

Weekly Newsletter
2nd October 2023



Right of the Fortnight: Article 42:
The government must let children & families know about children's rights.



Dear Parents/Carers,

We can't believe that we are half way through the first half-term already. It's been another **BUSY** and **PRODUCTIVE** week with so much learning taking place. Last week we received visitors from Whitby. These days encourage us to **reflect** about how far the school has come, how **remarkable** our **children** are and how superb our **curriculum offer** is. Our visitors were blown away by our school's resources e.g. whole class texts and technology, the number of TAs and the **high expectations** and the **exceptional behaviours for learning** seen across school.

October marks the start of 'Black History Month'. During this month, our pupils will be taking part in a wide range of **enriching cultural** activities. At Oakdene, October is not the only time that we talk about and share in the achievements of black people in history - our curriculum is rich in opportunities to learn about their many wonderful achievements and contributions they have made. We will continue to **celebrate** successes of **all cultures** and **backgrounds** across the curriculum over the course of the coming year such as: authors, artists, scientists, musicians and inventors, to name but a few. Over the next month, this will have a particular focus on 'Black History'.

Reading for pleasure is always prioritised at Oakdene. This week we launched 'Libraries Week' and on Thursday we look forward to celebrating 'National Poetry Day'.



Wishing you a wonderful week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne




Inspiring the next generation of Scientists

As a school community we are extremely proud to have sustained the **Primary Science Quality Mark (Gilt standard)** award for our **exceptional** work in Science. The summary states, *"Oakdene was in a strong place before PSQM but through careful monitoring, areas for further improvement and development have been identified and tackled with gusto. There is so much in this submission that warrants a response and praise that time and space do not allow. Please know that I have read everything entirely and I am so impressed. Miss Bestwick is clearly very knowledgeable, dedicated and enthusiastic about science and has worked incredibly hard.*

This is a well-deserved GILT accreditation and I look forward to seeing you all achieve Outreach in the future. Well done to all the staff, SLT, governors and pupils. You have made my job a real delight. Thank you!"

Miss Bestwick has proven that she is an outstanding subject leader in our school. She has accepted an invitation to be one of two STEM ambassadors for the Enquire Learning Trust. We have the opportunity to tap into **£50,000** from the **Enthuse Partnership** for the 32 schools which will be an amazing piece of work! This is supported by the DfE about developing leadership experts so that all our curriculums/curricula are **world class**.





The Rights

Respecting Group needs you!

Please donate to the food bank!

Friday 20th October last day for donations.

Long Life UHT Milk

Small bottles of squash

Tinned Fish

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Tomatoes

Tinned Rice pudding/Custard


Coffee

Washing up liquid

Washing capsules

Toilet Roll/Deodorants/Shampoo

Shower gel



Oakdene Primary School

On Friday, 29th 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 **Jenni Harding** who had the difficult task of judging the cakes. Many congratulations to **Tamzin Steele** who won 'Star Baker'. Well done to **Frayah Palmer** who made the most accurate guess for the number of Colin the Caterpillar faces on the poster.

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 just over £150.00 - THANK YOU**

Finally, a huge thank you to **Mrs Osborne**, our wonderful TAs **Mrs Jackson & Mrs Robson** who helped set up the refreshments and cake sale alongside parent volunteer **Claire Orley** and Y6 pupils **Lucy and Emily**.



As a school we would like to plan regular events to support the work of the school both **financially** and **socially**. So Mrs Osborne and I were delighted to be approached by a group of parents and carers at the end of the coffee morning who expressed an interest in being involved in **fundraising** activities and sharing the load with staff.

If you are a parent/carer of a pupil in school and would like to be involved in supporting school events such as: discos, fundraising and fayres, please complete the 'Friends of Oakdene' form, which is available at the school office, and return it to school. We will be arranging a meeting soon. Everyone is welcome to join us, especially if you are new to school.



Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

OCTOBER

Mon 3rd Oct
Wed 4th Oct
Thurs 5th Oct
Fri 6th Oct

Black History Month

Libraries Week
Y5 & Y6 Football Tournament
National Poetry Day
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils

Tues 10th Oct
Wed 11th October
Thurs 12th Oct
(change of date)

Y6 Pupils Visit Preston Hall Museum
Cross Country Finals
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1 Pupils

Tues 17th Oct

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils
Y6 Pupils Visit Beamish Museum

Wed 25th Oct

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils
Hallowe'en Disco KS1 (Y1, Y2) disco will be 4.00pm-4.50pm
KS2 will be 5.00pm-6.00pm.

