

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025



Dear Oakwood Community,

It has been a busy and productive fortnight here at Oakwood and we have been impressed with the range of exciting learning opportunities taking place across the school, including an interactive workshop for LKS2 linked to their geography learning. Read on to find out more!

We have now introduced our EYFS classes to OPAL for an increasing number of days each week. For more information about how we prepare children in EYFS for OPAL, please see our [Acorns OPAL newsletter on the OPAL area of our website.](#)

Thank you to the EYFS parents who attended our EYFS curriculum information session last week and the PTA coffee morning this week. Thank you to the PTA who organised the coffee morning.

Sporting updates

Our Oakwood School sports teams have already been actively involved in local competitions and we are really proud of our Y5/6 cross country representatives for their efforts last week. We wish them luck in the next fixture on 16th October. Congratulations to the Y6 boys' football team for their 4-2 victory this week in the first round of the cup. Good luck to the Y5/6 girls' football team who are playing next week.

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) training for staff

We welcomed back our SEND adviser this week for the first of several visits across the year. This week's visit focused on training for staff on a range of strategies to support all children within whole class teaching. Examples included the use of speaking frames, writing frames, planning templates and word counters.

School uniform reminders:

- Trainers should only be worn on PE days. Black school shoes should be worn on other days.
- Please ensure children have coats and clothing suitable for wet and muddy weather - we usually continue outdoor play in the rain.
- Hair longer than shoulder length should be fully tied back.
- Jewellery is not permitted
- Please name all items! We are not able to return unnamed items to children.

Our full uniform list is on our school website under the [Parents tab](#).

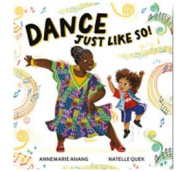
We hope you all have a lovely weekend!
The Oakwood Team

Recommended reading...

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

Reception

Dance Just Like So
By Annemarie Anang



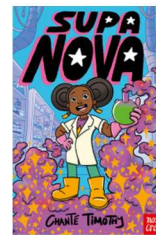
Key Stage 1

The Great Pollination Investigation
and How We Get Food from Flowers
By Deborah Hocking



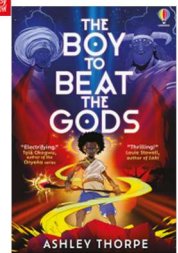
Lower Key Stage 2

Supa Nova
By Chanté Timothy



Upper Key Stage 2

The Boy to Beat the Gods
By Ashley Thorpe



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...

Monday 3 rd October – Friday 17 th October	SEND Support Plan Meetings
Tuesday 7 th October	Open Classrooms – 3:20pm – 4pm
Thursday 9 th October	Girls' football match away @ St Albans High School
Friday 10 th October	Parent Volunteer Briefing – 9am
Tuesday 14 th October – Friday 17 th October	Y6 PGL trip

October Half Term

A number of our external club providers are running exciting clubs in the October Half Term this year. Many of our parents and children will know these providers well due to the excellent provision they offer at Oakwood. Below is a link to a Sports2Inspire camp and attached to the newsletter is a flyer for Mad Science
<https://sports2inspire.classforkids.io/camp/14>

Work of the week!

Anaya in Rowan

Rowan have been writing non-chronological reports and Anaya has used a variety of wonderful features such as adverbials, parenthesis and expanded noun phrases.



Oli in Lime

Lime have been using a range of techniques to make their writing more exciting. They have published graphic novels using the adventures of Arthur from Arthur and the Golden Rope. Oli has made a real effort to entertain the reader.

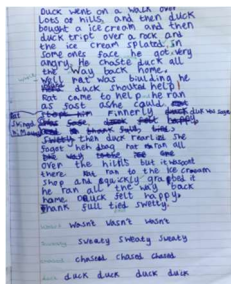


Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

This week, in Cherry class, we have been taking part in active learning and class discussions. All children have really enjoyed science and understanding how we keep ourselves healthy! We have explored the effects of exercise by completing a yoga class, we have discussed how to stay hygienic and we have made our perfect healthy dinner plate!

We have also been focussing on Frog and the Stranger in English and exploring different adjectives we can use in our writing. Everyone enjoyed using their imagination and writing their own short story based on the book.

Finally, we have been building on prior knowledge about where we live and zooming in from continents right down to the city of St Albans. We have spoken about England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Island and our individual experiences in these different places.



