



Monday 14th Sept

OAKDENE PRIMARY ACADEMY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

Key Dates

21/9/26

Y6 TTRS
Week

28/9/26

Book Fair
Arrives

30/9/26

Author Visit -
Tom Palmer

05/10/26

Y5 Trip -
Martin Mere

06/10/26

Year 5
Bikeability

07/10/26

The Oaks CLOSED
for staff training

09/10/26

Wear Yellow for
Mental Health Day

16/10/26

Reception
Spooky Welly Walk

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome all of our children back to school this term, and they have certainly hit the ground running! They have returned looking smart in their new school uniform, full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. The children have settled brilliantly into their new classes, and we would like to thank families for their patience as our new teachers and teaching assistants get to know the children and their families. We especially appreciate your patience on the school playground at the end of the day while new staff become familiar with our routines; this will become increasingly smooth over the coming days. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for bearing with us as we get the new school year off to such a fantastic start!

3Rs - The Oakdene Way

At Oakdene, our behaviour expectations are built around our 3Rs. If you don't know these already, they are...

Ready – being prepared to learn, listening carefully, following instructions and approaching every day with a positive attitude.

Respectful – showing kindness, using good manners, valuing differences and treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Resilient – persevering when things are challenging, learning from mistakes and never giving up when learning becomes difficult.

Safe – making choices that keep ourselves and others physically and emotionally safe, both in school and online.

To help bring our values to life, we have introduced four new behaviour characters:

- Rocky Ready
- Rosie Respectful
- Resilient Rex
- Sammy Safe

The children have already embraced our new characters and regularly talk about them during lessons, assemblies and around school. They are helping children understand what the Oakdene Way looks like in action and have quickly become a favourite part of school life. Our magnificent monsters are featured on the back page of this weeks newsletter.

We are also placing an even greater emphasis on celebrating those children who consistently model our values and expectations. This year, children can work towards a new tiered reward system, progressing through:

- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold
- Platinum
- Diamond
- Rainbow

The children have been introduced to the awards during assembly and class time and are incredibly excited, with many already aiming for their Bronze certificate!



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 this year

98%

97%

Attendance percentage
we aim for every year

Attendance Awards 2026



Year 2
99.6%



Years 4
98.8%



Year 3
98%

The winning class will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Year 2 who had 99.6% attendance this year!



Another new addition is our **Virtual Dojo Shop**. Children can use the Dojo points they earn through demonstrating the Oakdene Way to purchase rewards. Our Year 6 pupils were involved in designing the Virtual shop and deciding what rewards it should include. Their ideas ranged from individual treats to rewards that will benefit an entire class when points are pooled together.

Some examples include:

- Hot chocolate and biscuits afternoon
- A new football for the class at playtime
- Sitting on a special chair in assembly for the week
- Using the teacher's special pen for the day

The enthusiasm from the children has been wonderful to see, and we are looking forward to watching them work towards their goals.

We have also updated our approach to **reflection**. Rather than focusing solely on thinking about what went wrong, we are placing greater emphasis on children **repairing, resolving and putting things right as quickly as possible**. We want children to learn from mistakes, make amends where necessary and then move forward positively.

Whilst this approach is more restorative in nature, it remains important that children understand that poor choices have consequences. We will continue to be consistent in our expectations and responses, ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and able to learn.

Together, with your support, we look forward to continuing to develop confident, respectful, resilient and successful children who proudly demonstrate **The Oakdene Way** every day.

Uniform

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for the fantastic efforts you have made in ensuring children are wearing the correct school uniform. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Just a reminder that children should wear **plain black school shoes rather than trainers**. As we move further into the autumn term, you may also wish to consider changing to our **winter uniform**, if you have not already done so.



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

Attendance - Every Moment Matters!

Regular attendance plays a vital role in your child's learning, well-being and success at school. Every day in school matters, and even occasional absences can mean children miss important learning, friendships and experiences.

