



Friday 22nd May

OAKDENE PRIMARY ACADEMY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week
at our great school!

**Growing
Through
Excellence**

Latest news from Oakdene Primary Academy

Key Dates

**01/6/26
Half-Term
begins**

**01/6/26
Year 4
MTC Checks
begin**

**08/6/26
Year 1
Phonics Tests
begin**

**15/6/26
Kindness
Workshops**

**19/6/26
Class & Year 6
Photographs**

**26/6/26
Year 6 Trip
to Western
Approaches**

What a truly wonderful half-term it has been at Oakdene – it's hard to believe how quickly it has flown by!

This has been an especially important time for our Year 6 pupils, who have shown such resilience, maturity and determination during their SATs. We could not be prouder of the way they have approached this experience – giving their very best, supporting one another and demonstrating the "Oakdene spirit" in everything they do.

As always, our heartfelt thanks go to our incredible staff team and our supportive families. The strong sense of partnership between home and school is something we value deeply, and it makes such a difference to our children.

This half-term has been full of exciting opportunities for our pupils to learn, grow and flourish – from cricket taster sessions and fun own-clothes days to the fantastic trips to Imagine That and the engaging Mad Science assemblies. These experiences help to bring our curriculum to life and reflect our commitment to providing a rich and memorable education for every child.

As we look ahead to our final half-term, we will begin gently planting the seeds for transition, supporting our children to feel confident, prepared and excited for the next stage of their journey as we move towards Autumn 2026.

We wish all of our Oakdene families a restful, happy and well-deserved half-term break.

Attendance Focus

As we cast an eye over attendance this term, we are proud of the positive commitment shown by many of our families. However, we know there is still room for improvement. Every day in school counts, and even small amounts of absence can quickly add up, impacting children's learning, progress and confidence.

We would like to gently remind parents that taking holidays during term time can have a significant effect not only on academic achievement, but also on friendships, routines and a child's sense of belonging in school. Learning builds day by day, and missing key lessons can make it difficult for children to fully keep up.

As we move into our final half-term, we ask for your continued support in ensuring children attend school every day, on time, so they can make the most of every opportunity available to them.



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

96.1%

97%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

Attendance Awards



Year 2 & 6
97.1%



Year 1
96.3%



Year 3 & 4
96.1%

The winning class will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Years 2 & 6 who had 97.1% attendance!

26/6/26
Summer Fete

29/6/26
Moving on up morning

01/7/26
Moving on up morning

03/7/26
Inset Day
School Closed

08/7/26
Year 6 Trip
to Gullivers
World

As we head into our final half-term, we would like to remind families about our school uniform expectations to ensure consistency, safety and pride across Oakdene Primary Academy.

Footwear should be black shoes or black trainers – white trainers are not part of the school uniform.

For PE, children should wear appropriate kit, including cycling shorts (knee length) or leggings, alongside skorts or longer shorts that allow for comfort and movement.

We appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain high standards and a safe environment for all children.

Safeguarding

Keeping Your Child Safe

At Oakdene Primary Academy, keeping our children safe and well is always our highest priority. A key part of this is helping children to understand that their body belongs to them, and that they should always speak to a trusted adult if anything makes them feel worried, uncomfortable or unsure.

We support this important learning through the NSPCC's Talk PANTS initiative, which shares simple, age-appropriate messages to help children understand how to stay safe, feel confident and know that they can always ask for help.

We would encourage families to watch the short Talk PANTS video together at home, as this can be a gentle and positive way to begin these important conversations:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>



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

The PANTS Rules

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you – remember, there are **good and bad secrets**
- Speak up – **someone can help**

These simple messages empower children to understand their rights and build the confidence to speak out if something does not feel right.

If you would like any further support or guidance on talking to your child about this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Acorn Class

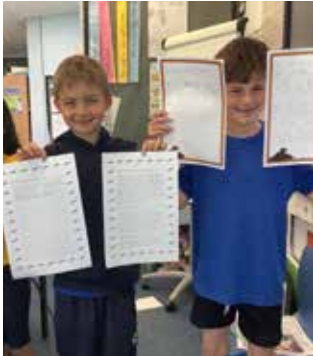
This week the children were introduced to the delightful story, "Oi Frog!". This engaging tale provided an excellent opportunity for the children to explore rhyming words. They wrote sentences and learned about words that rhyme with others, enhancing their vocabulary and phonetic skills in a fun and interactive way.

In addition to enjoying "Oi Frog!", the children delved into the fascinating life cycle of a frog. Through discussions and activities, they learned about the various stages from egg to adult frog. This exploration not only sparked curiosity but also provided a deeper understanding of nature.

