



Tuesday
14th October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

**Growing
& Learning
Together**

Key Dates

13/10/25

**Black History
Week**

16/10/25

**Golf Experience
Day**

16/10/25

**Parents' Evening
3.30-6.30pm**

22/10/25

**Parents' Evening
3.30-5.30pm**

23/10/25

**Values Assembly
9am**

24/10/25

**EYFS - Spooky
Welly Walk**

Dear Parents, Carers and Oakdene Community

As we embrace the season of Harvest, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our collection. The donations gathered for St Matthew's Pantry will make a real difference to families in need, and it's a wonderful reflection of the compassion and community spirit we value so deeply at Oakdene.

We also have some exciting news to share! Our children's incredible writing and artwork, inspired by the beautiful book 'The Midnight Panther', caught the attention of none other than the author herself – Poonam Mistry. She was truly impressed by the creativity and thoughtfulness shown in their work, and her recognition is a testament to the talent and imagination flourishing in our classrooms. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We look forward to sharing more of our children's achievements with you in the weeks ahead.

Acorn Class

Over the past couple of weeks in Acorn Class we have been exploring the harvest season, packed with creative and educational activities that captivated the children. The children crafted harvest wreaths using leaves that they collected from the school grounds, enhancing their artistic skills and understanding of the harvest season's importance.

In Maths, the whimsical Grandma Fantastic helped bring numbers to life. The children learned about numbers 2 and 3 with the symbols add (+) and equals (=), making math more accessible and enjoyable.

Artistic expression was encouraged through observational drawing, leading to a self-portrait project. Starting with sketches of objects, they moved to drawing themselves, honing attention to detail and self-awareness.

In Literacy, the class explored "So Much" by Trish Cooke. The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as the characters and delving into themes of love and affection. Engaging discussions enriched their understanding of emotional expression and empathy.

Maple Class

It's been an exciting and busy time in Year 1 as we've been diving into some amazing learning experiences across all areas of learning. From numbers to buses, and materials to messy foam, we've been exploring, thinking, and having lots of fun along the way!



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 4
99.3%



Year 5
98.7%

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

24/10/25
Friends event -
Halloween Bingo

24/10/25
School closes
for half-term

3/11/25
Inset Day

4/11/25
Children return
to school

6/11/25
Individual
& Family
Photographs

In Maths, we've been working hard on ordering numbers from smallest to greatest. We've used number cards, cubes, and even ourselves to line up in order! The children have learned to look carefully at the digits and decide which numbers are smaller and which are bigger. Everyone has shown super thinking skills and some children are even starting to explain why one number is greater than another using the words greater than, less than, and equal to.

Our classroom was transformed into a bus station this week! We worked together to set up a pretend bus in the classroom. The children said things like:

"Buses have big wheels."

"There's a driver at the front."

"You have to press the bell to stop!"

"Double-decker buses have stairs!"

We wrote down all our ideas and shared them with one another. To help us with our writing and spelling, we explored foam trays and children used their fingers to make marks, letters, and words such as driver, ticket, stop, and wheel. This sensory activity was a big hit – it helped build fine motor skills and confidence with early writing while being loads of fun!

In Science, we've been learning all about materials and their properties. We explored different classroom objects and sorted them using Venn diagrams. It was a great opportunity to practise observing closely and using scientific vocabulary. One child noticed: "This plastic is hard but also bendy – so it goes in the middle of the Venn diagram!"

We love how Year 1 Scientists are thinking carefully and asking clever questions.



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



Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class has been shining brightly this term with their dedication and enthusiasm in their writing unit on the Great Fire of London. One of the key focuses for Chestnut Class has been experimenting with different sentence types. The students have used statement, command and questions sentences effectively in their writing. They produced fantastic posters about London after receiving a letter from the Lord Mayor to promote London's tourism.



Writing in the past tense can be a challenge, but Chestnut Class has tackled it with success. With the Great Fire of London as their backdrop, the students have skilfully recounted historical events, ensuring their verbs consistently reflect the past tense. This achievement highlights their grasp of grammatical structures and their ability to apply these skills.



Mrs. Hughes has been especially proud of the remarkable progress her students have made in their handwriting. The effort they've put into improving their handwriting is evident in their beautifully presented work. The pride they take in their writing is clear, and it's wonderful to see how their hard work has paid off.



Chestnut Class's commitment to learning and their impressive achievements in writing are a testament to their hard work. Their journey through the Great Fire of London has not only enriched their historical knowledge but also strengthened their writing skills. Mrs. Hughes is excited to see what is to come as they keep working on their writing skills to produce their final piece - an Information Booklet all about the Great Fire of London.

Cherry Class

Cherry Class have been developing their artistic skills this week by exploring shading techniques and drawing methods inspired by the natural world. Our focus has been on creating detailed botanical drawings that capture the beauty and complexity of plants and flowers. Using careful observation, we studied the specific shapes, textures, and patterns found in leaves, flowers, and stems. We have practised shading with a strong emphasis on accuracy and control, following the four key shading rules to create depth and contrast.



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We experimented with different pencil pressures and directions to achieve smooth gradients and tonal variation. To enhance our understanding of texture, Cherry Class also explored the technique of frottage—rubbing over textured surfaces to capture intricate details. This allowed us to incorporate authentic patterns and tactile qualities into our artwork. The combination of shading and frottage has helped to develop confidence in our drawing skills preparing us for our final pieces.



