

# Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 21st November 2025



Dear Oakwood Community,

It has been another jam-packed fortnight here at Oakwood, with a vast array of exciting extra-curricular events taking place, including our celebration of Anti-Bullying week and the KS1 visit to St Albans Cathedral, both of which you can read about below.

UKS2 had an exciting trip to IWM Duxford, linking to their history work on World War II. Pupils explored aircraft hangars, learned about life on the Home Front, and saw a range of historical artefacts up close. The children particularly enjoyed the documentary challenge in which they became museum curators themselves. A huge thank you to the PTA for fully funding this event.

We were delighted to welcome families of UKS2 into school for our learning showcase. The children presented with confidence, enthusiasm and maturity, sharing a range of work including creative writing, history projects and musical performances. Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported the pupils.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the EYFS phonics workshop. Miss Denson and Ms Bowden demonstrated how phonics is taught in school and shared practical strategies to support early reading at home. We're grateful for the positive feedback we have received about this event.

## OPAL Visit

Our OPAL adviser recently visited the school and observed the provision at lunchtime, with a focus on the integration of children in EYFS. We are delighted with the positive report, which is available to read on our website [here](#).

## Staffing update

This week we have welcomed Ms Ladley-Ellmers, who will be working as a TA in KS1 during Miss Hunt's absence.

## Sporting updates

It has been a busy few weeks for school sports! Our teams have taken part in football and netball events, showing great teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship. Some highlights have included an amazing comeback for the Y5 boys' football team and an excellent lob from the girls' football team. Congratulations to all pupils who represented the school—you made us proud.

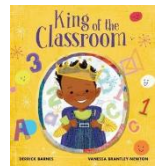
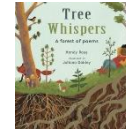
**We hope you all have a lovely weekend!**  
The Oakwood Team

## Recommended reading...

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

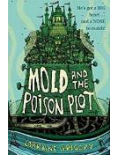
### Reception

*King of the Classroom*  
By Derrick Barnes



### Key Stage 1

*Tree Whispers: A Forest of Poems*  
By Mandy Ross



### Lower Key Stage 2

*Moonchild: City of the Sun*  
By Aisha Bushby

### Upper Key Stage 2

*Mold and the Poison Plot*  
By Lorraine Gregory

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

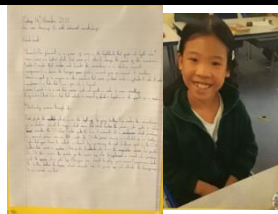
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Netball match vs Sandridge
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Online Health Questionnaire (taken in school)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Girls' football match vs Killigrew
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 boys' football match vs Mandeville @Beaumont
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Girls' football match vs Bowmansgreen
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 6 boys' football match @Sandridge
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 6 Netball match @ Skyswood
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Year 5 boys' football match vs Aboyne Lodge
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	LKS2 visit to Verulamium Museum
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Acorns Nativity Trail
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 boys' football match @Bowmansgreen
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	LKS2 violin performance for parents – information to follow

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!

### Lizzie in Poplar

Poplar have been exploring explanation writing recently. They have investigated how authors use structure, technical vocabulary and sentence variety in their work. Lizzie has applied these skills to explaining how TVs work.



### Zoe in Acorns 1

Acorns 1 recently listened to firework poems and then thought of words that described the sound they make. Zoe has begun using her phonics to spell words with the letters she knows.



## Learning around Oakwood: Beech

Beech Class visited St Albans Cathedral last week to discover who St Alban was and explore his story and the historical links with the Cathedral and our local area. We enjoyed finding out about his life and his significance to St Albans. Highlights were having the chance to dress up and act out aspects of his story. The children really enjoyed getting into the role. George was a fantastic magistrate and Amelia was excellent as the hiding Amphibalus. We also created our own mosaics just like those from Roman times.

Beech Class have also been busy these past few weeks looking into other aspects of our local area, learning facts about the ruins of the Verulamium Wall and the Roman Theatre and the Clock Tower here in St Albans. Some of the children were able to recall having visited these places themselves. If you haven't already, it would be great to visit them as a family.

Golden threads for this History topic include **civilisation, legacy, power and religion. Local History has really captured their imagination and brings everything to life - about where they live right now!**



The wall was to stop people invading. Meg

I came here with Daddy. Hashim

## Curriculum celebration: Science

At Oakwood, we want every child to become a confident, lifelong learner. Science is central to this, helping children understand the world, develop enquiry skills and build curiosity.

