Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Oakwood Community,

How can it be October already? The academic year is in full swing and leaders have been visiting classes to see all of the fabulous learning in action. We have been impressed with the culture of high expectations in class, calm environments and focused learning activities. The children have consistently demonstrated our Golden Star behaviour of joining in. Well done everyone!

Information events

Thank you to the parents and carers who have come along to our two recent parent information sessions, the first on the School Development Plan and the second on Behaviour. Parents asked good questions and we will shortly be publishing the slide packs, along with answers to these questions here. We had excellent feedback from the behaviour session in particular, with parents recognising the value of the school's approach and the importance of consistency between home and school. Our next information session will be on **Thursday 15th October** and will focus on **spelling**.

Website and Policies

Thank you for your patience as we update our school website. We have had some technical glitches with this and we are working on ensuring all content is up to date with our latest policies, staffing arrangements and news. Please do let us the school office know if you notice anything else that is incorrect or out of date.

School of the day!

On Thursday, we were very excited to have been selected for mix radio's "school of the day." A huge thank you to DJs Richard and Becky for our shout-out live on air as we were coming into school. If you missed it, you can hear it here:
https://mix926.com/listenagain/



Wedding bells

Congratulations to Miss Bird who will be getting married this weekend. OnThursday, we held a special assembly for Miss Bird and presented her with a bouquet. From Monday, Miss Bird will be known as Mrs Richardson.

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 fairy tales.



Reception
The Perfect Match: a Football Fairy tale
By Chris Becker
Key Stage 1
Porridge Please
By Laura Mucha
Lower Key Stage 2
A Tale of Two Dragons
By Geraldine McCaughrean
Upper Key Stage 2
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
By Lewis Carroll
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

Friday 9th October	Yr6 visit from nursing team for height and weight
Friday 9th October	Individual and sibling school photos
Tuesday 13th October 3:20-4:00pm	Open classrooms
Friday 16th October 12- 1pm	OPAL parent play day

A special message from Marshalswick Library:

I wanted to say a HUGE thank you for supporting us with the Summer Reading Challenge, from allowing us to attend your assembly, through to promoting the Challenge in school and encouraging the children to sign up.

This year, at Marshalswick Library, we registered 631 children, which is amazing, and it was so great to see how excited and enthusiastic they were with their chosen books. Our volunteers loved chatting to them all, hearing them excitedly talk about what they had read, and for so many of them to say they are going to continue reading, even when they had completed the Challenge.

In total, 74 children from Oakwood signed up for the challenge. This is fantastic and I hope some of the children have been bringing their medals and certificates into school to show you.

Work of the week!

Piper in Lime

Piper wrote a recount of Mini Rabbit's journey for berries. To make her writing exciting she used powerful verbs, noun phrases and a range of punctuation. Well done Piper!



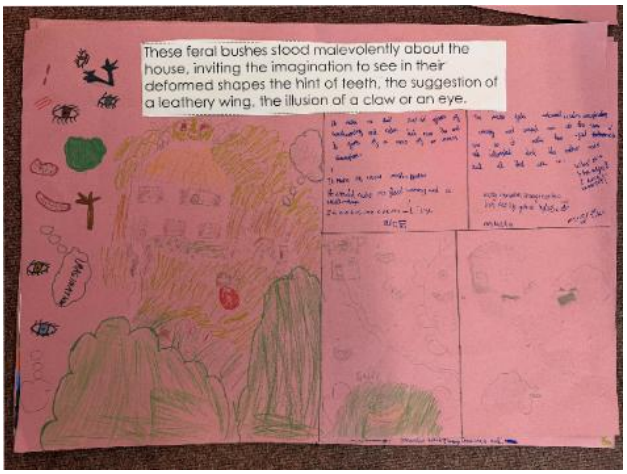
Israa in Rowan

Israa has described tense settings, used powerful senses and figurative language to build suspense and hook the reader. Well done Israa!



Learning around Oakwood: Sycamore

This week Sycamore class have been diving into using figurative language to help create suspense and tension in their spooky stories. The class have been thinking about what makes a great scary character and how to hook the reader in the first description of a scene. Sycamore have also been diving into the world of street dance in their PE sessions, learning new dance moves such as the 'happy feet' move, the 'pause groove' and 'the stomp and retreat'! The year 6 children in Sycamore worked with the Sixth formers from St Albans School in a new book club partnership project. Sycamore class have had a fantastic start to the year and are looking forward to their Mexicolor workshop next week in which they will explore the customs and culture of the Ancient Mayans.



