

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 20th March 2026

Dear Oakwood Community,

Oakwood talent!

Last Tuesday, pupils from Year 5 attended the Galactic Maths Challenge at St Albans School where they worked with other schools to finish 2nd for their presentation.

Our talented Year 5 pupils wowed us in Oakwood's Got Talent, showcasing their learning in creative ways through comedy, dance, music, puppetry and rap, with fantastic judges and hosts making the event truly special.

Yesterday, our school choir performed an excellent showcase to parents, bringing cheer and joy to all!

Sporting updates

Recently, our Y6 boys' football team have been unstoppable recording a 6-1-win vs Mandeville and a 3-1 victory in the cup quarter final. Our Y6 netball team have competed with grit and determination this year.

Science

This week the KS1 children took part in an exciting forensic science workshop where they became detectives, using clues and evidence to solve the mystery of who stole the dog! The children were excited, engaged and some even told Mr King, "I want to be a detective when I'm older!" The Oakwood detectives were on the case!

Behaviour and Anti-bullying Workshops

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who attended our two Behaviour and Anti-bullying workshops this week and to Miss Bird and Mr Stanway for organising the event. It was helpful to gather parent views on what is working well and what could be improved. We will share the slides on the website in due course.

LKS2 visit

LKS2 were fascinated by the intricate marble carvings and beautiful architecture of Neasden Temple, the biggest temple built outside India, and modelled respect as they watched the Arti ceremony together. Callie said, "in the Arti ceremony we saw people praying because they are Hindus and we saw a statue of the monkey king. It was a beautiful building."

Staffing updates

We are delighted to announce that Miss Denson will be taking on the role of EYFS Lead from April and Miss Insall will be taking on the role of KS1 Lead from April. Thank you to Miss Denson and Miss Insall for all you do to support the team and our children. Finally, we would like to congratulate Miss Yalden as she celebrates her wedding today! From next week, Miss Yalden will be known as Mrs Vallé.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy any celebrations you might be sharing with your family over the coming weeks.

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! This week our recommendations are inspired by our children's interesting choice of reading location.

Reception

A Taste of Home

By Maryam Hassan

Key Stage 1

Isadora Moon series

By Harriet Muncaster

Lower Key Stage 2

Sportopedia

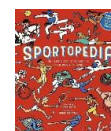
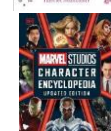
By Adam Skinner

Upper Key Stage 2

Marvel Studios Character Encyclopedia

By Kelly Knox

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 21 st March	PTA Easter Extravaganza - 1-3pm
Monday 23 rd March	St Albans School Parent Meeting – 9am
Tuesday 24 th March	Governor visit morning
Tuesday 24 th March	Beech Parent/Teacher Consultations – 3.50pm – 7.00pm (in person)
Tuesday 24 th March	Y6 SAPSMA performance 7pm @ Alban Arena
Wednesday 25 th March	Ash class showcase to parents – 9.15am
Thursday 26 th March	Cherry class showcase to parents – 9.15am
Thursday 26 th March	Parent OPAL play day 12.00pm
Thursday 26 th March	Beech Parent/Teacher Consultations – 4.00pm – 7.00pm (online)
Thursday 26 th March	Y6 boys' inter-league football finals
Friday 27 th March	End of term: EYFS – 1:50pm KS1 – 1:55pm KS2 – 2pm
Monday 13 th April	INSET Day - School closed to pupils
Tuesday 14 th April	Pupils return to school

Our school website address: www.oakwood.herts.sch.uk

School contact details: admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk

01277 753930

Work of the week!

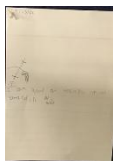
Rory in Ash

Ash have been writing information books about animals. Rory has written a wonderful piece using incredible language.



Saoirse in Acorns 2

Acorns are at the beginning of their writing journey in school. They used the book *Elmer* to talk about how he is great at making his friends laugh. Saoirse wrote a wonderful sentence using her phonics and finger spaces to say what she is good at.

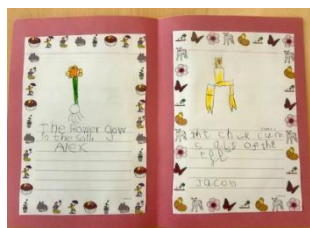


Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 1

In Acorns 1 this half term, we have been exploring what happens outside in Spring. We have been on a Spring walk to observe changes in nature and we are learning about different life cycles – the bean, the caterpillar and the frog.

The children have loved finding out different facts, learning new vocabulary, reading books, doing observational drawings... and we even have our own caterpillars to observe, we are looking forward to seeing them turn into butterflies! We are watching runner beans grow and develop roots – every child has one on our classroom window.

This week we have been making our own non-fiction book about Spring. The children have all written something they have found out about Spring. They are all proud to be authors in their own book!



Curriculum celebration: PE

PE at Oakwood is a beloved subject and wider part of our school provision. Lessons focus on the skills needed to take part effectively in a range of sports such as throwing, catching, running, jumping and balance. Alongside developing the children's core movement skills, staff work hard to develop a range of vocabulary. For example, in basketball lessons, children learn about the triple threat of shooting, passing and dribbling and in Year 5 gymnastics, children have been learning about terminology such as canon and unison to produce a range of gymnastic routines.

