

Weekly Newsletter
23rd March 2026



Right of the Fortnight: Article 13:

Your right to have information



Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of term is fast approaching and there is a Spring feel in the air. Remember, **clocks spring forward** at 1.00am on Sunday, 29th March. We break up on Thursday, 2nd April.

Staffing update

We would like to let you know that **Mrs Caroline Smith**, one of our part-time Year 5 class teachers, has made the difficult decision to leave at the end of the Spring Term. She will be taking a **career break** to focus on her family and enjoy precious time with her three young children while they are still little. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Smith for her **exceptional leadership** in Design and Technology at Oakdene and for sharing best practice across the Trust. We are delighted to share that **Mr Brown** has kindly agreed to step out of retirement to offer **consistency** and teach the class throughout the Summer Term.

I will be having surgery on **1st April**. During my two-day absence, **Mrs Osborne will be Acting Head** and will oversee the day to day running of the school. All being well, my recovery period should align with the start of the new term and I look forward to returning then.

Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day

The **Rights Respecting Steering Group** would like to thank you for wearing red, black & white, for sharing your jokes and for collectively donating **£259.91** for Comic Relief! This year's theme was 'Taking Yourself Funny for Money'. This event raises awareness of the devastating impacts of **poverty, conflict** and **climate change** on people around the world. A huge **thank you** to everyone who donated and participated to make Friday such a success!

Finally, a polite reminder that **parent/carer consultation evenings** will take place next week. You have the option to book face to face meetings or telephone consultations. We can't wait to share your child's progress.

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



We held another extremely successful **Open Morning** for the parents & Carers of Y4 pupils. Activities included: **Science**— designing an experiment to analyse which drinks contain the most sugar, **Technology**— online safety quiz, **Engineering**— building a structure with spaghetti and marshmallows and **Careers**— looking at Career pathways. Parent and Carer feedback noted that while some activities remain the same to reflect our curriculum, they also appreciated how the programme continues to evolve for example, last year's technology activity centred on coding and we offered an oracy activity instead of Careers.



Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

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	1.30pm Author visit Jamie Hammond Fundraising event for MND
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 Children break up for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Friday, 3rd April - Friday, 17th April

Monday, 20th April Summer Term commences—children return to school

Tues 28th April	Y4 Quad Kids Event @ Northfield
Mon 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY - School closed
Tues 5th May	Bowling event for 10 KS2 pupils @Hollywood Bowl
Fri 8th May	Experienced Y3/Y4 Football Tournament @ Stockton Town FC
Mon 11th May -Thurs 14th May	Key Stage 2 SATs are Timetabled
Fri 15th May	Y3 Striking & Fielding Skills Festival
Wed 20th May	Y5/Y6 Athletics Competition @ Middlesbrough Sports Village



Half-term holiday runs from:

Monday, 25th May to Friday, 5th June inclusive (two weeks).

The children will break up on:

Friday, 22nd May and will return to school on Monday, 8th June.

Week commencing 8th June - School to Administer checks for:
Y1 Phonics Screening, Y2 Resits and Y4 Multiplication Table

Tues 9th June	Y6 Cricket @ Norton Sports Complex
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We are excited to share that this term, some of our **Sports Premium** funding has been used to introduce an inclusive and **inspiring** new activity: **wheelchair basketball**. This addition gave KS2 pupils the opportunity to experience a fast-paced, skill-building sport while developing teamwork, coordination and a deeper understanding of **inclusive physical activity**. Wheelchair basketball has already been a huge hit. Pupils have embraced the challenge with enthusiasm **mastering new techniques**, learning to manoeuvre the sports chairs and discovering just how **exhilarating** the game can be. The sessions have sparked brilliant conversations about **accessibility** in sport and reinforced our commitment to ensuring that every child can participate, thrive and enjoy being active.

A huge **thank you** to **Mr McConnell**, our PE Lead, for championing this initiative and ensuring our pupils have access to such enriching and forward-thinking sporting opportunities. His guidance and passion continue to **elevate** the PE experience across our school.

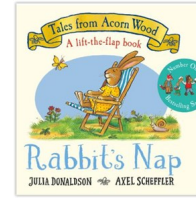


Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from

Miss Lambert

'Rabbit's Nap' by Julia Donaldson



This charming **lift-the-flap book** is perfect for springtime and ideal for sharing in the lead-up to **Easter**.

In the story, Rabbit is desperate for a quiet nap, but the woodland friends nearby are making for too much noise! As children **lift each flap**, they discover who is causing the commotion and whether Rabbit will ever manage to get some rest? It's a gentle, engaging tale that encourages curiosity, prediction skills, and lots of fun interaction.

Reception had a wonderful visit to **Hall Hill Farm**. In the morning, the children were greeted by the **farmer** who led them on a guided **tour**. They met a variety of animals including some very cute new born animals and were thrilled to **hand-feed** several of them, and bottle feed the **lambs**! In the afternoon, they enjoyed an exciting **tractor ride** and had lots of **fun** playing in the enormous indoor soft-play area. It was a fantastic day from start to finish!



