

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 8th May 2026



Dear Oakwood Community,

Year 4 trip to Pizza Express

On 30th April, Year 4 visited Pizza Express for a pizza-making workshop linked to our D&T unit on a varied diet. The children learned what a pizza base is made from, shaped the crust, explored the key ingredients in tomato sauce, and created their own cheesy pizzas. Whilst their pizzas were cooking, they took part in a quiz all about the ingredients used on pizzas and they could not believe that Pizza Express have a pizza that is topped with peaches!

School Development Plan and Staff professional development updates:

As part of our School Development priorities, we have been focusing on developing teaching methods and strategies within maths lessons, through peer-to-peer support. This week, staff shared the success of this with colleagues including wonderful examples of children recording their mathematical understanding in books, a variety of practical lessons using concrete resources and our outdoor space, and more interactive choices of activities to support all children to progress from their starting point. We hope your children have been sharing some of their favourite maths lessons with you!

Premises updates:

External lighting

We have been working hard behind the scenes since the Autumn Term to address the broken external lighting and have set aside funding to address the issue. We have been frustrated by the lack of availability of electricians to come forward to complete the work but we have now received some responses and hope that this work can be started soon.

Premises updates:

Bikes and scooters

It has been lovely to see an increasing number of children cycling or scooting to school. We have received a number of queries from parents regarding a bike or scooter shed. At the moment, we are not able to install a permanent structure at the entrance to the school. This is because the land is potentially going to be used for the footpath to Oaklands Grange. We need to wait and see what happens with the footpath before we can install a bike/scooter area. However, a parent has kindly suggested donating some temporary bike racks so watch this space! Please remember that bikes and scooters are left on the premises at your own risk.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 6 children the very best in their SATs, which start on Monday next week.

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 looking after our planet.

Reception

Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish

By Michael Foreman

Key Stage 1

Tree Whispers

By Mandy Ross

Lower Key Stage 2

My Friend Earth

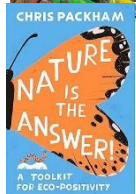
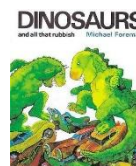
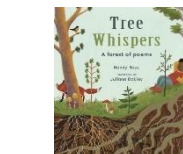
By Patricia McLachlan

Upper Key Stage 2

Nature is the Answer

By Chris Packham

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

11 th - 14 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 15 th May	Year 6 visit to Longacres Park
Monday 18 th May – 2.30pm	Beech Class sharing assembly
Friday 22 nd May – 2.15pm	LKS2 Performance to parents

**MORE IRL
LESS URL**

The average British teenager now spends four hours a day on their smartphone. Let's let kids be kids again.

smartphonefreechildhood.org

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

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

01272 753930

Work of the week!

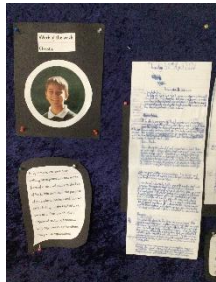
Thomas in Maple

Maple class have been writing Haikus. They learnt that Haikus consist of 17 syllables. Thomas wrote a wonderful poem describing the movement of a bird through a forest.



Orestis in Sycamore

In Sycamore the children have written a survival guide to the Isle of Berk. They discussed the key features and organised their information.



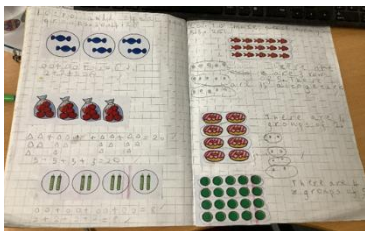
Learning around Oakwood: Ash

Maths in Ash Class!

In Ash class we have been learning all about Multiplication this half term. We started off by learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and made groups of numbers using various resources in the classroom. Once we grasped this concept, we moved on to learning about repeated addition. For example: $2+2+2=6$. First, we used counters and cubes to find out the answer and then we moved on to recording our learning on whiteboards and in our books.



We then used this learning to help us to make arrays. We learnt the language of rows and columns and first made them out of counters then recorded our learning into our books. We are so proud of ourselves as we are becoming more independent mathematicians! We are excited for our maths lessons and engaged in our learning. Our teachers are very impressed with the progress we are making.



Curriculum celebration: DT

In Design and Technology, pupils across the school have been developing practical skills through a range of creative and purposeful projects.

