

# Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025



Dear Oakwood Community,

We have had another exciting and eventful fortnight at Oakwood!

Last week, we welcomed Matt Tavender, Smartphone Free Childhood Ambassador and Head of School at Cunningham Hill. More information is at the end of this newsletter.

This week has seen some exciting and interactive local school visits, with LKS2 visiting Verulamium museum, where they re-enacted shopping in a Roman marketplace. The children made excellent and informed contributions, demonstrating their learning from their Romans topic.

Children in Acorns had a wet but enjoyable walk to St Paul's Church in Fleetville, where they acted as Nativity Trail detectives. The children impressed the staff at St Paul's with their knowledge and behaviour.

The events and celebrations have continued today with our LKS2 violin performances to parents - thank you to all parents and carers who came along to give their support.

## Sporting updates

The Year 6 netball team celebrated their first win with 7 goals scored in one match. Well done Lisia for being nominated player of the match.

The Girl's Football Team played Killigrew and Bowmansgreen last week — it is positive to see the progress they have made since September and we are looking forward to the next matches after Christmas.

The Year 6 boys' football team continued their impressive start to the year with an impressive 4-0 win over Mandeville. The Year 6 boys have also demonstrated an excellent sporting attitude after a defeat and are keen to play their next match.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend, and enjoy the PTA Christmas Fair tomorrow if you are attending.

The Oakwood Team

## School Development Update

Information on our school development priorities for the year can be found on our school website [here](#).

Our "[Parent Meetings, Workshops and Survey](#)" tab also contains the slides and survey results from the summer term Behaviour and Anti-bullying workshop [here](#).

## Recommended reading...

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

### Reception

*Coming to England*  
By Floella Benjamin



### Key Stage 1

*Spyceratops*  
By Alex Willmore

### Lower Key Stage 2

*The Nothing to See Here Hotel*  
By Steven Butler



### Upper Key Stage 2

*The Lost Magician*  
By Piers Torday



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

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Fair
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA £2 room
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Ash learning showcase for parents
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Cherry learning showcase for parents
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Beech learning showcase for parents
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 football match vs Samuel Ryder @Beaumont
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch Day
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Dash
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term EYFS: 12:20pm KS1: 12:25pm KS2: 12:30pm
<b>HAPPY CHRISTMAS!</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return to school

Our school website address: [www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
School contact details: [admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk)  
01727 753930

## Work of the week!

### Jessica in Acorns 2

Acorns have begun their writing journey at Oakwood this term. Jessica has shown super progress and is using finger spaces, capital letters and her phonics demonstrate the writing of a caption for the picture.



### Mondira in Willow

Mondira has written a recount of WW2 from the perspective of Vera Leigh. It has been chosen for her superb range of punctuation and creative delivery of key historical facts.



### Learning around Oakwood: Cherry

This week, we have been learning about addition and subtraction in maths, focusing on how to use manipulatives to support our understanding. Using tools such as tens, ones, cubes and number lines has helped us to visualise each step and build confidence in our calculations. We have also been working in groups, supporting each other's learning through discussion, teamwork, and shared problem-solving. It has been great to see everyone collaborating, explaining their methods, and learning from one another.

In English, we have been exploring the story *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña and using it as inspiration to plan our own journey around the school. We looked closely at the descriptive language in the book and focused specifically on using expanded noun phrases to make our own writing more detailed and engaging.

After planning our routes and practising our descriptive sentences, we have now completed the published versions of our journeys! The children worked incredibly hard to bring their ideas to life, and their final pieces show fantastic creativity and attention to detail.

During RE lessons, we have been acting out the Nativity story. The children took on different roles and worked together to bring the events of the first Christmas to life. Through role-play, they explored the feelings and actions of the characters, helping them to deepen their understanding of the story's meaning and importance.



## Curriculum celebration: Maths

### Maths at Oakwood: Learning Through Doing!

This year in Maths we are continuing to build and sustain our strong Maths understanding across the school. We continue to use the **White Rose Maths Scheme** which helps us teach Maths in small steps to embed the children's learning and ensure we are managing their cognitive load. In addition, we use **NCETM's Mastering Number**. The National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (NCETM) continues to provide our staff with resources and professional development for teaching Maths.

Oakwood's Maths lessons enable children to explore Maths in lots of practical and meaningful ways. Children across the school use a mix of hands-on resources, real-life problem-solving, games, and outdoor activities to experience maths from every angle. Our aim is to help pupils see that Maths is not just something done in a book — it's all around us! Furthermore, that Maths is accessible to all.

### Recent Maths in action

In Sycamore Class, children have been using dominos to explore improper fractions. In Beech Class, children have been finding different ways to count in tens. In Cherry, the children have been using subtracting across a ten using manipulatives. In Acorns, they have been practising using positional language to describe where the bear is. They have also been learning about number value to park the correct number of cars next to the correct numicon piece.

As part of our growing confidence in maths, we are thrilled to announce that our school will be entering a range of **Maths Challenge competitions** this year in KS2. These events give our pupils the chance to stretch their thinking, work as teams, and celebrate their mathematical ability. We can't wait to see what they achieve!

We are also looking forward to **NSPCC Number Day Friday 6th February**, when the whole school will come together for a special maths celebration. Classes will take part in a fun whole-school activity designed to show just how enjoyable and creative maths can be. It promises to be a fantastic day full of excitement, teamwork, number fun as well as fundraising for an important cause.

