

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 6th March 2026



Dear Oakwood Community,

It has been another busy and exciting couple of weeks here at Oakwood. Read on to find out more!

Science

With World Engineering Day this week and Science Week next week, we have been thrilled to welcome parent volunteers to Oakwood to talk about how science has changed their careers. Our visitors spoke in KS1 and KS2 assemblies, inspiring the children with their passion for science. Thank you to all of our visiting scientists.

Sporting updates

The formidable Y6 boys' football team have had two excellent wins against Samuel Ryder and St Albans & St Stephens. Our Y5 boys unfortunately lost their match but we have been impressed with the way the team have come together and demonstrated excellent teamwork skills. We are similarly proud of our netball team who have demonstrated resilience and flexibility, with some players stepping in at the last moment. Well done to our players of the match, Izzy and Jayda.

New website

You might have noticed we have a new look website! Please take some time to have a look, and do let us know if there is anything you can't find. We will be working on updating the content of the website over the coming weeks.

OPAL news

We were delighted to be featured in last week's [Herts Advertiser, celebrating our successful OPAL award](#). We are looking forward to welcoming you to our upcoming stay and play dates, so that you can see and participate in the engaging lunchtime play.

Premises updates

As you know, we are having a new roof at Oakwood! We have been impressed with how the children have taken the building work in their stride. Mrs Thompson met with the builders last week to discuss progress - you can see photo updates in the attached document. The works are running slightly ahead of schedule and we are hopeful that the new roof will be completed by the end of June. There will be drainage works undertaken around the school as part of the work. This should mean we see a reduction in the pools of water that gather around classroom doors. Following the completion of the roofing work, we will be looking at starting a programme of refurbishment internally, including painting the walls, replacing carpets and updating the classroom furniture.

Careers in education

Are you interested in a career in education? Please see attached a flyer about a FREE government funded Early Years assistant course.

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

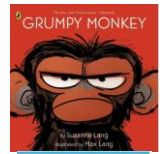
Recommended reading...

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

Reception

Grumpy Monkey

By Suzanne Lang



Key Stage 1

Too Small Tola Makes it Count

By Atinuke



Lower Key Stage 2

The Lion and the Unicorn

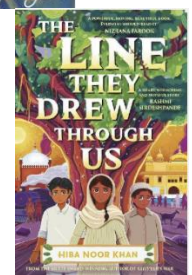
By Shirley Hughes



Upper Key Stage 2

The Line They Drew Through Us

By Hiba Noor Khan



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 10th March	St Albans School Galactic Challenge
Thursday 12th March	Y6 Boys' football match @ Mandeville
Saturday 14th March	Y6 Netball tournament
W/B Monday 16th March	Whole School Assessment Week
Monday 16th March	KS1 Science Workshop
Tuesday 17th March - 9am	Parent behaviour and anti-bullying workshop
Tuesday 17th March - 2:20pm	Y5 showcase for parents
Wednesday 18th March	LKS2 Neasden Temple visit
Wednesday 18th March	Cross-country fixture @ Garden Fields
Wednesday 18th March - 6pm	St Albans School parent meeting
Thursday 19th March - 2pm	Parent behaviour and anti-bullying workshop
Thursday 19th March	Y6 Netball match
Friday 20th March	Y6 Boys' football match vs Bowmansgreen

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

Work of the week!

Lizzie in Poplar

Poplar have been learning about non-fiction recounts. Lizzie has used all of the features superbly. Well done, Lizzie.



Hazel in Willow

Willow have been focussing on cohesion using adverbs to start and within paragraphs. Hazel has done this superbly. Well done, Hazel!



Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

In Cherry class, we have been using active learning to help us understand new ideas in both computing and maths.

In computing, we are learning how to use tally charts to collect and organise data. Instead of just looking at examples, we actively gathered our own data from the class and recorded it using tally marks, which helped us see patterns and totals more clearly.

In maths, we are exploring multiplication and division through hands-on activities such as grouping objects, sharing items equally, and solving real-life problems together.

