

Weekly Newsletter
3rd March 2025



Right of the Fortnight: Article 28:
Your right to learn & go to school



Dear Parents/Carers,
Welcome back! We have really looked forward to seeing you all back after the half-term break where we have so much more planned. The staff are so committed to providing an **excellent education** for each and every child, in every classroom, every day.

World Book Day
Don't forget that **World Book Day** is on Thursday, 6th March. Remember, you do not need to spend money, just use a little imagination by making your own costume or customising something you already own - have fun! Remember you can wear something linked to **careers**, (book) **character** or **cosy** (pjs). It's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the **joy of reading**. Dressing up not only adds fun to the event but also promotes a **deeper connection** with books and encourages a **lifelong love** for **literature**. Children will engage in activities centred around a book and characters. We have so much planned to make the day extra special.



Invitation to a Royal Garden Party
I was genuinely surprised to receive an email from the **Honours Team** last week. I am delighted to have been **nominated** by the Department for Education to attend an education focused royal garden party at **Buckingham Palace** in May. I've accepted the invitation and my additional guest will be Mrs Osborne. This is an incredible validation of **Team Oakdene**. New dresses are definitely in order!

Have a fabulous week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



Just before the half term break, we held another extremely successful **Open Morning** for the Parents & Carers of Y2 pupils.

Activities included **Computing** - exploring the new **ELT** computing curriculum via coding and **Scratch Junior**, **Design Technology** - making a healthy wrap for **Paddington Bear**, **Art** - create a moving picture inspired by **Paddington's** natural habitat and **Oracy** - conversation cards.

Four photographs showing children and adults engaged in various activities during an Open Morning event. The first photo shows a group of children sitting at a table, looking at a book. The second photo shows a child and an adult working together on a project. The third photo shows a child and an adult working together on a project. The fourth photo shows a child and an adult working together on a project.

Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Week Commencing 3rd March	Careers Week
Mon 3rd March	Scooter & Skateboarding Day (all equipment provided and delivered by Rubicon)
Tues 4th March	Rebel Women Workshops led by Bigfoot Education Shrove Tuesday
Weds 5th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y1 Pupils
Thurs 6th March	World Book Day & Readathon Celebration
Mon 10th March	Launch of British Science Week
Tues 11th March	Y1 Visit Shildon Railway Museum Y5/Y6 Dance City Workshops
Wed 12th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y3 Pupils
Tues 18th March	Y2 Snappy Spring Music Event @ Thornaby Pavilion - AM
Weds 19th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y4 Pupils Y2 Visit the Washington Wetland Centre
Fri 21st March	Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day
Mon 24th March	World Maths Day
Mon 24th—Wed 26th March	Y5M attend Trust Residential at Streonshalh Field Study Centre, East Whitby Primary Academy, Whitby.
Wed 26th March—Fri 28th March	Y5SW Attend Trust Residential
Tues 1st April	12 Pupils from Y5/Y6 Hockey at Norton Sports Complex
W/c 7th April	Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers - PM
Fri 4th April	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils
Thurs 10th April	Height & Weight Checks for Pupils in Rec & Y6
Fri 11th April	Children break up for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday, 14th April - Friday, 25th April

Mon 28th April Summer Term Commences - Children Return to School

Mon 5th May **BANK HOLIDAY**

Mon 12th May -Thurs 15th May **Key Stage 2 SATs** are Timetabled

Half-term holiday runs from:

Monday, 26th May to Friday, 6th June 2025 inclusive (two weeks).

The children will break up on:

Friday, 23th May and will return to school on Monday, 9th June 2025.

Week commencing 9th June - School to Administer:

**Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Y2 Resits
Y4 Multiplication Tables Check**





Promoting the Love of Reading

For children in hospital, books and stories are particularly important - they comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. **Read for Good** provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals.

It's been heart-warming to see the librarians organise this event and to hear the children talking about how the **Readathon** has kept them busy during the half-term break.

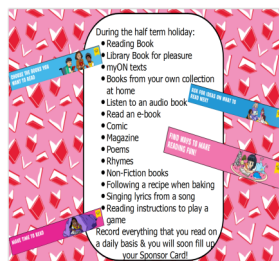
Please complete the Readathon and return the Sponsor Cards to school on **World Book Day Thursday, 6th March 2025**.

All children who return their completed Sponsor Cards on World Book Day will be given a certificate & sticker for their participation.