We kindly ask parents and carers to:

- Ensure children arrive at school **on time every day**.
- Arrange appointments outside school hours wherever possible.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- Inform the school as soon as possible if your child is unwell and unable to attend.

Our aim is for every child to achieve **at least 97% attendance** so they can make the most of every learning opportunity and thrive both academically and socially.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child develop positive attendance habits and a love of learning. Together, we can ensure every child is in school, on time, every day.

Keeping Up to Date with School Events

A reminder to all parents and carers that **all key dates, events and important notices will be published on Class Dojo this year**.

To make things easier, these can all be found in **one place** by clicking on the **Calendar** tab within the Dojo app. This will be regularly updated throughout the year with important dates, trips, special events, parents' evenings, performances and school celebrations.

We encourage all families to check the Calendar tab regularly and keep notifications switched on so that you do not miss any important information.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep communication clear and effective across our school community.

PE Kit Reminder

A gentle reminder to parents and carers that our **PE uniform policy is available on the school website** and sets out our expectations clearly.

For PE, children should wear:

- Navy or black trainers
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms, shorts or skorts
- A small logo on PE trainers is permitted

Please note that the following items are **not part of our PE uniform**:



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- Leggings
- Cycling shorts
- Dance shorts

We would be grateful if all families could ensure children attend school wearing the correct PE kit on their PE days. Consistency helps children feel part of our school community and ensures they are ready to participate fully in lessons.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining our high standards and helping children take pride in their appearance.

Year Five Regulation Zone!

We have a beautiful break out space outside our Year 5 classroom this year. Two of our wonderful families have spent their time and effort raising money and sourcing donations. They have been gathering these quality resources for our children over the Summer holidays and have given their time this summer to set it up ready for the children to use.

We are incredibly appreciative and feel so lucky to have such amazing families at Oakdene.

Well done to Ella and Seb for selling some of their own toys to raise money towards these resources. You have shown great responsibility!

Thank you again on behalf of myself and the Upper Key Stage 2 children.

Help Us Transform Outdoor Play Spaces at Oakdene

As a small school, Oakdene receives significantly less deprivation funding than many other schools. Rising costs and limited budgets mean that, whilst we remain committed to providing the very best for our children, we need additional support to make some much-needed improvements to our outdoor learning and play environments, particularly within our EYFS provision and wider playground spaces.

To help achieve this, we currently have two fantastic fundraising initiatives underway. During the Summer Holidays, our Chair of Governors, Paul Forester, took on the gruelling 95km Cykelvasan mountain bike challenge in Sweden, raising funds to help improve our outdoor provision.

In addition, on 19th September, our Office Manager and a team of dedicated Oakdene staff and families will be taking on the challenge of climbing Snowdon to raise further funds for this important project.

These improvements will help us create engaging, inclusive and inspiring outdoor spaces where children can play, explore, learn and develop vital physical, social and emotional skills. Every donation, no matter how small, will make a genuine difference.

We would be incredibly grateful if parents, family members, local businesses and members of our wider community could support us. If you are able to donate, sponsor one of our fund-raisers, or know of a local business that may be willing to help, please consider getting involved.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/oakdene-playground>

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can provide the outdoor spaces and opportunities that our children deserve.





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Acorn Class

This week, we have been settling into Reception and helping the children feel happy, confident and secure in their new classroom environment.

The children have been making new friendships, getting to know their teachers and learning each other's names. We have been practising recognising and writing our names, as well as developing important social skills such as sharing, taking turns, listening carefully and being kind to others.

We have introduced our school rules and our school value of the term, Responsibility. The children have begun learning about our 3 Rs: Ready, Respectful, Resilient and how to stay Safe.

We have also discussed what it means to be safe both in the classroom and around the school.

As part of our creative learning, the children have painted self-portraits and talked about their families, creating family portraits to celebrate the people who are important to them.

The children have enjoyed exploring the classroom environment, discovering the different areas of learning and learning how to use and care for the resources responsibly.