In Year 3 gymnastics, the children have been learning about bridges to create stability. They created excellent bridges in pairs showing wonderful teamwork.



Alongside a varied curriculum, many of our pupils attend one of our excellent range of extra-curricular activities or represent the school as part of a team when they reach the older year groups. As staff, we love seeing the children compete against other schools and demonstrating our core school values.

This year we have been able to run both boys' and girls' football teams in Year 5 and 6 as well as the Year 5 and 6 netball team. None of this would be possible without staff giving their time to organise and run matches.

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: Poplar

This half-term, Poplar class have been exploring the world around us through our Geography topic on countries of the world. We have been locating continents, oceans and learning about different cultures across the globe. In History, we have begun our exciting learning about the Anglo-Saxons and have started to uncover what life was like in Britain after the Romans left.

In English, we have been busy writing our own imaginative portal stories, full of adventure and creativity. We also enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, sharing our love of reading and dressing up as our favourite characters. In Maths, we have been working hard to practise our multiplication tables and have recently started learning about fractions.

In Science, after exploring forces and magnets, we are now investigating structures. During Science Week, we used our engineering skills to create flowers using only four sheets of scrap paper, which was a fun and creative challenge. We are very excited to begin designing and building our own bridges and towers! In Computing, we have been experimenting with data loggers to measure temperature, sound and light levels.

Our D&T project has been a great success this term. We designed and created moving posters using levers and linkages to promote saving our seas. In French, we have been learning the names of different fruits.

We are also coming to the end of our swimming lessons after a whole year of progress in the water - well done!

A real highlight this term was our visit to a Hindu temple in Neasden. We had a fantastic time learning about Hindu beliefs and traditions, and it was a wonderful experience for everyone.



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 Acorns 1

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



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



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

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

Acorns 1 – Makai and Olivia
Acorns 2 – Harry and Keidon
Ash – Dora and Parker
Beech – George and Sophie
Cherry – Daya and Riley
Lime – Oliver E and Callie
Maple – Junie and Scott
Poplar – Max and Cassie
Rowan – Anaya and William S
Sycamore – Desmond and Orestis
Willow – Johnny and Finlay



Oakwood Fencing Representatives

A huge well done from everyone at school to the Year 5 and 6 children who represented Oakwood at the recent Spring Fencing Championships. The organisers commented on your effort and skill in gaining valuable competition experience.



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

We had a fantastic day of bookish fun at Oakwood that celebrated reading for pleasure. In the Celebration Assembly some of the teachers shared why they had come as a book character and what they loved about the book. The children loved seeing Mrs Thompson dressed as Puss In Boots at the assembly and they also enjoyed seeing the range of costumes and PJs that were on show.

Throughout the day, Year 6 children rang a bell to signal 'drop everything and read' and in the afternoon buddy classes read together, sharing books and talking about them. The children also enjoyed a range of author videos, quizzes and webinars. Here are a few photos of the fun!



PTA Corner

Hello from the PTA! We hope you are well and enjoying the sunny weather this week.



PTA Survey

A reminder that our **PTA survey** is still 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.

Thank you, Laura!

As many of you may know, Laura has decided to step down from her role as Secretary for the PTA. She has been an integral part of the committee for around nine years, five of those formally as a trustee. We can't thank her enough for her dedication, and for keeping us on point from a safeguarding and first-aid perspective. She will be very much missed by all of us, so if you see her, please show her all the love from our Oakwood community.

We have a new secretary!

During Tuesday evening's PTA meeting, we voted in our new Secretary and PTA trustee. Please help me welcome **Irina Glencross**, a Year 1 mum with a passion for gardening. On that note, if you would like to help with our gardening club, please give her a shout.

PTA meeting highlights

On Tuesday evening we held our PTA meeting, and I would like to share a few highlights ahead of the minutes, which will be shared in full at a later date.

- **Fund requests:** For Pot 2 - Termly Fund, we had a total of £649 to allocate this term and received three requests: a three-year subscription for an online reading platform, funds to acquire a range of diversity & inclusion books, and wellbeing sessions for individual children or small groups. More details on how we allocated the funds will be shared in the meeting minutes.
- **Past events:** We reviewed all past events, funds raised, and general feedback. A key theme across all of them was the low number of parent volunteers, which is making it incredibly difficult to run successful events at present.
- **Total funds raised so far:** £8,000.

Our Events & Fundraising

Here are our next events, and we hope you are looking forward to them as much as we are. Tickets for all the events are on sale on our [website](#).

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

There's still time to buy tickets (£3.50 in advance, £4 on the day). We'd also love any baked-good donations (homemade or shop-bought) today or tomorrow morning for our café. We're short on volunteers too, so if you can spare even a little time, it would make a big difference.

- **Pizza & Quiz Night:** Friday, 24th April (7-10pm, quiz starts at 7.30pm)

A night for the grown-ups. Join us for quiz questions, drinks and pizza. You can create a team of up to ten people and compete for the honour of being crowned Oakwood Quiz Champions.

- **Save the dates!**

We already have future events in the pipeline, so here are a few dates for your diary: **Summer Disco on Friday 5th June** and **Oakfest on Saturday 11th July**.

We're also scheduling a **Second-Hand Uniform Sale**, **weekly lolly sales**, and **Lend a Hand Day**. We'll share confirmed dates for these very soon.

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 & Irina Glencross