In Key Stage 1, children designed moving pictures linked to their learning in RE. They explored simple mechanisms such as sliders, levers and pivots, developing their cutting, joining and problem-solving skills while learning how movement can help communicate ideas.

In Lower Key Stage 2, pupils focused on healthy eating, learning about the Eatwell Plate and what makes a balanced diet. Working in small groups, they planned meals for the day and designed healthy sandwiches, which they will soon be making for the new Oakwood students.

In Upper Key Stage 2, children designed and built playground structures, experimenting with a range of materials and joining techniques to create strong and stable models. Inspired by Tom Otterness' Silver Towers Playground, they used sketching and CAD to plan, develop and refine their final designs.



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: Lime

Lime Class have been working hard and enjoying the opportunities to get outside throughout April. Some learning highlights have included:

MATHS

We have been exploring our maths objectives in practical ways such as comparing the capacity of different containers then measuring them with water outside; working out all the ways to share a bag of 'sweets' (cubes!) with a partner and representing this in a range of ways in fractions and writing our own word problems for maths reasoning.



ENGLISH

Our persuasive letter writing unit is based on *Malala's Magic Pencil* and *Greta and the Giants*. We have thought deeply about how privileged we are to have free and safe access to education at Oakwood. The children have also started to think about how we could make our school more sustainable and better for the planet.

DT

The children have been enjoying learning and thinking about how to be healthy and are currently planning a healthy lunchbox that would suit a child new to the school. They made menu planners for a whole day based on the Eatwell Plate and were able to talk confidently about healthy and unhealthy options.



BUDDIES

Finally, we have LOVED our weekly reading time with Acorns. Lime made little pig puppets to support their buddies to retell the story that Acorns had been exploring as part of their traditional tales. It is such a joy seeing the nurture and support the children give to their younger buddies!



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 – Poplar & Sycamore



'Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality – Sycamore & Acorns 1



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



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

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

Acorns 1 – Mustafa & Alex
Acorns 2 – Yazan & Ethan
Ash – Filip & Kash
Beech – Alice & Alfie
Cherry – Thomas & Charlie
Lime – Charlotte & Freya
Maple – Jessie & Finlay E
Poplar – Tazeem & Patrick
Rowan – Harriet & Noah
Sycamore – Max & Orestis
Willow – Humayra & Edward



FREE

St Albans City & District Council
Spring Festival
Sunday 17 May 2026
12noon - 6pm

A free, family-friendly festival celebrating creativity, wellbeing, community and sustainability

- Arts & crafts
- Coding & video game design
- Circus skills
- Toddler soft play
- Sports & games
- Live music
- Street entertainment

LOCATION: St Albans City Centre
St Peters Street, High Street & Market Place

<https://www.enjoystalbans.com/event/st-albans-spring-festival-2/>

St Albans City & District Council | Specsavers | CODE NINJAS ST ALBANS

For more information visit:
<https://www.enjoystalbans.com/event/st-albans-spring-festival-2/>

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!

PTA Corner

Hello from the PTA! We hope you are well and have enjoyed the Easter break.

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.

Our Events & Fundraising

I hope you and your family enjoyed our recent events. Cinema Night was a real highlight, with 120 children watching a film together while tucking into biscuits and popcorn. Thanks to your support, we raised over £400.

Our Easter Extravaganza was just as popular. Children completed the trail brilliantly and each took home an Easter egg as a prize. That event raised £330.

Parents then had their fun too, at Pizza & Quiz Night. More than 70 parents formed 10 teams and battled for the top spot. The room was absolutely buzzing. We raised £550.

And last week we held a very successful Second Hand Uniform Sale, raising over £350.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping make these events such a success.

And because the fun never stops, here are our next events, tickets for all the events are on sale on our website.

- Lend a Hand day: Saturday, 9th May (12-4pm)

Spring has sprung and we have plenty of tidying to do in the outdoor areas so the children can make the most of our amazing spaces this summer. Come for as long as you can. Children are very welcome.

- Summer Disco: Friday, 5th June (after school)

Get your party clothes ready.

- Acorns, Year 1 and Year 2: 4pm to 5pm
- Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: 5.15 to 6.15pm

- Oakfest: Saturday 11th July (2pm-9pm)

Our most anticipated summer event is back. More details will follow nearer the time, but for now, save the date. You won't want to miss it!

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.

Contd.

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