



OAKDENE PRIMARY ACADEMY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

Wednesday 4th February

**Growing
Through
Excellence**

Key Dates

05/02/26

**Young Voices
Concert**

06/02/26

**Whole School
Number Day**

09/02/26

E-Safety Week

10/02/26

**Y3, Y4, Y5
Cricket Taster
Sessions**

11/02/26

**Year 4 Trip
Chester Zoo**

12/02/26

**Friendship
Disco**

NO OUTSIDERS

This term at OPA, we have continued to celebrate our commitment to the No Outsiders approach – a core part of our school vision that ensures every child, staff member and member of our community feels welcomed, valued and included. Through stories, assemblies and discussion, we have been exploring how kindness, acceptance and diversity make our school – and our world – a better place.

We began by sharing the inspiring story of a young child who designed a pair of special LED glasses to support people with dyslexia as part of an engineering competition. Their creativity and empathy showed our children how brilliant ideas often come from wanting to help others, and how everyone's differences bring unique strengths to the world.

Later in the term, we learned about Lowri, an 11-year-old who wrote to Disney asking them to include a character in their animation who wears glasses. She wanted children like her to feel represented in the stories they love. Her courage and determination helped our pupils understand that even one voice – especially a child's voice – can make a difference and help create a more inclusive future.

We also held an assembly about an international skydiving team made up of a plethora of members from a wide range of backgrounds, languages, faiths and cultures. Despite their differences, they worked together with absolute trust, teamwork and respect. Their example reminded us that when we come together, celebrate diversity and support one another, we can achieve extraordinary things.

To bring these messages together, we shared one of our favourite reminders with the children:

"Inclusion is not about making everyone the same, but about celebrating that everyone is different – and everyone belongs."

Through these stories and conversations, Oakdene continues to reinforce a simple message: everyone belongs here. Every child has a place, a voice and something special to offer.

Visit from Jude Agis – Anthony Walker Foundation

This week, we were delighted to welcome Jude Agis from the Anthony Walker Foundation, who led two powerful assemblies and a focused workshop for selected pupils. Jude spoke with clarity and passion about diversity, what it truly means, and why inclusion is essential in every community.



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

97.2%

97%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

Attendance Awards



Year 2
99.1%



Year 5
97.9%



Year 1 & 4
97%

The winning class(es) will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Year 2 who had 99.1% attendance!

13/02/26
Values Assembly
Friendship

13/02/26
Half term
begins

23/02/26
INSET DAY

19/02/26
Children
return
to school

23/02/26
INSET DAY
School Closed

Our pupils were fully engaged throughout, contributing thoughtful ideas and demonstrating real maturity. Jude's message resonated strongly:

We must all stand up for diversity, value each other's differences, and work together to ensure everyone feels they belong.

The children left the sessions inspired, empowered, and determined to continue building an inclusive culture here at Oakdene – one where every voice is heard and every individual is celebrated.

Acorn Class

This week in Reception has been an exciting and action-packed adventure! The children embarked on a mission to catch the notorious Evil Pea, and they have been busy with various creative and educational activities.

The children demonstrated fantastic teamwork and creativity by working in groups to design and build their very own traps to catch Evil Pea. This hands-on activity encouraged problem-solving skills and collaboration.

To help spread the word about Evil Pea, the children wrote wanted posters. Each poster included a detailed description of Evil Pea and a plea for help from anyone who might spot the mischievous vegetable. This exercise was a wonderful way for the children to practice their writing and descriptive skills.

The excitement continued with a thrilling pea hunt around the school. Each class joined Reception in the quest to locate any peas on the loose. This fun and engaging activity not only enhanced the children's observational skills but also fostered a sense of community and teamwork across different classes.



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



We were thrilled to welcome a very special visitor this past week, Nurse Gore. She spoke to the children about her important role and responsibilities as a nurse. The children were fascinated and eagerly listened to her talk.

They even had the opportunity to engage in role-playing by pretending to be injured and practicing bandaging their friends. This interactive session provided valuable insights into healthcare and caring for others.



The children were introduced to the concept of odd and even numbers through the use of engaging activities. The children had fun sorting numbers 1-10 into odd and even groups and explored the numbers using a number line to visualize the sequence. We also used groups of manipulatives to allow the children to pair items and identify when groups have an extra item.



Overall, it has been a fantastic week full of learning, creativity, and fun. The children's enthusiasm and imagination have truly shone through in their efforts to catch Evil Pea and learn from Nurse Gore. We look forward to more exciting adventures and learning opportunities in the weeks to come

Maple Class

What a few weeks it has been for our brilliant Year Ones. The classroom has been buzzing with imagination, curiosity, and plenty of proud smiles. Here's a little peek into what we've been up to.

