



# OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week  
at our great school!

Thursday 4th December

**Growing  
& Learning  
Together**

## Key Dates

**5/12/25**

**Rock Steady  
Concert 2pm**

**08/12/25**

**Choir to  
Amberley Court**

**09/12/25**

**Choir to  
Treetops**

**10/12/25**

**Nativity  
2pm**

**11/12/25**

**Nativity  
2pm**

**12/12/25**

**EYFS & KS1  
Santa Breakfast**

## Welcome from the Principal

From the Principal's Desk: The Madness of Christmas Begins!

As we turn the calendar to December, the festive whirlwind officially starts! At Oakdene Primary Academy, this is always a magical time filled with excitement, creativity, and community spirit. From sparkling decorations to joyful rehearsals, the school is buzzing with anticipation.

Behind the scenes, staff are working tirelessly to make every moment special—whether it's preparing for performances, organising craft activities, or ensuring learning continues alongside the fun. Thank you for your support in helping us balance the sparkle with the structure!

As the countdown to Christmas begins, let's remember what makes this season so special: kindness, togetherness, and joy. We can't wait to share all the festive highlights with you in the coming weeks.

Warm wishes,  
Lynsey Young  
Principal

### Acorn Class

This week in Reception, the children were introduced to the character Stick Man, which sparked their imagination and enthusiasm for the activities that followed. They embarked on an exciting stick hunt around the school grounds. This activity engaged them physically and encouraged teamwork and problem-solving as they searched for sticks of different shapes and sizes. Using the sticks collected, students crafted their own Stick Man. They used string and elastic bands to attach sticks together and added materials for clothing, allowing them to express their creativity and fine motor skills.

As the weeks continue, we will explore the story in much more detail. We will explore Julia Donaldson's playful language and use of rhyming, rhythm and repetition. The children will also learn the value of perseverance, kindness and Family.

The class also continued to explore number bonds to 5 through bar modelling. The children enjoyed using concrete resources to help recognise the part-whole models. This hands-on approach helped the children to strengthen their understanding.

Additionally, students created art pieces for the upcoming school art exhibition inspired by the artist 'Banksy'. This activity allowed them to explore various artistic techniques.



**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%

97%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

### Attendance Awards



Year 2  
99.7%



Year 6  
99.3%



Year 3  
98.7%

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

15/12/25  
Art  
Exhibition

15/12/25  
Sweet Sale  
£2 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

### Maple Class

Year 1 is such an exciting time for our 5-year-olds! They are curious, creative, and full of energy, and this term has been packed with hands-on activities and fascinating discoveries. Here's a glimpse of what we've been up to:

#### Building Castles in Our LEGO Workshop

Our hall turned into a kingdom as the children explored design and construction through a LEGO castle-building workshop. This activity encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity. The children loved experimenting with towers, walls, and even drawbridges, while learning about shapes and structures.

#### Writing Fact Files About Famous Landmarks

In English, we've been learning how to gather and present information by creating fact files. The children researched three incredible landmarks:

- The Eiffel Tower in Paris
- The Taj Mahal in India
- Big Ben in London

They practised writing clear sentences, using headings, and adding fun facts. It was wonderful to see their excitement as they discovered how tall the Eiffel Tower is or why the Taj Mahal was built!

#### Subtracting in Maths

Maths has been all about subtraction this half term. We've used number lines, counters, and real-life examples to make learning engaging. The children are developing strategies to solve problems like "What happens when we take away?" and are becoming confident in using subtraction in everyday situations.

#### Exploring Toys from the Past in History





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



In History, we've taken a trip down memory lane to look at toys from the past. The children compared old-fashioned toys with the ones they play with today. They were fascinated by spinning tops, wooden dolls, and tin cars, and enjoyed discussing how toys have changed over time.

### Why These Activities Matter

Each of these experiences helps build essential skills—creativity, critical thinking, literacy, numeracy, and historical understanding — while keeping learning fun and meaningful. Year 1 is all about nurturing curiosity and confidence, and we're proud of how much the children have achieved.

### Chestnut Class

In Chestnut Class, the children have begun their new Geography topic. They have been exploring the Continents and Oceans of the world. Armed with atlases, the young geographers learned to navigate our planet, locating continents like Asia, Africa, and Europe, and identifying vast Oceans such as the Atlantic and Pacific. By the end of the lesson, they knew the names of the 7 Continents and the 5 Oceans of the world.

In English, the children, have continued to explore London in their text, 'A Walk in London'. They have been writing in both the past and present tense copying the style of the author. They have also developed their use of effective word choice when writing noun phrases. They wrote fantastic descriptions about St Paul's Cathedral.

Led by artist Gill this week, the children explored the captivating world of Henri Matisse, focusing on his use of patterns and shapes. During the workshop, Chestnut class's young artists applied paint with rollers, skilfully layering backgrounds to mimic Matisse's vibrant style. This hands-on experience not only nurtured their artistic skills but also inspired them to think beyond traditional methods.

The finished masterpieces, showcasing each child's unique interpretation, will be proudly displayed in our art gallery on Monday, December 15th. Join us to celebrate their creativity and the timeless influence of Matisse!