Easter Activities Reminder

Thank you so much for supporting our **Friends of Oakdene Easter Raffle** fundraising event. Tickets are still on sale. We will inform you of the winners and how much we've raised after the Easter break.

We are going to hold our annual **Easter Egg Decorating Competition** next week. We invite all children to decorate a hard-boiled egg with materials from in your home.

Some children may be inspired by Spring/ Easter, a favourite book character, a topic they've enjoyed learning about, or a hobby —be creative! This is, of course, an **optional** activity. The eggs will be **judged** on the last day of term, **Thursday, 2nd April 2026**



Y4 enjoyed an exciting and interactive science workshop led by a visitor from **SPARK Tees Valley**. The workshop began by recapping how different types of electricity are produced, including nuclear, hydroelectric and wind power. The main **challenge** of the day involved working in teams to solve a **real-world problem**. Using a map, pupils had to plan the most cost-effective and efficient route for **installing wind turbines**. This activity encouraged careful thinking, teamwork and strategic planning, as groups considered different terrains and their costs. Pupils then had the chance to get hands-on with renewable energy. Using a small wind turbine, they generated electricity to successfully light up an LED. The workshop leader also demonstrated how **hydroelectric power** works, showing how moving water can be transformed into usable energy. Overall, it was a fun, engaging and informative session that helped Year 4 **deepen** their understanding of renewable energy and how electricity is created.



Year 4 took part in an exciting literary event at Yarm School, joining almost 600 pupils from eleven Teesside schools to meet our **key author and poet, Joseph Coelho**.

The **Carnegie Medal-winning writer** spoke about his journey as an author and how he first discovered his passion for **storytelling**. He also introduced his new book, **Relic Hamilton: Genie Hunter**, sharing the inspiration behind its characters and adventurous plot. During the workshop, pupils worked closely with Joseph to create a **collaborative poem** designed to warn readers about mischievous and troublesome genies. The children thoroughly enjoyed **experimenting with language** and trying out new **writing techniques** under the guidance of a professional poet. To make the day even more special, Joseph generously signed copies of the children's books, giving everyone a memorable keepsake from a truly inspiring event.



Year 6 enjoyed a fun and educational day at the **Great North Museum: Hancock**. The visit helped bring their history and science topics to life. The class explored the **Natural History** gallery, where they were amazed by the huge T-Rex skeleton and learned how fossils help us understand the past. They also visited the **Ancient Egypt** section, spotting real mummies and artefacts linked to their future history lessons. Later, the **Planetarium** show took the class on a journey through space, which many said was their favourite part of the day. Before leaving, the children explored interactive exhibits with **curiosity** and completed challenges about animals, fossils and the natural world.



Y5 pupil **Lily Charlton** proudly achieved her **Level 8 Proficiency Award in trampolining**. This is a fantastic accomplishment that reflects her hard work and dedication.



Y4 pupil **Ivy-May Fiddes** was delighted to be nominated '**Singer of the Week**' at Singing Sue's vocal choir. Ivy is a valued member of the choir and enjoys **expressing herself** using her **voice** as an instrument. Congratulations!



Y2 pupil **Katy Coates** received her **Level 3 Learn to Swim certificate and badge**. This is a wonderful milestone on her **swimming journey**. Katy is growing in confidence each week and is proud of her **progress in the pool**.



Week Ending 20th March 2026

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Teddy Hawser	Grace Bellow	Matilda Curry	Ethan Adekunle
YRC Miss Dixon	Theo Grimwood	Willow Watts	Rory Baker	Oliver Metcalfe
YRK Miss Dignen	Ebony-Rae Lane	Finley Ayre	Parker Purvis	Douglas Chochotka
YIB Mrs Brown	Lexia Manze	Coen Beadle	Frankie McCullagh	Theo Burgum
Y2D Mrs Durham	Olivia Curry	Amelia Wright	Darcy Hammond	Scarlett Van Wyk
Mrs Thompson	Willow Earle	Destiny Murray	Jack Bourne	Alfie Cain
Y3H Mr Horkan	Charlie Beken	Gia Hindmarsh	Noah Selvon	Mia Hudezicka
Y4R Miss Robinson	Oliver Coates	Mark Bershadskiyi	Lillymae Morgan	Rosie Daniel
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Rupert Culley	Milo Hancock	Jessica Dunn	Alyza Bateman
Mrs Wilson	Evie Richardson	Sophie Squires	Charlie Owens	Theo Smith-Sewell
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Brooke Love	Nancy Green	Max Devlin	Leah Cooley
Y6M Mr McConnell	Lily Lloyd	Amber Hammond	Harry Laws	Ben Bainbridge



YR & KSI
Jason Adekunle

Y3 & Y4
Freddie Bell

Y5 & Y6
Hollie Dale