



Monday
15th September

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

**Growing
& Learning
Together**

Key Dates

22/09/25

Year 6
TT Rockstars
Competition

19/09/25

Reading
Workshops

29/09/25

Book Fair
Arrives

06/10/25

Book Fair
Collected

09/10/25

Year 5
Bikeability

10/10/25

Wear Yellow
for Mental
Health Day

Welcome Back to Oakdene!

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

What a fantastic start to the new school year! It's been such a pleasure to see our pupils back in school—smiling, reconnecting with friends, and diving into their learning with great enthusiasm. Oakdene Primary Academy is buzzing once again, and we couldn't be happier to welcome everyone back.

In our Inset training day this year, I spoke to the team about how every moment counts and that no time can be lost throughout the school day. This is all about ensuring children are focused, active and engaged in their learning from the moment they step inside their class until the moment they leave for home. This will certainly be our team mantra this year ; ensuring that no time is lost for our young people. This is how 'we' all need to work together; school and home, to ensure that Oakdene is the best school in the world! Working together in partnership to ensure that children attend school everyday as well as completing home learning, including reading every day. Together, we can achieve more for our children than we thought possible.

Acorn Class

The first week in Acorn class has been a whirlwind of activity and excitement.

The children have been diligently learning the new routines of the classroom, helping them navigate their day with confidence and ease and understanding the flow of learning times and activities.

Social interactions have been at the forefront as the children have made new friends and explored their environment. Through play and shared experiences, they are forming bonds that will enrich their time in reception and beyond.

The children also enjoyed sharing information about their families with the class. This not only helped them learn more about each other but also reinforced the concept that we are all unique, bringing diversity into the classroom.

Understanding and expressing emotions is a key part of early development and the children have been learning about different feelings and how to manage them.

The children were introduced to Twiggle, the PATHS puppet, and his friends. These characters are pivotal in helping children navigate social situations and understand the importance of kindness, sharing, and cooperation.

**In Acorn Class,
I shine so bright,**

I try new things with all my might.
I'm proud of all I learn and do,
Each day brings something fresh
and new.

With courage, joy, and seeds we sow,
From little acorns, mighty oaks grow.



RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, HONESTY, DETERMINATION & PRIDE



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It is really important that each child reaches our school attendance target of 97%. Please make sure your child is in school and on time everyday!

Our whole school attendance figure for last week

98%

97%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

Attendance Awards



Reception
100%



Year 2
99.7%



Year 3
99.4%

The winning class(es) will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Reception who had 100% attendance!

13/10/25
Black History
Week

16/10/25
Golf Experience
Day

16/10/25
Parents' Evening
3.30-6.30

22/10/25
Parents' Evening
3.30-5.30

23/10/25
Values Assembly
9am

As the children settle into their new class, they are embracing learning with enthusiasm and curiosity. This first week has set a positive tone for the exciting adventures ahead.

In Acorn Class, we are forming lasting friendships!

Maple Class

What a fantastic start to the new school year! The children in Maple Class have settled in beautifully over their first few days back, and it has been such a joy to see their happy faces, eager to explore and learn.

We've jumped straight into our learning with the wonderful story, 'The Midnight Panther'. The children have really enjoyed getting to know this magical tale and have already begun writing about the story in their own words. They've impressed us with their imagination and creativity!

As well as story writing, we've also taken time to share our own adventures. The children have written lovely stories about their summer holidays – from beach trips to picnics in the park, they had so much to tell me and were excited to put their memories down on paper.

In maths, we've been practising counting numbers up to ten. Using songs, games, and hands-on activities, the children are quickly becoming confident counters!

And of course, we couldn't forget the stars of our story – the panthers! Each child has decorated their own midnight panther, using a mix of colours, patterns, and textures. They are now proudly displayed in our classroom for everyone to see.

We're so proud of how quickly the children have settled and adapted to Year 1 and can't wait for all of the exciting learning ahead. Watch this space for further updates!



