



Monday 2nd March

# OAKDENE PRIMARY ACADEMY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week  
at our great school!

Growing  
Through  
Excellence

## Welcome Back!

### Key Dates

2/3/26

World  
Book Day

3/3/26

Ramadan  
workshops KS1

4/3/26

Reading  
for pleasure  
workshops

4/3/26

Parents'  
Evening 1

9/3/26

Whole school  
Science Day

10/3/26

Parents'  
Evening 2

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful half-term break and found a moment to pause before another exciting chapter at Oakdene begins. Staff started the term with a purposeful and energising INSET day, joining colleagues from across the Wade Deacon Trust to explore pedagogical approaches that strengthen teaching and learning. A key focus was on reducing cognitive load, ensuring that learning is broken down and scaffolded in ways that truly support children to understand, remember, and apply new concepts. It was a highly valuable day of collaboration, reflection, and shared expertise.

There has certainly been no easing back in for pupils either, as the term has been packed with creativity, inspiration, and joy. Alongside our whole-school Art Day with Gill Taylor, we were thrilled to welcome Olympian BMX Champion, Danny Butler, who brought energy, motivation, and awe with his incredible skills and story. His visit sparked real excitement and reminded our pupils of the power of perseverance and passion.

A definite highlight of this week has been our fantastic World Book Day celebrations. Oakdene was transformed into a cosy world of bedtime stories, with children and staff arriving in their pyjamas ready to celebrate the magic of reading. Storytelling, shared reading, and a love of books remain at the heart of our curriculum, and it was wonderful to see pupils so engaged, enthusiastic, and proud to talk about the stories they treasure. Days like these reinforce just how important reading is – not only for learning but also for imagination, well-being, and joy.

It's been a brilliant start to the half-term, and there is plenty more ahead to look forward to. Thank you for your continued support, and well done to our whole school community for such a positive and inspiring return.

### Acorn Class

At the end of last term, the children enjoyed enhancing their comparison skills in maths. The primary objective was to understand the relationships between numbers, specifically numbers up to 8. Language played a crucial role in this learning process, as the children were encouraged to use terms such as "more than," "less than," and "equal to" to articulate the connections between these numbers.



RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, HONESTY, DETERMINATION & PRIDE



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## 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

98.1%

97%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

### Attendance Awards



Years 4 & 6  
100%



Years 1 & 2  
99.6%



Year 5  
96.7%

The winning class(es) will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Years 4 and 6 who had 99.1% attendance!

12/3/26  
Rugby Taster sessions

17/3/26  
Year 3  
Trip - World Museum

20/3/26  
Rugby Taster sessions

20/3/26  
Year 6  
PGL weekend

24/3/26  
Year 2 Workshop  
- Wild Workshop  
- Insects galore!

In Literacy, the children have embarked on an exciting journey through space. The children explored the wonders of our solar system, delving into fascinating facts about each planet. Alongside this, we read the inspiring story 'Look Up!' by Nathan Byron, which captivated the children's imagination and curiosity. The story also introduced them to the remarkable achievements of Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel in space. Inspired by the vastness of the cosmos, the children expressed their creativity by crafting their own planets using watercolours, resulting in vibrant artworks.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, the children have also been busy writing heartfelt Valentine's cards to their friends. They took great joy in secretly posting these cards into each other's boxes, fostering a sense of community and friendship. Additionally, we embraced our artistic side by creating Valentine-themed artwork to take home. The children were thrilled to make delicious rice crispy Valentine cakes, combining creativity and culinary skills to produce delightful treats.

We started this half term with an exciting visit from Danny Butler. A 5x British & European Champion. Danny has proudly represented Team GB for over a decade. Danny enjoyed demonstrating some of his mountain bike skills to the children and the children also took part in a mini fitness lesson.

The children have also begun learning their parts and songs for our Mother's Day Assembly and are super excited to continue practising and delivering it to you in a few weeks time.

