

Weekly Newsletter

2nd February 2026



Right of the Fortnight: Article 38:
Children should be protected during war
& not allowed to fight in the army.



Dear Parents/Carers,

Every Day Counts

At Oakdene we are committed to ensuring every child receives an **excellent education** and **consistent attendance** is fundamental to achieving this. Regular attendance directly supports **academic progress, fosters crucial social and emotional development**, and cultivates **positive learning habits**. By working together (pupils, parents and staff) to achieve **our attendance target of 97%**, we create a stable and supportive learning environment that promotes uninterrupted learning, strengthens relationships, and enhances each child's **sense of belonging** within our school community. Congratulations **to Y4 and Y6C** for achieving 100% attendance last week! This fantastic achievement reflects the **strong support from parents and carers**, as well as the relentless dedication of our staff in **upholding high expectations**. A huge well done to everyone involved!

Online Safety Warning: Discord App

Online grooming happens when an adult builds a relationship with a child online with the intention of causing them harm. This can occur on any digital platform, including social media, messaging apps, gaming sites and livestreaming services. Children may be tricked or pressured into behaviour they would not normally engage in, putting them at risk of serious emotional or physical harm.

We want to raise awareness about the app **Discord**. Although it is **blocked on our school network via our filtering and monitoring system**, children may still access it at home on personal devices. We have recently been made aware of an incident where the app placed a child at significant risk in their family home.

What is Discord?

Discord is a communication platform used by online communities. It offers text, voice and video chat and is popular with teenagers and young adults. The minimum age is **13**, but there are no barriers stopping younger children from creating accounts. Police have highlighted serious concerns about the app, including risks of criminal and sexual exploitation. **We have included a briefing on the next page, to help parents and carers stay informed and support children to stay safe online.**

Next week is **Safer Internet Day**, and we encourage all families to take a moment to talk to their children about staying safe online.

Enjoy the week ahead!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



Social Media - DISCORD

Discord is a popular communication platform, originally designed for gamers but now used by a wide range of online communities.

It allows users to chat via text, voice, and video, and is particularly popular among children, teenagers and young adults. You have to be 13 or older to have a Discord account.

Key Features

- **Servers:** Much like 'Groups' in WhatsApp Discord is organised into 'servers'. These are virtual spaces where communities gather. Each server can have multiple "channels" for different topics.
- **Channels:** Channels within servers can be text-based or for voice chat. They allow users to communicate in groups or privately.
- **Direct Messaging:** Users can also send private messages to friends on Discord.
- **Customisation:** Users can customise their profiles and settings, including privacy controls.

Benefits

- **Community and Socialising:** Discord allows young people to connect with friends and communities with shared interests,



which can be great for socialising and support.

- **Diverse Interests:** There are servers for almost every interest, from gaming and technology to art and education.
- **Learning and Collaboration:** Many use Discord for study groups, project collaboration, and sharing knowledge.

Potential Risks

- **Exposure to Inappropriate Content:** Not all servers are moderated, and some may contain inappropriate content for younger users.
- **Unwanted Contact:** Like any platform that allows communication, there's a risk of contact from people who can pose a risk to children for purposes such as grooming, exploitation and scams.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each quarter Discord release their transparency report which goes into details about accounts and servers removed for a variety of reasons such as child safety, violence, hate and more. Between April 2023 and June 2023 Discord removed:

155,873 accounts for child safety (which includes child sexual abuse).

21,256 accounts for violent and graphic content.

10,671 accounts for harassment and bullying.

10,385 accounts for violent extremism.



Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term



Week Commencing 2nd Feb 'National Storytelling Week'

Tues 3rd Feb 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of **Reception** Pupils
Y4 visit Hartlepool Power Station
Wed 4th Feb PM 15 pupils from Y3, Y4 & Y5 attend Active Learning
Competition @ Durham University, Stockton
DfE Filming Y3, Y6C and Leaders

Week Commencing 9th Feb 'Children's Mental Health Week'

Mon 9th Feb Safer Internet Day - Online Behaviour Workshops -
Delivered by Bigfoot Arts Education to Y3-Y6 pupils.
Tues 10th Feb KS2 Dance Festival @ Durham University, Stockton
Fri 13th Feb 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of **Y5** Pupils
Y5/Y6 Football Tournament @ Stockton Town FC

Mon 16th Feb Launch Readathon
Tues 17th Feb Chinese New Year & Shrove Tuesday
9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of **Y1** Pupils
Wed 18th Feb Y1 visit Shildon Railway Museum
UV Dodgeball
Fri 20th Feb Break up for half term

HALF TERM

Monday 23rd February - Friday 27th February
Monday 2nd March - Children Return to School

Tues 3rd March 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y2 Pupils

Wed 4th March Careers in Medical Workshops
PM Y5/Y6 Netball Competition
Thurs 5th March World Book Day & Readathon Celebration

Week commencing 9th March Launch of **British Science Week & Careers Week**

Tues 10th March AM - Curling event @ Durham University, Stockton
Weds 11th March 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of **Y3** Pupils
Y5SW attend Trust Residential at Streonshalh Field Study
Centre, East Whitby Primary Academy, Whitby.