In our Drawing Club, we continued to expand our vocabulary linked to this week's story. The children used their imaginations to create unique pictures, write simple sentences, and even develop secret codes! This creative outlet helps nurture their artistic talents and encourages self-expression through words and art.

In Mathematics, the children continued to refine their addition and subtraction skills. Through engaging exercises and practical activities, they practiced these fundamental math operations, building a strong foundation for future mathematical concepts.

This week also featured the much-anticipated Sports Day. The children participated enthusiastically in various activities, showcasing their physical abilities and team spirit. It was a day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and healthy competition, leaving everyone with joyful memories.





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Last week the children visited "Imagine That." Whilst the children were there, they made slime and bath bombs, painted magnets, and even made snow. The children also explored all of the different role-play areas. Each activity sparked their creativity, and it was such a magical day.

In Acorn Class we love 'Oi Frog'!

Maple Class

The children have been busy becoming young geographers. They've learned that the United Kingdom is made up of four countries – England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland – and have explored what makes each one special. We've looked at flags, landmarks, and even listened to traditional music. This unit has sparked lots of questions and curiosity about the wider world.

To mark Sir David Attenborough's milestone birthday, the children learned about his incredible work protecting animals and the planet. They watched short clips of his documentaries and talked about why he is such an inspiring figure.

The highlight was making birthday cards for him. The children used drawings, messages, and facts they had learned to create thoughtful, colourful cards that showed real admiration.

In Maths, we've been exploring mass – comparing objects to see which are heavier or lighter, and using balance scales to test our predictions. Children have handled classroom objects, sorted them by mass, and begun using language such as heaviest, lightest, and equal mass. This hands-on learning helps them build strong foundations for future measurement skills.

Our English unit has focused on the beautiful story Lubna and Pebble. The children have been learning how to use adjectives to describe Pebble – thinking about its colour, texture, size, and how it makes Lubna feel.

We've heard some wonderful descriptive phrases from the children, such as "smooth pebble," "tiny friend," and "shiny stone." This work helps them grow as writers, building richer vocabulary and confidence in expressing ideas.

In Maple Class we love Lubna and Pebble.

Chestnut Class

In Chestnut Class this week, the children have been working incredibly hard as they have to develop their writing skills. As part of this learning, they were inspired by the book, 'The Most Important Animal of All', which encouraged the children to think carefully about different animals and what makes each one special.



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Using this book as inspiration, the children discussed which animal they believed was the most important and, most importantly, why! They shared ideas with their partners, giving reasons and listening to others' opinions, which helped to build their confidence before writing.

The main outcome of their learning this week was to create a fantastic non-chronological report. The children demonstrated a strong understanding of this text type, including clear headings, facts, and organised sections. They worked hard to include key writing features they have learnt in Year 2 this year.

Mrs. Hughes was so impressed by the creativity and effort shown in their work. Some children chose animals such as tigers, sharks and elephants, explaining their importance in the food chain or ecosystem, while others chose smaller creatures, such as bees or krill, showing thoughtful reasoning about how even the tiniest animals can have a big impact on the world.

Mrs. Hughes was incredibly proud of the amazing reports the children have produced. They have shown not only their growing writing skills but also their ability to think critically and share their ideas with confidence. Well done, Year 2! In Chestnut class we are writers!

Cherry Class

Cherry Class had a fantastic visit to Gordale Garden Centre this week and enjoyed a wonderful day full of learning, exploring, and discovering new things about plants, wildlife, and nature. The children were excited from the moment they arrived and loved exploring all the different areas of the garden centre.

During the visit, every child had the opportunity to plant their own nasturtium seed. They carefully filled their pots with compost and learned how to look after their seeds as they begin to grow. The children discovered that plants need water, sunlight, warmth, air, and healthy soil in order to survive and grow strong. They also learned about lots of different plants, including some with very funny names! The Monkey Cup plant was definitely a favourite and caused lots of excitement and laughter among the children.

Cherry Class also enjoyed exploring the herb section, where they smelled and chose their favourite herbs. Some children liked the fresh smell of mint, while others preferred rosemary, thyme, or lavender. They learned how herbs can be used in cooking and how many plants help attract bees and other important insects.





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While walking around the beautiful grounds, the children were delighted to spot guinea fowl, geese, and even some fluffy goslings waddling around near the ponds. Seeing the animals helped the children learn even more about caring for local wildlife and protecting natural habitats.

One of the most surprising facts the children learned was that bees need to visit around one million flowers to make just one small jar of honey. They were amazed to hear how hard-working bees are and why they are so important for our environment.