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KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AT OAKDENE PRIMARY IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY!

Here's to a brilliant year together!

In Maple Class, we are settling well!

Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class has returned to Oakdene with an infectious enthusiasm that has set the tone for an exciting new school year. Their positivity and eagerness to learn have been nothing short of inspiring, and they have truly hit the ground running.

From the moment we dove into our mathematics lessons, during our first week, the children have wowed me with their impressive knowledge. Their recall of place value concepts has been particularly striking, demonstrating not only their retention of prior knowledge but also their ability to apply it in new contexts. Whether it's breaking down numbers or engaging in mental math challenges, Chestnut Class have proven to be superstar mathematicians!

In English we have continued with our transition text, 'The Midnight Panther'. We have been learning about noun phrases and have shown a keen interest in understanding how these elements enhance their writing. Through engaging activities and collaborative discussions, they have gained a deeper appreciation for the power of descriptive language.

Our Art lesson was also a highlight. The children have embraced the opportunity to explore different lines and tones, experimenting with a variety of materials. They used charcoal, crayons, chalk and soft pastels to create tone, using different pressure to show light and dark with the different materials.

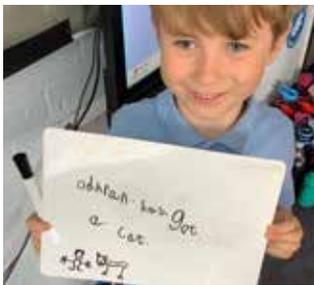
In just a short while, Chestnut Class has demonstrated a great attitude towards learning. With such a promising start, this year is bound to be filled with achievements and growth for each and every student.

In Chestnut Class, we are learning and achieving!

Cherry Class

Year Three have made a fantastic start to the year. They are settling well and ready to learn.

This week we had a fantastic start to our history topic with an unforgettable Stone Age workshop.





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Our journey began in the Ice Age, where we discovered how early humans survived in freezing conditions. From there, we travelled through time into the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, learning how life gradually changed as people began farming, building permanent homes, and forming communities.

One of the most exciting parts of the workshop was exploring how tools and jewellery were made during the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. We were amazed to see how materials and techniques evolved over time – from simple stone tools to beautifully crafted metalwork. We even got to handle genuine artefacts, including real dinosaur poo! This hands-on experience has really brought history to life for us, and we can't wait to keep exploring the past in our lessons this term.

In Cherry Class, we are digging deep!

Rowan Class

Welcome to a new school year in Rowan Class, where learning is an adventure, and every day brings something new and exciting!

As we explore the tale of 'The Midnight Panther,' we encourage our pupils to think like writers. Imagine you're the Panther, prowling through the midnight jungle. What do you hear, see, and feel? Use descriptive language to bring the jungle to life, capturing the lush greenery and the whisper of the night breeze. Remember, writing is all about painting vivid pictures with words, so let your imagination run wild!

Our journey in Maths begins with the fascinating world of place value. Understanding the value of each digit in a number sets the foundation for all future mathematical concepts. Through interactive activities and games, we'll explore how numbers work and build a strong base for our mathematical adventures.

Our reading leaf, 'The Wild Robot,' transports us to a world where technology meets nature. As we embark on this literary journey, students will engage in discussions about the themes of the book, including survival, friendship, and the environment. It's an exciting opportunity to develop critical thinking and comprehension skills.

We're also charting the course of history by placing significant Roman events on a timeline. This activity helps students visualize the past and understand the chronological order of historical events. By connecting history to a visual timeline, students gain a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of human civilization.



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Inspired by the Midnight Panther, our art sessions have focussed on sketching leaves. Pupils observed the intricate details of leaves in the text and translated them into sketches, honing their observational and artistic skills.

In Rowan Class, we are creative!

Sycamore Class

Sycamore - A Stellar Start to Year Five!