#### Maple Class

Welcome back, everyone! We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for an exciting new half-term in Year 1. We have already had a fantastic start, packed with creativity,



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



inspiration, and wonderful learning opportunities.

This week, the children were absolutely thrilled to take part in a special workshop led by Olympian Danny Butler. They were captivated by his incredible biking demonstrations and inspired by his message about determination, resilience, and trying your best. The children asked brilliant questions and showed great enthusiasm throughout. It was a memorable experience that we know will stay with them for a long time!



Our classrooms have been bursting with creativity as the children took part in an art workshop, designing their very own special craft jars. They explored colour, texture, and pattern while personalising their jars with real care and imagination. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they experimented with different materials and shared their ideas with friends.



English: Exploring The Odd Egg

In English, the children have thrown themselves into our new story of the term: The Odd Egg. They have been working incredibly hard to write all about an unusual egg – thinking carefully about descriptive language, imaginative ideas, and what might be hiding inside! Their writing has been full of creativity and curiosity, and we are so proud of the progress they are making.

### Chestnut Class

The end of last term was a busy one! One of our favourite days was number day. Mr. Weston set us some challenges with some Smarties! Year two had to sort the Smarties and then use the data to produce a Pictogram. We then used the data to find the answers to some questions. Did you know that most tubes of Smarties have 32 Smarties in? One tube of Smarties had 12 red Smarties which we thought was a lot! It was a fantastic activity which involved Chestnut class using many maths skills including sorting, data analysis, counting and addition!

Then we took part in the NSPCC TTRock Star competition. Our arithmetic lessons over the last few weeks came in very useful. We know when you times by 2 we use our doubles knowledge and when we divide by 2 we halve the number. Turns out we knew our



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2 times tables before we even knew we did!

We also finished our final piece in our writing. We used the story of Tadpole's Promise to create our own version about a Chameleon and a fly. Chestnut class were brilliant as they applied their writing skills they had learnt over the term. The children used beautiful noun phrases in their stories and created some amazing adverbial phrases adapting from the book. Here are some examples of their adverbial phrases,

'Where the rainbow meets the bluebells,'

'Where the sky meets the lake,'

Where the sunset meets the flowers'

How fantastic are they! I was very proud of their stories. They have shown great progress in writing this term. Handwriting has improved, use of conjunctions has improved as well as spelling. One pupil was so proud of her story, that she had it made into a book - she's an author! Chestnut class are showing that they are writers and I can't wait for this term's work!

## Cherry Class

In Cherry Class, we completed our Stone Age unit with an all-immersive workshop; it was nothing more or less than 'Time Travel'. The floor was covered with animal skins, the posts hung with bones, antlers and drying herbs, smoke from the fire drifted up through bundles of spears and harpoons. We started the session with a look at the timeline, then moved swiftly on to a demonstration of flint tool making (knapping). A fire was lit, conjuring sparks from stones and after a demonstration of food preparation, we tasted the fish that had been cooked on the fire. We were then able to handle some of the artefacts, really understanding life in the stone age and the skills and abilities it took to survive.

We have started our next topic, Ancient Egyptians, with a lesson all about mummification. Cherry Class spent the morning looking at the different steps involved and then had a practise at wrapping each other up using toilet roll - our modern day version of mummification! It was such fun!

This also leads nicely into our new book in English, 'Cinderella of the Nile'. Rhodopis, so called because of her rosy cheeks, is stolen by pirates. Knowing that they can sell her as a slave for a great





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price, she is bought and sold until she reaches Egypt.

In Naukrakis, Rhodopis is bought by a Greek who takes pity on her and treats her as a daughter, much to the irritation of the three Egyptian sisters who also work as servants in his house. Rhodopis is gifted a pair of delicate slippers for her feet, but one is stolen by the god Horus. In accordance with the familiar version of the tale, the Pharaoh finds the stolen slipper and discovers Rhodopis to be the owner of the slipper and marries her. Throughout this next half-term we will share this story, making comparisons with the traditional Cinderella tale and write our own version of the story complete with fable!

