



Monday 15th December

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

**Growing
& Learning
Together**

Key Dates

16/12/25

**Sweet Sale
£1 each (cash only)
& Santa Dash**

17/12/25

**Christmas
Dinner**

17/12/25

**St. Ann's Church
for Carols**

17/12/25

**Xmas Jumper
Afternoon -
Bring in a bag**

18/12/25

Toy Day

18/12/25

**School Closes
3.15pm**

Principal's Blog - December Edition

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term at Oakdene Primary Academy, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many wonderful occasions we've shared together. This term has been filled with joy, learning, and community spirit, and I couldn't be prouder of our pupils and staff.

Our festive celebrations have been truly magical. The two fabulous performances of the Nativity - A King was Born, were a real highlight - our children shone on stage with confidence and enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see families enjoying these special moments. Another memorable event was our Breakfast with Santa for the infants, which brought so much excitement and festive cheer. Thank you to everyone who helped make these occasions so special.

Alongside the festivities, we've seen some incredible progress in learning. A particular success has been in writing, which is going from strength to strength across the school. The creativity, vocabulary, and stamina our pupils are demonstrating is impressive, and it's a testament to the hard work of both staff and children.

Beyond this, our Junior Leadership Team - the 'Super Seven' - along with our School Council, have continued to make a positive impact, leading initiatives and representing pupil voice brilliantly.

As we look ahead to the new year, we remain committed to providing the very best opportunities for every child to thrive. Thank you to our staff for their dedication and care, and to our families for your ongoing support. Together, we make Oakdene a truly special place. Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a happy, healthy New Year. See you in January!

Warm regards,

Lynsey Young
Principal

Acorn Class

This week in our reception class, we embarked on an exciting exploration of 3D shapes! Our young learners have been busy comparing 2D and 3D shapes, focusing on their properties, similarities, and differences. Through hands-on activities and engaging discussions, the children learned to identify shapes like cubes, spheres, cylinders, and pyramids, and how these differ from their 2D counterparts such as squares, circles, and triangles.



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

94%

97%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

Attendance Awards



Reception
98.7%



Year 6
96.4%



Year 4
94.5%

The winning class(es) will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Year 2 who had 99.7% attendance!

19/12/25
Inset Day -
School Closed

05/01/26
Inset Day -
School Closed

06/01/26
Chn return
to school

11/01/26
Y4 trip to
Chester Zoo

13/02/26
School closes
3.15pm -
Half term

In literacy, we had a thrilling adventure when Stickman went missing in our classroom! Stickman cleverly sent us a letter along with a map of the classroom, providing clues to find him. Here were the clues:

- Under the rug
- In a box
- In the tent
- Sitting on a peg

The children enthusiastically followed each clue, checking their designated spots to find Stickman. They also enjoyed writing CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words on their whiteboards, improving their phonics skills. To wrap up the activity, the children created their own classroom maps and labelled them, further enhancing their literacy and spatial awareness skills.

Our week was capped off with a heart-warming performance as the children practiced and performed their nativity play for their families. Their hard work and dedication shone through, and we are incredibly proud of each one of them. The performance was a wonderful opportunity for the children to express themselves creatively and build confidence in front of an audience.

Thank you to all the families who came to support and celebrate the children's achievements. It's been a fantastic week full of learning, exploration, and creativity!

Maple Class - Year 1 Weekly Round-Up: A Magical December!

What an exciting week it has been for our wonderful Year 1 children! The festive spirit is truly alive in our classrooms, and the children have been busy making memories and working hard.

Nativity Performance



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



This week, Year 1 took to the stage for their Nativity performance, and what a show it was! The children sang beautifully, and brought the story to life with confidence and joy. We are so proud of their efforts and the smiles they shared with everyone watching.

Breakfast with Father Christmas

As if that wasn't enough excitement, the children also enjoyed a very special breakfast with Father Christmas! There were lots of happy faces as they chatted, laughed, and soaked up the magic of the season.

Learning Highlights

Even with all the festive fun, Year 1 have been working incredibly hard in their lessons:

Maths: We've been exploring 2D and 3D shapes, learning their names and properties, and spotting them in the world around us.

English: Our writing has been inspired by the heart-warming story *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers. The children have been writing all about a lonely penguin, using their imagination to create thoughtful and creative pieces.

Counting Down to Christmas

With all this excitement, the countdown is officially on! The children are eagerly counting down the sleeps until Christmas Day, and we can feel the anticipation building in every classroom.

Well done, Year 1 – what a fantastic week! We can't wait to see what our last week of school brings as we continue to celebrate this magical time of year.

Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class have been really busy over the last few weeks in their English unit. They have been learning all about London and the famous landmarks you can visit. As part of their work, they have been learning about and using time adverbials. They have also been ensuring they know how to write different sentence types so they make their writing more interesting. What a great job they have done! The children have continued to work on writing in the past and present tense checking their work makes sense. In their final piece, they showed the value of determination writing their own walking guide for London. Mrs. Hughes is extremely proud of all the progress the children have made this term in their writing.



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Chestnut Class delivered an unforgettable performance of "A King Is Born," leaving the audience in awe. The children sang beautifully, their fantastic voices were ringing through the hall like a chorus of angels! Each note was filled with joy and enthusiasm.