Tues 17th March 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y4 Pupils

Wed 18th March Wheelchair Basketball
Fri 20th March Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day

Mon 23rd March World Maths Day & KS1 Theatre visit 'Gruffalo's Child'

Wed 25th March 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y6 Pupils

Fri 27th March 30 KS2 Girls Attend Wildcats Football @ Stockton Town FC

W/c 30th March **Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers**

Tues 31st March PM 10 pupils from Y5/Y6 Hockey @ Norton Sports Complex
Thurs 2nd April 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of **Nursery** Pupils
Children break up for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Friday, 3rd April - Friday, 17th April

Monday, 20th April Summer Term commences—children return to school

Congratulations to Y2 pupil, Isabel Liddle, who has achieved her **Level 5 Trampoline Proficiency Award**, and to her sister, Hannah Liddle in Y5, who has earned Level 9.

Both girls have demonstrated **fantastic progress**, **growing confidence** and impressive development in their skills.

These achievements are a testament to their **dedication** and **hard work** during training.



Year 6 pupil, **Leah Cooley**, has achieved an impressive milestone by earning her **Level 6 Trampoline Proficiency Award**. Leah has shown **outstanding commitment** during training, consistently **refining her technique** and demonstrating great determination.

Nut-Free School & Healthy Eating Reminder
Please remember that we are a **nut-free school**. Children must not bring any food containing nuts, including items like Nutella or Kinder Bueno, to keep pupils with severe **allergies** safe. We also kindly remind families of our healthy eating policy. Recently, we've noticed more chocolate, crisps, and sweet items in packed lunches. Please ensure **packed lunches** are as nutritious and balanced as possible. **Fresh fruit, vegetables, yoghurt and sandwiches** help children **stay focused** and support our work in promoting **healthy lifestyles**. Thank you for continuing to provide **healthy snacks** at breaktime. Thank you for helping us **protect the health, safety and wellbeing** of all our pupils.



Recommended Read
This week's recommended read is from
Mrs Hunter
'The Lost Whale'
by **Hannah Gold**



The Lost Whale is a beautifully written and heartfelt story. It follows Rio, a boy who travels to California and forms a powerful bond with White Beak, a gentle grey whale who suddenly goes missing. Full of **adventure, emotion and important messages** about **protecting our oceans**, this book is both exciting and thought-provoking. It's an **inspiring read** that encourages empathy, courage and a love for the natural world. Highly recommended for **young explorers and animal lovers**!

Our Year 2 pupils enjoyed a brilliant day at the **Pirate-Themed Multi-Sport Festival** held at Durham Queen's Campus, Stockton. The children took part in an action-packed morning, navigating a **pirate obstacle course**, tackling a **sinking-ship challenge**, and setting off on an exciting **treasure hunt**. Along the way, they collected gold coins for showing fantastic **teamwork**, **problem-solving** and **oracy** skills.

It was a wonderful adventure from start to finish and the children had a great time!



Week Ending 29th January 2026

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Maisy Atkinson	Freya Handley	Vinnie Manze	Harper Bunn
YRC Miss Dixon	Sophia Peers	Lewis Daniels-Owen	Ruban Gilbey	Dolly Browning
YRK Miss Dignen	Edith Lewis	Theo Bell	Finley Ayre	Aaliyah Sanchez Godt
Y1B Mrs Brown	Junior Ferguson	Alaia Cunningham	Oscar Stainsby	Nellie Puckering
Y2D Mrs Durham	Lucas Lee	Darcy Hammond	Amelia Wright	Louie Walker
Mrs Thompson	Katy Coates	Isla Featherstone	Caleb Jefferies	Harry Robinson
Y3H Mr Horkan	Mia Hudzicka	Arabella Sedgwick	Keesha Griffin	Joseph Luker
Y4R Miss Robinson	Darcie Berry	Skyla Wilks	Adridev Vineetha	Mark Bershadskyi
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Milo Hancock	Eliza-Grace Mack	Albert Balanescu	Edward Gardiner-Jukes
Mrs Wilson	Alyza Bateman	Evie-Jayne Harrison	Evie Richardson	Aalia Dobson
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Ellis Fearn	Brooke Love	Leah Cooley	Dolly Rogers
Y6M Mr McConnell	Ben Bainbridge	Toby Chocholko	Amber Hammond	Amez Ali



YR & KS1
Harry Robinson

Y3 & Y4
Tia Cain

Y5 & Y6
Brooke Love