott and thanks to Miss Bird & Miss Harris for organising and accompanying the children to the competition.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

To celebrate this day, our Science Lead Miss Patterson organised an assembly where Irini and Dani shared their working lives in STEM. The children were really interested and we are grateful to both parents for sharing their passion for science.



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

Important dates for your diary

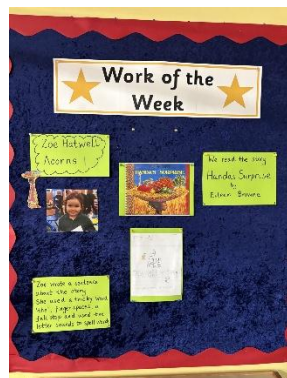
w/c 16 th February	HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 23 rd February	Return to School
Tuesday 24 th February	9am – Parent Volunteer Briefing
Wednesday 25 th February	6pm – Y6 Parents SATS Meeting
Wednesday 25 th February	Rapid Fire Cricket at Beaumont
Thursday 26 th February	Y6 Boys' football & Y6 netball matches Cross Country
Friday 27 th February	Y5 Boys' football & Y6 netball matches
Monday 2 nd March	Y6 SAPSMA rehearsal at Garden Fields School
Tuesday 3 rd March	Girls' football match
Wednesday 4 th March	World Engineering Day
Thursday 5 th March	Y6 Boys' football match
Friday 6 th March	WORLD BOOK DAY (see below for further information)
Friday 6 th March	2pm – Diversity Forum

Work of the week!

Arlen in Cherry



Zoe H in Acorns 1



Learning around Oakwood: Willow

Willow have been fascinated in their history lessons this half term when learning about Ancient Egypt. In this week's lessons, Willow participated in a live mummification. We hooked out our pharaoh's brains (jelly) through their nose. We washed the body in preparation for removal of the organs. We removed the stomach, intestines, liver and lungs and placed these in the relevant canopic jars as a sacrifice to specific Egyptian gods. We salted the body to help preservation. Finally, we performed the funeral rite called *The Opening of the Mouth*.

Curriculum Celebration: PSHE

Teaching and Learning in PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

At Oakwood, our PSHE curriculum is delivered through the Jigsaw programme, which provides a well-structured and progressive curriculum to support pupils' personal, social, health and emotional development. The curriculum is carefully sequenced, enabling pupils to build knowledge and skills over time and apply their learning in a range of contexts. There are lots of other times PSHE and personal development is covered within school too, including through Zones of Regulation and Protective Behaviours, as well as via community visits and fundraising.

Jigsaw takes a whole-school approach, combining PSHE, emotional literacy, mindfulness and social skills. Lessons are inclusive and engaging, with opportunities for discussion, reflection and respectful listening. This supports pupils to develop secure understanding, resilience and emotional literacy.

Each Jigsaw session includes:

- **Connect Us:** A quick activity to build rapport, focus attention, and prepare children for learning.
- **Calm Me:** A brief mindfulness exercise using a chime, designed to relax the body and quiet the mind, promoting self-regulation.
- **Open My Mind:** Introduces the learning intention and sparks interest in the topic.
- **Tell Me:** Introduces new information or key concepts, often using a story or scenario.
- **Let Me Learn:** The main, active learning phase where students work individually or in groups to process the information (e.g., discussion, drawing, role-play).
- **Help Me Close:** A calming down activity to reflect on the learning and check understanding.

Key strategies include using the **Jigsaw Charter** to establish a safe environment where all opinions are valued and **Jigsaw Friends** - a soft toy (one for each year group) as a "talking object" in a circle, which acts as a distancing tool to help children feel safe sharing feelings.

