Oakwood Primary School Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Oakwood Community,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year.

We will be sending out a newsletter every two weeks to share and celebrate the successes and achievements of our community here at Oakwood with you. We will also include key dates for your diary of upcoming events, important reminders and useful links.

If you have any questions or queries, the best person to ask is your child's class teacher. We are always happy to help.

Events this week:

This week, some children from Year 6 attended Maths Masters, a competition with other schools, and impressed us with their ambition, determination and resilience. They particularly enjoyed overcoming challenges that were too difficult to get right the first time!



Congratulations to **Mrs Leeson** and her wife on the safe arrival of their twin boys, Oliver and Joshua. Aren't they adorable!

Information events

Thank you to all Y1 – Y6 parents and carers who attended the Meet the teacher meetings last week, we hope you found these useful. If you were unable to attend, the slides are all on the website.

In EYFS, the staff team led a session summarising what the curriculum and learning looks like for our children in Acorns. The slides will be available on the website soon.

Next week, we are holding a parent information event to share the objectives on our School Development Plan. You can sign up here.

PTA

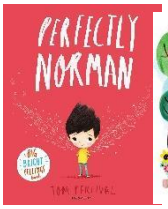
There was an excellent turnout at the Acorns families picnic last weekend. A huge thank you to the PTA for organising this and to all of the families who attended and donated. If you would like to be more involved in the PTA, or vote in committee members, please come along to the **AGM** which will be held **in school** on **Tuesday 20th October** (7:45pm for a prompt 8pm start).

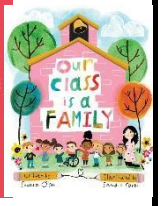
We hope you all have a lovely weekend!
The Oakwood Team

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 exploring feelings and diversity in our classrooms.

Reception
Our Class is a Family
By Shannon Olsen

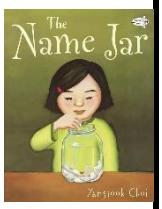




Key Stage 1
Perfectly Norman
By Tom Percival

Lower Key Stage 2
The Name Jar
By Yangsook Choi





Upper Key Stage 2
Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom
By Sangu Mandanna

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

Whole school Flu Immunisation	Monday 21st September 9am-12pm
Yr4 Swimming starts	Thursday 24th September
Parent information event- School Development Plan	Thursday 24th September 9-9:30am
Parent information event- Behaviour	Thursday 1st October 9am - 9:30am
UKS2 Mexicolore Workshop	Friday 2nd October

Consultation on additional 20mph speed limits in St Albans.

Many roads in St Albans already have a 20mph speed limit, Hertfordshire County Council are now asking whether more residential streets should be included.

20mph speed limits aim to:
• Improve road safety – by reducing the likelihood and severity of collisions
• Encourage walking and cycling – slower streets encourage healthier communities
• Reduce traffic noise – lower speeds generate less noise

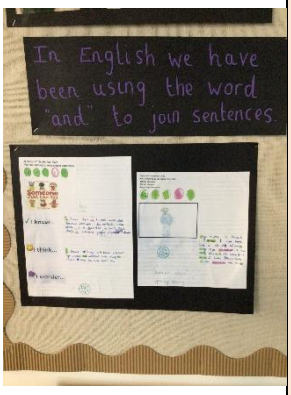
To have your say, please complete our online survey at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/20mph.

The survey closes on Sunday 4 October 2026.

Work of the week!

Noah in Beech

Beech class have been working on joining sentences with ‘and’. They have been writing sentences about the book ‘Someone just like you’ and Noah’s sentences include full stops, capital letters and have been expanded with ‘and’. Well done Noah!



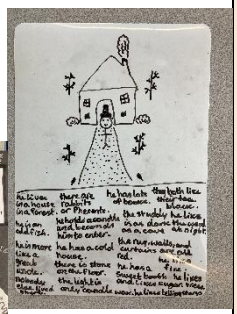
Learning around Oakwood: Willow

Willow Class have settled into Year 6 brilliantly and have already been hard at work! It has certainly been a spooky start to the term in both English and Destination Reader as we delve into the mysterious worlds of *Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror* and *Clockwork*.

As budding authors, we have been exploring how writers use figurative language to create atmosphere and keep readers on the edge of their seats. In particular, we have been investigating the chilling descriptions of Uncle Montague and discussing the effect these have on the reader. The children have used these ideas as inspiration for creating their own creepy and imaginative characters, producing some wonderfully descriptive writing.

Although there have been plenty of eerie moments in our lessons, Willow have approached every challenge with enthusiasm, creativity and determination. We are incredibly proud of how well they have settled into the routines and expectations of Year 6 and look forward to sharing more of their hard work throughout the year.

