OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our great school!

Thursday 20th November

Growing & Learning Together

Key Dates

24/11/25
Y5 TT Rockstars

25/11/25
Y2 Art Workshop

25/11/25
Y5 Art Workshop

26/11/25
Flu Vaccinations

01/12/25
Y5 Viking Workshop

02/12/25
Y2 Bauble Assembly

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our very first newsletter as Oakdene Primary Academy! This is a proud milestone for our school, and I'm thrilled to say we've launched into this new chapter with energy and enthusiasm. These past weeks have been nothing short of extraordinary, filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit.

One of the highlights of this term so far, was the incredible Teach Rex workshops, which brought dinosaurs to life in the most magical way. Pupils not only met baby dinosaurs up close but also explored fascinating facts about these prehistoric creatures - sparking curiosity and wonder across every year group.

We also celebrated Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week, reminding everyone of the importance of kindness and individuality. Later on in the week, our school came together for Children in Need, raising money through fun activities and showing the power of teamwork and generosity.

Alongside these special events, our classrooms have been buzzing with progress. We've seen beautiful development in writing and drawing, with pupils creating work that reflects both creativity and growing confidence.

Thank you for your continued support as we embrace this exciting new era. There's so much more to come, and we can't wait to share it with you!

Warm regards,

Lynsey Young

Principal

Acorn Class

In Reception class, we took time to learn about the significance of Remembrance Day. We discussed the brave soldiers who went to war for us, honouring their courage and sacrifice. We also made our own Remembrance Day artwork.

We celebrated Odd Socks Day to highlight the importance of individuality and acceptance. The children enjoyed wearing mismatched socks and participating in activities that emphasized being unique and celebrating differences.

Our Maths lessons focused on understanding the concepts of more, fewer, and introducing equal amounts. The children engaged in hands-on activities to compare quantities effectively, aiding their comprehension of these fundamental concepts.

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 6	Year 2	Year 1
98.3%	98.1%	98%

The winning class(es) will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Year 6 who had 98.3% attendance!

02/12/25
Y3 Maths Workshop

05/12/25
Rock Steady Xmas Concert

08/12/25
Junior Choir Amberley Count

09/12/25
Junior Choir Treetops

10/12/25
Nativity YR2 & Reception Parents

In Literacy, we explored the enchanting story of 'Owl Babies'. The children enjoyed listening to the tale, discussing the themes of family and security. We have been inspired to talk about our own homes, drawing inspiration from the story.

We have also been exploring different emotions and learnt that just like in the story, we often experience a range of emotions tied to our homes and families. The baby owls, for instance, feel anxious when separated from their mother but find comfort in their cosy nest once she returns.

A highlight of the week was our exciting visit from TeachRex, where the children had the opportunity to meet a range of different dinosaurs, all of which are unique and have their own personalities. Whilst getting to know their new dinosaur friends, effective questioning was used to explore different emotions and feelings with the children focusing on personal, social, and emotional development.

Maple Class

What a fantastic start to the half term it's been in Year 1! Our classroom has been buzzing with creativity, curiosity, and lots of learning. Here's a peek into some of the brilliant things we've been up to this past few weeks:

Building Big Dreams in English

We've been diving into the imaginative world of 'Iggy Peck, Architect' – a story that's inspired us to think big and build even bigger! The children have loved exploring Iggy's passion for architecture and have channelled their inner designers by creating their own buildings. From towering skyscrapers to cosy cottages, their creations have been full of personality and flair. We've used these buildings to spark descriptive writing, storytelling, and even some persuasive language – who wouldn't want to live in a castle made of jelly?

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

Mastering Number Bonds in Maths

In Maths, we've been working hard on our number bonds to 10. The children have been using cubes, counters, and number lines to explore all the different ways to make 10.These foundational skills are helping us become confident mathematicians, ready to tackle even trickier problems ahead.

Exploring the Nativity in RE

As we begin to prepare for Christmas, our RE lessons have focused on the Nativity story. The children have been learning about the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth of baby Jesus, and the special visitors who came to see him. Through storytelling and role play, we've reflected on why this story is so important to Christians and how it's celebrated around the world.

A Roaring Visit from Teach Rex!

One of the most unforgettable moments this term was our incredible Teach Rex workshop! The children were thrilled to meet life-like dinosaurs and learn all about these fascinating creatures. With roaring sounds, stomping feet, and lots of interactive fun, the workshop brought prehistoric times to life in our very own school hall. We may have a few future palaeontologists in our midst!

Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class recently embarked on an exciting art project inspired by their history topic, The Great Fire of London. The children have been learning all about London in 1666 and were keen to show off their learning in an artistic way. This project beautifully combined their historical knowledge with their artistic skills, resulting in some fantastic artwork.

To begin, the children explored various images of houses from the 17th century. They carefully observed the architectural styles, noting the timber frames and thatched roofs. Next, they experimented with different designs, sketching various house shapes and layouts in preparation for their final piece.

After their planning and prep work, the children set to work on completing a full drawing of a house from 1666. They focused on replicating the unique characteristics of the buildings from that period. Once they were happy with the structure, they used black markers to create bold outlines, bringing their creations to life.

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We are incredibly proud of the creativity and effort that each and everyone of the children put into this project. The way they integrated their understanding of history into their art was truly impressive. It's wonderful to see how they've managed to bring their knowledge to life, displaying a profound understanding of London's history.

The artwork produced by Chestnut Class is outstanding. Well done, everyone, on your amazing Great Fire of London houses!

Cherry Class

The start of this half term in Year 3 Cherry Class has been full of creativity, teamwork and exciting learning! We began by exploring the beautiful picture book 'The First Drawing' by Mordicai Gerstein. The story imagines how the very first drawing might have been made thousands of years ago, deep inside a cave. It inspired us to think about how people expressed themselves long before writing was invented. We created our own pieces of cave art using natural colours and chalks, just like early humans. The hall turned into a prehistoric art gallery filled with hand-prints, animals and mysterious symbols—everyone's artwork told its own ancient story!

In PE, we have been developing our skills in communication and tactics. We've learned how working as a team and listening carefully can make a big difference during games. One of our activities has been playing giant Tic-Tac-Toe but instead of pencils and paper, we used markers and cones to create a large grid on the floor. It was fun to race against another team while planning where to place our markers. The children quickly discovered how strategy and teamwork go hand in hand.

An unforgettable day, was our TeachRex Dinosaur Workshop. We stepped back in time to the land of the dinosaurs and even met a life-sized T-rex! Using a green screen, we learned how to become movie stars in our very own dinosaur adventure scene. We are wondering whose houses have now been turned into a movie set using the same ideas?!

Also this term, we celebrated Odd Socks Day to raise awareness for anti-bullying. By wearing our brightest, most colourful odd socks, we showed that it's great to be unique and that kindness always matters.

What a wonderful and creative time it has been for the historians, artists and tactical players in Year 3 Cherry Class.

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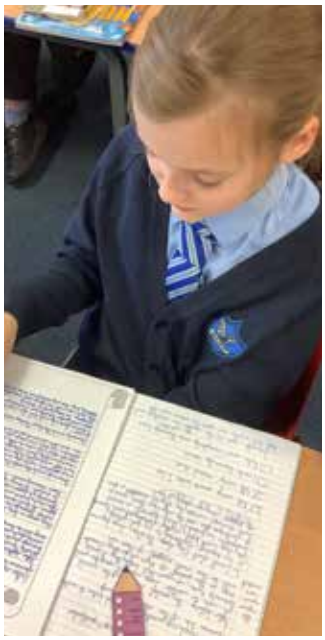


Rowan Class

We've had an incredible term filled with fun and learning. Here's a quick recap of all the exciting activities that took place. We had a roaring good time with a visit from Teach Rex. The children were thrilled to meet life-like dinosaurs and learn fascinating facts about these ancient creatures. It was an interactive experience that brought the prehistoric world right into our classroom. The excitement was palpable as the dinosaurs stomped around, igniting imaginations and sparking curiosity.

We had our Odd Socks Day, celebrating what makes us all unique. It was delightful to see everyone express themselves through their colourful and mismatched socks! This was a wonderful way to remind each other that it's okay to be different and that our differences make us special. Miss Best joined us for a PATHS lesson. She taught us about managing our emotions and making positive choices. The children engaged in role-playing activities that helped them understand empathy and kindness. It was heart-warming to see them practice these important life skills. We also had a fantastic Romans workshop morning. The children transformed into Roman soldiers, donning helmets and shields, and learned about ancient Roman life. They participated in hands-on activities such as pilum spear throwing and discovered fascinating facts about Roman history and culture. It was a fantastic way to learn history by stepping into the shoes of Roman soldiers.