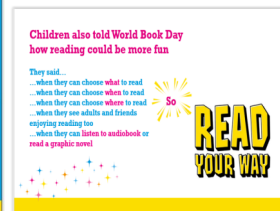
If you are able to make a donation please do so via the website: www.readforgood.org.uk

- Select - Sponsor a Pupil (Blue Tab)
- Enter - Oakdene Primary Academy/ Billingham/TS23 3NR
- Select - Our school from the drop down list
- Donate - Choose amount or click other to enter your amount
- Complete - Your details including name, address & postcode
- Pay - By Direct Debit or Credit Card

We raised £995.00 in 2023 and £1,827.00 in 2024. Since our first Readathon our school has raised a grand total of **£2,822.00**.



All children from our 2yr olds up to Y6 will receive a **£1 Book Token** this week. A few years ago, pupil voice revealed that many children previously rarely exchanged their voucher for a book. So once again, we have used **Pupil Premium funding (10p per book)** to ensure that **every child** will receive one of the **World Book Day £1 books** that were chosen for each phase of the school by our librarians and kindly organised by **Drake Independent Book Shop in Stockton** for World Book Day, 6th March .



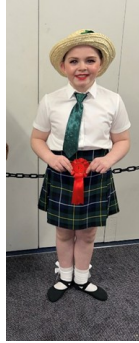
Recommended Read
This week's recommended read is from

Miss Akram
'Mountain and Cloud'
by
Jana Curll



This positive picture book is a useful story to share with children who are experiencing being separated from friends, parents or carers when starting nursery or school for the first time.

This is a heartwarming story about facing your worries & finding friendship.



The Daniel girls excelled once again in a recent **Dance** competition.

Poppy (reception) placed **1st** for tap and **1st** for modern, **3rd** in her ballet and she was awarded by the judge for most **outstanding** baby of the competition.

Rosie (Y3) placed **1st** for modern, **2nd** for tap, 3rd for character and 3rd for her Peter Pan trio. Rosie was also awarded by the judge for **most promising** dancer in the 8-10 category.

Lily (Y5) placed **1st** for her naughty schoolgirl character and **3rd** in her lyrical. Lily and Rosie placed **1st** for their Mario troupe. They all danced and **performed** beautifully.

Eight Year 4 children took part in an **Active Learning Competition** at Durham University Queen's Campus, Stockton on Tuesday, 18th February 2025.

The children took part in a range of **Numeracy and Literacy challenges** that needed to be solved in an active environment.

Staff were delighted to receive complements about the Y4s demonstrating **exceptional teamwork** and **collaboration**.



Caleb (Y1) and Nathaniel (Rec) Jefferies took on their first ever full park run. They joined their parents at the Wynyard Woodland Park Run.

Both boys completed the 5k course.

Caleb completed the course in 51 minutes and 37 seconds finishing with his Mummy.

Nathaniel completed the course in 1 hour and 55 seconds finishing with Daddy after he had completed the course as 3rd finisher in 18 minutes 58 seconds and ran back to support the boys.

A course and park run PB so they could both ring the PB bell. What an active family!






Congratulations to **Isabel Liddle (Y1)** who has achieved her **Level 6 Proficiency Award** in Gymnastics.


Hannah Liddle (Y4) was delighted to receive her badges and certificates for swimming 25 metres in both front crawl & backstroke.

Very well done!



Week Ending 20th February 2025
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Theo Burgum	Junior Morgan	Sophia Peers	Eleanor Sutheran
YR Miss Dixon	Harriet Smith	Annie Tunney	Elijah Wilson-Hill	Rose Westmoreland
Y1 Mrs Brown & Mrs Thompson	Vinnie Westwood	Willow Earle	Scarlett Van Wyk	Destiny Murray
	Olivia-Jane Midgley	Tommy Wilks	Harper Cooper	Louie Walker
Y2 Mrs Durham	Gia Hindmarsh	Mia Hudzicka	Elsie Dinsdale-Swales	Oakley Harrison
Y3 Mr Horkan	Riven Mansell	Riley Titlestad	Mark Bershadskyi	Lily Archer
Y4 Miss Robinson	Lily Scott-Mullin	Milo Hancock	Rupert Culley	Anna Cooley
Y5SW Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Frankie McQuilling	Reuben Edgar-Simpson	Max Devlin	Jake Atkinson
Y5M Mr McConnell	Kayci Scott-Mullin	George Reevell	Kain Carmichael	Sophie-Alysa Minter
Y6 Mrs Cowan	Yener Arslan	Daniel Young	Cassius Dobson	Peter Balanescu

	YR & KSI Sava Ali	Y3 & Y4 Jessica Dunn	Y5 & Y6 Peter Balanescu
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