Curriculum celebration: RE

We've had a wonderful start to the year in Religious Education. The term began with a joyful Harvest Assembly led by St Paul's Church, reminding us about thankfulness and community. Very soon, pupils will be taking part in the Christmas Trail, and later in the year we are looking forward to visiting a Hindu temple, along with other exciting visits and events that will enrich our learning across the school.

What are we learning this term?

In RE, each year group explores "big questions" that help children think about faith, traditions and the world around them. This term, we are focusing on:

Key Stage 1

The Christian story of Creation and what it teaches about looking after the world.

Humanist ideas about how the world might have begun. The Christmas story and what gifts we might give Jesus if he were born here today.

Lower Key Stage 2

How Diwali is celebrated by Hindus and why it helps them feel part of a community.

The meaning of Christmas and whether people celebrate it in the same way today as in the past.

Upper Key Stage 2

What commitment means for Sikhs and how far they might go for their religion.

Whether the Christmas story is fact, faith, or a mixture of both.

Learning beyond the classroom

At Oakwood, we love to make RE real and meaningful. Assemblies, trails, and visits to places of worship give pupils the chance to experience different faiths and celebrations first-hand. It also gives our children time to reflect on what they believe and share that in respectful discussions. These opportunities encourage respect, curiosity and reflection — and they make our RE learning memorable.

Thank you for supporting RE at Oakwood. We look forward to an exciting year ahead, full of questions, discoveries and new experiences.



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

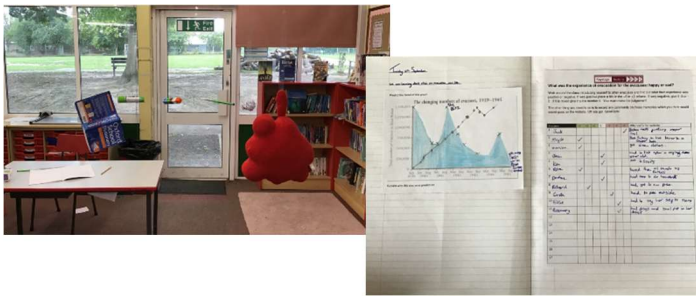
Learning around Oakwood: Sycamore

Sycamore have had an amazing start to the new academic year, and we have been particularly enjoying our science topic: forces.

In our science lessons we have been conducting experiments all about the forces of friction and gravity. Please ask us about what we have discovered about the effect friction has on distance our toy cars travelled!

Speaking of friction, another exciting part of our Autumn term learning has been all about WW2 and the events that took place leading up to it. We have been exploring what it was really like for children to be evacuated out of cities and to the countryside.

This linked very well with our destination reader book - Goodnight Mr Tom, a book set in wartime Britain following the story of an evacuee and his host, Mr Tom. Sycamore class have been answering some interesting comprehension questions using their inference skills to fully explain their points.



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 – Rowan and Ash

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



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

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



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

Acorns 1 – Jacob and Charlotte
Acorns 2 – Maeva and Olive
Ash – Marius and Ahmad
Beech – Haamid and Arben
Cherry – Charlie and Jake
Lime – Freya and Freddie
Maple – Finlay E and Molly
Poplar – Olivia and Rosario
Rowan – Victor and Sasha
Sycamore – Harry and Kamran
Willow – Joey and Johnny



LKS2 Freshwater Theatre Workshop

Last week Lime, Maple and Poplar found out more about natural disasters in their geography workshop with Freshwater Theatre Company. In this interactive workshop, we travelled around the world visiting a range of sites where significant natural disasters have taken place. We learnt about the devastating disaster in Pompeii in 79AD, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 and the huge earthquake in Chile in 1960 that measured 9.5 on the Richter Scale! We thought about how these disasters occurred as we flew around the world and some of the children were 'interviewed' as eyewitnesses as part of the workshop.



We looked at a map of tectonic plates and learnt how they scrape and bump against each other causing earthquakes.



The children said:
*It was really cool – now I know the word seismologist (an earthquake scientist).
I didn't know there were volcanoes under the ocean and on Mars.
I liked being the pilot of the plane and using the compass!*

It was terrifying when it struck – we are now building our houses with strong foundations right under the ground to keep them safer.

Benjamin, being interviewed as a Chilean resident in 1960

We acted out the effects of earthquakes as the tremors rumbled under our feet!



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!