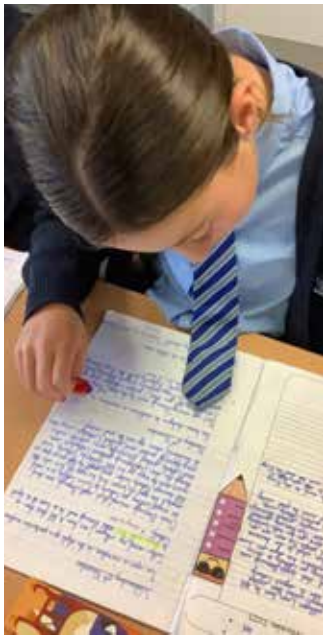
In Rowan Class, we are adventurous!

Sycamore Class

What a fantastic start back to school for Sycamore Class! Your enthusiasm and effort across all areas of the curriculum have been brilliant to see and it has been lovely to see how well you have welcomed back Mrs Coughlin!

We've sadly wrapped up our Beowulf topic, but not before producing some truly epic writing! Your use of kennings, superlatives, and idioms brought your stories to life in such imaginative ways – I couldn't be prouder of the creativity and skill you've shown. I even took some of these this week to show the other schools in the Wade Deacon Trust. Here is a short extract from one of our stories – I hope you agree that it is of the highest quality:

'Gather round my hearth-companions to let your ears consume this thrilling, one of a kind story about Beowulf.



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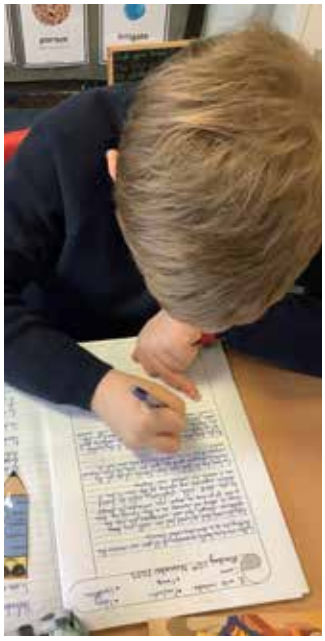

After the wound-blood of Grendel had been spoilt, from being spilled, our strongest and most courageous hero had been living in peace and harmony as a king. Beowulf had been a hero for as long as anyone could remember. He thought that he was done with fighting until he heard children screaming and running for their lives. He knew it was a monster. His instinct was tingling!

As brave as he had ever been, Beowulf set off into the darkest, dingiest forest he had ever seen. The trees whispered warnings to him as he walked by. He may have met his match this time...'

Our Beowulf chapters are now proudly displayed in our reading area for all to read and explore!

A big highlight of the past few weeks was our Teach Rex workshop where we explored green screen technology to enhance our acting skills. It was amazing to see everyone so engaged with those chosen to go up to the green screen showing amazing confidence in front of the camera. We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the families who purchased our class text, The Humans. Having our own copies has made a huge difference in how deeply we can explore the story together – your support is really appreciated and will have a good impact on the outcomes that we produce in our reading lessons.

Lastly, we created some lovely art linked to Remembrance Day, showing our respect and creating some thought-provoking pieces.

Keep up the great work, Sycamore – we're excited to see what the rest of the term, and the run up to Christmas, brings!

In Sycamore class we are epic writers who enjoy being in front of the camera!

Elder Class

A Fantastic Fortnight!

The past few weeks in Year 6 have been nothing short of inspiring. Our 'Elder' pupils have immersed themselves in a wide range of activities that have stretched their creativity, deepened their understanding, and sparked curiosity.

In writing lessons, we've been exploring, 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan – a powerful, wordless graphic novel that opens up rich discussions about migration, belonging, and resilience. Pupils have engaged in inference work, creative diary writing, and thoughtful debates, producing some truly impressive responses that show empathy and imagination.

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Fractions have been our main focus in Mathematics, and the children have tackled them with determination. From simplifying and comparing fractions to applying them in problem-solving contexts, their confidence and fluency have grown significantly.

Our WWII topic has also come alive through interactive workshops that allowed pupils to step into the shoes of those who lived through this period. In addition, the Teach Rex sessions have introduced exciting STEM elements, blending history with technology and innovation – a brilliant way to keep learning dynamic and engaging.

Creativity has also flourished as pupils experimented with watercolour techniques to produce stunning artwork inspired by village-scapes. The results are vibrant, expressive, and showcase the incredible talent within the class.

The atmosphere in Year 6 has been buzzing with enthusiasm, collaboration, and pride in their achievements. These experiences are not only building knowledge but also developing essential skills such as critical thinking, resilience, and creativity.

In Elder Class, we are moving forward in leaps and bounds.

Have a Fab Week!

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Dino-Time!

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