In English, we have been learning about **non-fiction books**. We have been focusing on the book *The Blue Whale* by Nicola Davies. This book teaches us many interesting facts about the Blue Whale, the largest animal on Earth. For example, we learned about where blue whales live, what they eat, and how they communicate in the ocean. Through reading this book, we have been practising how authors use factual information to teach readers about real animals and the natural world.

In History, we have been learning about explorers. We learnt about Christopher Columbus and his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. We are now beginning to learn about Neil Armstrong, who explored space and became the first person to walk on the Moon during the Apollo 11 Moon Landing.



Curriculum celebration: History & Geography

History:

So far this year, KS1 have explored the local History of St Albans. They went to St Albans Cathedral for a wonderful school trip to act out the story of Saint Alban. In the Spring term, KS1 explored the Intrepid Explorers topic. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop our skills of comparison. KS1 learnt about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. They discussed their lives, achievements and impact. LKS2 have so far explored the Romans and will be beginning to explore the Anglo-Saxons. As part of this, they completed some wonderful homework where they created Roman shields! UKS2 have learnt about World War 2 and Ancient Egypt this year. Through these units, they explored our Golden Threads of power, religion, civilisation and legacy. In Reception, within the Understanding the World topic lessons and Active Learning, they have explored vehicles in the past and present. They discussed the similarities and differences. This helped them to begin to use the skills of comparison they will need as they move through school.

Geography:

This year, KS1 have explored local Geography and answered important questions about where they live. They then developed their comparison skills and looked at the similarities and differences between where they live and where others do. KS1 also learn about the continents in the Spring term. This allows them to expand their learning from where they live to our wider globe. LKS2 have created erupting volcanoes in their lessons as part of their volcano unit! They also completed their own posters at home about volcanoes that are creative and informative. UKS2 have been exploring the Extreme Earth and Water World topics. Through these units, they discussed the land use and settlement Golden Threads. In Reception, in the Understanding the World topic lessons and Active Learning, they have used globes, maps and atlases. They looked at the shape of the globe and named the countries they knew. This led to wonderful class

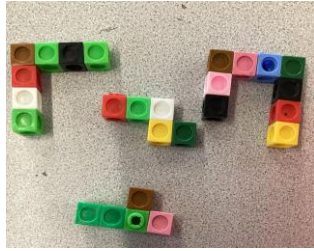
discussions about the countries that they have visited and where their families are from.



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

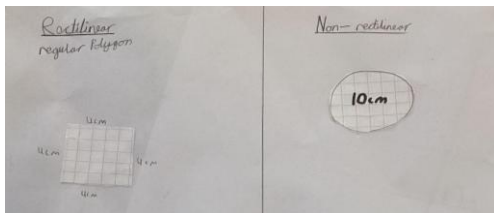
Learning around Oakwood: Maple

This week in Maple Class, we have had a wonderful week of hands-on learning. In Maths, we have been exploring length and perimeter, with a particular focus on rectilinear shapes.



A rectilinear shape is a shape made up only of straight lines that meet at right angles (90°), meaning all the sides are horizontal or vertical.

To help the children grasp this concept, we began by creating our own rectilinear shapes using multilink cubes. This practical activity allowed the children to physically build different shapes and see how the sides join together. Once they had constructed their shapes, they carefully drew them onto squared paper, using the grid to keep their lines straight and accurate. They then calculated the perimeter by adding together the lengths of each side. For their next activity, the children worked collaboratively in pairs to draw a range of rectilinear and non-rectilinear shapes on squared paper. They then sorted their shapes into the correct categories on their tables. To extend the activity, the children measured the length of the sides of their shapes using rulers. If a shape had a curved side, they used a piece of string to follow the curve before measuring it.



In English, we have been exploring portal stories. A portal story is a type of story where a character travels from the normal world into a magical or different world through a special doorway or entrance. We looked at some well-known examples, such as the wardrobe in *The Chronicles of Narnia* and the magical tree in *The Magic Faraway Tree*, discussing how these portals transport characters into exciting new worlds.