Curriculum celebration: RE

We have had a wonderful start to the year in Religious Education. This week, we came together for our Harvest Assembly, giving pupils an opportunity to think about thankfulness, generosity and the importance of helping others in our community.

What are we learning this term?
In RE, we use Discovery RE, an enquiry-based approach which encourages children to explore different religions and beliefs through thought-provoking "big questions". Children develop their knowledge while also learning to reflect, discuss different viewpoints and form their own ideas.

Key Stage 1
Children are learning about the teachings of Jesus and considering the big question, "Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?" Later this term, they will explore why Christians believe God gave Jesus to the world as part of their Christmas learning.

Lower Key Stage 2
Children are exploring Buddha's teachings, beginning with the thought-provoking question, "Is it possible for everyone to be happy?" As Christmas approaches, they will explore the Nativity story and consider which part is most significant for Christians today.

Upper Key Stage 2
Children are learning about Islamic beliefs and practices, exploring different ways Muslims show commitment to God. Later in the term, their Christmas enquiry will consider the significance of Mary as the mother of Jesus.

Learning beyond the classroom
At Oakwood, we want RE to be more than learning facts about different religions. Through assemblies, discussion, reflection and opportunities to experience faith and belief beyond the classroom, children are encouraged to ask questions, listen to different viewpoints and develop respect and understanding.

Our enquiry-based approach gives children opportunities to connect their own experiences with the beliefs and experiences of others, before reflecting on how their learning may have influenced their own thinking.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of RE at Oakwood, full of thoughtful questions, discussion, discovery and reflection.

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: Cherry

In maths, the children have been learning about place value, focusing on identifying and sorting tens and ones. They have been using a range of practical resources, including Dienes, straws and cubes, to develop their understanding of how numbers are represented. As shown in the photos, the children have been working both independently and collaboratively in groups, demonstrating their developing skills, confidence and understanding of place value.

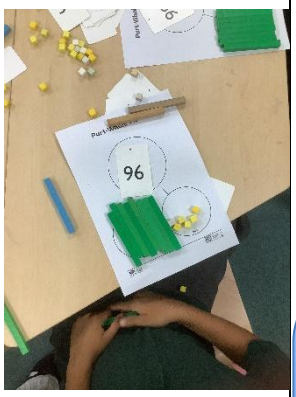




In Geography, the children have been learning about different types of farms and exploring the important role they play in our everyday lives. They have investigated the features of livestock and dairy farms, developing their understanding of the animals raised and the products they provide. The children have also enjoyed designing their own farms, using their imagination to apply their knowledge.

Lastly, in art we have been focussing on printing and using different objects and resources to create patterns. The children have really enjoyed using their creativity to create their artwork.





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	Sycamore & Lime
	Golden Clock' for the class with the best attendance and punctuality	Acorns 2 & Acorns 2
	'Golden Knife and Fork' for the best manners in the hall at lunchtime	Sycamore & Maple
	The 'Golden Toilet' for the cleanest and most looked after class toilets	Lime & Acorns 1
	The 'Golden Star' for all round positive classroom behaviour	Acorns 1
	The bear for the class with the best sitting and listening during Assemblies.	Acorns 2

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

Acorns 1 – Ellie &
Acorns 2 – Amelia M & Amelia H
Ash – Dexter & Olive
Beech – Bernard & Alfie
Cherry – Siyanna & Filip
Lime – Sophie & Quinn
Maple – Thomas & Morgan
Poplar – Junie & Lila D
Rowan – Bella & Thomas
Sycamore – Kaiya & Benjy
Willow – Sophie & Isabella



Maths Masters UK Tournament:

Congratulations to Cameron and Sophie (team name: The Curly Wurly Wurlys) who competed for Oakwood in the Maths Masters UK Tournament and placed joint 5th. Well done Cameron, Sophie and everyone else who competed!

See the link below for the School Nursing Newsletter:

The newsletter contains health and wellbeing information, practical advice, and details of local support services available to children, young people, and their families. By sharing this information, we can help ensure families have access to trusted resources and know where to seek support when needed.

Newsletter Link:

https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/7BK1-CJ6/hct-school-nursing-a26



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!