



Wednesday
1st October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

**Growing
& Learning
Together**

Key Dates

06/10/25

Book Fair
Collected

09/10/25

Year 5
Bikeability

10/10/25

Wear Yellow
for Mental
Health Day

13/10/25

Black History
Week

16/10/25

Golf Experience
Day

16/10/25

Parents' Evening
3.30-6.30

Celebrating Learning as a Community

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

At Oakdene Primary, we believe that learning is at the heart of everything we do – not just for our children, but for our whole school community. This year, we're placing a renewed focus on what truly matters: celebrating meaningful learning, achievement and excellence.

In education, it can be tempting to prioritise things that look good – workshops, trips out, displays, and events that showcase children enjoying activity. While these have their place in enhancing our curriculum and school environment, our priority is deeper: ensuring every child is making progress, developing confidence, and growing as a learner.

At Oakdene, we want our classrooms to be places where learning is visible in the way children think, question, and reflect – where children learn the genuine love of learning without expecting any form of extrinsic reward. We're committed to recognising the effort, resilience, progress and excellence of every child, and we invite you to join us in this approach.

How can you support this at home?

- Ask your child what they've learned today – not just what they did. Ask them to share examples other than just the normal everyday comments of 'eating and playing'.
- Be positive with your child and ask them what they enjoyed at school opposed to what went wrong.
- Celebrate the small wins: a tricky word spelled correctly, a maths problem solved, a thoughtful question asked. Praise the effort this took.
- Encourage positive comments and feedback to staff when they celebrate good examples of learning on Dojo and in the Oakdene Newsletter.
- Encourage curiosity and praise effort and perseverance.

Together, we can build a culture where learning is valued above all else, and where every child feels proud of their achievements. Together, we can be the best school in the world!

Thank you for being part of our learning community.

Everyday Counts!

Did you know that just one day off every two weeks adds up to over three weeks of lost learning across the school year? At Oakdene, we're passionate about helping every child thrive – and that starts with being in school, on time, every day.



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

97.9%

97%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

Attendance Awards



Year 2
100%



Year 3
99.7%



Year 6 & 1
99.3%

The winning class(es) will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Year 2 who had 100% attendance!

Why Attendance Matters:

- Children who attend regularly feel more confident, connected, and successful.
- Learning builds day by day – missing even a little can mean missing a lot which can create gaps in learning as well as misconceptions meaning children feel left behind.
- Good habits now, set children up for a bright future.

What We're Doing:

- Weekly celebration in assembly for classes with top attendance!
- Special recognition for pupils with 100% attendance- extra playtime.
- Supportive conversations with families to help overcome any barriers.

How You Can Help:

- Aim for every day, on time – even if your child is a bit tired or the weather's gloomy!
- Try to book appointments outside school hours.
- Reach out to us if you're struggling – we're here to help, not judge.

Let's Work Together!

We know life happens – but together, we can make a real difference. Let's give our children the best chance to succeed by making school attendance a top priority.

Thank you for being part of our Oakdene community. We appreciate everything you do!

PE KIT EXPECTATIONS

At Oakdene Primary, children are permitted to wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE.



22/10/25
Parents' Evening
3.30-5.30

23/10/25
Values Assembly
9am

24/10/25
EYFS - Spooky
Welly Walk

24/10/25
Friends event
Halloween Bingo

24/10/25
School closes
for half-term

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



Our Oakdene PE kit and expectations are very clear and have been communicated many times. PE kit is included in our school uniform policy. We expect the same high standards of dress to be maintained. All children are required to wear:

- House Colour Oakdene T-Shirt Navy blue hoody
- Navy blue shorts
- Navy blue jogging bottoms
- Black or Navy Trainers

These items can be plain or feature the school logo.

Please note, branded sportswear is not permitted. Equally dance shorts are also not permitted.

Additionally, trainers should only be worn on PE days and are not acceptable as everyday footwear.

If a child arrives without the correct PE kit, the school will provide the correct PE kit for them to wear during the day. We appreciate your continued cooperation and support in helping us uphold the Oakdene Expectations.

THE OAKDENE WAY

At Oakdene Primary, we believe that behaviour is not just expected – it's taught. Just like reading or maths, children need guidance and support to learn how to behave in ways that help them succeed and feel safe. That's why we've created a behaviour curriculum called The Oakdene Way.

This approach sets high expectations for every child, because we know that clear boundaries and consistent routines help children feel confident, secure, and ready to learn.

At the heart of The Oakdene Way are our 3Rs:

Ready

Being prepared to be ready to learn, listen, and participate.

Examples:

- Arriving at school on time with everything needed including the correct uniform and PE kit.
- Sitting smartly and listening carefully during lessons so that learning can be applied immediately.
- Following instructions and setting the very best of examples.