In Cherry Class we are Historians, Readers and Writers!

## Rowan Class

Welcome to another exciting update from Rowan Class! We've been keeping busy with a range of activities that have sparked our creativity, enthusiasm, and curiosity. Let's dive into what we've been up to recently.

To kick off our 'Varmints' writing topic, our class had a fantastic time getting hands-on with colourful clay. Each student unleashed their artistic flair to create vibrant flowers. This activity not only encouraged creativity but also set the stage for our upcoming writing projects by helping us visualize and connect with the explanation texts we'll be crafting.

In addition to our creative endeavours, Rowan Class had the opportunity to learn about dental hygiene in a fun and engaging way. We participated in a dental hygiene workshop that perfectly complemented our Science topic. The workshop was filled with interesting facts and practical tips, teaching us the importance of taking care of our teeth. Year 4 enjoyed learning how to keep their smiles shining bright and healthy, making the session both educational and enjoyable.

Our week also included a thrilling experience with Olympic cyclist Danny Butler. He led us through activity circuits that tested our speed and fitness. This energetic session not only got our hearts racing but also inspired us with stories of dedication and perseverance from the world of sports.

To top it all off, we had a delightful art workshop with Mrs. Taylor, where we created our own wish jars. Each pupil decorated their jar with colourful materials, representing their hopes and dreams. It was a heart-warming activity that allowed us to express our aspirations creatively.



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In Rowan Class we are creative and ambitious!

## Sycamore Class

Sycamore Class have made a brilliant start to the new half-term and have already shown fantastic enthusiasm for their learning. The children have been especially engrossed in their English and History lessons, both of which are centred around the fascinating Maya civilisation.

In English, we have begun exploring our new focus text, Rain Player. This exciting story has introduced us to the ancient Maya ball game Pok-a-Tok. We investigated the rules of the game and discovered just how dangerous it could be for the players involved! The children were amazed by what they learned and have shown great curiosity and insight during discussions. From the quality of ideas and engagement so far, it is clear that the writing outcomes inspired by this text will be of a very high standard. Look out for some examples of our work in the next blog!

Alongside this, we have spent time developing and exploring Maya-themed vocabulary. Learning these new words has helped us to uncover clues about Maya life, beliefs and traditions, deepening our understanding of their civilisation and strengthening links between our English and history learning.

As well as all the hard work in the classroom, Sycamore Class also enjoyed a thrilling visit from Danny Butler, Team GB mountain biker. The children took part in an exciting circuit before watching Danny demonstrate some of his incredible biking skills. It was an inspiring experience that encouraged resilience, determination and healthy lifestyles

## Elder Class

Year 6 have made a strong start to the new half-term as we really focus our attention on the second half of their final year at primary school! We have starting looking at some World War II poetry in Reading, whilst continuing to read Windrush Child and complete a diary entry full of feelings using expanded noun phrases and figurative language.

In Maths, we are using the skills we learned when multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100 and 1000 to now apply it to converting units of measure. We have looked at capacity, length and mass - in doing do, discussing and understanding the difference between mass and weight. We also enjoyed a 'correct or incorrect'





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question in Maths where the children used measuring equipment to decide whether their arm span was the same as their height.

In Science, Mrs Garton-Pope started work on Adaptation, with the children looking at Mr Men and Little Miss characters to help the children understand the concepts. The highlight of our week was undoubtedly the visit of Olympic athlete Danny Butler and we were pleased that he identified our Year 6 children as a good group in terms of their commitment to the circuits! We also enjoyed learning from him and watching him in his assembly. His message that working hard is the key to success in anything gave our Year 6 children a really important reminder as we head through towards our SAT assessments in May.

We have now begun our weekly SATS Clubs after school, with lots of parents and carers getting involved too - so lovely to see! The children don't mind doing some SATS questions as long as there's the odd digestive biscuit or custard cream in the mix too!



## Have a Great Week Ahead!

