

Weekly Newsletter
9th March 2026



Right of the Fortnight: Article 28:
Your right to learn & go to school



Dear Parents/Carers,

At Oakdene, we had an amazing time celebrating **World Book Day** last Thursday and it was wonderful to see staff and children in their costumes. It was all about the three Cs: **cosy**, **book characters** or future **career** aspirations as it was **National Careers week**. It was wonderful to see the wide variety of careers the children chose. We loved noticing the **'mini me'** outfits inspired by your own professions, from caring roles to the construction industry and beyond! A huge **thank you** to all parents and carers for showing how creative you can be!

The **Readathon** created a real buzz around school and raised just over an incredible **£1,000.00** to support children in local hospitals. This fundraising effort helps provide **books** and **author visits** for young patients. We were overwhelmed with the **generosity** of family members despite challenging times with rising food and energy costs.

Mrs Rowe kindly gifted the school a selection of beautiful books when she retired and these were shared with pupils during our special World Book Day assembly.

Congratulations to **Amez Ali, Kain Carmichael** and **Daisy Thompson** for becoming our very first Word Millionaires who will proudly feature on our new **"Who Wants to Be a Word Millionaire?" display**.

Keep reading and enjoy your week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



We held another extremely successful **Open Morning** for the parents & Carers of Y2 pupils. Activities included **Computing** - exploring the new **ELT** computing curriculum via coding and **Scratch Junior**, **Design Technology** - making a healthy wrap for **Paddington Bear**, **Art** - creating a moving picture inspired by **Paddington's** natural habitat and **Paddington P E** - **Paddington's** obstacle course adventure.



Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

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 1.30pm Author visit Jamie Hammond
Fri 27th March	30 KS2 Girls Attend Wildcats Football @ Stockton Town FC Fundraising event for MND
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 <i>Children break up for Easter</i>

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Friday, 3rd April - Friday, 17th April

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



A mixture of Y5 and Y6 boys and girls represented Oakdene at the recent **netball tournament**, playing against many local schools in our area. Children used their knowledge of the game along with great **tactics** to succeed in many of the matches. It was lovely to see the children gaining a new **passion** for the sport of Netball and working together showing great determination and teamwork.



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!

Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from
Mrs McCartie
'Pablo and Splash: Frozen in Time'
by Sheena Dempsey



In this laugh-out-loud, full-colour
graphic novel, time-travelling penguins
Pablo and Splash embark on a daring
mission to rescue their friend from the
Ice Age. This is a lively addition to the
British Book Award-shortlisted series.
It's perfect for young readers who love
adventure and humour.

Y1 enjoyed a fabulous visit to the Fire Station in Norton as part of their 'Great Fire of London' topic. The firefighters prepared activities to build on & quiz their historical knowledge. The children met firefighters who shared what it's like to be a firefighter.

The children were amazed to hear how varied the job can be - it's not all about fires! They saw demonstrations of how to use cutting equipment, talked about their special protective uniforms and all the types of equipment stored on a fire engine. One of the highlights was when the children were invited to practise using the powerful hoses.



As part of our careers week, Mrs Cowan arranged for KS2 pupils to take part in an inspiring **Careers in Medical** workshop, where they explored a wide range of roles within the healthcare sector. The children used an **ultrasound machine** to scan the radius and ulna bones in their arm, recorded and printed their own **ECGs**, practised taking "blood" from Andy the **phlebotomy training** arm and even tried **keyhole surgery** using laparoscopic instruments. The workshop offered a fun, inspiring insight into the many exciting pathways within the medical field which can save lives.



Upcoming Fundraising Events

Friday 20th March - Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)
Children are invited to come to school wearing something red with a £1 donation

Friday 27th March - Fundraising for MND charity
Children are invited to come to school wearing something orange, white or blue with a £1 donation

You may choose to take part in one or both of these fundraising events, it is entirely up to you!

Oakdene, Bewley and St Joseph's are proudly taking part in the Stockton-on-Tees Schools **Walking for MND initiative**, supporting **Claire Parks**, former Headteacher of Hartburn Primary School, who has recently been diagnosed with **Motor Neurone Disease (MND)**. Some pupils will participate in a supervised walk, they will attach **ribbons** representing each school to show **unity** as they pass one another along the route. The walk aims to **raise both funds** and **awareness** for MND, and the council is also exploring additional ways to promote the cause, such as leaflets, posters and decorated stones along the path.

We are delighted to celebrate **Niamh Bellew in Year 4**, who has successfully achieved her **Level 5 Skate UK certificate**. This is a fantastic accomplishment that reflects Niamh's **dedication, skill and hard work** on the ice.

Congratulations to Year 2 pupil **Michael Smith!** Michael was proudly awarded the "**Smartest Beaver**" title at Beavers in recognition of his **outstanding effort and enthusiasm**. He has been working **exceptionally hard** towards earning his badges and **shone** in the **games competition**, helping his team secure an impressive **2nd place**.

Isabel and Hannah Liddle recently represented Velocity at a regional trampoline competition, performing routines with confidence and enthusiasm.

Their hard work paid off, with Hannah achieving a collection of silver and bronze medals.

Their dedication and success—well done, girls!

*Ramadan is celebrated by Muslims globally. **Ramadan Mubarak** to all our Oakdene families who observe Ramadan!*

Week Ending 6th March 2026

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Jameel Abiona	Mylah Thompson	Hephzibah Jayeoba	Lucie Wilkinson-Young
YRC Miss Dixon	Mabel Dodds-Day	Sophia Peers	Harrison Howdle	Jensen Langstaff
YRK Miss Dignen	Lottie Cooper	Theo Bell	Reuben Earle	Rory Liddle
YIB Mrs Brown	Eddie Smithson	Molly Robson	Rose Westmoreland	Grace Harris
Y2D Mrs Durham	Brodie McLaughlin	Abdulmaleek Abiona	Dylan Allon	Amelia Wright
Mrs Thompson	Tommy Wilks	Thomasin Scotland	Caleb Jeffertes	Axyl Edgar
Y3H Mr Horkan	Elise Dinsdale-Swales	Henry Brown	Saga Svedlund	Gia Hindmarsh
Y4R Miss Robinson	Isla O'Hare	Freddie Bell	Lilly Dixon	Elena Hold
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Charlie Owens	Sophie Squires	Gracie Dale	Scarlett Allon
Mrs Wilson	Sebastian Eley-Carberry	Daisy Thompson	Elixa-Grace Mack	Archie Donnelly
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Seb Bostock	Ava Hammond	William Marshall	Frankie McQuilling
Y6M Mr McConnell	George Reeve	Lily Lloyd	Lily Daniel	Hotlie Dale



YR & KS1
Jayden Sarrachia

Y3 & Y4
Lillymae Morgan

Y5 & Y6
Leighton Harvey