We have begun learning about feelings and emotions, discussing how we feel and exploring strategies to help us manage our emotions in the classroom. This has linked closely with our PATHS programme, where the children have met our special class puppets: Twiggie, Henrietta, Daphne and Duke.

Our PATHS friends will help us learn about feelings, friendships, problem-solving and making positive choices throughout the year.

We have been so proud of how well the children have settled into Reception and are looking forward to another exciting week of learning and discovery.

Maple Class

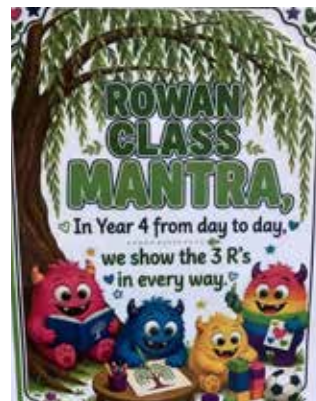
What a fantastic week we have had in Maple Class! The children have been settling into school routines beautifully and are becoming more confident in our learning environment every day.

In Drawing Club, we have been reading, drawing and writing about Superworm. The children have impressed us with their wonderful imagination and creativity, coming up with lots of amazing ideas for their drawings and writing.

Throughout the week, we have continued to talk about our school values and the 3Rs: being Ready, Respectful and Resilient. We have also focused on how to stay Safe in school and have been practising these important behaviours in everything we do.

In Maths, we have been exploring the number 5. We have looked at different ways to make 5 and have started using a rekenrek to help us see numbers in different ways and develop our counting skills.

Our Art learning took us outdoors this week! We have been observing plants carefully and looking closely at the details we can see. Armed with magnifying glasses, we explored the outdoor area and discovered lots of interesting patterns, shapes and textures in nature.





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The children are also becoming more familiar with our Continuous Provision (CP) areas. We have been learning where resources belong, how to share equipment kindly and how to look after our learning environment together.

In History, we have started learning about timelines and thinking about the past. The children enjoyed discussing events that happened before they were born and beginning to understand how timelines help us organise events in order.

We have also enjoyed our whole-school assemblies, where we have been learning about No Outsiders and celebrating the importance of inclusion and belonging. As always, we have loved coming together to sing and share our learning as a school community.

We are so proud of how well the children are settling into Maple Class and look forward to another exciting week of learning ahead!

Thank you for your continued support.

Chestnut Class - Chestnut Class's Wonderful First Week Back!

What a fantastic first week back it has been in Chestnut Class! It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and begin another exciting year of learning together.

We started the week by revisiting our school values and the Three Rs: Ready, Respectful and Resilient, alongside the importance of being Safe. Our new Dojo Monsters have helped us remember these important qualities: Rocky Ready, Rosie Respectful, Rex Resilient and Sammy Safe. They are helping us all to be happy, confident and ready to learn every day.

In English, we have begun our exciting new unit on The Great Fire of London. Chestnut Class received a special letter from the Lord Mayor of London asking for our help to encourage more tourists to visit the city. We have been researching famous attractions and interesting landmarks before creating persuasive posters for a Visit London campaign. We have also practised using different sentence types to make our writing engaging and informative.

In Art, we have started our new topic by developing our drawing skills. Inspired by the famous artist Vincent van Gogh, we have been learning how to create detailed self-portraits. We are excited to continue developing our artistic techniques, learn about a range of artists and produce our own final pieces later in the term.

It has been a brilliant first week back, full of enthusiasm, creativity and hard work. We are incredibly proud of how quickly everyone has settled back into school routines and embraced new challenges.

There is so much to look forward to this year, and Chestnut Class cannot wait for all the exciting learning ahead.

Chestnut Class are ready to rock and ready to roll!



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Cherry Class

What a fantastic start we have had in Year 3! It has been wonderful getting to know the children over the first few days of term. They have settled into their new routines brilliantly, shown excellent enthusiasm for learning, and demonstrated a positive attitude in everything they have done. We are incredibly proud of how well they have started the year and are looking forward to an exciting year of learning together.

