

# Weekly Newsletter

## 6th February 2023



**Right of the Fortnight: Article 38:**  
Children should be protected during war  
& not allowed to fight in an army.



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

It was **National Storytelling Week** last week; this takes place every year and is a celebration of the **power of sharing stories**. Stories **teach** us about the world, they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel **empathy**, they help us to **relax and escape** and they can help develop **essential literacy skills**. We are a 'reading' school and love being hooked into a book at Oakdene.

Have you ever wondered why your child can be grumpy when they have been on their computer, tablet or phone for long periods of time? As an adult, I know that I get headaches, feel tired and sometimes feel less energetic if I have been on screens for a long time. This week, schools across England will be participating in **Safer Internet Day**. As part of our safer internet discussions this week, we will be talking about the right **balance of screen time** for our **mental health** and **wellbeing**. Research shows that too much screen time affects children both physically and mentally resulting in problems including obesity, mental health issues, behaviour issues and anger and lethargy. In school, we will be participating in assemblies and lessons around how too much screen time can affect our mental health.

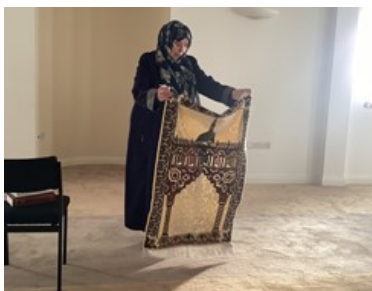
**Children's Mental Health Week 2023** will also take place this week, from 6-12 February 2023. This year's theme is **Let's Connect**. Let's Connect is about making **meaningful connections** for all, during Children's Mental Health Week – and beyond. For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we're encouraging people to connect with others in **healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways**. There is a great website [www.place2be.org.uk](http://www.place2be.org.uk) -run by the charity Place2Be which contains a range of free resources. This includes a section for parents and carers containing stories and tips for both adults and children.

Enjoy your week!



Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

On a visit to a mosque in Hartlepool last week, Y3L & Y3/4H learnt more about Islam and how the features of a Mosque allow Muslims to practise their religion. They learnt lots about how the Nasir Mosque supports its local community and charities. Children enjoyed the opportunity to try on traditional Islamic dresswear. Finally, the children were led on a guided tour around the Mosque looking at the different features, such as prayer rooms and a minaret- linking to the RE topic 'What is a Mosque for?'



## Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Week Commencing 6th Feb: 'Children's Mental Health Week'

Mon 6th Feb Y1 Wheels Day

Tues 7th Feb 9.10am Y6 Open Morning for Parents & Carers  
Safer Internet Day

Thurs 16th Feb 1.30pm Y1 (inc Y1 Willows) Open Afternoon for Parents & Carers  
Launch Readathon & Promote 'Eat to Defeat Campaign'  
Pupils break up for half term

Fri 17th Feb **PD Day 4 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**

### HALF TERM

**Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February**

**Mon 27th February - Children return to school**

Week commencing 27th Feb: Fairtrade Fortnight (27th Feb to 12th March)

Mon 27th Feb Y4/Y5 STEM visit (am):

Industry will Power the Future Workshops

Tues 28th Feb 9.10am Y3L & Y3/4H Open Morning for Parents & Carers

Thurs 2nd March World Book Day (**SPECIAL WORLD BOOK DAY MENU**)

& Readathon Celebration

Fri 3rd March Wonderdome In School

Mon 6th March Careers Week

Wed 8th March 9.10am Y2 Open Morning for Parents & Carers

**Mon 13th March PD Day 5 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**

Launch of British Science Week

Fri 17th March Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day

1.30pm Reception Open Afternoon for Parents and Carers

Wed 22nd March 9.10am Y4 Open Morning for Parents & Carers

World Water Day

Thurs 23rd March World Maths Day

Fri 24th March Y3 Earth Hour

Week commencing 27th March: Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers

Thurs 30th March Y6 Easter themed Chocolate Workshops & **Easter Bake Sale**

Fri 31st March Nursery Open Morning and Afternoon (times to be confirmed)  
**Children break up for Easter**

### EASTER HOLIDAYS

**Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April**

**Mon 17th April Summer Term Commences - Children return to school**

Thurs 4th May 9.10am Y5 Open Morning for Parents & Carers



## Recommended Read

This week's recommended reads are from

**Miss Bestwick**

A selection of books by Y6 Key Author

**Michael Morpurgo**



This February, the theme for **Michael Morpurgo Month** is horses, to commemorate 40 years of the beloved modern classic, *War Horse*.

It's the perfect opportunity to introduce or reintroduce children to the beautiful and searing tale that has been adapted into a theatre performance and screenplay!

## Love your Planet Display

Our wonderful **Love your Planet** Book Bundle is beautifully displayed in our Wonderland library. Many thanks to the KS1 Art club and to Y1s for sharing their beautiful writing.

The collection of stories sharing messages about the **environment, sustainability** and all the little things we can do to look after of our planet. Each book helps us to **celebrate** and **protect** this planet we call home.



The Y1s enjoyed reading the 'Tale of a **Toothbrush**' by MG Leonard. This provided the Y1s with a greater understanding about how important it is for us all to look after natural resources.

It also helped them to understand the **impact** we all have on our planet and how we can all **work together** to make a **difference**. Creating **eco-conscious** children is our best chance of looking after our planet.

Following in the footsteps of Y5s, our Y4s also enjoyed a **STEM Visit: Industry will Power the Future**.

The children were then provided with a **history** of Teesside. They used the Google Maps app and an iPad and looked at all the business currently around the Tees. They chose a business and after clicking on it on the map, they watched a video which explained what the company did. They met a few of the **employees** and they explained further what their job entailed. They listened to how the Teesworks was currently being developed and what further **job opportunities** were coming to our area. All of the different jobs, right on our doorstep, waiting for them to explore.



8 of our Y4 pupils took part in an **Active Learning Competition** for Stockton Primary Schools. They competed in teams to complete physical challenges that required them to solve numeracy and literacy challenges. They demonstrated that they have the **winning** formula of **brilliant brains** and **spectacular sports skills**.

Oakdene came **3rd**, which is amazing from so many teams from the town.

Mrs Hood (PE lead) was delighted to present the children with their **bronze medals** during celebration assembly.



Week Ending 3rd February 2023  
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 
Morning Nursery Mrs Guest	Katy Coates	Olivia Curry	Amelia Wright
Afternoon Nursery Mrs Guest	Poppy Daniel	Ruben Black	N/A
YR Miss Robinson	Gia Hindmarsh	Louis Ferguson	Mia Hudzicka
Willows Mrs Farnaby & Mr Brown	Harrison Kirk	Daisy Murray-Walker	Jack Blasco
Y1L Miss Leonard	Lillymae Morgan	Skyla Wilks	Riley Titlestad
Y2D Mrs Durham	Lily Mullin	Blake Playle	Scarlett Allon
Y3/4H Mr Horkan	Kayci-Lei Scott	Violet Wood	Finley Orley
Y3L Mrs Largan	Leighton Harvey	Alyssa Frost-Usher	Landon Quinn
Y4S Miss Smith	Cassius Dobson	Phoebe Donnelly	Arta Ahmadi
Y5W Mrs Wilson	Arez Ali	Amelia Booth	Amelia Richards
Y5M Mr McConnell	Daisy-Mai McCarthy	Kiera Ibbotson	Ollie Smith
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Jessica Noon	Ben Carmichael	David Eguegu

Star of the Week: High no of Dojos, Rights Respecting both in class & at lunchtime, PE Readiness, read at home, learnt spellings etc  
Star Reader: Read at least minimum number of times depending on key stage therefore in Reading Raffle, using myON at home etc  
Star Writer: Joined handwriting, presentation of written work, creative content, quality/quantity of written work, correct letter sizes etc