

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter



Friday 24th April 2026

Dear Oakwood Community,

Welcome back!

We hope you all enjoyed a restful and joyful Easter break, with time to relax, recharge and celebrate together. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school, full of smiles, enthusiasm and readiness to learn. As always, we recognise that every family's holiday looks different, and we hope everyone was able to enjoy some special moments, however they chose to spend the break.

A big thank you to our fantastic PTA for organising the much-loved **Easter Eggstravangza**. It was a wonderfully festive event, and we hope all those who attended had a brilliant time. Your continued support and hard work make such a difference to our school community.

Performances:

Before the break, we were delighted by learning showcases from **Cherry Class** and **Ash Class**. The children were so proud to share their work, and it was lovely to see their confidence, creativity and progress celebrated with families.

Meanwhile, children in Year 6 took part in a multi-school performance at the Alban Arena, demonstrating Oakwood's talent in singing and performing.

This week, we were thrilled to welcome **Bob Bridle**, Headteacher of Skyswood School - and Mrs Thompson's own childhood class teacher! Mr Bridle captivated the children with a poetry visit full of humour, energy and inspiration. With the help of our Oakwood pupil volunteers, his poems were brought to life through dramatic and highly entertaining performances.



Well done to everyone who attended the Maths Challenge organised by St Albans Boys school. You demonstrated resilience and rose to the challenge of answering difficult mathematical questions.

Sporting updates:

The Year 6 football team competed well in the City Cup Semi Final, narrowly losing 1-0 to Wheatfields.

Roofing update:

We are pleased to confirm that the project continues to run to schedule. Importantly, the drainage works were successfully completed over the Easter break, ensuring no disruption to school life.

We look forward to another exciting and productive term ahead.

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! This week our recommendations are inspired by the recent Artemis launch.

Reception

Rocketmole

By Matt Carr



Key Stage 1

Planet Awesome!

By Stacy McAnulty



Lower Key Stage 2

Space Detectives

By Mark Powers

Upper Key Stage 2

George's Secret Key to the Universe

By Lucy Hawking

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

Wednesday 29th April	Acorns Height/Weight/ Vision/Hearing screening
Thursday 30th April	Y4 Pizza Express visit
Friday 1st May	2pm - Diversity Forum
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 7th May	INSET (Polling day) SCHOOL CLOSED to pupils
Saturday 9th May	PTA Lend a Hand Day

We are delighted to share some exciting news with our school community. After a lengthy onboarding process, we are very pleased to welcome Holly and Chinyere from the Hertfordshire Mental Health Support Team (MHST) to our school this term.

This marks the beginning of an important partnership. Miss Stubbs (SENCO and Senior Mental Health Lead) has already met to discuss how they will work alongside us to provide valuable mental health support for our children and families. We look forward to developing this support further in the coming months and the positive impact it will bring to our school community.



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

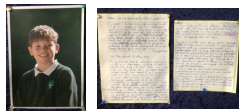
School contact details: admin@oakwood.herts.sch.uk

01727 753930

Work of the week!

Benjy in Rowan

Rowan class have been looking at the book *Watertower*. They then created their own pieces of work that built suspense. Benjy used vocabulary like scurried, lurked and looming.



Arya in Beech

Arya wrote about what she did in the Easter Holidays. She followed the presentation expectations and wrote wonderful sentences with capital letters and full stops.



Learning around Oakwood: Acorns 2

Acorns 2 have been exploring a range of topics since returning from the Easter Holidays. In Maths we have been exploring 3D shapes. We used what we knew about 2D shapes to discuss the properties of the 3D shapes. We used the 3D shapes and paint to print shape pictures which helped us to understand the 2D shapes that make up the faces of the 3D shapes. We then did an investigation to determine which shapes rolled. We looked at their properties and made predictions and then tested it.



In English we have been looking at Traditional Tales. We have been reading *The 3 Little Pigs*. We acted out the story using the small world area and we used different materials to create the pigs' houses in our investigation station.

We have also been looking at magnets in our investigation station. We worked out which objects were attracted to the magnets based on their materials and we explored the different poles of the magnets. We felt like magicians when we used the poles that repel to move the magnets around the table without touching them.

We have been loving using the junk modelling area and we have made a range of creations. We made vehicles, animals and robots!



Curriculum celebration:

At Oakwood we follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Phonics Programme. There is a clear progression of the teaching of sounds from Reception to the end of Year 1. We follow a bridge to spelling programme to support the transition from Y1 to Y2 and a spelling programme in Y2. In addition to this, we support children in KS2 with their phonics learning according to their stage of learning.

Children at Oakwood speak highly of their Phonics learning and have recently said:

'I like it very much. It makes me clever.'

'I love it so much.'

'We take a phonics book home and a sharing story and a lending library book.'

'Miss Bowden helps me with my letters.'

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, children take home 3 books each week, all for different purposes.

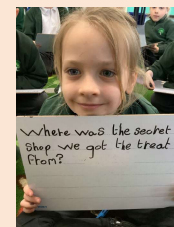
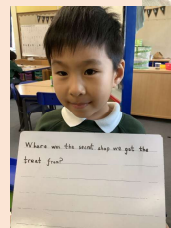
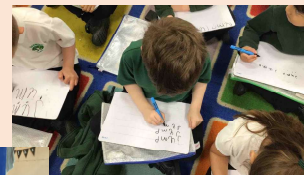
The phonics book is for children to show off their reading to you. They will have practised this book throughout the week and it's their time to shine!

A sharing book is used to supplement the phonics book and gives children the opportunity to practise their phonics skills further.

A lending library story is for you to share with your child. It could be used as a bedtime story and it is for you to read. These books are not phonetically decodable.