Sycamore Class have made a truly impressive start to their Upper Key Stage Two journey!

In English, they've shown great confidence using modal verbs and have remembered how to use both the past perfect and present perfect tenses—fantastic grammar work! They have applied this well within their work on the Midnight Panther which is our whole school unit this year. I hope that they will keep this up across the year and produce many pieces of writing to be proud of. Creativity has flourished in art too, with some beautiful artwork inspired by movement now brightening up their sketchbooks.

Year Five have also been shining examples to others, consistently demonstrating kindness, responsibility, and teamwork within lessons. Many staff members have commented on their representation of 'The Oakdene Way' when they have been walking into assembly. This role model behaviour is something to be proud of and through carefully practising routines, we know that they are ready for a year of learning and working hard. In the coming weeks, some Year Five Children will be undertaking training to become play leaders whilst others will be becoming 'B's Buddies' and learning how to help our younger children at break and lunchtimes. I have no doubt that they will thrive in these roles and help Oakdene to have happy and active break times!

Also, in a fun twist, we chose our new class novel without seeing the title or cover—a true mystery pick! The choice through a democratic vote? The brilliant Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. We can't wait to see where this cosmic adventure takes us and we are already gripped and into the action of the story.

In Year Five, we are shining stars and grammar gurus!

Elder Class

We have had a great start to life in Year 6!

We enjoyed doing our writing and art work based on the book 'We're All Wonders', which links to the novel 'Wonder', which appears on our Year 6 recommended Reading spine.



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We created our Elder class mantra and set our expectations for the year. The first full week back has also involved doing some baseline tests, and the children have impressed with their attitude and resilience already. One of the highlights of the start of term has been pairing our Year 6 children with their Reception buddies. We know they will be great role models and show their buddies the Oakdene Way.

Another really enjoyable part of the start of term has been making full use of the new set of iPads. We have made a great start on Spelling Shed online, we created comic strips linked to growth mindset and uploaded them to Seesaw, and we have been using Blooket for some fun retrieval quizzes, which we will use regularly this year to revise our learning.

In Year 6, we are setting the standards!



Have a Great Week!



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Each year group has formulated their own class mantra. A mantra is often used by teachers and children to foster a supportive environment, promote growth mindset, build community and provide a simple, consistent routine that can guide and focus behaviour throughout the year. Mantras help shift negative thought patterns, encourage effort and engagement and offer a grounding tool for challenging days. Here are our Oakdene mantras:

Elder Class Mantra

Everyone is included and treated
equally in our Year 6 team
Learning new things every day,
loving learning and striving
together

Determination is the key -
challenging ourselves to be better
than the day before

Excellence in the work we do and
the attitudes we show

Respectful to others, resilient
learners and ready each day - we
show the Oakdene Way

SYCAMORE FIVE, WE LEARN AND THRIVE—
WITH CURIOUS MINDS, WE SOAR AND STRIVE!
TOGETHER WE GROW, REACHING FOR THE SKY,
HELPING EACH OTHER AS DAYS GO BY.
BRAVE AND KIND, WE LEAD THE WAY,
SYCAMORE STARS SHINE BRIGHT EACH DAY!

"In Rowan Class, we aim high,
With curious minds, we'll touch the
sky.
Respect and kindness, our guiding
light,
Together we'll shine, with hearts so
bright.
Learning and laughter, day by day,
In Rowan Class, we'll find our way!"

Maple Class Mantra

I am
smart.
I am
kind.
I am
respectful

CHERRY CLASS

WE ARE RESPECTFUL.
WE ARE KIND.
WE ARE READY.
WE ARE A TEAM.
WE ARE A FAMILY.
WE BELONG TOGETHER.
WE ARE THE CHERRY ON TOP

CHESTNUT CHAMPS

HIP HURRAY!

We learn and laugh
in a brilliant way!

With curious minds and
hearts so bright—
We shine like stars,
day and night!

