

## Weekly Newsletter 9th February 2026



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



Dear Parents/Carers,

### DfE Filming Visit Showcases Oakdene's Best Practice

Last week, Oakdene had the privilege of welcoming a team from the **Department for Education** (DfE) along with an external **production company**, who visited our school to capture a range of classroom footage and conduct interviews with school leaders.

The filming is part of the DfE's ongoing work to highlight examples of **best practice** taking place in schools across the **country**. We were delighted that Oakdene was selected as a setting that demonstrates **exceptionally strong teaching, learning, and leadership**. During their visit, the team spent time in **Year 3** and **Year 6C**, capturing **high-quality learning** in action. The classes showcased the **enthusiasm, focus** and **teamwork** that are such a core part of life at Oakdene.

In addition to the classroom filming, the DfE interviewed several members of our leadership team. These conversations explored how Oakdene supports pupils' learning, promotes **high standards** and works **collaboratively** to achieve the best possible **outcomes for all children**, including **disadvantaged** and pupils with **SEND**.

We are incredibly **proud** of our pupils and staff, who represented the school brilliantly throughout the day. It was a fantastic opportunity to share the **dedication, passion and expertise** that define Oakdene and to contribute to a national project **celebrating excellence** in education. We look forward to seeing the final production.



Have a wonderful week!

Mrs Bramley and Mrs Osborne

It was fabulous to see how many parents, carers and grandparents of reception pupils attended the first **Open Morning of the Spring term**, last Wednesday. Activities included **Cosmic Creativity**: following instructions to make a speedy straw rocket, **Scrumptious Space**: baking delicious space rock cakes, **Astronaut Academy**: completing space themed physical challenges and **Rocket-fuelled Reading**: finding out more about our fantastic reading opportunities and receiving a **Myon** login for use at home.



We would like to extend our warmest thanks to all parents and families for your incredible generosity during our Christmas events. Through your donations, we raised an amazing **£182.32** towards supporting a very special project: sending a container of vital resources to **Kingstone Primary, Uganda**. Your kindness is helping to make a real and lasting difference to the children and families.

This year, we are especially proud to share that a brand-new nursery classroom has been created as part of the project and our very own **Mrs Guest**, Nursery Teacher, has been invited by the Trust to **design the learning environment**. This is a huge honour and a **testament** to her **expertise, creativity and passion for early years education**. The Trust will fund/donate essential nursery resources, including sand and water toys, to help transform this new space into a vibrant, playful, and engaging environment for young learners in Uganda. Your support means that children thousands of miles away will soon have access to a safe, stimulating nursery space filled with opportunities to learn and grow. **Thank you** once again for your generosity, compassion and continued support.



*Year 4 visited Hartlepool Power Station as part of their **electricity** topic in science. As they were given a guided tour, the Y4s learnt how the power station produces electricity.*

*In the afternoon, the Y4s completed a **K'NEX STEM** workshop, where they worked **collaboratively** in groups to create an **electricity pylon**, using K'NEX, which met a set of criteria (including height and sturdiness).*



## Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

### 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**

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
Thurs 5th March	PM Y5/Y6 Netball Competition World Book Day & Readathon Celebration

Week commencing	9th March Launch of <b>British Science Week &amp; Careers Week</b>
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 Streonshah 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
Thurs 19th March	Y4 attend Joseph Coelho @ Yarm School
Fri 20th March	Y6 visit Hancock Museum 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
	AM Y1 Easter Extravaganza at St. Aidan's Church with the Open the Book Team

Fri 27th March	30 KS2 Girls Attend Wildcats Football @ Stockton Town FC
W/c 30th March	<b>Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers</b>
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 <b>Children break up for Easter</b>

### EASTER HOLIDAYS

**Friday, 3rd April - Friday, 17th April**  
**Monday, 20th April Summer Term commences—children return to school**





Well done to **Nathaniel Jefferies** in Year 1 who achieved his **Stage 1 Swim Award** at Barracuda Swim School! Nathaniel has shown brilliant **confidence** in the water. This award marks an exciting first step in Nathaniel's swimming journey and we can't wait to see what he accomplishes next.