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Respectful

Showing kindness, thoughtfulness, and consideration to others.

Examples:

- Using polite language like "please" and "thank you."
- Listening when someone else is speaking and absorbing what is being said.
- Respecting other peoples space, boundaries and view points
- Taking care of school equipment and shared spaces.



Resilient

Trying your best, even when things feel difficult.

Examples:

- Having another go when you make a mistake.
- Asking for help instead of giving up.
- Staying calm and positive when faced with a challenge.



Safe

Making choices that protect yourself and others.

Examples:

- Walking calmly around school.
- Keeping hands and feet to yourself.
- Telling an adult if something doesn't feel right.

These values are taught, modelled, and celebrated every day. You'll see them displayed across our school, woven into our routines, and reflected in the way our children treat one another. At Oakdene, we don't just expect great behaviour – we teach it. That's The Oakdene Way.



Acorn Class

The children in Acorn class have had a fantastic week filled with creativity, learning, and fun activities. Here's a glimpse into what we've been up to:

Continuing our exploration of 'The Gingerbread Man', the children have enjoyed imagining and sharing creative ideas about where the Gingerbread Man might journey next. This activity not only sparked their imagination but also encouraged them to think critically about storytelling.

In connection with the story, we have been practicing our letters in class. The children have made a great effort in writing CVC words to match the animals from the story. This exercise has been a wonderful way to reinforce their developing phonics and writing skills.





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A highlight of our week was baking our own Gingerbread Men. Together, we wrote down the ingredients needed for our recipe. The children were thrilled to mix the ingredients and create dough. Once baked, they had a delightful time decorating their Gingerbread Men with coloured icing and edible buttons.

In a wonderful display of initiative, the children asked if they could create their own traps to catch the Gingerbread Man. They used a variety of resources and cleverly attached them together using different materials. This activity showcased their problem-solving skills and creativity.

We also enjoyed painting self-portraits while looking in the mirror. Through this activity, the children learned about similarities and differences among themselves and their friends, celebrating their individuality and uniqueness.

Our class has been learning about Autumn and its seasonal changes. We explored the vibrant colours of fall leaves and discussed how nature transforms during this time of year. This exploration helped the children connect with the world around them.

Lastly, we've been practicing subitising, which is the ability to recognize the number of objects in a small group without counting them; a crucial skill for developing number sense and enhancing mathematical understanding.

Overall, it's been a week full of enriching experiences and joyful learning. We are excited to continue our educational journey together next week!

In Acorn Class, we are on a gingerbread hunt!

Maple Class

This week has been full of imagination, creativity, and discovery as our Year 1 children continue to grow in confidence and independence. Here's a peek into what we've been up to in class...

We've been diving into the magical world of 'The Midnight Panther'. The children loved the story's rich imagery and powerful message. Inspired by the book, they began writing their own versions – changing characters, settings, or endings to create something unique. It was wonderful to see how their voices came through, whether through brave new adventures or surprising twists. They are learning that stories belong to them, too.

In spelling, we've been exploring the trigraph 'tch'. The children practiced spotting it in words like match, hatch, and stretch. They enjoyed games and challenges to apply the sound in their own writing, which helps them see how phonics links directly to storytelling and everyday spelling.





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In Geography, we've been thinking about maps. The children set out to draw maps of our own classroom, considering where everything belongs and how spaces are used. This activity built not only spatial awareness but also teamwork, as the children worked together to make sure their maps included all the important details.

As our children continue to blend their phonics, storytell, and create ideas with curiosity about the world around them, they are developing skills that will serve them far beyond Year 1. Thank you, as always, for supporting them on their learning journey.



Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class enjoyed an unforgettable history workshop this week when none other than Samuel Pepys himself came to visit. The day was filled with excitement, creativity, and plenty of learning as the children stepped back in time to 1666 to discover the story of the Great Fire of London.

The workshop began with Samuel Pepys sharing his first-hand account of the fire. The children were fascinated to hear how it all started in a bakery on Pudding Lane and quickly spread through the wooden houses of London. They learned about the reasons why the fire spread so quickly, including the narrow streets, strong winds, and the fact that most buildings were made of timber. Pepys explained how the fire raged for four days before it was finally brought under control, and the children were amazed to discover how the fire was eventually stopped by pulling down houses to create firebreaks.

As the day went on, Chestnut Class explored the effects of the Great Fire. They discussed how thousands of people lost their homes, how important buildings such as St Paul's Cathedral were destroyed, and how London had to be rebuilt in a safer and stronger way. The children reflected on the significance of the fire, understanding how it changed the way cities were designed and how it shaped the London we know today.

The workshop wasn't just about listening and learning - it was also about creativity. The children produced brilliant artwork inspired by the flames and destruction of the fire, using bold colours and dramatic shapes. They also took part in drama activities, acting out scenes from the fire and imagining what it would have been like to live through such a dramatic event.