Thurs 26th Oct
(New date)

Nasal Flu Spray

Fri 27th Oct

Children Break Up for Half-Term

Mon 30th Oct - Fri 3rd Nov - October Half-Term Break

Mon 6th Nov

PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

Fri 11th Nov

UK Parliament Week
Remembrance Day Activities

w/c Mon 13th Nov
Mon 13th Nov
Wed 15th Nov
(new date)

Parent Consultation Evenings (No Extra-curricular Clubs)
Phototronics (Individual and Sibling Photos)
10.00am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 Pupils

Fri 17th Nov

Y3 Danelaw Viking Visit
Children In Need Day

Mon 20th Nov
Wed 22nd Nov

Road Safety Week
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils

Fri 1st Dec

3.30pm Christmas Fair

Tues 12th Dec
Wed 13th Dec
Thurs 14th Dec
Fri 15th Dec

2.00pm Nativity Performance
2.00pm Nativity Performance
Christmas Lunch
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils
Some Y4 pupils will attend Snappy Christmas Music Event

Mon 18th Dec

AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties

Tues 19th Dec

PM Reception Christmas Party
PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties
AM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties
PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties
LAST DAY OF TERM

Christmas Holiday: Wednesday, 20th December 2023 - Tuesday, 2nd January 2024
school closed to pupils for in-service day (training)
Wednesday, 3rd January 2024

Children will return to school on Thursday, 4 January 2024



New Pupil Voice elections have taken place. Congratulations to our new school playleaders!

Congratulations to our new Play Leaders:

**George Robinson
Emily Smith
Ellie Smith-Sewell
Brienna May-Thomas
Indi Chesworth
Joey Marshall**



Our Play Leaders will be ...

Confident	Did they explain the activities clearly?
	Did they use a loud voice that everyone could hear?
Organised	Did they have everything they needed for the activities?
	Did they start games quickly and on time?
Helpful	Did they answer any questions that were asked?
	Did they help anyone that needed it?
Enthusiastic	Did the leader make participants feel excited about the activities?
	Did they make sure the rules were followed?
Fair	Did they make sure any teams were even in numbers and abilities?

A HUGE congratulations to all our superstar runners that represented the school so well in the **Cluster Cross-Country Competition** last week. Everyone tried their very best. A special mention to **George Robinson** and **Landon Quinn** who qualified into the Stockton finals. We wish them both every success in the finals next week.



The children named above received **Play Leader training** last week. The leadership training aims to introduce pupils to the skills needed to be a Sports Leader and enthuse the leaders to take on this leadership role when back in school. The training day is only the beginning and leaders are expected to assist school staff in **promoting the School Games**, running intra school competitions, organising personal best challenges, getting children active and leading warm ups in PE. Our leaders were praised for their **enthusiasm** towards being active and for demonstrating **excellent organisational and communication skills**.



Y5 Swimphony The Y5 children have made **excellent** progress as a result of their 2 week block of swimming lessons at the Forum. Over half of the cohort have already achieved their 25 metres and many have exceeded this. Swimming is a **life skill**. We would encourage all families to try to find the time to take their children swimming regularly to build their confidence in water.

A block of swimming lessons would make a fantastic gift for a birthday or Christmas.



Week Ending 29th September 2023

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Early Years Unit Mrs Guest	Oscar Stainsby	Frankie McCullagh	Freya White	Jamie Hart
YR Miss Dixon	Delilah Dodds-Day	Olivia Curry	Nate Oliver	Louie Walker
Y1 Mrs Brown	Mia Hudzicka	William Nimmo	Joseph Luker	Noah Selvon
Y2 Mrs Durham	Rosie Daniel	Roman Chesworth	Freddie Bell	Skyla Wilks
Y3 Mr Horkan & Mr Brown	Daisy Thompson	Eliza Copland	Blake Playle	Lily Scott-Mullin
Y4R Miss Robinson	Brooke Carse	William Marshall	Amez Ali	Max Devlin
Y4S Miss Smith	Annie Harris	Eddie-James Midgley	Landon Quinn	Elliot Lambert
Y5 Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Tyler Curry	Daniel Young	Jacob Smithson	Noah Stephenson
Y6M Mr McConnell	Arez Ali	Trudi Langstaff	Isaac Dobson	Harleigh Ramsey
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Amelia Richards	Eleanor Lewis	Oliver Copland	Amelia Wood



