

Autumn Term

14th September 2026

Great expectations

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another amazing week at Oakdene. It is always lovely to see how enthusiastic the children are towards their learning. We are so impressed with how the children have all settled into their new classes. I've been particularly impressed by our new children in Little Sycamores, Nursery and Reception who have been extraordinary as they adapt to their new surroundings.

As we begin the new school year, you will have received key resources to help your child settle back into their learning routines. Your support in engaging with these materials is vital to ensure a smooth and successful start.

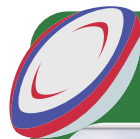
- New Book Bags – Provided for all our new children to help them carry and care for their reading materials.
 - Reading Books – Carefully selected based on your child's end-of-year Oxford Reading Tree Stage or ZPD Range to match their current reading level.
 - Spelling Lists – A new set of spellings for children in Years 2 to 6. (Year 1 will begin in January, as this term focuses on reading, phonics, and speed words.)
 - Homework Overview – Includes a 'Useful Information' section with links to websites relevant to your child's year group.
 - Curriculum Overview – A termly guide to what your child will be learning, helping you stay informed and involved.
- Have a fabulous week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs Osborne



Tackles, teamwork & triumphs

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Elliott Shaw into school to deliver an exciting rugby session for all Key Stage 2 pupils. The children thoroughly enjoyed developing their rugby skills, teamwork, and resilience through a range of engaging activities. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, determination, and sportsmanship on display throughout the day. A huge thank you to Elliott for providing such an inspiring experience for our pupils.



SUPER SKILLS



Attendance – September 2026



Our attendance ladder provides a clear and powerful visual reminder that every single day in school makes a difference to your child's learning, progress, and wellbeing.

Every day counts. We're here to support families in achieving strong attendance. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like help improving your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're always happy to work together to find positive solutions.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Thursday, 24th September at 9:10am, Oakdene Primary Academy warmly invites you to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning in the school dining hall. To help us raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, there will be a range of games to participate in for a small cost.

If you have the time to bake, contributions of cakes will be gratefully received. Cake donations can be brought into school on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning.

There will be a star bake-off competition too (with an added prize!)

Please come along, buy cake and coffee and enjoy a chat. We'd love to see you there. For a small contribution, children will be able to buy any remaining cakes after the coffee morning has finished.

WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



WHAT'S ON?

**23
SEP** **KS2 CROSS COUNTRY**

**24
SEP** **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

**29
SEP** **EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES**

**30
SEP** **Y6 OPEN MORNING**
9:10AM

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S READING AT HOME

Do you remember your favourite books as a child – you know, the ones you read time and time again and knew practically every word of? Maybe you were lucky enough to regularly read stories with your family and had someone to read you a bedtime story before you drifted off to sleep? You won't have known at the time, but those experiences were building vital building blocks for your future.

Reading, being read to, and sharing books in the home, helps to build a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world. Research shows children who start school with good vocabulary and communication skills make friends more easily, have fewer behavioural issues and are more likely to do well academically. A strong, early foundation in language has even been linked to better mental health as children get older.

Reading with your child, or encouraging your child to read independently for just ten minutes each day can make all the difference.

Keep reading!

For further tips and support check out:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbxy9q>



SLEEP AND ROUTINE

Like everyone, children need sleep and it's really important they get it (both for them and for you). Sometimes, getting them to sleep is tricky, but a predictable routine can help. It's pretty obvious that a child who is getting enough sleep is more likely to be happy and alert than a child who isn't.

Getting your child into a good sleeping pattern isn't just about avoiding tantrums though, lack of sleep has been linked to future problems, such as anxiety, depression, obesity and high blood pressure.

How much sleep? As a rough guide, children need:

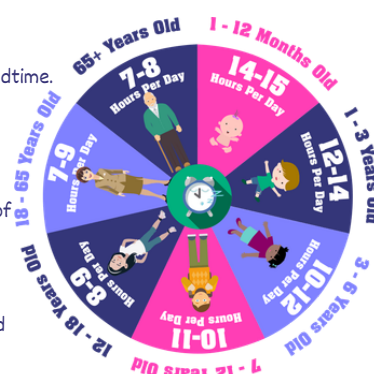
- 3-5 year olds need 11 - 14 hours of sleep
- 6-12 year olds need 10 - 13 hours of sleep

Top tip: Turn off screens an hour before bedtime.

Audiobooks or good old-fashioned paper books are a good alternative to eBooks.

Light from screens stops the production of the sleep hormone melatonin.

Try to remove all phones and technology from the bedroom. It should be a calm and relaxing space.