As Phonics lead, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support with your child's journey to becoming avid readers. If you have any questions about your child's Phonics learning, please see your child's class teacher in the first instance. We look forward to a continued working partnership!

Here are some examples of Phonics at Oakwood!



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: Rowan

We welcomed the new term with sunshine, positivity and a strong focus on learning. Rowan Class have settled in brilliantly and are showing great enthusiasm in all that they do.

In Maths, we have been learning about angles and degrees in a fun and creative way, using our bodies to create different angles and linking our learning with PE. This active approach has helped deepen understanding and next, we will be moving on to drawing and measuring angles accurately using a protractor.

In English, we have been inspired by Bear Grylls and imagined ourselves stranded on a deserted island. The children have been developing their skills in writing explanation texts, suggesting thoughtful and creative ideas for survival.

In Art, we will be exploring textiles to tell a story, building on our understanding of historical tapestries. The children will be securing basic sewing skills and using fabric pens to create bold, graphic images as part of their designs.

This week, we enjoyed an exciting fieldwork trip to the River Ver, facilitated by the Chiltern Chalk Stream Project. One group took part in Riverfly kick sampling, collecting and studying invertebrates from the river, while the other group explored the river environment through a guided walk, observing key features, spotting wildlife and creating detailed field sketches. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that enriched our understanding of the natural world.

We look forward to continuing this positive start and all the exciting learning ahead this term.



Celebration Assembly

Every week, Celebration Assemblies are held to mark children's successes, efforts and achievement individually and as a class. In the last three weeks, the following prizes were awarded to...



'Golden Dustpan and Brush' for the tidiest classroom – Ash, Maple & Cherry

'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Cherry, Willow & Cherry



'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime – Ash, Acorns 1 & 2 & Lime



The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Maple, Beech & Sycamore

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

Acorns 1 – Dex, Ella & Woody
 Acorns 2 – Olive, Victoria & Aarav
 Ash – Ilyas, Raphael & Ellie
 Beech – Edith, Joshua & Teo
 Cherry – George, Lewis & Pen
 Lime – Alba, Benjamin & Hibah
 Maple – Zac, Rex & Gael
 Poplar – Olivia, Max & Alex
 Rowan – Jolie, Chloe & Jolie
 Sycamore – Audrey, Kian & Harry
 Willow – Amber, Hazel & Edward



SA LAW CHALLENGE
 RUN TOGETHER. ACHIEVE TOGETHER.
 MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE!

WHAT IS THE SALAW CHALLENGE?
 A fun, friendly team competition within the SAHM event!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- CREATE YOUR TEAM**
 Minimum of 5 participants, all taking part in the same distance.
5K, 10K & Half Marathon
- WE DON'T YOUR TOP 3**
 The 3 fastest finishers in your team will go forward to receive their team's final time.
- WIN & GIVE BACK**
 The winning team gets to choose a charity of their choice to receive a donation.

IT'S FREE. IT'S FUN. IT COULD MEAN MORE FUNDS FOR A CAUSE THAT MATTERS!
RUN TOGETHER. CHANGE LIVES

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026
 VERULAMIUM PARK, ST ALBANS

SAHM

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!

Safari Stu visited Acorns!

Before the Easter Holidays Acorns were visited by Safari Stu. They had the opportunity to touch, hold and discuss a range of beautiful animals. They discussed where the animals came from and a range of interesting facts. Well done Acorns for being so brave!



See below some information about a BBC poetry competition:

23 - 26 JULY 2025 Kiarna HENHAM PARK, SUFFOLK

LATITUDE
the festival edition

B B C

Children's Poetry Competition

NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES ON
THE THEME OF GENERATIONS

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 7-11 *in*


SUFFOLK NORFOLK CAMBRIDGESHIRE
BEDFORDSHIRE HERTFORDSHIRE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ESSEX
NORTHAMPTON

Submit your poems by
MIDDAY ON FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

FIND OUT MORE AT [LATITUDEFESTIVAL.COM](http://www.latituedevelopment.com)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/latitudepoetry>

See below some information regarding free Herts County Council funded healthy lifestyle programmes for families across Hertfordshire. To find out more please visit <https://hrt.maximusuk.co.uk/>



FREE Healthy Lifestyle support for families in Hertfordshire

Our FREE 12 week in-person and online programmes start on 27th April 2026, with an intro call beforehand

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
HATFIELD Birchwood Avenue Primary School, AL10 0PS 5:00 - 7:00pm	CHESHUNT Oakview Primary School EN7 6LB 5:00 - 7:00pm	STEVENAGE Oval Community Centre SG1 5RD 5:00 - 7:00pm	WATFORD Chater Junior School WD18 0ND 5:00 - 7:00pm
** NO SESSION **	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Hoblotte Manor Junior School HP2 5JS 5:00 - 7:00pm	BOREHAMWOOD St Michael's & All Angels Church Hall WD6 5EQ 5:00 - 7:00pm	** NO SESSION **
ONLINE (10 weeks) (ages 5 - 8) 5:30 - 6:30pm (ages 9 - 12) 6:30 - 7:30pm	ONLINE (10 weeks) (ages 6 - 8) 6:30 - 6:30pm (ages 9 - 12) 5:30 - 6:30pm (ages 9 - 12) 6:30 - 7:30pm	ONLINE (10 weeks) (ages 9 - 12) 5:30 - 6:30pm	** NO SESSION **

Sign up today!

BZInfo@maximusuk.co.uk

01707 246 646

Hertfordshire

hrt.maximusuk.co.uk

Our programmes are for children above their ideal weight, see our website for more information.