YR & KSI
Vinnie Westwood

Y3 & Y4
Ellis Fearn

Y5 & Y6:
Connor Bateman

<p>Summer Reading Challenge Presentation: Monday 11th September</p> 	<p>Angela Foster from Stockton Libraries to present medals and certificates to all those children who participated & completed the summer reading challenge this year: Ready, Set, Read!</p>
<p>Librarian Interviews Summer Reading Challenge Feedback</p>  <p>Story Time Thursday 21st September</p>	<p>1.15 – 2.00pm Group Interview of x9 shortlisted librarians by Angela Foster 2.00-2.30pm Discussion & feedback session of SRC by Angela Foster with current librarians (x7). 2.30-2.45pm Story Time in Early Years Unit</p>
<p>Libraries Week w/c: 2nd October</p> 	<p>Groups of children to visit a library of their choice with class TA to take home a book for pleasure & enjoyment. This can be from any of our x5 libraries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wonderland -Hogwarts -Narnia -Non-Fiction -Poet Tree Corner
<p>National Poetry Day Thursday 5th October</p> 	<p>The theme this year is 'Refuge.'</p> <p>EYU: 'Take a Deep Breath' A poem focussed on breathing & your own imagination YR: 'The Grass House' Finding refuge in a place that is special to you KS1: 'My Treasures' How we can find refuge in the things we collect Y3 & Y4: 'On the Move Again' How it feels to find a new home. Refugee Experience Y5 & Y6: 'At the End of the Day' How picking up a pen can help us all let go</p>
<p>Take 10 To Read Tuesday 10th October</p> 	<p>In support of World Mental Health day on Tuesday 10th at 10.00am as a school & as a nation we want our children to #Take10ToRead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EYU & YR listen/watch a story as a whole group/class -Y1 & Y2 to be paired up to read their free book from The National Literacy Trust -Y3 On-line Take 10 event with Ziggy Hanoar & Ollie Silvester -Y4, Y5 & Y6 Take 10 event with Susie Dent
<p>Y1 Open Morning Thursday 12th October</p> 	<p>8.45-9.00am Angela from Stockton Library Service will be promoting our local library & inviting parents/carers to sign their child up with a Library Card in The Reading Retreat based in the Gazebo. 9.10-10.30am Angela will lead a story themed activity as part of the Y1 Open Morning to promote a love of reading 11-11.20am Angela will deliver Story Time with Reception.</p>
<p>Stockton Children's Book of the Year 2024 October awaiting start date</p> 	<p>A group of ten Y5 children will participate in reading from a shortlist of 5 books within class, in their own time, at home and as part of a 'Lunchtime Book Club' weekly with Mrs Osborne. They will vote & write a review of their favourite book. In the spring term all ten children will receive certificates for their participation and two children will be selected to attend the Awards Ceremony for Most Effort and Best Book Review.</p>
<p>Northern Children's Book Festival November 2023</p> 	<p>Thursday 24th November Y4-Y6 'LD Lapinski' author of 'The Strangeworlds Travel Agency' series Wednesday 29th November EYU-YR 'Vashti Hardy' author of 'Santa's Marvellous Mechanical Workshop' Friday 1st December Y1-Y3 'Laura Mucha' author of 'Welcome to Our Table' The above will depend on availability – more details to follow ...</p>
<p>National Non-Fiction November</p> 	<p>The theme this year is 'Wonderful Water' inspired by the book 'Sea Change: Save the Ocean' edited by Tobias Hickey. It is a collection of postcards & messages from 50 illustrators across the world, working to celebrate and protect the precious life in our oceans.</p> <p>Competition: Create own postcard with picture of their favourite 'watery location' on one side & on the reverse write about why this place is so important to them.</p> <p>Competition within school: To officially name our renewed Non-Fiction Library More details to follow ...</p>
<p>Winter Reading Challenge</p> 	<p>The Winter Mini Challenge is through The Reading Agency to encourage reading for pleasure during the cold months of Winter.</p> <p>Participation is through their website in which they add books read to their Challenge website profile & leave a short review to unlock a virtual badge & printable certificate once their reading goal is reached.</p> <p>The theme for this year has not been released yet ...</p>