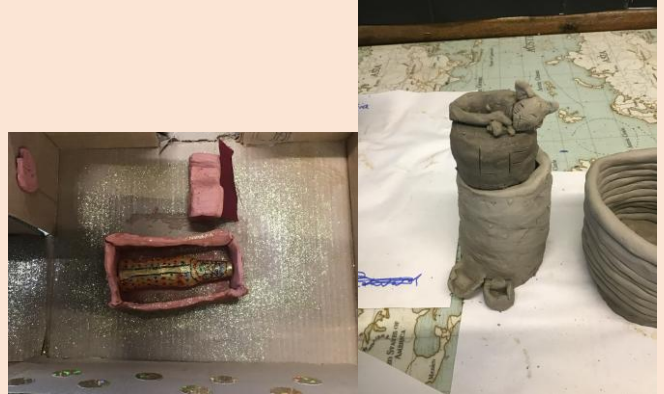
Here are some snippets from recent Jigsaw lessons across different age groups for the current 'piece' called **Dreams and Goals**

This week as part of our Dreams and Goals we have been thinking about the challenging some people face in their lives through disabilities. The children were given the task to design a garden for people who face a particular challenge and they collaborated really well together.



We have linked our understanding of Ancient Egypt to art, where we have been making our own canopic jars. We have developed our sculpting techniques including coiling and etching.

Willow have also completed some excellent homework pieces where they were asked to draw or recreate Pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb. Look at our amazing work!



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

Acorns 2: This lesson we discussed words of encouragement and how they can be useful when we are trying new things and wanting to achieve new goals. I explained how Jigsaw Jenie has been trying to ride a bike and keeps falling off. This has made her feel annoyed and upset so she needs some kind words of encouragement. We practised some and then passed Jigsaw Jenie round. During this time the children had a chance to give her some words of encouragement. These included: "You can do it!" "I believe in you" "You can do tricky things" "Keep trying" "It's ok if it feels tricky"



Ash Class

In Ash class, the children have been working towards a personal goal they have set themselves. They have made 'success coins' to display to share their goals and remind themselves of how they can be successful.



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/Lime



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



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



The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Rowan/Acorns 2

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

- Acorns 1 – Carter/Zoe B
- Acorns 2 – Aarav/Jakub
- Ash – Annabel/Amina
- Beech – Julio/Leo
- Cherry – Anna/Suraya
- Lime – Kimberly/Hannah
- Maple – Nathan/Rex
- Poplar – Albert/Georgie
- Rowan – James/Benji
- Sycamore – Evie/Audrey
- Willow – Keir/Olive



At Oakwood, we will be celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 6th March** with a day of bookish reading fun including a special story assembly, shared reading and lots more! School Council have decided that this year we are going to cosy up with a book. Children are invited to wear their pyjamas for the day and we will take regular breaks to snuggle up and read throughout the day. Please be mindful that we will still be outside at playtimes so long pyjamas will be needed, a school coat and your usual school shoes. If children would prefer to dress up as a book character they are welcome to do so, and children may wear their usual uniform if they prefer.

COMPETITION TIME: we would love you to send photos of your children reading in unusual places to make a display celebrating reading for pleasure – staff will also be joining in! There will be prizes given out on World Book Day. Please send photos to the office with the title: WBD Entry by **Wednesday 25th February**.

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

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

Family Time Capsule

Create a family time capsule to celebrate the last 100 years!

For ages 5-11. Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer

Marshalswick Library
Friday 20th February 2026
4.00pm - 5.30pm

Tickets E4.40 per child from: Please buy at the Enquiry Desk, Marshalswick Library

Further details: 0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

St Albans City Football Club Opportunity

St Albans City Football Club are extending their community school sessions to include school holiday football camps, led by first team player and Camp Coordinator Kieran Gauthier. First team players from both the Men's and Women's teams will attend sessions throughout the programme, providing young players with a fantastic chance to meet senior players and be inspired by their journeys. This is a great opportunity to strengthen community links, inspire participation in sport and give pupils access to extracurricular activities.

<https://stalbanscityfc.ktckts.com/brand/school-holiday-club>

Join us for a journey through Vivaldi's Four Seasons

BAMBINI CONCERTINI

April 25th, St Alban's, St Peter's Church 3-4pm

INTERACTIVE CONCERTS FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-8

PLEASE CONTACT STACEY
07 879 121 884 or
stacey.lupton@hotmail.co.uk