

Weekly Newsletter

20th July 2026



Right of the Fortnight: Article 3:

All adults should do what is best for you.



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we close our doors next Monday, 27th July, we reflect on **another remarkable year** filled with amazing achievements and celebrations. **Thank you** to our children, families, staff, and wider community for your unwavering support. Your commitment has helped us surpass our **high expectations** once again.

The **detailed and highly positive feedback** from parents and carers in response to the end-of-year reports has been truly heartening. Your kind words and thoughtful reflections from this academic year mean a great deal to our staff. If you haven't yet returned your feedback form, there is still time to do so.

We're already looking ahead to an even more exciting **2026/27**, with plans to build on this year's success. As we bid farewell to our Year 6 pupils, we're proud of the confident, capable individuals they've become. Their **impressive final production** was a fitting send-off and a **celebration** of their journey. Good luck to them as they take the next step toward their **future goals**.

We will be saying goodbye to **Miss Dignen, Mrs Pearn and Miss Thomson**, our wonderful temporary **Early Years Teaching Team** who will be leaving us. We thank them for all the care, support, and dedication they have shown to our youngest learners. We also thank **Mr Brown** and **Miss Islam** for stepping in to cover vacancies in Y4 and Y5 to provide stability for our children.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items for our **Summer Fair** so far, we look forward to a wonderful community event. **Mrs Jackson** and the **Friends of Oakdene** have worked tirelessly to organise this—
THANK YOU!

Many thanks for your good wishes, kind cards, gifts and generous donations that we've received already.

All the staff join with me in wishing you a **safe, happy and relaxing summer break!**

We look forward to welcoming **all Little Sycamores, Nursery and Y1 to Y6** back on **Wednesday, 2nd September 2026**.

The new reception cohort have been informed of their allocated return date.



Thank you for being such an important part of our Oakdene community. Have a wonderful summer!

Mrs Bramley & Mrs Osborne

Dates For Your Diary - Summer

Mon 20th — Wed 22nd July	Y6 Northfield Pupils Attend Summer School
Tues 21st July	2.15pm Sports Day for Pupils in Y1-Y3
Wed 22nd July	AM - Reception Pupils' Olympic Celebratory Event 3.30pm Friends of Oakdene Summer Fayre
Mon 27th July	Little Sycamores and Nursery Teddy Bears' Picnic
Tues 28th July	Fun Day - LAST DAY OF THE SUMMER TERM PD Day

Dates For Your Diary - September 2026 to July 2027

PD Days

1 September 2026
2 October 2026
30 November 2026
29 January 2027
28 July 2027



Tues 1st Sept
Wed 2nd Sept

PD Day for Staff Training (School closed for pupils)
First day for pupils to return

Y2 enjoyed a lovely day exploring the wildlife highlighted in the bestselling book '**The Lost Words**' when they visited **Danby** Education Centre.

Children hunted for the lost words in **Crow Wood** and made a collective acrostic poem.

They were led on a gorgeous 1km **story walk** through woods and fields down to a small stream.

Through the **story**, the children discovered some of the 'lost' creatures and took part in **minibeast hunts** and games, whilst making **weasel homes** and **natural artwork**.



Each year, 8th May marks the anniversary of **VE Day**, the end of the Second World War in Europe.

The Y5 team recreated the nationwide celebrations of 1945 in school. The children looked absolutely amazing in their **VE Day costumes**. A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support and effort in helping the children dress for the occasion and bring this important part of **history to life**. The Y5s sampled food from a typical **rationed meal**, played games and sang some **wartime tunes**!

This event marked a fitting end to the children's **WW2 topic**.



Our **Year 6** pupils rounded off their time at Oakdene in style with a fantastic **Silent Disco**!

Armed with wireless headphones and plenty of energy, the children **danced, sang** and **celebrated** together, creating a wonderful atmosphere full of laughter and smiles. From chart hits to classic favourites, there was something for everyone and it was great to see the children enjoying themselves and making **special memories** with their friends.

The Silent Disco was a fitting way to celebrate the end of primary school and all that our Year 6 pupils have achieved during their time at Oakdene.



Our Early Years and Year 1 children were delighted to welcome the **Saltburn Smugglers** for a special performance last week. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance of a selection of **sea shanties**, singing with great enthusiasm, energy and confidence. Their powerful voices and teamwork brought these **traditional maritime songs to life**, creating a fun and memorable experience for both the performers and the audience.

There were lots of **smiles, laughter** and enthusiastic involvement throughout the performance, with children eagerly joining in and learning about life on the **North East coast** in a fun and **engaging** way.



Twenty pupils from **Year 3** participated in the **ELT Northern Hub Singing Event** at **Yarm School Auditorium**. Joining children from schools across the Northern hub, our pupils spent the day **rehearsing** and **performing** a fantastic selection of songs. Their enthusiasm, Confidence and **beautiful singing** were a credit to Oakdene and they represented the school brilliantly throughout the event. The highlight of the day was performing in the impressive auditorium alongside hundreds of other young singers. It was a wonderful **celebration of music, teamwork** and **Creativity**. An experience that our children will remember for a long time.



Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to **Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens**, where they had the opportunity to explore a wide range of fascinating exhibits and learn more about local history, nature and culture. The children took part in an exciting **Rainforest Workshop**, which included a trail around the Winter Gardens.

As they explored the tropical environment, pupils learned about the different layers of the rainforest, the plants and animals that live there, and the importance of protecting these unique habitats.

Y4s also explored the museum collections, which included artefacts from Sunderland's past and a variety of engaging exhibits. They were captivated by the displays and demonstrated excellent curiosity throughout the visit, asking thoughtful questions and showing a keen interest in what they discovered. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity to deepen the children's understanding through first-hand experiences, and all pupils represented Oakdene brilliantly throughout the day.



Thank you to everyone who came along to support our **Y4-Y6 Sports Day** event last Friday! The children had a wonderful time **competing** in the traditional sports day events expertly organised by **Mr McConnell**. Thanks also to **Mrs Smith** (our school cook) and **Alison** (ELT Catering Team) who set up and ran the **'hydration station'**. The weather was **perfect**—warm and sunny, but not too hot which helped make the day even more enjoyable.

We now look forward to welcoming families to our **KS1 and Year 3 Sports Day** on Tuesday.



Congratulations to Y2 pupil **Harry Robinson** who won **'Parents Player of the Year'** for BUFC under 7s. He was awarded it for his **enthusiasm & determination** in training and matches and his ability to play across **all positions** on the pitch.

They talked about his **incredible saves** in goal, **crucial tackles** as a defender and the **great goals** he has scored to help them win matches. Harry has had a **great season** and is so committed and dedicated.



Congratulations to **Lily Charlton** in **Year 5** on achieving her **Silver Brownie Award**!

This is a **fantastic accomplishment**.

Alongside receiving her **certificate**, Lily has also earned a **collection of badges**, showcasing the wide **range of skills, challenges** and **experiences** she has successfully completed.



Jason Goodings (Stockton librarian) promoted the **2026 Summer Reading Challenge** today. He was delighted to announce the theme for 2026 is **'Read to the Beat'**.

The theme will focus on **music, dinosaurs** and **exploration**. It's a celebration of how **reading** and **music** connect.

Children aged **4-11** can visit **Billingham Library** from **4th July** until **12th September**.

Children have been given a ticket so **our school can earn rewards for reading**. Please sign up, **hand in your ticket** for Oakdene and your child will receive a booklet, bookmark and magazine.

If there's one thing you can do before / during the school holidays is keep up the **daily / regular reading habits**.



A huge congratulations to **Nellie Puckering** in **Year 1**, who recently performed in ***The Story Tonight*** at the **Middlesbrough Theatre**.

Nellie did an amazing job **performing** in front of a live audience, and was recognised for delivering an **outstanding** performance.

Taking part in a theatre production requires lots of hard work, and commitment and we are incredibly **proud** of her achievement.



Y1 pupil Ava Staniford recently took to the stage with **Stagecoach**, performing as **Queen Triton** in ***The Little Mermaid***. Ava impressed everyone with her **confident delivery** and **stage presence**. Her coach has praised the fantastic progress she has made in a short space of time, which led to her being awarded one of the **leading roles** in the production. Ava certainly rose to the challenge and gave a wonderful performance. Well done, Ava!

Week Ending 17th July 2026

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Rita-Denise Irving	Jameel Abiona	Ralphie Dodds-Day	Sophie Balogun
YRC Miss Dixon	Jensen Langstaff	Oliver Metcalfe	Dolly-Sue Browning	Awa Fleming
YRK Miss Dignen	Mason Walker	Lola Langridge	Aaliyah Sanchez Godt	Zac Love
YIB Mrs Brown	Elijah Wilson-Hill	Freya White	Jamie Hart	Coen Beadle
Y2D Mrs Durham	Olivia Curry	Liam Turner	Scarlett Van Wyk	Abdulmaleek Abiona
Mrs Thompson	Jaxon Moutrey	Jack Bourne	Caleb Jefferies	Elliot Hardy
Y3H Mr Horkan	Aidan Turner	Saga Swedlund	Ayla-Mae Lane	Louis Ferguson
Y4R Miss Robinson	Oakley Purvis	Kian Jewson	Olivia Wallace	Riley Titlestad
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Alyza Bateman	Rupert Culley	Blake Playle	Lily Scott-Mullin
Mrs Wilson	Spencer Lee	Gracie Dale	Daisy Thompson	Lewis Harris
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Frankie McQuilling	Seb Bostock	Nancy Green	Jake Atkinson
Y6M Mr McConnell	Autumn Lonsdale	Alannah Bell	Lily Lloyd	Archie Purvis



YR & KS1
Parker Purvis

Y3 & Y4
Ariana
Wilson-Hill

Y5 & Y6
Evie Richardson