

Weekly Newsletter
4th December 2023



Right of the Fortnight: Article 23:

Your right to special care & support
if you are disabled.



Dear Parents/Carers

The Friends of Oakdene Christmas Fayre took place on Friday, 2nd December. The Fayre raised an incredible £1109.40! A huge thank you to Mrs Jackson for coordinating this event, the Friends of Oakdene volunteers who made this event happen and for Santa and his elf making an exclusive appearance at such a busy time of year. We also thank all of you who donated items and supported the event, we really appreciate your support. This is our first big fundraising event in three years so THANK YOU to all. All raffle prizes have been claimed. We sold lots of high quality books for both adults and children, the books which are unsold have been donated to a charity. Toys that were not sold are being passed onto a local toy appeal.

The children at Oakdene have been learning about many festivals of light at this time of year, including Diwali and Hanukkah. We are busy preparing for Christmas in school and the children are enjoying the atmosphere in both halls created by the Christmas trees, decorations and lights. Classrooms are also beginning to look very festive. Our new school cook, Jenni Harding, is looking forward to serving School Christmas Lunch on Thursday, 14th December.

We continue to really appreciate all your support and we will ensure that the children have an exciting build-up to the Christmas break. Have a fantastic week everyone!

Keep well and stay safe!

Mrs E Bramley and
Mrs S Osborne



Reception Places for September 2024

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, they will be able to start school in September 2024. Parents must apply online for a reception place at Oakdene via the Stockton Borough Council website.

We will be holding an open evening on Wednesday, 6th December 2023 at 4.30pm for prospective parents/carers to visit and look around our exceptional Early Years environment.

We are trying to boost numbers so that we can have two small classes.

If you introduce a new family to Oakdene who secure a reception place we will reward you with a £20 voucher of your choice.



Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

Tues 5th Dec	Visit from Wheelchair Rugby Athlete Jack Smith
Wed 6th Dec	Meeting 4.30pm for Reception 2024 prospective parents/carers
Thurs 7th Dec	9.10am Y5 & Y6 Christingle at Oakdene (Y5 & Y6 parents/carers welcome)
Tues 12th Dec	2.00pm Nativity Performance
Wed 13th Dec	2.00pm Nativity Performance
Thurs 14th Dec	10.15am Y3 & Y4 Christmas Tableau at St Luke's Church (Y3 & Y4 parents/carers welcome)
	Christmas Lunch for Staff & Pupils
Fri 15th Dec	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 PM Reception Christmas Party PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties
Tues 19th Dec	AM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties LAST DAY OF TERM

Christmas Holiday: Wednesday, 20th December 2023 - Tuesday, 2nd January 2024

Wednesday, 3rd January 2024 school closed to pupils for in-service day (training)

Children will return to school on Thursday, 4 January 2024



Y5 visited the Life Science Centre, Newcastle to discover how scientists and engineers help astronauts like Tim Peake live and work on the International Space Station.

The Y5s were enthralled with science shows, the planetarium and some hands on experiments to help robots fix solar panels and to prepare astronaut food.

The children also had fun ice-skating.



Mock Wedding for Reception Pupils

Reception pupils took part in a **mock wedding** ceremony led by 'Reverend Mahalha'.

Pupils were selected to play the part of best man, bridesmaids, and wedding guests to support the bride and groom. A big **thank you** to parents and carers for providing such amazing outfits and props.

As part of this topic the children have been involved in **planning** and **preparing** every detail including designing the wedding cake and making invitations.



Winter Reading Challenge:

You can access this via wintermini.org.uk
Rate and **review** three or more books to unlock a special **virtual badge** and **certificate**.
There is a mini **Reading Record** which will be printed out for all children from YR to Y6 to go home in book bags this Friday - Librarians will distribute these. **Once completed, please return to school to receive 10 Dojos.**



Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from
Miss Robinson
'The Dog That saved Christmas'
By **Nicola Davies**



Jake is different from the other kids at school. He struggles when routines change, and people's emotions are so hard to understand. Christmas can be even worse and often the festivities are just too much to bear. But when Jake finds a little dog lost in the street, he unlocks a connection he's never had before.

Together Jake and Susan form a special bond that helps him to understand the world around him, changing his life for the better.

Y6 pupil, Mylah Bruce, danced her way to success as she was awarded **three medals** and **two trophies**.

Mylah came 1st in the **Jive**, 2nd in the **Samba** and 3rd in the **Paso Doble**.

Her wonderful walk around and remarkable **rumba** earned her the trophies. Well done Mylah — you're our Strictly Star!



Due to our **exceptional reading outcomes**, we were asked to host a **reading enquiry** for schools in the North of England who are trying to improve reading in their schools.

We talked about the **frequency** of events to promote **reading for pleasure**, for example, last week authors **Vashti Hardy**, **Laura Mucha** and **Nashani Reed** visited our school and inspired our children to read and write.

The **Reading enquiry report** can be found on the website with the newsletters.



Many congratulations to **two sensational swimmers**. **Indi** and **Roman Chesworth** participated in an in-club gala last Sunday. Roman came away with **2 first places** in his age group 7/8 in the 25m freestyle and backstroke. Indi came away with Gold in 50m butterfly and silver in 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke and 100m IM. These incredible achievements were followed by an amazing presentation evening where Indi was awarded **swimmer of the year** in the junior squad and Roman was presented with an award for **most promising youth swimmer**.



Week Ending 1st December 2023

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Early Years Unit Mrs Guest	Finley Ayres	Darcie-Mai Denby-Murray	Nathaniel Jefferies	N/A
YR Miss Dixon	Izzy Matthews	Ruben Black	Louie Walker	Harper Cooper
Y1 Mrs Brown	Arabella Sedgewick	Holland Finley	Zayn Gibson	Neave Bateman
Y2 Mrs Durham	Elena Hold	Skyla Wilks	Lillymae Morgan	Lincoln Rose
Y3 Mr Horkan & Mr Brown	Archie Donnelly	Lily Charlton	Eliza Copland	Megan Squires
Y4R Miss Robinson	Skye Stainsby	Piper Noon	Archie Hall	Olivia-Grace Allison
Y4S Miss Smith	Ben Bainbridge	Kayci Scott-Mullin	Annie Harris	Finley Orley
Y5 Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Jaden Ridley	Holly Stapleton	Max Harris	Brienna May-Thomas
Y6M Mr McConnell	Jake Cody	Cody-Lee Fitzpatrick	Harleigh Ramsey	Monica Dobson
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Oliver Copland	Meghan Dyson	James Luker	Jack Tunney



YR & KS1
Charlotte Eley-Carberry

Y3 & Y4
Archie Hall

Y5 & Y6
Morgan Titlestad