In Art, we have begun our new unit on cave art. The children explored how early humans used natural materials to create artwork and worked collaboratively to produce their own cave-inspired masterpieces. Using charcoal and pastels, they experimented with different techniques to create striking images while learning about the importance of teamwork and creativity.

Our Science learning has focused on introducing the concept of light and dark. The children have enjoyed sharing their ideas about light sources and discussing how darkness is the absence of light. We are excited to continue investigating this topic through practical experiments over the coming weeks.

Year 3 have also started learning French. The children have enthusiastically embraced this new language and have enjoyed practising simple words and phrases. We are looking forward to developing our French speaking and listening skills throughout the year.

In English, we have been introduced to our new text, The Barnabus Project. The children have already been captivated by the imaginative story and have used their creativity to design and create their own "perfect pets" using plasticine. We were amazed by the fantastic ideas and unique characters they produced, and the activity sparked lots of wonderful discussion and descriptive language to use in our writing.

Well done, Cherry Class, on such a brilliant start. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds!



Rowan Class

What a fantastic first full week back it has been in Year 4 Rowan Class!

It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming all the children into class and getting to know each of their unique personalities, interests, and talents as we embark on this exciting new year together.

During our first week, we spent a significant amount of time working as a class and in groups, reflecting on our school values and had a huge focus on the Three R's: being Ready, Respectful, Resilient and Safe. We discussed our key class rules, daily expectations, and what The Oakdene Way truly looks like. The children had fantastic insights, and together we created our very own Year 4 class Mantra:

"In Year 4 from day to day, we show the 3 R's in every way!"

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In English, we have launched our writing unit based on the inspirational book *Tar Beach*. The children have explored the concept of freedom and unpacked the meaning behind the phrase “free as a bird”. The class were sharing knowledge and suggestions before using these rich ideas to craft some wonderful, imaginative poetry about what it means to be free.

In History, we began exploring our new topic on the Romans. The class investigated early Roman society and made some surprising discoveries about why the Romans believed they were so far advanced compared to ancient Britain at the time.

Linking closely to our history work, Design & Technology (DT) has also taken on a Roman theme! The children have started researching traditional Roman weapons to help inspire their upcoming design and build projects.

In PE, we kicked off our sessions with basketball and gymnastics. The children looked fantastic in their new PE kits and showed great sportsmanship, coordination, and team spirit right from the start.

It has been a brilliant first full week, full of energy, hard work, and creativity. I am incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm put in by the entire class, and I cannot wait for all the wonderful learning ahead!

Sycamore Class

Welcome to start of a new school year in the vibrant world of Sycamore Class, where Year 5 pupils have embarked on an exciting journey of learning and discovery. This week, the class has been buzzing with creativity and curiosity as they delve into an array of captivating subjects.

In English, the pupils have donned their imaginary armour, stepping into the shoes of the legendary hero Beowulf. Engaging in letter writing, they penned heartfelt correspondences to the regal King Hrothgar. Through these letters, they explored the themes of bravery and loyalty, while honing their writing skills. The pupils' imaginative descriptions and thoughtful expressions brought the epic tale to life, creating a bridge between ancient tales and modern classrooms.

Maths has been an adventure of numbers and logic as the pupils tackled the challenge of understanding numbers up to 10,000. With eager minds, they navigated through place value, addition, and subtraction. The classroom buzzed with excitement as they deciphered the mysteries of large numbers, developing a strong numerical foundation while fostering a love for mathematics.

In Art, the pupils found inspiration in the works of Georgia O'Keeffe, particularly her mesmerizing sketches. With pencils in hand, they explored the delicate lines and intricate details that defined O'Keeffe's style. The art sessions were filled with creativity as the pupils experimented with their own sketches, capturing the essence of nature and form. Their budding artistry not only enhanced their drawing skills but also nurtured an appreciation for the beauty in the world around them.

PE brought with it the dynamic sport of netball. The pupils enthusiastically honed their netball skills, focusing on teamwork, coordination, and agility. Through practice and perseverance, they improved their passing, shooting, and defensive techniques, all while fostering a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship.