### Science in Action Across the School

#### Reception

Our youngest scientists have recently carried out a "Float or Sink?" investigation. After selecting an object, children predicted whether it would float or sink, discussed whether it felt heavy or light, and then tested their ideas. This hands-on activity was a big hit—just look at how engaged they are in the learning!

#### Key Stage 1

KS1 children have been exploring *Our Local Environment* through *Seasonal Changes*, *Living Things and Their Habitats*, and *Growing Plants*. Their excitement and curiosity have shone through each topic.

#### Lower Key Stage 2

LKS2 pupils are currently learning about *Food and Our Bodies*. In a recent lesson, they practised the key scientific skill of classification, sorting foods into groups and creating some beautifully presented posters to show their understanding.

#### Upper Key Stage 2

Last half term, UKS2 focused on *Forces*. One particularly memorable investigation involved using jelly and chopsticks to explore friction—an activity that sparked both learning and laughter.

#### Pupil Voice

During learning walks, children shared some lovely reflections on science at Oakwood:

- "You do not have to be clever to be good at science—you just have to keep trying!"
- "I would like to do more science lessons."
- "I like learning about the world and our bodies."

Their enthusiasm shows just how much they value their science learning.

### Thank You to Our Science Volunteers

A huge thank you to everyone who responded to our call for volunteers working in science-related fields who are willing to speak to and inspire our pupils. Miss Patterson will be in touch with you shortly. If you would still like to be involved and have not yet contacted us, please do—your support makes a real difference.



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: Acorns 2

Acorns 2 have been exploring a range of topics this half term. In maths we have been exploring the numbers 1-5. We counted the number of objects, pictures and on our fingers. We explored how to make these numbers and what they look like. We further practised our skill of subitising, looking but not counting and seeing the amount. We then challenged ourselves to write the numbers during Active Learning!

On our Investigation Station we have been exploring the "Float or Sink?" investigation. We chose an object, made our prediction and then tested it. We were very surprised at some of the results!

As part of expressive art and design we have looked at the work of Kandinsky. This links to our previous maths learning about shapes. We looked at his artwork and discussed the shapes we could see and then created our own art using oil pastels. We noticed that there were lots of circles in his art so we used circles in our art as well!



## 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 – Acorns 1 and Sycamore



'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Acorns 2 and Lime



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



The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Maple and Acorns 1

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

Acorns 1 – Anthony and Woody  
 Acorns 2 – Saoirse and Victoria  
 Ash – Alfie and Ahmad  
 Beech – Erin and Hashim  
 Cherry – Aria and Theo H  
 Lime – Evie and Felix  
 Maple – Thomas and Lisa  
 Poplar – Aaliyah and James  
 Rowan – Rosa and Sophia  
 Sycamore – Sajeev and Alison  
 Willow – Jamie and Lisa



## Anti-bullying week, Black History Month and Remembrance Day

Recently in school, we have been marking some big events here in school. The children in all classes have been immersed in a number of activities around three events which mean so much to our Oakwood community. We celebrated key figures in both modern and historical black history, remembered those who have fought for our freedom in wars across the last century and engaged in activities to understand the effects of bullying. For example, in Willow, our Year 6 children analysed scenarios to decide if it was bullying using our school's anti-bullying policy before playing a game of modified snakes and ladders where they explored different bullying scenarios.



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!

## **POSTCARD FROM THE GOVERNORS - NOVEMBER 2025**

Governors recently enjoyed a visit to the school as part of their termly schedule of visits. This time the focus was on Art, Computing and Music when we had the opportunity to speak to subject leaders about these subjects and ask about evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the curriculum and what training and support is in place for these subjects.

We also met with Miss Stubbs and Mrs Radomska to hear about The Treehouse and to see the newly refurbished room. Governors asked about the impact for children using the space, which was positive.

Our visit also included meeting the English and Phonics subject leaders to hear their plans for these subjects. We were advised that there is a focus on writing to enable improvements and consistency.

During their visit, Governors also had the opportunity to meet with new members of staff who had recently joined Oakwood and to hear how they were settling in. Staff were consistently positive about how well supported they are by the senior leadership team.

Governors would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Thompson, Mr Stanway and the other staff members for giving up their valuable time to provide us with insights into some of the important areas of the school.