Our hero-themed day was a huge success. The children arrived bursting with excitement, proudly dressed as their favourite heroes – from caped crusaders to real-life role models. It was wonderful to see how confidently they stepped into character.

Throughout the day, they took part in a range of hero-inspired activities linked to our English unit Send for a Superhero. They created missions, designed their own heroic characters, and used their imaginations to solve problems just like the heroes in our story. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and their creativity shone in every task.

In Maths, the children have been getting to grips with number lines. They've been practising how to find numbers, count forwards and backwards, and use number lines to solve simple problems. It's been lovely to watch their confidence grow as they begin to understand how number lines help us make sense of number order and value.



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Our History lessons have taken us on a journey through time as we compared two remarkable queens: Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II. The children explored how each queen lived, what they wore, and how life in their time was different from today. They were fascinated by the contrasts – from clothing and transport to the way people communicated. Their questions and observations showed just how thoughtfully they are beginning to understand the past.

It's been a joy to see the children so engaged, imaginative, and eager to learn. Their energy makes every day special, and we're excited to continue building on everything they've discovered this week.

If you'd like to chat about any of the activities or support learning at home, feel free to catch us at the door. We can't wait for another week of adventures together!

Chestnut Class

Chestnut class have continued their DT work and embarked on completing their final products. Following their final designs, they set out to make their moving monsters. Having decided that cardboard was a more sturdier material for the project, they discovered a flaw! It was harder to put the holes into for the slip pins. A lot of strength and determination was needed to be successful to make the levers and pivots! What was wonderful to see over the afternoon was the peer support happening in the classroom. Everyone was willing to help and support each other to ensure their design could be finished. What a determined and helpful team! Have a look at our final pieces. They are fantastic and scary! Just like required in our design brief.

Similar values were seen in Chestnut class in their maths lessons this week. The children have been learning to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers crossing the tens—a tricky skill! However, using concrete resources and pictorial support the children worked tirelessly to be successful. Mrs. Hughes was very proud of them all. Chestnut class are a determined class!

Cherry Class

It has been a busy couple of weeks in Cherry Class. We have been developing both our creative and physical skills through our gymnastic and art units. In PE, we have been focusing on exploring different movements and balances, paying special attention to creating symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes with our bodies. We have worked incredibly hard to control our posture, move with confidence, and collaborate carefully with partners and small groups. It has been wonderful to see balance, coordination and teamwork improve week by week as children experimented with new ways to travel, stretch and hold positions.





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Alongside this, we have completed our exciting art unit on Prehistoric Art. We have explored how early humans expressed themselves through cave paintings and carvings, learning about the materials and techniques used thousands of years ago.

For our final piece, each child created their own prehistoric-inspired artwork, bringing together all the skills we have been practising. Using a combination of charcoal, pastels and paint, they produced textured, atmospheric pieces that truly showcased their creativity and growing artistic confidence.

Some fantastic learning from Cherry Class—enhancing not only their artistic abilities but also their understanding of history, movement and expression. Well, done, Cherry Class!

Rowan Class

In Rowan class, we have been diving into a world of historical wonder and mathematical mastery. Through engaging lessons and activities, we have been honing our skills and expanding their horizons.

The exploration of Ancient Greek artefacts has been exciting journey in Rowan class. Pupils were encouraged to use historical enquiry skills to examine these relics of the past. Through careful observation, questioning, and analysis, they have learned how to piece together stories from long ago. Each artefact tells a tale, whether it's a fragment of pottery or a piece of ancient armour. By delving into these objects Year 4 have gained a deeper understanding of Greek culture, mythology, and daily life.

In writing lessons, imagination has taken centre stage as pupils crafted vivid descriptions of the infamous eruption of Mount Vesuvius that buried Pompeii. Picture a day that begins with bright skies, only to be darkened by ominous clouds of ash. Pupils described the rumble of the earth, the fiery display of molten lava, and the chaos that ensued as the city was engulfed. Through sensory language and emotive storytelling, they brought this historical event to life, capturing the awe and tragedy of the moment.

Rowan class also took part in the Emile times tables competition, a thrilling challenge that blends learning with excitement. Pupils eagerly competed, sharpening their multiplication skills while cheering each other on. This friendly competition not only boosted their math prowess but also encourages teamwork and perseverance.

In Rowan class, we are determined!