Dates For Your Diary

September

Week Commencing 14th Sept: Launch of Extra-curricular Clubs & Y3 SWIMMING BLOCK

- Mon 14th Sept Children's University launch assembly
Wed 16th Sept 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Reception Pupils
Y5 Sports Leader Training
Y6 visit Victorian Workhouse Museum

Week Commencing 21st Sept: Fairtrade Fortnight

- Wed 23rd Sept KS2 Cross Country Event
Thurs 24th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning for parents & carers
Tues 29th Sept Celebrate European Day of Languages
Wed 30th Sept 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils



October

Oracy October



- Thurs 1st Oct Big Breakfast Lunch & National Poetry Day
Fri 2nd Oct PD Day 2 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)
Wed 7th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils
Tues 13th Oct Y4 visit Binchester Roman Fort
Wed 14th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils
PM Y6 Rugby Festival
3:20pm Hallowe'en Costume Shop
Thurs 15th Oct Y6 Visit Beamish Museum
Wed 21st Oct AM Y5 Sports Festival
Thurs 22nd Oct Hallowe'en Disco (No extra-curricular clubs)
4-4.50pm - Y1-Y3 5-6pm - Y4-Y6

HALF TERM

Monday, 26th Oct – Friday, 30th Oct

Dates For Your Diary

November

Non-Fiction November



Wed 4th Nov

PM Y1 Sports Festival

Thur 5th Nov

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1 Pupils

Week Commencing 9th Nov: Parent Consultation Evenings

Wed 12th Nov

18 pupils from Y3/4 attend Indoor Athletics event

Fri 13th Nov

Children In Need Day

w/c 16th Nov

Road Safety Week

Fri 20th Nov

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 Pupils

w/c 23rd Nov

UK Parliament Week

Mon 23rd Nov

Flu Nasal Spray (pupils from Rec-Y6)

Tues 24th Nov

Individual & Sibling Photographs

Thurs 26th Nov

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils

Mon 30th Nov

PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

December



Wed 2nd Dec

3.30pm Friends of Oakdene Christmas Fair

Fri 4th Dec

10am Y3/Y4 Tableau @ St. Luke's Church

Tues 8th Dec

2.15pm Nativity Performance

Wed 9th Dec

Christmas Lunch

Thurs 10th Dec

2.15pm Nativity Performance

Fri 11th Dec

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils

Tues 15th Dec

9.10am Y5 & Y6 Christingle, PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties

Wed 16th Dec

PM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties

Thurs 17th Dec

AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties

PM Reception Christmas Parties

PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties

Fri 18th Dec

LAST DAY OF TERM

Christmas Holiday: Monday, 21st December 2026 - Friday, 1st January 2027

Children will return to school on Monday, 4th January 2027

C H R I S T M A S B R E A K

Monday, 21st Dec – Friday, 1st Jan

Stars of the Week

Week Ending 11th September 2026

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Speaker 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Leo Robson	Matilda Curry	Grayson Hall	Alana Bryson	Sophie Balogun
YRD Miss Dixon	Errie-Ella Hutchings	Archie Robinson	Jameel Abiona	Charlotte Ayre	CeCe Jahangiry
YRM Mr McConnell	Maxwell Edditts	Matilda Lenham	Hugo Stephens	Olivia Dunn	Jessica Wilson
YIB Mrs Brown	Ruben Earle	Mabel Dodds-Day	Rory Baker	Ava Fleming	Jensen Langstaff
YID Miss Duffey	Ruby Bunn	Max Kendall	Ebony-Rae Lane	Lola Langridge	Rory Liddle
Y2D Mrs Durham	Molly Robson	Joey Blasco	Theo Burgum	Elijah Wilson-Hill	Annie Tunney
Y3H Mr Horkan	Harry Robinson	Tommy Owens	Louie Lane	Aysel Khan	Scarlett Van Wyk
Y3C Mr Cochrane	Izzy Matthews	Hallie Richardson	Elliot Hardy	Abdulmaleek Abiona	Jenson-John Murray
Y4R Miss Robinson	Ayla-May Lane	Lincoln Wardle	Alice Tasker	Issac McCarthy	Miley Dodds-Day
Y5R Miss Richardson	Oscar Bennett	Michelle Adekunle	Ellie Tasker	Freddie Bell	Roman Chesworth
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Rupert Culley	Errie-Jayne Harrison	Albert Balanescu	Errie Richardson	Aalia Dobson



YR & KSI
Ruby Bunn

Y3 & Y4
Abdulmaleek Abiona

Y5 & Y6
Gracie Dale

Amazing Achievements



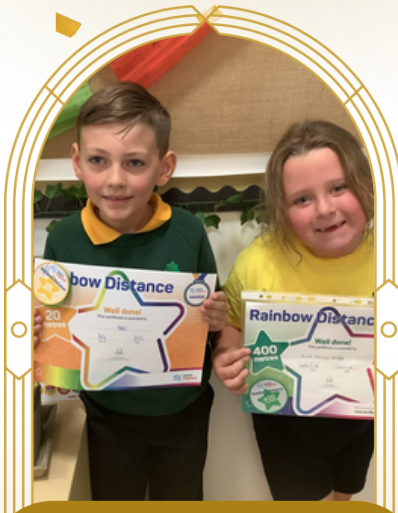
Thomasin received a rosette to remember her pony day at the Unicorn Centre.



Wyatt was awarded with a fabulous football trophy



Nathaniel took part in a fell race which was very muddy.



Henry can now swim 20 metres.
Darcey swam an incredible 16 lengths of the pool -400 metres.



Annie achieved her Stage 5 Trampoline Proficiency Award.



Max was presented with his first Judo belt this Summer.



Dougie is a real life superhero and dialled 999 in an emergency.



Jenson-John was so proud of his trophy for contemporary dance.