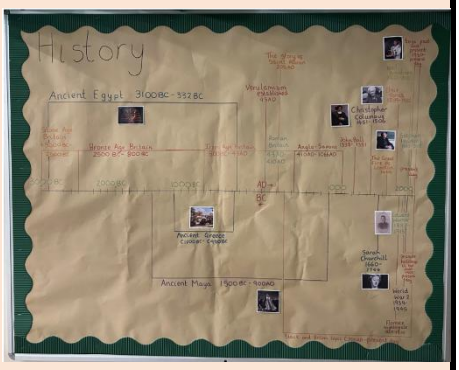




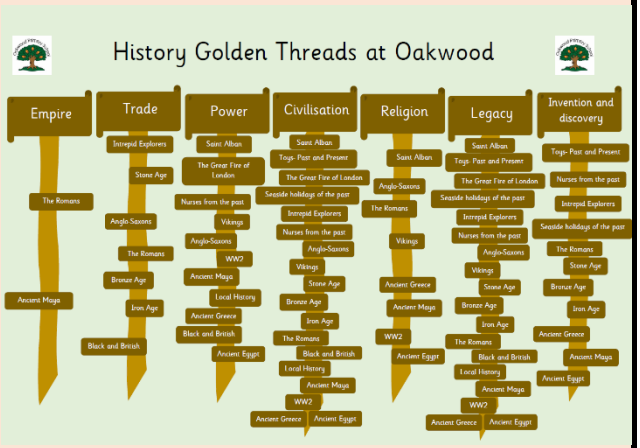
Curriculum celebration: History

At Oakwood, History is an integral part of the curriculum: we aim to ensure that all children receive an interesting, thought-provoking and inclusive education. We believe the study of History inspires children’s curiosity, encourages them to ask critical questions and enables them to have a better understanding of the society in which they live, and that of the wider world.

We recognise the importance of Chronological awareness and understanding. We therefore have a whole school timeline featuring each topic. The children keep this in their exercise books and can work out where their current topic is in relation to previous topics they have explored.



We also have Golden Threads mapped out that link each topic. This allows a deeper understanding of bigger concepts for example power through the comparison of that concept across different time periods.



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

It has been a pleasure to start the year with the new Lime Class. They have shown a fantastic attitude to learning and they are already displaying the Oakwood values both inside and outside the classroom. Some learning highlights have included:

MATHS

We have been exploring **place value** in practical ways making a range of 2 digit and 3 digit numbers using manipulatives and drawing them in a variety of ways. We have also been counting to 100 using 2s, 5s and 10s. We have used our understanding to partition numbers in a range of ways and also solve problems.





ENGLISH

We have been exploring our core text **Mini Rabbit Not Lost** by going on a word hunt, making rabbit bookmarks, discussing predictions based on the front cover and writing a range of sentences to describe the start of the story. We enjoyed acting out the start of Mini Rabbit's journey to find berries and his great enthusiasm for cake!

ART

We started our new unit: ***Who were the first artists***? We explored life in the Stone Age and were introduced to a 40,000 year old sculpture called Lion Man that was found in a cave in Germany nearly 100 years ago and can now be found in the British Museum. We used it to ask and answer questions and as a stimulus for sketching. The children then experimented with colour mixing and painting.




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

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



Acorns 1 – Eirini & Cynthia
Acorns 2 – Jude & Edyth
Ash – Ollie & Zoe B
Beech – Yazan & Maeva
Cherry – Dora & Jason
Lime – Arlen & Nikita
Maple – George & Charlotte
Poplar – Milly & Caelan
Rowan – Harrison & Cerys
Sycamore – James E & Albert
Willow – Cameron & Molly

On Wednesday morning, Mr Stanway and Mrs Seymour accompanied 8 Year 6 pupils to St Albans School for a Maths Masters Event. It was a wonderful experience for the children with some extremely challenging maths involved, challenging their understanding but mostly their resilience. All of the children performed incredibly well and represented the school with pride and determination. Well done for all of your effort in taking part.



Raring2go!

See the link below for the Raring2go autumn family magazine.

[Raring2go Autumn Family Magazine]



Iela represented Wheathamstead Cricket Club across 5 league matches, where she excelled significantly in both batting and bowling. She scored a total of 87 runs, finishing as the team's top scorer with an impressive average strike rate of 158.18, and was proudly awarded the team's "Best Batter". Furthermore, her strong performances led to her becoming the top run-scorer across the entire league. The Wheathampstead Cricket Club Girls Under 11 B team finished at the top of the league table, competing successfully against five other teams



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!