The acting was equally impressive, with each student embodying their role with confidence and flair. From the wise kings to the humble shepherds, every character was brought to life on stage. The young actors spoke loudly and clearly, ensuring that every line was heard, and every emotion was felt by the captivated audience.

Parents, teachers, and friends watched with pride as the children performed. The smiles on the children's faces as they took their final bow were a testament to their hard work and the joy they spread.

The performance highlighted the incredible talent and spirit of Chestnut Class and truly brought Christmas to Oakdene.



Cherry Class

Cherry Class have had a very busy and exciting two weeks of learning! In English, the children worked extremely hard completing their assessments in reading, grammar, spelling and writing. They showed great focus and resilience throughout. Alongside this, the class continues to explore the story "The First Drawing" and have created their own versions of the story, writing in the first person and present tense. The children produced some wonderful pieces of writing, full of imagination and thoughtful detail.

In maths, the children completed their assessments and showed confidence and determination whilst tackling a range of problem-solving and reasoning activities. Their knowledge and recall of the three and four times table have really improved. Using the new app Emile has really helped with this.

Our science learning has been full of discovery as we revised how shadows are created. The children investigated light sources and objects, learning how shadows change when objects move. Inspired by this, they learned how to make their own shadow puppets, and some children even created and performed their own shadow puppet shows at home – which was fantastic to see!

In art, the children continued their learning about cave art. They experimented with charcoal and pastels to design symbols and hand prints, creating impressive abstract pieces inspired by prehistoric artwork.



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We also launched our new geography topic, learning all about the United Kingdom. The children have begun exploring the four countries of the UK and locating major cities such as London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast on maps. They have been developing their map skills by identifying where these cities are and learning key facts about each location.

In Cherry Class, we are shadow puppet Artists and Geographers.

Rowan Class

In Rowan Class, we have embarked on a journey through history and creativity. Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as we delved further into the world of the Romans, exploring their culture and artistry through hands-on projects and imaginative writing.

Our young artists have been busy crafting Roman-themed pieces, bringing ancient history to life with their vibrant imaginations. One of the highlights of our art session with Mrs Taylor has been the creation of Roman coins. Using foam pieces as a base, pupils carefully shaped and moulded their coins, adding intricate details with crinkled paper. The result was a collection of coins that looked as though they could have been unearthed from an ancient archaeological site.

In addition to coins, pupils got their hands dirty with clay to create Roman oil lamps. These were not only a test of their sculpting skills but also a window into understanding how the Romans illuminated their homes. The tactile experience of working with clay allowed pupils to engage deeply with the past, all while having fun and creating something they could be proud of.

Our exploration of creativity didn't stop with visual arts. Inspired by Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky," Rowan Class pupils turned their attention to the world of words, interpreting nonsense poetry. This exercise encouraged them to play with language, interpret invented words, and embrace the joy of sound and rhythm. As they read and acted the Jabberwocky poem aloud, the classroom echoed with laughter and the delightful absurdity of their creations.

In Rowan Class, we believe that learning should be an adventure!

Sycamore Class

What an incredible couple of weeks it has been for Sycamore Class since the last blog!

The absolute highlight was our Viking Experience Day. We were lucky enough to welcome a real-life Viking called Olaf into our classroom! Olaf brought history to life by teaching us all about the Viking era and helping us build on our knowledge of the Anglo-Saxons.





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We didn't just listen – we got involved! We took part in a thrilling battle re-enactment, learned how Vikings used clever shield formations to protect themselves against the Anglo Saxons and explored a fascinating collection of artefacts. From weapons to everyday objects, each item told a story about life over a thousand years ago. Olaf also shared lots of interesting facts that made us think about how different life was back then. It was an unforgettable day that made history feel real and exciting! A huge thank you to the Friends of Oakdene for covering the cost of this fantastic, immersive learning experience!

In English, we are nearly at the end of our Tempest unit and what fantastic work everyone has done! We've interpreted Shakespeare's language brilliantly and explored the story through the graphic novel version which really helped us understand the characters and themes. Many of you have been so inspired that you've started reading other Shakespeare graphic novels in our reading area, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*. This enthusiasm is amazing and will be brilliant preparation for your future English Literature studies in high school!

Sycamore Class, you should be so proud of your hard work and curiosity. This past half term has shown how much you love learning and how well you rise to new challenges. Keep it up – we can't wait to see what exciting adventures come next after the Christmas break! In Year Five we are historians who work hard to interpret the past!

Elder Class

Year 6 has been working hard towards the end of term. We have really enjoyed our English work on *The Arrival*, and are ready for our final narrative piece of writing. This week, we have created our own creature linked to the book and written a report about it – some of us also put our text into an AI creature generator to get a possible view of our animal. We have also started reading *'After the War'*, learning how Jewish teenagers adjusted moving from awful concentration camps to the beauty of Lake Windermere – based on a true story. In Maths, we are reaching the end of our fractions unit – just multiplying and dividing fractions to go!

In Music, we have learned about the music of Carole King and songs such as *The Locomotion* and *You've Got A Friend*. After some listening and appraising, we revisited music notation and are now ready to get the keyboards out for whole class performance lessons. The class has also been enjoying their art sessions, both preparing for the upcoming exhibition and also continuing to learn about perspective drawing.

Finally, we had our auditions for Christmas solos in church – an amazing 13 children auditioned, which was really pleasing. Looking forward to hearing them at the carol service!



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Group Pictures



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Viking Experience



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