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It was a truly memorable day, full of history, imagination, and creativity. Chestnut Class left the workshop with a deeper understanding of the Great Fire of London and a real sense of excitement about history.

In Chestnut Class, we are Historians!

Cherry Class

Cherry Class have made a fantastic start to Key Stage 2; they have embraced the new routines with enthusiasm and are already showing more independence and curiosity in their learning.

Last week, we held a Reading for Pleasure Workshop which was a huge success. The children loved exploring and sharing a wide range of books with their classmates. It was wonderful to see their excitement as they discovered new stories and authors through some great treasure hunts, and many have already added new titles to their reading lists!

We've also started reading 'The Barnabus Project' by The Fan Brothers, which has sparked some brilliant discussions about uniqueness and creativity. Inspired by the story, the children designed and sculpted their own "perfect pets" out of plasticine. Each creation was wonderfully imaginative, from rainbow-scaled dragons to glittery winged cats!

Now, Cherry Class are busy writing detailed instructions on how to create their perfect pets. They're learning how to use clear sequencing, imperative verbs, and descriptive language to guide others through the process.

It's been a joyful and creative start to the term, and we're so proud of how well Cherry Class are settling in. We can't wait to see what they'll achieve next!

In Cherry Class, we are bookworms!

Rowan Class

In English, our new text, 'Tar Beach' by Faith Ringgold, has inspired us to explore the theme of freedom. The vibrant story and beautiful illustrations have sparked our imaginations, leading us to craft our own poems. Through these poems, we express what freedom means to us, drawing inspiration from Cassie Louise Lightfoot's magical flights over New York City. Each poem is a canvas where we paint our dreams and aspirations, celebrating the boundless possibilities freedom offers.





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In Maths, we're sharpening our skills with place value. Rounding numbers has become a fun challenge, as we learn to estimate and simplify numbers with precision. These skills not only enhance our mathematical prowess but also build a strong foundation for more complex concepts in the future. Through engaging activities and collaborative problem-solving, we're making numbers our friends.

Our Science lessons are filled with curiosity as we explore sound by creating 'string phones'. This hands-on project allows us to understand how sound travels through different mediums, sparking our interest in the wonders of physics. With simple materials, we're discovering the magic of communication and the science behind it.

In History, we are investigating Roman artefacts to gain insights into the past. By examining these historical treasures, we connect with the people and cultures that came before us.

In Rowan Class, we have a thirst for knowledge!

Sycamore Class

What a fantastic week it's been in Sycamore Class! Our Year Five learners have continued their brilliant start to the school year with energy and enthusiasm across all subjects.

This week, Sycamore have been securing their understanding of place value, laying down strong foundations for all the maths they'll tackle this year. Their confidence and accuracy have truly shone through, especially in the Times Table Competition where they've gone head-to-head with other schools. At the time of writing, they'd answered nearly 10,000 questions with an incredible average accuracy of over 90%! We'll reveal the final results in the next blog—stay tuned!

In PE, Year Five took on personal best challenges including burpees, step ups and squats. The determination was infectious, and even Miss Scott gave it her all— though she will admit to being outpaced by the sheer energy of Year Five. Some work on burpees may be needed to keep up next week!

We have also been diving into the story of 'Hengist and Horsa', sparking thoughtful discussions around the validity of historical sources. We've shown real maturity in how we look at the past.

Outside the classroom, Sycamore continued to shine. Many of our trained playleaders have been doing a wonderful job supporting younger children during break-times, showing kindness, leadership, and responsibility. More children will be trained next week as 'B's Buddies' to further help our youngest children to have positive break-times.



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Keep up the hard work Sycamore class –you’re doing brilliantly!
In Sycamore class, we are ambitious and beat our personal best!

Elder Class

Year 6 has been working hard over the past couple of weeks, especially on TT Rockstars as we aimed to win a competition against other schools. With one day to go, we were close to the lead and just needed a final push!

We have also used the iPads to improve our spellings on Spelling Shed and children are showing great pride when they improve their scores from Monday’s pre-test to Friday’s final check of the words.

We have also seen the children make a great start to their double-page spreads in History. Our topic of ‘World War II’ has really enthused the class, who are already showing great knowledge in both their verbal answers and their work in books to recap what they have learned. This topic links in with our whole-class Reading of the novel ‘Letters from the Lighthouse’, which the children always want to read further each day! It’s lovely to see them really getting into the topics and have that thirst for learning.

We also enjoyed our Reading Workshop, where the children got to purchase some new books, whilst the ‘Thrillers & Chillers’ section of our Year 6 Reading Spine is also proving very popular right now. In Year 6, we are embracing our learning!