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Sycamore Class

Sycamore Class have had a fantastic and very busy couple of weeks filled with learning, creativity and responsibility.

Earlier in the year, some of the children entered a writing competition, and we were thrilled this week to receive some very exciting news – several entries have been chosen to be published in a book! Certificates and further information have now been sent home, and we are incredibly proud of our budding authors.



This week also saw Sycamore attend Crucial Crew, where they took part in a series of important workshops focused on keeping safe as we grow up. The children listened carefully and participated enthusiastically in every session, learning from the police, road safety team, water and electrical safety experts, healthcare professionals and transport safety advisors. Miss Scott was extremely impressed with the children's maturity and behaviour throughout the trip, where they acted as excellent ambassadors for our school.



Back in the classroom, creativity was flowing in art as the children practised drawing facial features in preparation for creating their own self-portraits. It is lovely to see the development in skills over time in this with many children being very proud of their improvements! In science, learning was hands-on (and a little bit slippery!) as the class investigated friction using jelly cubes and oil.

Well done, Sycamore Class, for another fantastic week of hard work and achievement!



Elder Class

Year 6 have really been empathising with our lead characters of our current novels *Windrush Child* and *After the War*. It was inspiring to see their moving reactions to the situations the characters were in, especially in our reading sessions for *After the War*. In the week of Holocaust Memorial Day, the children really gained an understanding of the impact of concentration camps and how children tried to come to terms with what happened afterwards.

Linked to our English work, the children have begun their dance unit which focuses on creating dances linked to prejudice and discrimination. This topic also links in with our regular assembly and class themes around No Outsiders.

In Maths, we are reaching the end of the arithmetic focus of Year 6, with our current work on decimals and percentages. The children are getting more confident and building up their speed of fluency, recognising when to answer questions with written methods or mental methods.



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Our History work this week focused on how the north-west was impacted during World War II, and the difference between a city with docks such as Liverpool, which was heavily bombed, and the countryside of Cumbria, which was used for evacuation.

In Computing, the children were very excited to start creating their game based on 'Crossy Road'. They have learned about decomposition within coding and are now beginning to piece together their game, starting with creating the main character, NPC and controller pad.

In Year 6, we are empathetic learners.

Attendance and Punctuality:

At Oakdene Primary Academy, we are committed to giving every child the best possible start to each school day. A key part of this great start, is ensuring pupils attend regularly and arrive on time. Good attendance and punctuality not only support academic progress but also play an essential role in children's well-being. Arriving on time helps pupils settle calmly, feel prepared, and fully engage with the day's learning. Even small amounts of missed time can add up and impact confidence, continuity, and routines.

How families can help:

Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives promptly each morning so they can start the day smoothly alongside their peers. Even five minutes late can contribute to lost learning.

If your child is unable to attend due to illness or another unavoidable reason, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Any appointments to attend doctors, dentist etc, where possible, should be made outside of school hours. If not, school will request evidence of the appointment to ensure this can be correctly coded as authorised. Without evidence, this will be registered as unauthorised.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make every day count for our pupils. Working together, we can ensure all children thrive both academically and emotionally.

Sports Blog

Cross Country Championships – Saturday Recap

Our fantastic Year 4, 5 and 6 children braved the cold, wind and rain at Saturday's Cross Country Championships and gave an absolutely outstanding performance. Their resilience, determination and team spirit were evident throughout, and they truly ran their legs off! We are so proud of every single one of them for representing our school with such courage and enthusiasm.

A big thank you to all the parents and families who came out in the challenging weather to cheer the children on and help make the event possible. Your support means so much.



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EVERYDAY COUNTS
School and future success starts with good school attendance!

<p>100% Your attendance is excellent</p> <p>Our target for all students</p>	<p>97% Well done</p> <p>6 days absence 30 hours lost to learning You're on the right track to success, keep it up!</p>
<p>95% We're concerned</p> <p>10 days absence 50 hours lost to learning Poor attendance gives you less chance of success.</p>	<p>90% Seriously worried</p> <p>19 days absence 95 hours lost to learning Very poor attendance has a serious impact on your learning and may reduce your life choices.</p>

DAILY LATNESS EQUATES TO...

<p>3 DAYS LOST</p> <p>5 minutes late 15 hours lost to learning</p>	<p>6 DAYS LOST</p> <p>10 minutes late 30 hours lost to learning</p>	<p>10 DAYS LOST</p> <p>15 minutes late 50 hours lost to learning</p>
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Remember
Your education is important – don't miss out!

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