

Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

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
Fri 20th Feb	UV Dodgeball 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 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
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
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 <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

Last week, we held an extremely successful **Open Morning** for the Parents & Carers of Y5 pupils. Activities included: **Science** - understanding the difference between acid and alkali, **Technology** - an interactive quiz to test knowledge about online safety and **Careers** - planning future career pathways. Mrs Wilson also provided a comprehensive presentation about the Y5 residential to **Streonshalh!**





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** will keep 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**.



Fifteen is fantastic

Young people who read for 15 minutes a day...



Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a young person's future success - more than their family background, parents' educational background, or income.

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** on World Book Day — 5th March.



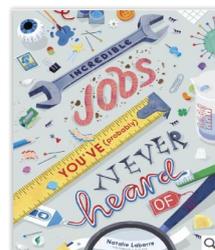
The books were chosen for each phase of the school by our librarians and kindly organised by **Drake Independent Book Shop in Stockton**.

Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from

Mrs Cowan

'Incredible Jobs You've (Probably) never Heard of'
by **Natalie Labarre**



This fun and informative picture book introduces children to a range of unusual and fascinating **careers**—from **sloth nanny** to **fortune-cookie writer**. Each role is explained in a simple, engaging way that encourages curiosity and creativity. It's a delightful read that may **spark inspiration** and help young minds imagine exciting **future careers**.

A great choice for **Careers Week!**

Y4 pupil, **Darcie Berry**, achieved her level 7 **Proficiency in Gymnastics**. Reaching Level 7 requires **strong technical skills, confidence and commitment**. These are **qualities** Darcie continues to show in abundance. Well done!



A huge well done to **Riley**, who was awarded **Man of the Match** for his exceptional performance in goal. Riley pulled off some incredible saves throughout the match, including a **fantastic penalty save** that had everyone cheering! Riley plays for **Billingham United Under 9s**, who, unfortunately lost their cup game. Despite the result, Riley continued to show outstanding **determination and team spirit** from start to finish.



We are incredibly proud to celebrate the fantastic achievements of Year 6 pupil, **Piper Noon**, who recently took part in a regional **boxing** competition and came away with a **well-earned medal!**



Congratulations to **Harper-Rose Hill** in Reception, who took part in her **very first dance show** and did an amazing job!

She performed **two different routines**, a lively **tap dance** to a song from **Mickey Mouse**, followed by a beautiful **ballet dance** to **Horsey**.



KS2 Dance Festival



Our brilliant Y3–Y6 dancers only had a few weeks to learn a fantastic routine **choreographed** by Mrs Robson. Their hard work and teamwork were clear on stage and we are thrilled to announce they **won the Dance Festival!**

The judges were impressed by how beautifully the children echoed the song's lyrics through **British Sign Language** and danced with such confidence and unity. We couldn't be prouder.

You can now watch their winning performance on our **school website**, where the video is embedded for everyone to enjoy.

Our **Year 3/4 football team** put on an impressive performance as they took to the astroturf in what can only be described as **very challenging weather conditions**. With swirling winds, cold temperatures and heavy rain showers, the players had every excuse to slow down but they didn't. Instead, they rose to the occasion with **energy, resilience** and **brilliant teamwork**. The children showed excellent control of the ball and adapted quickly to the conditions. **Passes** were strong, **tackles** were confident and there were some fantastic **attacking** runs. What stood out most was the team spirit. Players encouraged each other constantly, and **celebrated** great moments together.



Week Ending 13th February 2026

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Freya Handley	Ethan Adekunle	Albie Docherty-Grainger	Olivia Dunn
YRC Miss Dixon	Oliver Metcalfe	Dolly Browning	Archer Dixon	Ava Fleming
YRK Miss Dignen	Oscar-Jay Edgar	Aaliyah Sanchez-Godt	Harper-Rose Hill	Max Kendall
Y1B Mrs Brown	Leighton Wardle	Nathaniel Jefferies	Jamie Hart	Poppy Daniel
Y2D Mrs Durham	Amelia Wright	Altay Arslan	Olivia-Jane Midgley	Olivia Curry
Mrs Thompson	Elodie Richardson	Jaxon Moutrey	Jack Bourne	Michael Smith
Y3H Mr Horkan	Holland Finley	Arwa Usman	Aidan Turner	Elsie Dinsdale-Swales
Y4R Miss Robinson	Roman Chesworth	Niamh Bellew	Leighton Daniels-Owen	Ivy-May Fiddes
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Isaac Cummings	Scarlett Allon	Jacob Edgar	Blake Playle
Mrs Wilson	Hannah Liddle	Anna Cooley	Alyza Bateman	Evie Richardson
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Ava Hammond	Kayci Scott-Mullin	Leighton Harvey	Piper Noon
Y6M Mr McConnell	Alannah Bell	Amez Ali & Kain Carmichael	Annie Murray	Archie Purvis



YR & KS1
Elijah Wilson-Hill

Y3 & Y4
Max Prout

Y5 & Y6
Lily Lloyd