

Autumn Term

21st September 2026

Great expectations

Dear Parents/Carers,

There's been a fantastic buzz around school again this week, with learning truly at the heart of everything we do!

Alongside the excellent learning taking place in classrooms, pupils have already started to enjoy a range of educational visits, swimming lessons and sporting events, while our parent and carer open days have provided wonderful opportunities to celebrate and share their achievements.

After-school and lunchtime clubs began last week, and there was an overwhelming demand for places—especially among our KS2 pupils. A huge thank you to all the staff who have generously committed their time to providing this fantastic additional provision.

A gentle reminder: Children can only be nominated for Star of the Week if they have achieved 100% attendance that week and have read the minimum number of times and returned their book bag on Friday.

Most families are doing an amazing job with this, and we really appreciate your support.

Thank you for helping us celebrate children who consistently demonstrate excellent attendance and commitment to reading.

Enjoy the week ahead!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs Osborne



YR Open Morning & Reading Book Launch

It was wonderful to see our Reception children so engaged and enthusiastic during their Superhero-themed open morning. The children enjoyed a range of exciting activities, including superhero games, creating healthy heroes inspired by Supertato, mighty maths and developing their early reading skills.

Mrs Osborne and I were particularly impressed by the children's eagerness to read speed words and their enthusiasm for meeting the Oxford Reading Tree characters. Just five minutes of shared reading each day can make a huge difference to children's progress and help establish strong reading habits from the very start.

SUPER SKILLS



Census Day Special Brunch



Help support Oakdene and treat your child to a special brunch! Pupils have chosen a Full English or Vegetarian Full English breakfast for Census Day on Thursday 1st October.

If your child usually has a packed lunch, please consider booking a school meal, as every meal taken helps secure valuable funding for the academy.

Book a school meal and make a difference!

Y6 VISIT WORKHOUSE MUSEUM

Year 6 recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to Ripon Workhouse, bringing their history learning to life. During the day, pupils explored what life was like for people living and working in a Victorian workhouse, taking part in hands-on activities and learning about the challenges faced by families at the time. The children were a credit to Oakdene, demonstrating excellent behaviour, curiosity and thoughtful questioning throughout the visit. It was a memorable experience that deepened their understanding of this important period in history.



YOUNG LEADERS IN ACTION!

Our Year 5 pupils recently took part in Sports Leader Training, developing the skills and confidence to organise activities, support younger children and promote active lifestyles across the school. They represented Oakdene brilliantly, demonstrating teamwork, responsibility and leadership throughout the training. We look forward to seeing them put their new skills into action over the coming months.



WHAT'S ON?

29
SEP

**EUROPEAN DAY OF
LANGUAGES**

30
SEP

Y6 OPEN MORNING

1
OCT

**NATIONAL POETRY
DAY**

2
OCT

PD DAY 2

READING SPOTLIGHT



HERE'S THE IMPACT OF
READING 20
MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and scores in
90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and scores in
50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and scores in
10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests



Dates For Your Diary

September

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)
- w/c 5th Oct World mental Health Day: Take 10 to Read
- 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
a.m. Reception Taster Session Stockton FC
- Fri 16th Oct Fire Brigade visit Reception
- 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 18th September 2026

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Speaker 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Mirha Mumtaz	Jackson Wardle	Charlie Pearn	Ivy-Grace Parkinson-Lumley	Keira-Leigh Dennis
YRD Miss Dixon	Charlie Kelly	Arla Watts	Mylah Thompson	Freya Handley	Remmy Green
YRM Mr McConnell	Dolcie Seal	Rosie Ferguson	Grace Bellew	Vinnie <u>Manze</u>	Albie Docherty-Grainger
YIB Mrs Brown	Ruban Gilbey	George Liddle	Sophia Peers	Theo Grimwood	Lewis Daniels-Owen
YID Miss Duffey	Archer Dixon	Mason Walker	Oliver Foster	Finley Ayre	Parker Purvis
Y2D Mrs Durham	Harriet Smith	Lexie <u>Manze</u>	Nathaniel Jefferies	Grace Harris	Isaac Stewart
Y3H Mr Horkan	Katy Coates	Jack Bourne	Jason Adekunle	Amelia Wright	Dylan Allon
Y3C Mr Cochrane	Bonnie-Rae Ferguson	Jaxon Moutrey	Liam Turner	Altay Arslan	Darcy Hammond
Y4R Miss Robinson	Hunter Lake	Elsie Dinsdale-Swales	Henry Brown	Holland Finley	Charlie Beken
Y5R Miss Richardson	Rosie Daniels	Oakley Purvis	Darcie Berry	<u>Adridex</u> Vineetha	Lilly Dixon
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Gracie Dale	Milo Hancock	Scarlett Allon	Daisy Thompson	Alyza Bateman

Star Diner



YR & KSI

Joey Blasco

Y3 & Y4

Alice Tasker

Y5 & Y6

Adridex Vineetha

Amazing Achievements



Molly achieved 1st in modern, song & trio, 2nd in lyrical, tap & ballet and was awarded the most promising 6-8 year old at the Johnson's Dance Festival.



Dylan was presented with the Wolviston FC Manager's 'Player of the Year 2025-26' trophy.



Nellie was so proud to share her 3 badges for horse riding & dressage events.



Lillymae won a medal for her first week at Billingham Juniors U10s and then a trophy for good passing & tackling.



Lily received a football medal in recognition of her effort.



Thomasin's home grown Butternut Squash was placed 2nd in the Billingham Show.



Daisy has achieved her Learn to Swim England Stage 3 certificate & badge.



Oppy won 1st in Swan Lake & the trio category as well as 2nd in tap, modern, song, character & lyrical. Her trio performance also received the highest mark in the competition & was recognised as the most entertaining performance at the Johnson's Dance Festival.



Rosie placed 2nd for her character routine and 2nd for her trio dance of the little mermaid at the Johnson's Dance Festival.