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In Sycamore Class, we use each lesson as an opportunity for growth, imagination, and collaboration.

Elder Class

Elder Class have made a fantastic start to their final year at Oakdene! After the summer break, the children have returned with an excellent attitude and have embraced the challenges and opportunities of Year 6 from day one. We have been so impressed with their enthusiasm, maturity and willingness to get stuck into their learning.

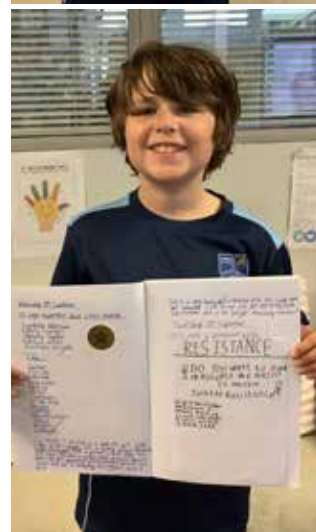
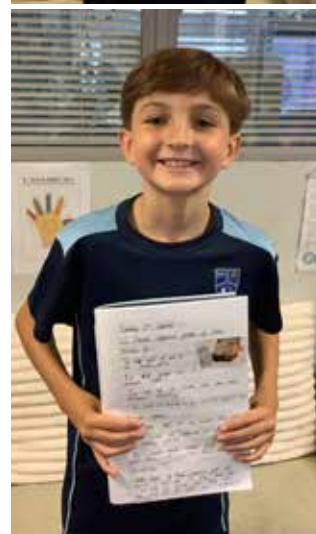
In Writing, we have begun exploring the exciting historical novel *Resist* by Tom Palmer, who will be visiting our school later this month. To launch our learning, we discovered a mysterious suitcase containing an orange handkerchief, an illegal newsletter and an invitation to join the resistance. This sparked some fantastic discussion and speculation! The children immediately immersed themselves in the story, taking on the role of resistance fighters. There was great excitement as Edda narrowly escaped being caught delivering illegal newsletters by a German soldier.

We have also started reading *Letters from the Lighthouse* and the children have enjoyed making predictions and inferences about the characters. One particular mystery has captured their imagination: what exactly is Sukie doing when she disappears one night before an air raid? The children have been busy gathering clues from the text to support their ideas.

Our reading has been closely linked to our History learning, where we have begun investigating the impact that the First and Second World Wars had on Britain. The children have shown great curiosity and have already asked some thoughtful questions about how life changed during this period.

Alongside our academic learning, we have spent time exploring the concept of Growth Mindset. We have discussed how challenges help our brains to grow and considered strategies for overcoming barriers to learning. The children have reflected maturely on how resilience, determination and a positive attitude can help them succeed throughout Year 6.

Well done, Elder Class. It has been a wonderful start to the year and we look forward to seeing all that you achieve during your final year at Oakdene!



Have a fabulous week ahead!

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The Week in Pictures...

Monday 14th Sept



RESPONSIBILITY • **R**ESPECT • **F**RIENDSHIP • **H**ONESTY • **D**ETERMINATION • **P**RIDE



Monday 14th Sept

The Week in Pictures...



OAKDENE
PRIMARY ACADEMY
GROWING THROUGH EXCELLENCE

Our 3Rs



ROCKY
— READY —

Ready to learn, ready to shine! ♥



ROSIE
— RESPECTFUL —

Kind hands, kind words, kind hearts. ♥



REX
— RESILIENT —

I keep going when things get tough! ♥



SAMMY
— SAFE —

Safe choices help everyone learn. ♥

We celebrate our differences
and stand together.

♥ In our school, **everyone** belongs. ♥

RESPONSIBILITY • **R**ESPECT • **F**RIENDSHIP • **H**ONESTY • **D**ETERMINATION • **P**RIDE



Monday 14th Sept

The Week in Pictures...

Oakdene Primary Academy
Wade Deacon Trust

OAKDENE PRIMARY ACADEMY
GROWING THROUGH EXCELLENCE

Back to school.
Every day counts.

