

Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 22nd May 2026



Dear Oakwood Community,

We have had a wonderfully busy and positive two weeks at school, with so much to celebrate across all year groups.

SATs Week Success

A huge well done to all of our Year 6 pupils who approached their SATs with such maturity, determination and resilience. We are incredibly proud of their efforts. We would also like to thank the rest of the school community for their kindness and consideration throughout the week, helping to create a calm and supportive environment for our children.

Beech Class Sharing Assembly

This week, Beech Class delighted us with their lovely sharing assembly. The children confidently showcased their learning across a range of subjects through song and dance. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm and pride in what they have achieved—well done, Beech Class!

LKS2 Performance – ‘Plastic Pirates’

LKS2 wowed us with their brilliant performance of *Plastic Pirates*. Their acting, energy and teamwork were exceptional, and they shared a powerful and important message about recycling and caring for our environment. We are very proud of their efforts and the impact of their performance.

Working with Our PTA

Last week, Mrs Thompson met with members of our PTA to discuss how we can ensure PTA meetings and events are inclusive and welcoming for all families. We are keen to hear your views and will be sharing a parent survey in June—your feedback will be invaluable in helping us shape future developments.

School Visit

We were pleased to welcome our School Effectiveness Adviser this week. She commented positively on the high expectations our staff have for children’s behaviour, as well as the strong improvements being made in teaching and learning across the school. This is a testament to the hard work of our staff and pupils alike. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and that you are able to make the most of some sunshine!

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 inclusivity and diversity.

Reception

My Must-Have Mum

By Maudie Smith

Key Stage 1

My Family Your Family

By Laura Henry-Allain

Lower Key Stage 2

Strong Girls

By Jodie Ounsley

Upper Key Stage 2

Speak up!

By Rebecca Burgess

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 25 th - Friday 29 th May	May Half Term Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday 5 th June	Class photos & Year 6 Leavers’ photos
Friday 5 th June 1pm-4pm	Y4 & Y5 Girls Lacrosse Masterclass
Friday 5 th June	PTA Disco
Monday 8 th - Friday 12 th June	Y4 Multiplication Check
Monday 8 th - Friday 12 th June	Y1 Phonics Check
Tuesday 9 th June- 3:30pm - 5pm	Y6 Boys Football tournament
Thursday 11 th June 9:45am- 11:45am	Y4 Fitness and Fun
Friday 12 th June- 1pm-4pm	Y4 and Y5 Girls tennis tournament

Please see separate email sent today with key dates for the coming half term.

Important message regarding playground equipment:

Please note that the playground equipment must not be used by any children before or after school. This includes wheeled toys like bikes and cars. During lunch and playtime, the children have time to use the equipment, while supervised by adults, in line with our risk assessments. These risk assessments do not extend to outside of school hours. If your child walks to school on their own we request that this message is shared with them for their understanding and safety.

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

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

01727 753930

Work of the week!

Charlie in Cherry

Cherry have been reading *Julian is a Mermaid* and Charlie has written a wonderful description of Julian. He describes his clothing and his appearance as a mermaid.



Bernard in Acorns 1

Acorns have been writing about *The Gingerbread Man*. Bernard verbally retold the story and then wrote 3 fantastic sentences to explain the beginning, middle and end.



Learning around Oakwood: Beech

Science in Beech Class!

In Beech class we have been learning about plants and what they need to grow.

We started off by identifying and naming different plants in our school garden.

Then, we looked at different seeds and matched them to their plants. We also examined carefully the seed packet to find out what all the instructions at the back of it mean.

We moved on to learning what seeds need to germinate and what they do not need. We planted some seeds in our class container and observed closely how the seeds changed over time.

Finally, we planted some seeds in individual pots as part of our gardening club and also planted some in group pots to put outside our classroom.

We will need to make sure we water them and see them grow!

We have developed our botanic knowledge and honed our scientific skills - identifying, observing closely, describing and performing simple tests!



Curriculum celebration: Computing

Computing at Oakwood: Introducing Our Golden Threads

We are pleased to introduce our new Computing Golden Threads, which underpin and connect learning across our computing curriculum. These threads — Computing Systems, Creating Media, Programming, Data and Information, Effective use of Tools, and Online Safety — help children to build on prior knowledge and make meaningful links between past and future learning.

By revisiting these core concepts in different contexts, pupils are able to think more deeply and develop a more secure understanding of key skills.

At Oakwood, online safety sits at the heart of every unit. We recognise the vital importance of equipping children with the knowledge and confidence to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. This focus is embedded throughout the curriculum to ensure pupils develop safe habits and an informed understanding of online risks.

To support families at home, we recommend the following trusted online safety resources:

- NSPCC / Net Aware: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk>
- UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk>
- Childnet: <https://www.childnet.com>
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection): <https://www.ceop.police.uk>

We are also excited to share that, from the next academic year, Oakwood will be taking part in a pilot programme focused on helping pupils navigate *conspiracies, misinformation and disinformation*. This is increasingly important in the context of current events and rapid technological developments. As a school, we are committed to ensuring our computing curriculum remains current and relevant, so that all children are well prepared for life in an ever-changing digital world.

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 learning about Earning a Living in Geography. We explored different jobs and why they are important, learned about key industries in the UK, discovered how people earn a living around the world, and discussed the effects of unemployment.

In English, we have been developing our persuasive writing skills by writing persuasive letters. We focused on using strong reasons, clear structure and thoughtful language to influence the reader. Alongside this, we learned about the life and work of David Attenborough, which led to meaningful discussions about protecting wildlife and caring for our planet.

In Maths, we concentrated on decimals, using lots of practical and hands-on activities to support our understanding. Pupils enjoyed applying their learning to real-life contexts. We also combined Maths and Design & Technology in an exciting practical project, where we baked bread and carefully measured ingredients. In the afternoons, we followed this up by making healthy and delicious sandwiches.