We are proud of the enthusiasm our children show for maths, and we look forward to an exciting year of learning, exploring, and challenging ourselves

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

## Learning around Oakwood: Poplar

This half-term, Poplar class have been learning all about the Romans. We explored why they travelled so far across the world and what their lives were like in Britain. We were fascinated to discover how Roman towns were organised, the importance of their army, and how their inventions still influence our lives today. We even learnt how to read Roman numerals, and enjoyed challenging ourselves to write dates and numbers the Roman way!

In English, we became inventors! We carefully designed imaginative creations and then wrote detailed explanation texts to describe how they would work. We focused on clear structure, technical vocabulary and making sure our ideas made sense to our readers.

In Science, we have been learning about healthy lifestyles and how our bodies function. We looked closely at bones, muscles and nutrition, discovering how different foods help us stay strong, active and well.

Our computing lessons have turned us into broadcasters as we begin to plan and record our own podcasts. We are learning how to write scripts, use audio equipment and work together to produce engaging episodes.

In Design and Technology, we are linking our topic to history by creating Roman pots out of clay. We have studied different designs and patterns and will be using these ideas to shape and decorate our own pots.

We are very excited about our upcoming visit to the Verulamium Museum. We can't wait to explore Roman artefacts, see real archaeological remains and deepen our understanding of life in Roman Britain.

Finally, throughout the term we have been learning to play the violin. We have practised reading musical notes, using correct posture and playing in harmony. We are looking forward to sharing our progress in our violin showcase.



## Fencing

Every Thursday morning, a group of dedicated fencers arrive at school to enjoy another fun-filled time. Recently, a few of these fencers attended the Hertfordshire Schools Fencing Championship representing Oakwood.

As a school and parents, we are incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication and sporting attitude. They demonstrated a wonderful array of skills they had been honing for some time here at school.

Well done all!



## 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 and Acorns 2



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



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



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

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

Acorns 1 – Dex and Elliott  
Acorns 2 – Keidonas and Ethan  
Ash – Emilia and Talia  
Beech – Charlotte and Theo  
Cherry – Rose and Riley  
Lime – Lenny and Erin  
Maple – Clara and Gael  
Poplar – Patrick and Isla  
Rowan – Oliver and George  
Sycamore – Desmond and Alex  
Willow – Thomas and Amber



## Poppy Appeal

We are delighted to announce that Oakwood Primary School raised £142.35 for this year's Poppy Appeal through their fundraising efforts. Well done to everyone for support such a worthy cause.

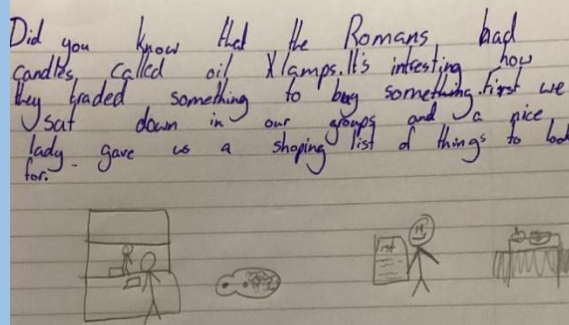
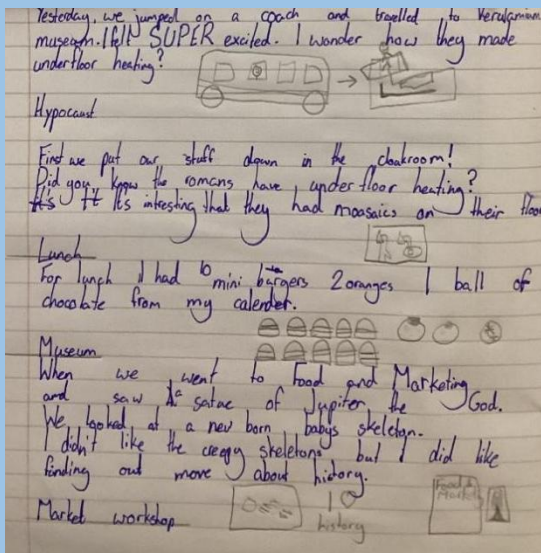
Please remember if you have any queries or questions, do make an appointment to come and speak to a member of staff. We are always very happy to meet with you. Don't let a little worry become a big one!

## Smartphone Free Childhood

Last week, we welcomed Matt Tavender, Smartphone Free Childhood Ambassador and Head of School at Cunningham Hill. Matt gave an insightful and informative presentation about the benefits of delaying smartphone use. The slides from the presentation are now on our website [here](#) and there is more information about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement on their website [here](#). If you would like to see where Oakwood sits on the Hertfordshire parent pact leader board, you can view this [here](#). Let's try and get up that leader board!

## LKS2 trip to the Verulamium Museum

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, LKS2 were lucky enough to go on a trip to Verulamium Museum. The children were excited to travel on a double decker coach and we had perfect weather for looking round the hypocaust in the park. We enjoyed looking round the museum finding out about different ways of life during Roman times and seeing the different pottery on display that linked to our artwork on ceramics. The interactive workshop took us to a Roman market where we had to look for different items such as a necklace for a child, a lamp, oysters and a plate for a celebration. We dressed up in tunics – those of us in purple were rich and those in white or cream were the slaves. We enjoyed finding out more about how the Romans came to our city and what they left behind. Thank you to all the wonderful parents who accompanied us on our visit and to Miss Patterson for organising the trip. It really did bring our learning about the Romans to life!



I wore a white suit which means I'm a slave.

I beat my brother at Roman noughts and crosses.

We looked for oysters in the market.