#BackToSchool
#StrongStarts

Top Tip: Make sure all uniform and bags are labelled with your child's name and class.

Name:
Class:

RESPONSIBILITY • **R**ESPECT • **F**RIENDSHIP • **H**ONESTY • **D**ETERMINATION • **P**RIDE



Monday 14th Sept

The Week in Pictures...



OAKDENE
PRIMARY ACADEMY
— GROWING THROUGH EXCELLENCE —

Don't forget your

WATER BOTTLE!

Every day counts.

- Bring a **fresh** water bottle every day
- ✓ **Clean** and washed daily
- ✓ Filled with **fresh** water
- ✓ Clearly **labelled** with your child's name
- ✓ Brought to school **every morning**



Top Tip:

Please check your child's water bottle each evening to ensure it is **clean**, **full** and **clearly labelled** ready to learn for the next day.

#HydratedAndReady | #EveryDayCounts





Monday 14th Sept

The Week in Pictures...



**OAKDENE
PRIMARY ACADEMY**
GROWING THROUGH EXCELLENCE



MOBILE & DEVICES FREE SCHOOL

EVERY DAY COUNTS.

At Oakdene Primary Academy, we are proud to be a **Mobile & Devices Free School**.



Mobile phones are **not permitted** during school hours.

Smart watches and other internet-enabled devices are **not permitted** during school hours.



ANY ESSENTIAL DEVICE brought onto school premises must be:

- Switched off or disabled
- Stored safely away from children
- Not used during the school day



WHY?

A device-free school helps us to:

- ★ Focus on learning
- ★ Promote positive friendships
- ★ Support wellbeing and mental health
- ★ Keep children safe online
- ★ Minimise distractions throughout the school day



TOP TIP Please leave mobile phones, smart watches and other personal devices **at home** whenever possible.



#ReadyToLearn | **#EveryDayCounts**



Monday 14th Sept

The Week in Pictures...



OAKDENE
PRIMARY ACADEMY
GROWING THROUGH EXCELLENCE

FOOD & CHOKING SAFETY

Helping young children eat safely

★ READY • RESPECTFUL • RESILIENT • SAFE ★

SAFE EATING TIPS

- ✓ Cut grapes and cherry tomatoes into quarters
- ✓ Grate, mash, soften or finely chop hard fruits and vegetables
- ✓ Shred, mince or finely chop meat and fish
- ✓ Slice sausages lengthways and then into **small pieces**
- ✓ Always make sure children are sitting down and supervised while eating. Being **SAFE** helps prevent choking accidents.
- ✓ Check packed lunches carefully to ensure food is suitable for young children.



FOODS TO AVOID

- ✗ Whole grapes or cherry tomatoes
- ✗ Popcorn
- ✗ Large chunks of hard fruit
- ✗ Large pieces of raw vegetables



NUT-FREE SCHOOL

To help keep all children safe:

- ✗ Do not send nuts of any kind
- ✗ Do not send foods containing nuts
- ✗ Do not send chocolate spreads, cereal bars or snacks containing nuts
- ✗ Please check labels carefully before packing lunches and snacks

Some children at Oakdene have severe allergies. Even tiny amounts of nut can cause a serious allergic reaction.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone SAFE.



TOP TIP

At Oakdene we are Ready, Respectful, Resilient and Safe. Being **SAFE** at snack and mealtimes means:

- ✓ Sitting down while eating
- ✓ Taking small bites
- ✓ Chewing carefully
- ✓ Telling an adult if something doesn't feel right
- ✓ Looking after friends who may need help



#ReadyRespectfulResilientSafe | #SafeEating | #ReadyToLearn



Monday 14th Sept

The Week in Pictures...

 **RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL**

OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER

Come and see what makes
Rainhill High School special.

EVENT TIME 5:00pm - 7:00pm	PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH 5:45pm by Mrs. Thorogood
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| In Pursuit of Excellence.
LEARN THINK CONTRIBUTE CARE

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