



Friday
24th October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

**Growing
& Learning
Together**

Key Dates

03/11/25

**INSET DAY
SCHOOL
CLOSED**

04/11/25

TERM BEGINS

06/11/25

**Individual
& Family
Photographs**

07/11/25

**Year 6
Drama Workshop**

10/11/25

**Teach Rex
Dinosaur Day**

10/11/25

**Odd Socks
Day**

We Made It To Half-Term!

As we wrap up the first half of the Autumn Term, I just want to take a moment to say how proud I am of the incredible teaching and learning that's taken place over the past eight weeks. From inspiring lessons to creative classroom environments, it's been a joy to see our pupils thriving and our staff going above and beyond every single day.

As we look ahead to the second half of the term, let's keep our focus firmly on learning. Our children are capable of incredible things, and it's our job to help them realise that potential. Let's continue to raise expectations, challenge them to think deeply, and support them in reaching for the stars. Together, we can help every child shine at Oakdene Primary School.

Thank you to everyone – staff, pupils, and families – for your continued dedication and support. Have a wonderful, restful half-term when it arrives. You've earned it!

Warm wishes,

Ms Lynsey Young

Headteacher, Oakdene Primary

**"Shoot for the moon.
Even if you miss,
you'll land among the stars."**

Acorn Class

This week, in Acorn class, the children were thrilled to have taken part in a sponsored welly walk around the local area! The children donned their favourite Halloween costumes and wellies for the walk. Families joined in, creating a memorable experience for both children and parents.

Our Parent Halloween Workshop offered an array of engaging activities designed to ignite creativity and curiosity. Both children and parents experienced the following: Biscuit Decorating, unleashing their artistic flair. Pumpkin Exploration, that piqued interest and promoted sensory exploration. Imaginative Halloween-themed art projects were created. Halloween Stories were read that captivated the children's imaginations and inspired a love for reading. And messy play, where the children explored textures and creativity in a delightful mess.



RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, HONESTY, DETERMINATION & PRIDE



Friday
24th October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our great school!

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

97.4%

97%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

Attendance Awards



Year 6
100%



Year 3
98%



Year 1
97.8%

The winning class(es) will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Year 6 who had 100% attendance!

11/11/25
EYFS
Tour

12/11/25
Year 4
Romans
Workshop

13/11/25
Reception &
Year 1
Screening

14/11/25
Children
in Need

20/11/25
Year 6
Workshop -
Royal Navy

In our Maths sessions, children delved into the concept of more and fewer than a given number. When taking part in a hands-on activity, where the children used pumpkin seeds to compare quantities and develop a solid understanding of more or fewer.

Our Literacy focus introduced children to the charming story of "The Leaf Thief." The children were asked to use their imagination to decide who the leaf thief could have been before moving on to read the rest of the story. The children enjoyed drawing and writing about their ideas.

The children were also introduced to the Festival of Lights, known as Diwali, and explored Hindu traditions. They engaged in a hands-on activity by crafting colourful clay diya lamps. This creative experience not only enhanced their understanding but also fostered cultural appreciation.

Maple Class

Year 1's Busy Half Term!

What a wonderful and busy half term it has been for Year 1! The children have been working incredibly hard and having lots of fun along the way.

In Art, we've been exploring shape and line through the work of famous artists Bridget Riley and Paul Klee. The children loved experimenting with bold lines, patterns, and colourful shapes to create their own masterpieces inspired by these artists. Our classroom has been transformed into a vibrant gallery full of eye-catching designs!

In Maths, we've been practising our number formation and working on our number bonds within 10. The children have enjoyed using practical resources, games, and challenges to strengthen their understanding of how numbers fit together. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they spot patterns and share clever strategies with each other.





Friday
24th October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

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



In English, we've had an exciting visitor... the Naughty Bus! When the children arrived at school, they couldn't believe their eyes – the Naughty Bus had been up to mischief! We went on a tour of the school to investigate the chaos it had caused, from messy classrooms to mysterious tracks in the corridor. Using this as inspiration, the children planned and wrote their very own versions of The Naughty Bus story. Their imagination and creativity truly shone through in their writing.



Alongside all this fantastic learning, Year 1 have also been practising their handwriting, making sure their letters are formed carefully and neatly. The progress they've made is amazing!



It's safe to say that Year 1 have had a fun-filled and productive few weeks. Everyone has worked so hard and should feel very proud of what they've achieved. We are all now looking forward to a well-earned half-term break – a chance to rest, recharge, and get ready for more exciting learning ahead!