Our Science topic this term has been Plants. We planted sunflower seeds and are patiently waiting for them to grow, learning about what plants need to survive. We also took part in a special project to Make Our Planet Green, where we created models of the Earth and planted seeds on them, encouraging us to think about how we can care for the environment.

In Computing, we have been learning about desktop publishing, exploring how to present information clearly by combining text and images. In RE, we have been continuing our learning about Hinduism, developing our understanding of beliefs, traditions and values.

A very exciting focus this term has been rehearsing for our school performance, Pirate Plastic. Year 4 have been working extremely hard learning songs, lines and actions, and we cannot wait to perform it for parents.

We also enjoyed a fantastic visit to Pizza Express, where the children had great fun making their own pizzas. It was a memorable hands-on experience and a real highlight of the 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 – Sycamore & Lime



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



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



The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets – Willow & Cherry

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

Acorns 1 – Ollie & Zoe B
Acorns 2 – Smit & Aarya
Ash – Idil & George
Beech – Amelia & Arya
Cherry – Scarlett & Daya
Lime – Erin & Morgan
Maple – Oliver & Milly
Poplar – Alex & Carys
Rowan – Phoebe & Molly
Sycamore – Paddy & Eva
Willow – Zayd & Lara



A message from Dame Rachel de Souza-Children's Commissioner

'I want to make sure that I hear from as many children as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. To do that, I need your help.

I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.'

The link below is a survey from the Children's Commissioner.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/>

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!

Important message regarding anti-bullying:

Following our recent pupil, staff and parent surveys, there have been a number of actions taking place to improve the school's approach to both behaviour and anti-bullying. Miss Bird has taken the lead on behaviour and she will share information with parents in due course. However, we recognise that anti-bullying is an area in need of constant evolution to ensure our approach is effective.

Our current policy states bullying is:

“The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.”

This definition is written with regard to both DfE and Anti-bullying Alliance guidance. Further details can be found in our current policy on the school [website](#).

As we look ahead to our policy and procedure review, we are considering many enhancements to our approach - a selection of which are below:

- Creation of an Anti-bullying pupil council and ambassadors allowing for regular pupil voice and action
- Inclusion of a worry box in all classrooms for pupil use
- A coordinated, relational approach towards support for all children involved in a bullying concern:
 - Named trusted adults
 - Safe spaces and check-in provision
 - Regular follow-up and monitoring
 - Restorative curriculum for pupils involved
- Continued Protective Behaviours lessons for all children

There are many further initiatives which the school already employs on an individual basis and which we will continue to enhance and supplement to support all of the children at Oakwood. As always, where children are directly involved, communication happens with their parents and the school are unable to share specifics about individual children.

Should you wish to share further comments on how the school can further its approach to anti-bullying, I would be happy to have a constructive conversation. Please do contact the school via the school office.

Important message regarding smart watches:

This is a reminder that children are not allowed to wear smart watches at school. Smart watches are included in the list of banned items in Appendix G of the Behaviour Policy. Our Behaviour Policy can be viewed on the school website for further information.

The following is the definition of a smart watch as described in our behaviour policy:

Banned smartwatches include devices that: can send or receive calls or messages, can connect to the internet, have gaming features, can connect to any other device. Does not include watches that only have fitness monitoring features (although these may be confiscated for a short time if causing a distraction).

Beaumont Sixth Form Reading for Pleasure

We have been delighted to receive a group of sixth formers from Beaumont this half-term promoting reading for pleasure with children in KS1. The students read a shortlist of picture books nominated for the Children's Book Awards – the only book award that is voted for by children alone. The sixth form students were fabulous at modelling expressive reading and asking the children to vote for their favourite. Across the key stage their favourite book was... **Creepy Pair of Underwear by Aaron Reynolds**.

Lime and their Acorns buddies made their own creepy underwear and wrote to the author about their favourite moments in the book. Beaumont Library has taken away this feedback and given it to the actual author of the book – exciting! Let's hope this book wins the award. We will find out on 13th June.

What shall we write?

Which book did you like the best?



If you are looking for new things to read here's the Top 10 shortlist:



MAD SCIENCE

SPECTACULAR SCIENCE DAY

SLIME FUN
ROCKING ROCKETS

ROBOTIC ROBOTS
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

MARGARET WIX PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST ALBANS

TUESDAY 27TH MAY

BOOKING & INFO: HERTSPEDS.MADSCIENCE.ORG
CAMPS@MADSCIENCEHB.CO.UK
01727 824 700

£49 PER DAY

PERFECT FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-11

9:30-4:00

STRING GROUP AND EARLY VEEB DISCOUNT!

City of St Albans swimming club

OPEN JUNIOR TRIALS!

FOR CHILDREN AGED 6-9 YEARS OLD

Have they achieved Stage 5 or above in lessons?
THEN WE WANT TO SEE THEM!

FREE one hour trial session with our experienced coaches in the club.

6TH JUNE
2.30-3.30PM
AT ST ALBANS HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

TO BOOK YOUR JUNIOR TRIAL, PLEASE EMAIL:
preclub@costaasc.org

TRIALS ALL YEAR ROUND
FOR OUR COMPETITIVE AND PERFORMANCE SQUADS!

We can accommodate swimmers for **THREE TRIAL SESSIONS** before joining.

TO ENQUIRE ABOUT COMPETITIVE OR PERFORMANCE SQUAD TRIALS, PLEASE EMAIL:
headcoach@costaasc.org

Families Hertfordshire Magazine May/June

https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/families_hertfordshire_may_june_2026?fr=sOTg1NzIxOTE5NzZM