The staff at Gordale Garden Centre were extremely impressed with Cherry Class throughout the visit. At the end of the day, the lady leading the activities told the children that they were the best behaved class she had ever planted seeds with in over eighteen years! What a wonderful compliment and a fantastic way to end such a memorable trip.

In Cherry Class, we are Gardeners!



Rowan Class

What an amazing week we've had! From thrilling races on Sports Day, to creating our own gods and goddesses in writing - it's been full of fun and learning. Let's take a look at some of the highlights.

Sports Day was certainly a day to remember! Everyone was full of energy and enthusiasm. We had exciting races, and it was wonderful to see everyone trying their best. Whether you were sprinting down the track, cheering on your friends, or giving it your all in the long jump, you should all feel proud of yourselves. Remember, it's not just about winning but giving your best effort and having fun. Well done, Year 4!

We also started our new writing topic inspired by Percy Jackson, which is all about Greek Mythology. This week, we let our imaginations run wild by creating our own gods and goddesses. Some of you came up with amazing ideas, like a god who could control time and a goddess who could talk to animals. It was wonderful to see your creativity shine through your stories. Remember, your imagination has no limits, and I can't wait to read more about your mythical characters.

In Maths, we've been practicing our times tables to get ready for the multiplication check. Knowing your times tables is like having a superpower! We've been playing games and using songs to make learning fun, and I'm impressed with how much everyone has improved. Keep practising and soon you'll be multiplication masters!



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In Geography, we've been honing our weather prediction skills. We learned about different types of weather and how meteorologists forecast the weather. We even tried predicting the weather for the week. Some of you were spot on with your sunny day predictions! It's amazing to think how we can use science to understand the world around us. Keep observing and sharing your weather findings! Remember, learning is an adventure, and every day is a new opportunity to discover something amazing. Keep up the great work, Year 4, and let's make next half term just as fantastic!

Thank you to all the families for your support and encouragement. Have a lovely weekend, and we'll see you after the half term break! In Rowan class, we are determined!

Sycamore Class

What a wonderfully creative week we have had in Year 5!

The highlight of our week was definitely taking part in an inspiring Art workshop with Gill Taylor. During the session, the children designed and created their own printing tiles using foam, producing vibrant and eye-catching images with ink. They then developed their work further by covering their tiles with tissue paper and gold paint, transforming them into truly stunning pieces. Some pupils even went on to turn their tiles into intricate sculptures. The attention to detail was fantastic, and we have created artwork that we are incredibly proud of! This work will be proudly displayed on the Upper Key Stage Two corridor, along with some of the writing from our unit on the Maya Civilisation.

We also enjoyed a very arty morning on Wednesday, where we worked on our installation work. A huge thank you to everyone who sent in recycled materials. Your contributions helped us turn everyday items into something truly special. It was wonderful to see so much teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving as the children collaborated to bring their ideas to life. They solved problems of how to bring their vision to life.

In English, we have been busy writing biographies about the famous tightrope walker Philippe Petit, known as "The Man who Walked Between the Two Towers." The children have worked hard to include key Year 5 writing features, such as relative clauses and correctly punctuated quotes, to enhance their writing. I have been incredibly impressed with both the quality of their work and the high standard of presentation. The effort and pride they are showing in their books is wonderful to see, and we have included some photos to celebrate this fantastic work across this unit.



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In Sycamore Class, we are sculpture artists with a flair for writing!

Elder Class

Year 6 children have had a really busy couple of weeks with the SATS in the penultimate week of the half-term and then starting to read through our end-of-year production and decide which roles they want to audition for! The SATS came and went. We know that all of our children tried their very hardest in the tests on Grammar, Spelling, Reading and Maths. We hope they end up with the results they deserve for their hard work.

Almost as soon as SATS were over, we launched our end-of-year production 'The Amazing Adventures of Superstar', which we are really looking forward to working on and performing in July. Following SATS, Year 6 also had a reward cooked breakfast specially prepared for them by our kitchen staff, which they enjoyed in the hall on Friday morning.

We have been getting back into some of our other work such as Music, where we got the keyboards out to start learning a jazz melody. This will lead to us improvising and then starting to learn to compose and perform a piece of blues music in the coming weeks. We began our French unit 'In My French House', learned about Agriculture in Geography, and finished our Computer Science work, presenting our final game designs. A final Sports Day at Oakdene was also a highlight of the fortnight, with Year 6 children not only competing in the morning but also supporting our younger children in the afternoon.

As we head into the children's final half-term at Oakdene, we have much to look forward to with trips, workshops and the production on the horizon.

In Elder Class, we are almost Secondary ready!



RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, HONESTY, DETERMINATION & PRIDE



The Week in Pictures...

Friday 22nd May



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