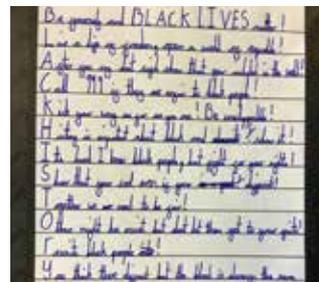


Chestnut Class: Champions of Counting!

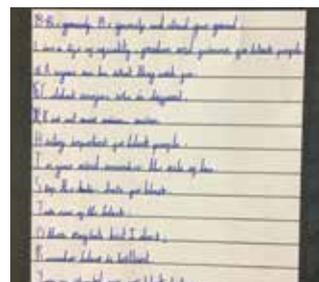
Chestnut Class have been showing incredible determination in their maths lessons over the last few weeks! With focus, teamwork, and a positive attitude, they've been diving deep into the world of counting sequences.



We've been exploring how to count in 2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s, and the children have worked hard to spot patterns and make connections. From identifying odd and even numbers to recognising whether sequences are moving forwards or backwards, Chestnut Class have become true pattern detectives!



We have then used what we have learnt to find missing numbers in sequences. The class have used their reasoning skills to solve tricky problems and explain their thinking clearly. Whether it's jumping ahead in 10s or spotting a backwards pattern in 3s, they've tackled every challenge with enthusiasm and resilience.



It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they've mastered new skills and supported one another along the way. Chestnut Class should be incredibly proud of their progress. Their hard work is really paying off and will really help with learning their times tables this year!



Friday
24th October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!



Keep up the fantastic effort, Chestnut Class. You're becoming maths superstars

Cherry Class

What a busy couple of weeks it has been for Cherry Class! Last week, we celebrated Black History Week, diving into the amazing contributions of black authors and artists. Our class went on a research adventure, exploring the lives and works of three fantastic authors: Petronella Breinburg, Jasmine Richards, and Abiola Bella, showing just how important diverse voices are in literature. The children learned how to research these facts using a desktop computer which was an eye opener for some of them, being used to using tablets all the time!

We didn't stop there! Inspired by the brilliant Alma Thomas, we got creative with an art task that had everyone buzzing. Using her unique style of points and patterns, the students produced some colourful and eye-catching artwork. It was a joy to see their creativity shine through as they learned how art can convey powerful messages, just like the writings of the authors we'd been studying.

We also took a closer look at the legendary Aretha Franklin and how she fought for fairness and equality. This message really struck a chord with us at our school, where we believe in creating an inclusive space that celebrates every student's uniqueness through all the work we do on No Outsiders.

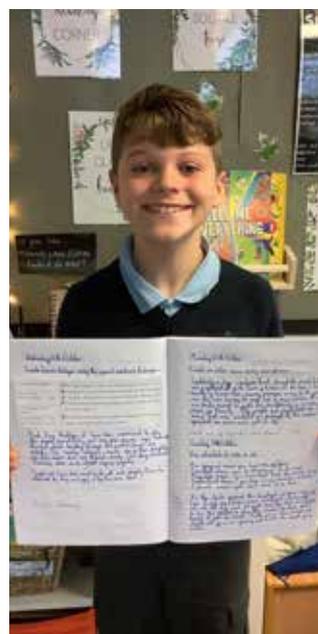
And guess what? We topped off our week with a fantastic Golf Experience Day! The children learned how to swing a golf club and had a blast trying their hand at this new sport. Laughter filled the air as they showed off their skills and embraced the fun. A special well done must go to Paige who even managed to get a hole-in-one!

All in all, in Cherry Class it was a week packed with learning, creativity and proving that celebrating diversity adds colour to our world.

Rowan Class

In Rowan Class, we believe that understanding history is crucial to appreciating the present and shaping the future. This month we have been delving into the lives of significant figures from black history who have made remarkable contributions to society.

Our journey included learning about courageous individuals like Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, and Nelson Mandela, whose stories of resilience and courage continue to inspire us today.

