

Autumn Term

28th September 2026

Great expectations

Dear Parents/Carers,

We can hardly believe we're already halfway through the first half term. It has been another busy and productive week, with fantastic learning taking place across the school. Some of this week's highlights have included Reception's Forest Friday, Year 1's Tiger Who Came to Tea party, Year 2's local walk and Year 3's swimming programme. We are also looking forward to celebrating National Poetry Day on Thursday 1st October.

Black History Month begins in October, giving us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements, talents and contributions of Black people throughout history and today. Through engaging activities and inspiring stories of Black authors, artists, scientists, musicians and inventors, our pupils will develop a deeper understanding of the diverse world around them and the positive impact individuals can have on society.

Please remember Friday 2nd October is a PD Day.

Wishing you a wonderful week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



Collaboration with WISE Academy Trust

As professionals, we are living and breathing our Learning for Life motto. This term, we welcomed 30 Maths Leads and Principals from WISE Academies across Northumberland, Durham and Sunderland to share our approach to securing high achievement for all.

We are also delighted to be developing an exciting new partnership that will bring an additional £30,000 into Oakdene, enabling us to invest in a brand-new Nursery outdoor classroom and further enhance learning opportunities for our youngest children.



Summer Reading Challenge

We are incredibly proud of our pupils who took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. An amazing 41 children signed up, 36 successfully achieved their reading target, and 25 exceeded expectations by borrowing even more library books than required. Best of all, Oakdene had the highest level of engagement of any Billingham primary school, demonstrating our pupils' outstanding love of reading. Well done to all our reading rockstars!



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Thursday, 24th September, we held another successful Macmillan Coffee Morning. Many thanks to all of you who baked and donated cakes for this amazing cause. Many thanks to our fabulous school cook Karen Lennon who had the difficult task of judging the cakes. Congratulations to Rachel Scotland who won 'Star Baker'. Well done to Clare Jackson who guessed the name for the Lucky Duck!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the coffee morning or gave their children money to purchase sweet treats. There was a lovely atmosphere. This year we raised an incredible £196.60 - THANK YOU! Finally, a huge thank you to our wonderful TA Mrs Jackson & the Friends of Oakdene who helped set up the refreshments and cake sale.



KS2 CROSS COUNTRY EVENT!

We are incredibly proud of our amazing runners who represented Oakdene with determination and enthusiasm at last week's Cluster Cross-Country Competition. Despite the challenging weather, every pupil showed remarkable resilience in the rain, giving their very best while demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship and team spirit as they encouraged and supported one another throughout the event.



WHAT'S ON?

1 OCT NATIONAL POETRY DAY

2 OCT PD DAY 2

5 OCT WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

7 OCT Y4 OPEN MORNING



Dates For Your Diary

September



Week Commencing 21st Sept: Fairtrade Fortnight

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 25th September 2026

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Speaker 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Louie Boreland	Bonnie Sexton	J-J Anderson	Matilda Curry	Maisy Atkinson
YRD Miss Dixon	Arla Watts	Lucas Chadwick	Erle-Ella Hutchings	Ethan Adekunle	Ralphie Dodds-Day
YRM Mr McConnell	Matilda Lenham	Isabelle Harding	Brooklyn Butler	Harper Bunn	Jonathan Johnson
YIB Mrs Brown	Oliver Metcalfe	Ruben Earle	Willow Watts	Theo Bell	Dolly-Sue Browning
YID Miss Duffey	Aaliyah Sanchez Godt	Parker Purvis	Lucas Bailey	Lottie Cooper	Ruby Bunn
Y2D Mrs Durham	Nellie Puckering	Jamie Hart	Wyatt Hold	Ava Staniford	Poppy Daniel
Y3H Mr Horkan	Willow Earle	Isla Featherstone	Michael Smith	Caleb Jefferies	Lucas Milne
Y3C Mr Cochrane	Louie Walker	Nate Oliver	Thomasin Scotland	Tommy Wilks	Isabel Liddle
Y4R Miss Robinson	Gia Hindmarsh	William Nimmo	Esmea Skipp	Arabella Sedgwick	Jacob Matthews
Y5R Miss Richardson	Michelle Adekunle	Darcie Berry	Lincoln Rose	Tia Cain	Oscar Bonnett
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Harley Wallace	Megan Squires	Theo Smith-Sewell	Sophie Squires	Lily Charlton



YR & KS1
Hugo Stephens

Y3 & Y4
Darcy Hammond

Y5 & Y6
Rupert Culley