A huge well done to **Lily May Lloyd** in Year 6, who has achieved brilliant success in **gymnastics** and has also successfully auditioned for the role of **Puss in Boots** in her local amateur dramatics production of **Shrek the Musical**. Lily is excited to rehearse and perform in a **live theatre** and we're all very proud of her **talent** and enthusiasm.

Congratulations also to **Olivia Curry** (Y2), **Neave Bateman** (Y3) and **Lillymae Morgan** (Y4), who were all awarded wristbands and certificates for achieving awards between Level 4 and Level 9 in gymnastics. And a special mention to **Niamh Bellew** (Y4) for achieving her Level 6 proficiency certificate in Trampoline.

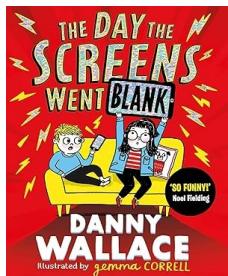


We're thrilled to share that **Ava Hammond** in Year 6 has been awarded a **trophy** for **lyrical and street dance**, recognising her fantastic skill, commitment and enthusiasm for performing.

Even more impressively, Ava is now **preparing** for her **upcoming dance exams**, continuing to push herself and build on her success.

### Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from **Mr Horkan**  
**'The Day The Screens Went Blank'**  
by **Danny Wallace**



**Danny Wallace's 'The Day the Screens Went Blank'** is a fun story about what happens when every screen suddenly stops working. The family in the book learn to work together, stay calm and enjoy time away from technology. It's a great reminder for **Safer Internet Day** that while screens are useful, it's important to take breaks and use the internet safely and responsibly.

Fourteen enthusiastic pupils from Years 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed a fantastic opportunity as they took part in the **Active Schools Sports Festival**. Throughout the day, the children experienced a wide range of exciting sporting activities designed to **build confidence**, develop new skills and encourage a love of being active.

Pupils rotated through a variety of workshops, including **martial arts**, **yoga**, **basketball**, **archery** and **golf**. Each activity offered something different, allowing the children to **challenge** themselves, try new techniques and discover sports they may not have tried before. The festival was filled with **energy**, **teamwork** and lots of smiles. Staff and instructors commented on how brilliantly the children represented the school, showing enthusiasm, respect and great **sportsmanship** throughout the day.



Week Ending 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week	Star Reader	Star Writer	Star Mathematician
Nursery Mrs Guest	Ivy-Grace Parkinson Lumley	Lucie Wilkinson-Young	Olivia Dunn	Hugo Stephens
YRC Miss Dixon	Willow Watts	Harrison Howdle	Theo Grimwood	Mabel Dodds-Day
YRK Miss Dignen	Ruben Earle	Lucas Bailey	Ebony-Rae Lane	Lola Langridge
Y1B Mrs Brown	Dexter Dobson	Lexie Manze	Harriet Smith	Isaac Stewart
Y2D Mrs Durham	Liam Turner	Isabel Liddle	Altay Arslan	Delilah Dodds-Day
Mrs Thompson	Alfie Cain	Harper Cooper	Axyl Edgar	Isla Featherstone
	Neave Bateman	Miley Dodds-Day	Arwa Usman	Aria Dugdale
Y4R Miss Robinson	Skyla Wilks	Freddie McQuilling	Rosie Daniel	Oakley Purvis
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Jessica Dunn	Scarlett Allon	Sophie Squires	Daisy Thompson
	Harrison Unsworth	Blake Playle	Harley Wallace	Charlie Owens
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Charlie Kibbler	Finley Orley	Brooke Love	Nancy Green
Y6M Mr McConnell	William Culley	Lily Daniel	Hollie Dale	Lily May Lloyd



YR & KS1  
Ruby Bunn

Y3 & Y4  
Holland Finley

Y5 & Y6  
Harley Wallace