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## Cherry Class

Over the last couple of weeks, 'The Stone Age' has been a focus in history, literacy and art. We are still thoroughly enjoying our class book, 'The First Drawing', sparking lots of creativity and imagination. We have been using drama techniques to bring the story to life and acting out scenes has really helped us develop ideas for our writing in literacy, making our stories more vivid and exciting. Alongside this, we've been working hard on handwriting and spelling practice. Everyone is putting in great effort to make their writing neat and accurate, and it's wonderful to see the progress being made.

In Art, we have started an exciting new unit exploring cave art and prehistoric painting. We've been learning about how early humans expressed themselves through art and the materials they used. Over the next few weeks, we'll experiment with colour mixing, charcoal, and pastels to create our own cave art-inspired pieces. This will be a fantastic opportunity to combine creativity with history and develop new artistic techniques.

It's been a busy and inspiring time in class, and we can't wait to share some of our amazing artwork with you soon.

In Cherry Class we have a growth mindset!



## Rowan Class

Our fortnight started with an amazing Lego workshop where we teamed up with the Year 1 students. Together, we embarked on a mission to build the most magnificent castles! It was a wonderful chance to let our imaginations soar as we designed towers, drawbridges, and moats using those tiny, colourful bricks. Working with the Year 1 students taught us the importance of teamwork and patience. We shared ideas and learned how to listen to each other, which made our castle designs even more spectacular. By combining our skills and creativity, we built castles that were not only impressive but also unique. It was a fantastic experience that showed us how much we can achieve when we work together.

In our English lessons, we travelled back in time to the early 20th century to learn about Sir Ernest Shackleton and his famous Endurance expedition. We put on our reporter hats and wrote newspaper articles about his incredible journey to Antarctica.

Shackleton's story is one of bravery and perseverance, and we were inspired by his determination in the face of adversity. Writing these articles helped us practice our journalistic skills, including how to write captivating headlines and engaging opening paragraphs.





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We learned how to gather facts and present them in a way that keeps readers interested. This exercise not only improved our writing skills but also deepened our understanding of history and the courage it takes to explore the unknown.

Our artistic journey took us into the world of colour as we practiced adding tints and shades to our paintings. We discovered that by mixing colours with white, we can create lighter tints, and by adding black, we produce darker shades. This technique brings depth and dimension to our artwork, making it more visually appealing.

We experimented with different colours creating beautiful pieces of art that showcased our new-found skills. This activity taught us how small changes in colour can dramatically alter the mood and tone of a painting. It was a wonderful way to express ourselves and develop our artistic talents.

In Rowan class, we are creative!



## Sycamore Class

Our recent Art Day with Gill Taylor was an inspiring and creative experience for the children, who embarked on a delightful journey to craft a windy flower meadow. Throughout the day, the children explored a variety of materials – from textured papers and vibrant paints to ribbons and natural elements – to bring their imaginative visions to life. This hands-on approach not only encouraged artistic expression but also allowed them to experiment with colour, texture, and movement, capturing the essence of a breezy meadow in full bloom.

We are incredibly proud of the vibrant and dynamic artworks the children produced, which beautifully showcase their creativity and collaboration. This project has truly celebrated their ability to observe nature and translate it into art, leaving us with a lovely, tactile representation of a whimsical landscape that brightens our shared space.

Last week, Year 5 pupils from across the Wade Deacon Trust schools were actively engaged in the exciting Top of the Rocks competition. This challenge brings together young learners from different schools within the Trust to compete and collaborate in a stimulating and educational environment. The event promotes not only academic skills but also teamwork and friendly rivalry.

At Oakdene, we are engaged!



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## Elder Class

Year 6 children had an exciting time last Thursday with a visit from the Royal Navy. Paul and Kayleigh were really engaging as they talked through their roles in the Navy and what the Royal Navy does for our country. The children asked some really pertinent questions although I think they were most excited by the fact that they could still play on the Xbox on a submarine, and that Paul had once played football against former Italian international Georgio Chiellini! After learning all about the Royal Navy, the children were then tasked with creating rockets using only paper and sellotape. In the afternoon, we launched these on the playground - propelled high into the air with hydraulics! It was a lovely activity and congratulations to Elinor and Dolly-Mai for getting their rocket to go highest!

We have also enjoyed completing some lovely artwork with Ms Young, using marker pens, watercolours and glitter ink. We are really looking forward to parents and carers seeing the hard work and hopefully deciding to make a purchase of the art work - it would certainly make a lovely Christmas present for someone.

In other work, we have started our Geography unit of work on sustainability, beginning with a recap on the geography and topography of the United Kingdom. We have nearly completed our Computing unit 'My Online Life' by looking at scams, fake news, phishing and other ways people look to catch out unsuspecting victims online. We continue to produce some lovely writing around our book 'The Arrival' and have finally completed our novel 'Letters from the Lighthouse', which I think the children really enjoyed and considered the key themes from the whole text.

In Year 6, we are rocket launchers!





## Celebrating an incredible act of kindness!

At Oakdene Primary Academy, we are so proud of one very special little girl who continues to inspire us all. Every year, without fail, she dedicates her time and energy to raising money for Alder Hey Children's Hospital, and this year she has gone above and beyond.

Thanks to her amazing efforts, she has purchased a huge number of gifts that will bring comfort and joy to children who are very poorly and spending time in hospital. Her generosity and compassion remind us what a big difference one small person can make.

She is a true role model for kindness, and we couldn't be prouder of her!

Let's all take a moment to celebrate her incredible achievement and the positive impact she is making in the lives of others.

#KindnessMatters #AlderHey #OakdeneProud #MakingADifference!