In Science, Cherry Class has been exploring how light affects visibility. In bright light, shiny objects reflect more, making them easier to see, while matt surfaces absorb light and appear duller. In dim light, shiny objects still catch small reflections, but matt ones fade into shadows. Light changes how everything looks and shines. In Cherry Class we are Artists and Scientists.

Rowan Class



Rowan class have had a fantastic two weeks of learning. In Science, we dove into the world of the ear and discovered how the different parts help us hear sounds. We learned about the outer ear, which catches sound waves, the middle ear that vibrates with help from tiny bones, and the inner ear that sends signals to our brain. Isn't it amazing how these parts work together to help us hear the world around us?



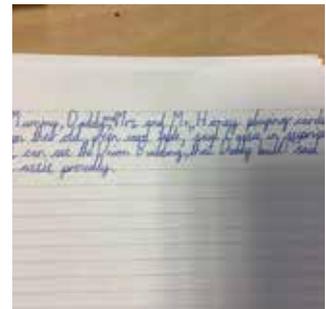
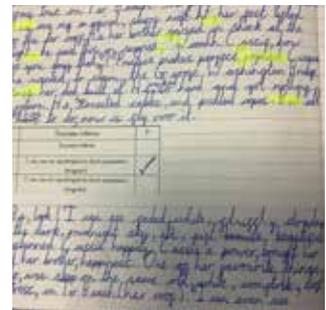
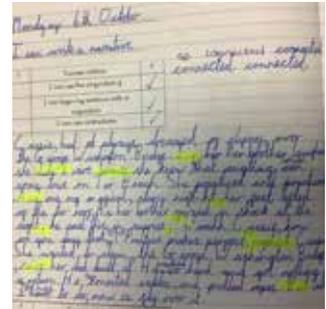
History took us back in time to meet the brave Roman soldiers. We uncovered their rigorous training routines, impressive armour, and strategic battle formations. Understanding how Roman soldiers lived and fought has given us a glimpse into the past and the rich history that shaped our world today.



In English, we embraced our creativity by writing our own "Tar Beach" stories. Inspired by Faith Ringgold's beautiful tale, we crafted stories filled with imagination, dreams, and freedom. Each story was unique, showcasing our wonderful imaginations and storytelling skills.

Maths has been all about honing our skills in addition and subtraction. We've tackled problems, learned new strategies, and become more confident in our number abilities. Whether working with 4 digit numbers or solving word problems, we've shown perseverance and growth.

In Rowan class, we are problem solvers!





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Sycamore Class

This week in Sycamore Class, we've been diving deeper into the epic world of Beowulf – and what a journey it's been! Our young writers have been exploring the power of language through Kennings, crafting vivid and imaginative phrases like battle-brave and night-stalker. We've also mastered the use of superlatives to make our writing even more dramatic and exciting! One of the highlights has been using the speech sandwich technique to create powerful dialogue. Just look at this brilliant example:

"Good evening, King Hrothgar. I have come to assist you in slaying the monster that stalks the night," shouted Beowulf, as he bowed his head to the king. Nearby, several onlookers put down their cups and listened. Without a second thought, King Hrothgar rose from his throne with a look of hope in his eyes.

"I have heard many stories about you, young Beowulf. May you bring peace to my people."

Not only have we focused on our writing skills, but we've also paid close attention to presentation – and it's really paying off. Our books are looking fantastic! Watch this space for more fantastic outcomes.

Within the wider curriculum we have also been very busy:

In Computing, we've been thinking carefully about online identities and how to help each other stay safe.

In History, we've explored the Anglo-Saxon hierarchy, learning who held power and how society was structured.

And after completing B's Buddies training, many of us are now ready and excited to support younger children during breaktimes.

We also had great success on the football field this week with a team of boys heading to Sutton Leisure Centre to play against local schools. They came back to school victorious with six wins and one draw under their belt. They also represented Oakdene fantastically well with their behaviour and values. A big thank you to the parents who helped with this as well as Ms. Woods who made sure that everything ran smoothly!

In Sycamore Class, we are Legend Writers!

Elder Class

In Year 6, we came into class this week to find a rather strange walking stick and old bag hanging up. The children suggested it might be 'Gangsta Granny' until Mr Weston reminded them that they were in Year 6 and that studying a David Walliams text was about as likely as Manchester United winning the premier league this year!





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The children studied some further images - pipes, candles, chairs, a star with 'Jude' on it, and some arms with numbers tattooed on. Eventually, we discovered our new text for English 'Alte Zachen' - Yiddish for 'Old Things'. We got some great predictions and inference in our opening sessions and we are looking forward to learning more about both the text and the history behind it.



We also had a really mature discussion in Computing around online bullying, a great History lesson looking at the Home Front in WWII and we have been learning how to say what we think about sports and why in French. It's been lovely to see such enthusiasm from the class for their learning, from calculations in Maths right through to perspective drawing in art.



In Year 6, we are (with the possible exception of Mr Weston) definitely NOT 'Altekaker'! Ask a Year 6 child what it means!



Have a great week!



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