Oakdene Primary Newsletter

Autumn Term 19th October 2026

Happy Half Term

Dear Parents/Carers,
What a wonderful way to round off another incredibly busy half term at Oakdene!

Our Reception children enjoyed a special football taster session with Stockton FC and welcomed a visit from the Fire Brigade. Year 6 proudly represented Oakdene in a competitive tag rugby competition, while Year 5 put their problem-solving skills to the test during an exciting STEM Morning.

Our Peer Mentors have also been busy developing their skills through dedicated training.

As we approach the end of a very busy half term, we would like to wish all our children and families a wonderful and well-deserved half-term break. Our Educational Psychologist, Dr Laura Partington, will be at Drake The Bookshop in Stockton on Wednesday 28th October for a special half-term launch of her new book, with family-friendly activities exploring children's emotional wellbeing.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Oakdene on Monday 2 November, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne







Y3 Open Morning

Year 3 had a fantastic time welcoming so many parents and carers to their Hedgehog-themed Open Morning. Inspired by The Hodgeheg, families enjoyed baking, creating and learning together, while also discovering more about this term's Story Project and how they can support reading at home. Special thanks to Jenny and Sue from Pepperfield Farm Hedgehog Rescue for sharing their expert advice, and to our families for their wonderfully generous donations.






Primary Science Quality Mark Outreach Award

We are incredibly proud to share that Oakdene has achieved the prestigious Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) Outreach Award, placing us within the top 1% of schools nationally.This exceptional recognition celebrates not only the outstanding quality of science across our school, but also the impact Oakdene has beyond our own classrooms, sharing expertise, inspiring others and contributing to science education more widely.
A huge thank you to Mrs Cowan, our inspirational Science Lead, whose passion, ambition and leadership have driven science from strength to strength, alongside the commitment of our staff and the curiosity and enthusiasm of our amazing children.





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Y4 VISIT ROMAN RUINS





Year 4 had a wonderful time visiting Binchester Roman Fort, where they enjoyed a guided tour of the fascinating Roman remains, including the commanding officer's house and the impressive bathhouse. The children took part in a range of hands-on activities that brought Roman history to life. These included writing using Roman numerals, cleaning clay artefacts, designing mosaics, and dressing up in traditional Roman clothing.

As a special highlight, each child had the opportunity to create their own Roman pincer pot using clay—a great way to connect with the craftsmanship of the past. It was a memorable day full of learning, creativity, and fun!

Y5'S DAHL-IGHTFUL DAY

What a fantastic day of outdoor learning we enjoyed at Hardwick Park! Inspired by Roald Dahl, the children investigated fox footprints, created clay prints, made bird feeders to rescue the birds from The Twits, crafted dream catchers and a class dream jar inspired by The BFG, and even concocted their own George's Marvellous Medicine. A truly fantatsic day of imagination, exploration and creativity!





Y6 Visit Beamish Museum






Year 6 enjoyed an amazing visit to Beamish Open Air Museum, where they stepped back in time to experience what life was like in Britain during the early 1900s. The visit brought their learning to life as they explored how homes, schools, workplaces, transport and everyday life have changed over the last century.

The children travelled around Beamish on the traditional trams, stepped inside the old school to discover what lessons were like for children in the past, and explored the coal mine to learn more about the challenging working lives of miners. They also visited the historic town, where they experienced what shopping would have been like many years ago.

Of course, one shop proved particularly popular: the traditional sweet shop was definitely the busiest stop of the day!

It was a brilliant day of hands-on learning, giving Year 6 the opportunity to see, experience and imagine history rather than simply read about it. What a memorable way to bring their learning about Britain's past to life!

WHAT'S ON?

21 OCT	AM Y5 SPORTS FESTIVAL
22 OCT	PEER MENTOR TRAINING
22 OCT	HALLOWE'EN DISCO
23 OCT	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

Be Safe, Be Seen

As the clocks go back and the evenings become darker, we have reminded pupils about the importance of staying safe and being seen near roads. Please encourage children to wear bright or reflective clothing, use well-lit routes, cross at safe places & always stop, look and listen.

Get in Touch

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Learning for Life



Dates For Your Diary

October

Oracy October

Wed 21st Oct	AM Y5 Sports Festival
Thurs 22nd Oct	Peer Mentor Training Week 3
	Hallowe'en Disco (No extra-curriculur clubs)
	4-4.50p.m. Y1-Y3 & 5-6pm - Y4-Y6



Poppies are now on sale in school in support of The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Our Year 6 pupils will visit classes each day, giving children the opportunity to make a donation and purchase a poppy or other Poppy Appeal item.

Suggested donations:

- Festival wristband – £1.50
- Ruler snap band – £1.50
- Pencil – 50p
- Reflector – 50p
- Coloured sticker – 20p

As Remembrance Day approaches, we will take time together to reflect on the brave men and women who have served our country, past and present, and the sacrifices they and their families have made.

The whole school will come together to observe a two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November, as we remember them with gratitude and respect.

HALF TERM

Monday, 26th Oct – Friday, 30th Oct



Dates For Your Diary

November

Non-Fiction November

Mon 2nd Nov	Y3 visit to Danelaw Viking Village
Wed 4th Nov	Rec & Y6 Height & weight screening 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	Dragon's Den event for Y5 & Y6 pupils & 18 pupils from Y3 & Y4 attend Indoor Athletics event
Fri 13th Nov	Children In Need Day
w/c16th 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
Wed 25th Nov	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils (Change of date)
Mon 30th Nov	PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

December



Tues 1st Dec	Y2 Victorian Christmas experience at Preston Hall
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 16th October 2026

Class	Star of the Week	Star Speaker	Star Reader	Star Writer	Star Mathematician
Nursery Mrs Guest	Eliza Robinson	Dakota Screen	Leo Robson	Teddy Hawser	Alana Bryson
YRD Miss Dixon	Archie Robinson	Charlie Kelly	CeCe Jahangiry	Lucie Wilkinson-Young	Evie-Ella Hutchings
YRM Mr McConnell	Grace Bellew	Jessica Wilson	Lyla Danks	Jonathan Johnson	Harper Bunn
YIB Mrs Brown	Dougy Chocholko	Oliver Metcalfe	Ruban Gilbey	George Liddle	Theo Grimwood
YID Miss Duffey	Mason Walker	Ruby Bunn	Junior Morgan	Edith Lewis	Finley Ayre
Y2D Mrs Durham	Jamie Hart	Eddie Smithson	Nellie Puckering	Frankie McCullagh	Dexter Dobson
Y3H Mr Horkan	Michael Smith	Harry Robinson	Jack Bourne	Alfie Cain	Destiny Murray
Y3C Mr Cochrane	Abdulmaleek Abiona	Thomasin Scotland	Olivia Jane Midgley	Darcy Hammond	Jaxon Moutrey
Y4R Miss Robinson	Keesha Griffin	Arwa Usman	Aidan Turner	Lincoln Wardle	Amani Mohammad
Y5R Miss Richardson	Isla O'Hare	Niamh Bellew	Freddie Bell	Lincoln Rose	Leighton Daniels-Owen
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Evie-Jayne Harrison	Lily Scott-Mullin	Jessica Dunn	Jake Marshall	Charlie Owens



YR & KS1
Ethan Adekunle

Y3 & Y4
Yasmeen Awan

Y5 & Y6
Oscar Bonnett