

Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Mon 2nd March	Y1 Fire Station visit
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 Y4 attend Joseph Coelho @ Yarm School
Thurs 19th March	Y6 visit Hancock Museum Reception visit Hall Hill Farm
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 Y1 Easter Extravaganza at St. Aidan's Church with the Open the Book Team 1.30p.m. Author visit Jamie Hammond
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 Y2 pupils visit Washington Wetlands Children break up for Easter



EASTER HOLIDAYS

Friday, 3rd April - Friday, 17th April

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

Y1 pupils got up close to legendary locomotives at the **Shildon Railway Museum**, depicting how the railways have shaped our world.

The children handled a variety of authentic objects associated with the life and achievements of **George Stephenson**. Items included models, books, tools, medals and miners' lamps.





Promoting the Love of Reading

For children in hospital, books and stories are particularly important - they comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. **Read for Good** provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals.

It's been heart-warming to see the librarians organise this event and to hear the children talking about how the **Readathon** has kept them busy during the half-term break.

Please complete the Readathon and return the Sponsor Cards to school on **World Book Day Thursday, 5th March 2026.**

All children who return their completed Sponsor Cards on World Book Day will be given a certificate & sticker for their participation.

If you are able to make a donation please do so via the website: www.readforgood.org.uk

- Select - Sponsor a Pupil (Blue Tab)
- Enter - Oakdene Primary Academy/ Billingham/TS23 3NR
- Select - Our school from the drop down list
- Donate - Choose amount or click other to enter your amount
- Complete - Your details including name, address & postcode
- Pay - By Direct Debit or Credit Card

Since our first Readathon in **2023** our school has raised a grand total of **£3,723.00**.



All children from our 2yr olds up to Y6 will receive a **£1 Book Token** this week. A few years ago, pupil voice revealed that many children previously rarely exchanged their voucher for a book.

So once again, we have used **Pupil Premium funding (10p per book)** to ensure that **every child** will receive one of the **World Book Day £1 books**, that were chosen for each phase of the school by our librarians and kindly organised by **Drake Independent Book Shop in Stockton** for World Book Day, 5th March .



Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from

Mrs Cowan

'Somebody Swallowed Stanley'

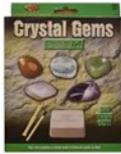
by **Sarah Roberts**



Everyone seems to have an appetite for Stanley, every ocean creature mistakes him for a tasty snack. But Stanley isn't like other jellyfish. While real jellyfish have flowing tentacles and a magical underwater glow, Stanley has... stripes and handles. That's because Stanley is *actually* a plastic bag.

A clever, engaging story that highlights the impact of plastic pollution in our oceans.

Science Gadget Shop



The return of the gadget shop!

Our popular gadget shop is returning for **British Science Week!**

Every day, running from **Monday, 9th March** until **Friday, 13th March**, the Y5s will be selling gadgets to all classes.

Gadgets range from **50p to £5.00** and include finger flying rockets, fossil digging kits, volcano erupting sets, balloon racing cars and many more!

Just before the half-term break, pupils from Years 1–6 stepped into a transformed sports hall into a **glowing UV arena** filled with neon bibs, bright dodgeballs and colourful props such as hats and sunglasses.

With UV lighting and music setting the scene, the experience created an unforgettable atmosphere. Each year group had the opportunity to take part, building teamwork, agility and quick reactions while having tremendous fun. The energy in the hall was electric and pupils absolutely loved this unique twist on a classic game.

A huge thank you to **Mr McConnell** for organising yet another **creative and engaging sporting experience** for our pupils!



Eight **Year 4** pupils recently took part in an **Active Learning Competition** at Durham University's Queen's Campus. The children participated in a variety of **Numeracy and Literacy challenges**, all of which had to be solved through active, hands-on tasks. Staff were thrilled to receive compliments about the Year 4 team, who demonstrated **outstanding teamwork, enthusiasm and collaboration** throughout the event.

Their hard work truly paid off, as they finished in **1st place** and proudly returned with **gold medals**.



Y5 pupil **Isaac Cummings** has been invited to participate in an **England ice hockey** power of eleven team programme talent ID & development camp. Going up against the best there is, this is a phenomenal opportunity to **showcase** all the hard work and effort he puts in week after week. He will also be coached by some of the best in the UK.



Y3 pupil **Joseph Luker**, was awarded a trophy as **'Man of the Match'**.

Joseph showed **outstanding** effort, teamwork, and determination throughout the game, **impressing** both coaches and teammates.

Well done, Joseph, keep up the fantastic work!



Congratulations to **Evie Richardson** (Y5) who has achieved her **Level 10 Proficiency Award** in Gymnastics.

This is a fantastic accomplishment that reflects her **hard work, commitment and talent**.

Well done, Evie!



Week Ending 20th February 2026

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 	Star Musician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Tate Blasco	Charlotte Ayre	James Higgins	Thomas Higgins	Matilda Curry
YRC Miss Dixon	Rory Baker	Jayden Sarrechia	George Liddle	Junior Morgan	Alicia Edwards
YRK Miss Dignen	Lucas Bailey	Ollie Foster	Mason Walker	Lottie Cooper	Edith Lewis
Y1B Mrs Brown	Joey Blasco	Darcie Murray-Denby	Freya White	Eddie Smithson	Wyatt Hold
Y2D Mrs Durham	Darcy Hammond	Jason Adekunle	Abdulmalek Abiona	Bonnie-Rae Ferguson	Olivia Curry
Mrs Thompson	Dazling Murray	Iszy Matthews	Ruben Black	Thomasin Scotland	Janson-John Murray
Y3H Mr Horban	Henry Brown	Arta Dugdale	Chanel Ambrose	Lincoln Wardle	Gia Hindmarsh
Y4R Miss Robinson	Leighton Daniels-Owen	Lincoln Rose	Theo Plimmer	Olivia Wallace	Lilly Dixon
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Jasmine Dunn	Eve Richardson	Eve-Jayne Harrison	Sophie Squires	Jessica Dunn
Mrs Wilson	Edward Gardiner-Jukes	Cason Tierney	Jake Marshall	Harrison Unsworth	Rupert Culley
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Logan Daniels-Owen	Florence Bruce	Nancy Green	Finley Orley	Max Devlin
Y6M Mr McConnell	Olivia-Grace Allison	Ben Bainbridge	Fzame Fisher	Autumn Lonsdale	Amber Hammond



YR & KS1
Aysel Khan

Y3 & Y4
Elsie Dinesdale-Swales

Y5 & Y6
Milo Hancock