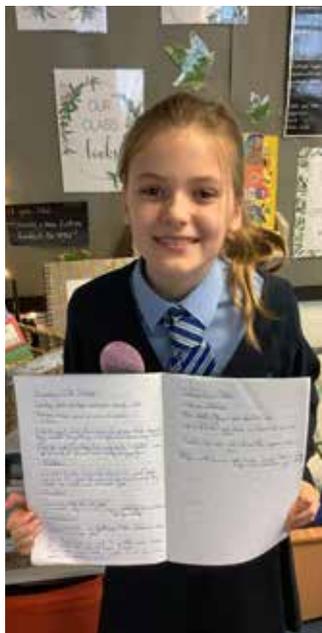




Friday
24th October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!



One of the highlights of our history lessons will be writing a biography of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a true icon of the civil rights movement.

Year 4 explored his life, from his early beginnings in Atlanta, Georgia, to his pivotal role in the fight for racial equality. Through this biography project, pupils learned about his famous "I Have a Dream" speech and how his vision for a more just and equal world continues to resonate.

Creativity has been a big part of our curriculum as we've tapped into our poetic talents by writing black history poems. Pupils have had the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings about the impact of black history figures through poetry. This activity encouraged them to think critically and creatively, using language as a tool to honour the past and inspire the future.

In Geography, we embarked on an exciting exploration of natural phenomena, focusing on earthquakes. We learned what causes these powerful earth-shaking events and how they impact the environment and communities worldwide. This unit will foster a deeper appreciation for the planet's dynamic nature and the science behind these natural events.

Our scientific adventures have taken us on a journey into the human body, starting with the fascinating world of the ear. Year 4 have learned about the different parts of the ear and how they work together to help us hear and balance. They have explored the science behind sound waves and discovered the amazing process of how our brains interpret these signals.

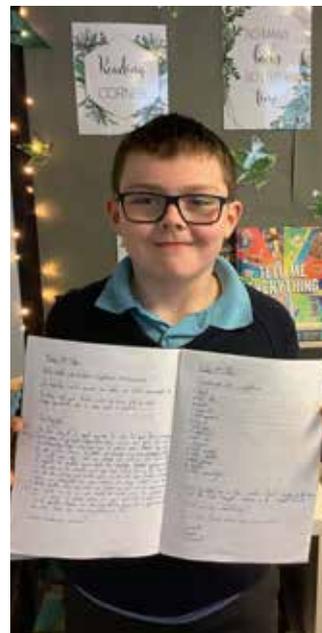
In Rowan class, we are investigative!

Sycamore Class

What an incredible first half term it's been for Sycamore Class! From golf swings to dramatic flair, our Year Fives have truly hit the ground running.

Last week, we were lucky enough to welcome PGA professional Stu Warren for a golf workshop. The whole class showed brilliant enthusiasm and picked up some impressive new skills. Special shout-out to Frankie and Elijah, who both scored a hole in one!

This week, the excitement continued with a drama workshop that brought history to life. The children explored dramatic techniques while embedding their historical learning and it's clear we have some future stars in our midst. With such talent on display, I know who will be aiming for lead roles in next year's Year Six production!





Friday
24th October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our great school!



In English, the class has been crafting fabulous character descriptions using rich and imaginative vocabulary. After half term, they'll be using these to write a brand-new chapter for the legend of Beowulf – and we can't wait to see their creativity shine through in these epic tales.

Our reading fluency group has also been having a blast using finger lights to hunt for answers quickly – it's been like a mini disco in the classroom! We're excited to share this fun and effective strategy with other fluency groups across the school after the half term break!

Sycamore Class, you've shown that in Year Five, we're dramatic, legendary, and ready for anything. Keep up the amazing work – we're so proud of you!

Elder Class

In Year 6, we have had a really hard-working end to the half-term.

We have been improving our English, including hyphens, dashes for parenthesis, exclamation sentences and Yiddish phrases into our diary work as we got into character as an 80-something-year-old Jewish woman who had moved to New York to escape WWII Germany from our text 'Alte Zachen'. The children have been really enthused about the text.

In Maths, we have been working on factors, multiples and prime numbers, whilst also showing lots of improvement in our 'Arithmetic Monday' sessions. Some children have already jumped up 10 marks in just 4 weeks!

The class continues to really enjoy our History work on the topic of World War II and this week we studied the changes to civilian life during the war.

In Computing, we have had some really interesting sessions looking at protected characteristics and different types of online discrimination and harassment.

With all this hard work, it was lovely to get the opportunity to unwind with a bit of golf! Our golf morning was great fun and the children really took to it well. I was particularly impressed with how quickly they made adjustments to things like their stance and grip and saw immediate improvements.





Friday
24th October

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!



RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, HONESTY, DETERMINATION & PRIDE