Inspired by these stories, the children used card to create their own portals. They then imagined what might be found inside their portal worlds and added labels to describe the magical places, creatures, and objects that someone might discover if they stepped through. The children showed fantastic creativity and imagination, and it was wonderful to see their ideas come to life.

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 – Beech and Rowan

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



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Acorns 1 and Rowan

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



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

Acorns 1 – Holly and Ruby
 Acorns 2 – Raya and Olivia H
 Ash – Jason and Emma
 Beech – Annabel and Haamid
 Cherry – Rose and Barney
 Lime – Abigail and Oscar
 Maple – Jensen and Milly
 Poplar – Cerys and Timo
 Rowan – Stanley and Gabriel
 Sycamore – Hannah and Ellis
 Willow – Leen and Emily



Sporting opportunities

Are you interested in basketball or girls' football? See the attached flyers for some exciting sporting opportunities in our local area.

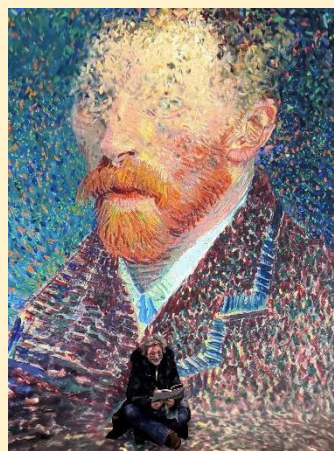


Please remember if you have any queries or questions, do make an appointment to come and speak to a member of staff. We are always very happy to meet with you. Don't let a little worry become a big one!

World Book Day

World Book Day Winners

A massive thank you and well done to all the staff and children who entered our reading competition – it was so hard to choose! Here are a selection of photos and a massive well done to Orla, Arlen, Morgan and Billy who won a new book to read and to Mrs Nardelli who won the staff book prize. There will be a full World Book Day report in our next newsletter. Happy reading!



Keep scrolling for our PTA Corner

PTA Corner



Hello from the PTA! We hope you are well!

Before we dive into this month's updates, we would love your input. Our new PTA survey is now open, and your feedback will make a real difference to what we do. To take part, please click on this [link](#). All responses are anonymous.

The survey will close on 27th March 2026.

We're looking for a new Secretary to join the PTA committee.

The role involves note-taking at meetings, helping with admin, and supporting the smooth running of our events when possible. You don't need prior experience, just a willingness to get involved. You can choose how much time you give and shape the role around your availability, so it works well alongside busy family life. It's a lovely way to contribute to the school community.

To express interest or find out more, please contact oakwoodptachair@gmail.com

Our Events & Fundraising

Thank you everyone who came to our Second Hand Uniform Sale in January. We were blessed with a sunny (albeit chilly) day and a great turn out, which meant we raised £175.

Here's our next events, and we hope you are looking forward to them as much as we are:

- **PTA meeting: 17th March (8pm)**

Please join us for our next PTA meeting at the Speckled Hen from 8pm. This is your chance to have a say on how the funds that we raise are spent. It's also an opportunity to hear more about what the PTA has lined up and influence what events we put on.

- **Cinema Night: 20th March**

We will be showing Zootropolis 2 (PG) straight after school in the School Hall, with popcorn and biscuits provided. Tickets cost £4.50 and if your child is attending, you won't need to collect them at the end of the school day; class teachers and the PTA will take them to the hall.

- **Easter Eggstravaganza: 21st March (1-3pm)**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt, fun and games is back! An event for the whole family taking place at the school. Tickets will be £3.50 in advance, £4 on the day.

Tickets for all the events are on sale on our [website](#).

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.

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.
- **Raffle prizes:** If you, or the company you work for, are able to donate raffle prizes for our Summer or Christmas events, please get in touch with us.

Stay Connected

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

PTA website: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/oakwoodpta>

Instagram: @oakwood_pta

Facebook page: Oakwood Primary School PTA St Albans

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

Thank you!

PTA Committee

Elaine Tittanegro Correa, Amy Wright & Laura Fyfe

