

Weekly Newsletter 6th March 2023



Right of the Fortnight: Article 28:
Your right to an education—
to learn and go to school.



Dear Parents/Carers,

At Oakdene we had an amazing time celebrating **World Book Day** last Thursday and it was wonderful to see staff and children in their costumes, dressed as their favourite book characters. A huge thank you to all parents and carers for showing how creative you can be! Many took inspiration from key texts and authors used in school. You may have noticed that Mr Brown and Miss Leonard dressed up as the key characters from one of Julia Donaldson's popular books, *The Scarecrow's Wedding*. The book shares the story of two scarecrows, Betty O'Malley and Harry O'Hair, who are **planning the perfect wedding**. I am delighted to share that Mr Brown and Miss Leonard have been busy planning their own special wedding which will take place in the Easter holidays.

Children in Early Years & KS1 were immersed into stories read by **Billingham librarian Nichola Davey** whilst Y5 & Y6 joined a Live Virtual event with **Michael Morpurgo** based on *War Horse*. All classes enjoyed fun and engaging activities, and a fabulous World Book Day assembly led by Mrs Osborne and our librarians.

Librarians delivered the template for '**Design a National Book Token**' competition to classes from Willows up to Y6. All children from 2yr olds up to Y6 received a **£1 Book Token** as usual, however, pupil voice revealed that many children previously rarely exchanged their voucher for a book. So this year, Mrs Osborne had a brilliant idea. We paid £28 of Pupil Premium funding (10p per book) to ensure that **every child** received one of the **World Book Day £1 books** that were chosen for each phase of the school by our librarians and kindly organised by **Drakes Book Shop in Stockton**. The librarians helped Mrs Osborne collect the delivery.

The **Readathon** created a real buzz around school and raised an incredible **£1,827.50** to support children in local hospitals. We were overwhelmed with the **generosity** of family members despite challenging times with rising food and energy costs.

As reading remains a huge focus in school, we want every child to be able to read fluently and we know home reading is just as essential in creating those fluent readers. The children were also served with an extraordinary **World Book Day Themed Menu** from our amazing catering team. Keep reading!

Detailed information regarding the **parent/carers consultation evenings** is being prepared. Invitations will provide you with the option of face to face meetings or telephone consultations next week.

Have a great week! Please remember, **Monday 13th March is a PD Day**. See you on **Tuesday 14th March!**

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Mon 6th March Careers Week
Tues 7th March Y4 Visit RSPB Saltholme
Wed 8th March 9.10am Y2 Open Morning for Parents & Carers
Fri 10th March Inspiring Maritime Virtual Careers Workshop for Y3L & 3/4H

Mon 13th March PD Day 5 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)
Launch of British Science Week
Wed 15th March Y4 Times Table Rockstar League Competition
Fri 17th March Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day
1.30pm Reception Open Afternoon for Parents and Carers

Mon 20th March Official opening of the Poet Tree Corner
Tues 21st March World Poetry Day
Wed 22nd March 9.10am Y4 Open Morning for Parents & Carers
World Water Day
Thurs 23rd March World Maths Day
Virtual Author Workshops with Tom Percival & Chris Callaghan
Fri 24th March Y3 Earth Hour

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

Wed 29th March Netball Competition
Thurs 30th March Y6 Easter-themed Chocolate Workshops & **Easter Bake Sale**
Fri 31st March Nursery Open Morning and Afternoon (times to be confirmed)
Reception Visit Hall Hill Farm

Children break up for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday, 3rd April - Friday, 14th April

Mon 17th April Summer Term Commences - Children Return to School

Mon 17th April—Fri 28th April Swimming Block 3 for Y5 pupils
Mon 17th April Green Cuisine Day
Fri 28th April 9.15am Coffee Morning led by Alliance and Mrs Hood

May 2023 KS1 SATs test period

Thurs 4th May 9.10am Y5 Open Morning for Parents & Carers
Mon 8th May **BANK HOLIDAY KING'S CORONATION**

Tues 9th May - Friday 12th May 2022 **Key Stage 2 SATs** are timetabled

2-week period commencing 5th June: **Y4 Multiplication Tables Check**

Week commencing 12th June: **Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Y2 resits.**



We are immensely proud of Y4pupil, **George Robinson** who recently represented Oakdene at the **Northern Zone Trampoline Championships** in **Northern Ireland**. His **hard work, relentless practice** and **dedication** paid off.

George performed a number of routines with great skill and took risks. He narrowly missed qualifying for the nationals. **Very well done George!**



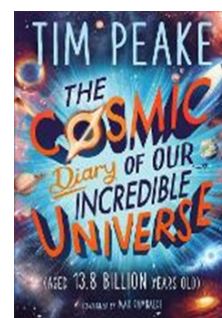
Last week we held another highly successful **Open Morning** for the parents & Carers of Y3 pupils.

The activities linked to **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) . They included: **Science**—investigating rock erosion, **Electrical engineering**—create an Eiffel Tower structure and **Mathematics**—sharing the latest methods for multiplication facts. The **Technology** activity promoted key messages on how to stay safe online.



Scientists brought a mobile **Planetarium** (Wonderdome) from the **Centre for Life, Newcastle** to offer a unique experience to all children from reception to Y6. The scientist was astounded by the level of knowledge & facts that children could **retrieve** from the **science** curriculum.

Here are some space-themed recommendations from our science leader, Miss Bestwick.



Science Gadget Shop



The return of the gadget shop!

Our popular gadget shop is returning for **British Science Week!**

Every day, running from Monday, 6th March until **Tuesday, 14th March**, the Y5s will be selling gadgets to all classes.

Gadgets range from **50p to £2.50** and include finger flying rockets, fossil digging kits, volcano erupting sets, balloon racing cars and many more!

Many thanks to Mrs Wilson and the **Rights Respecting team** for organising so many fabulous activities to reinforce the importance of Fairtrade during **Fairtrade Fortnight**. Each class researched a Fairtrade product and a part of the world:

Reception	Bananas - Ghana (Africa),
Y1	Cocoa - Dominican Republic (Caribbean),
Y2	Coffee - Costa Rica (Central America),
Y3	Tea - Sri Lanka (Asia),
Y4	Sugar - Paraguay (South America),
Y5	Flowers – Kenya (Africa)
Y6	Cotton - Agrocet in India (Asia).

Contributions in assemblies have evidenced that the children understand how our choices of what we buy can either help producers or cause harm.

Goods that carry the Fairtrade mark ensure that the producers always receive a fair price.



The Rights Respecting team have **researched Fair Trade uniform** options and have compared costings. More info is coming soon. We look forward to purchasing **Fairtrade bookbags** for all children for the next academic year.

On **Friday, 17th March**, to raise money for **Comic Relief**, the **Rights Respecting Steering Group** have organised a non-school uniform day in exchange for a small donation.

The children are more than welcome to wear a plastic free red nose (available in supermarkets) and, as part of their outfit, we will be encouraging them to include something **red, black or white or a combination.**

Please don't buy anything especially for this event. Just ensure that whatever your child decides to wear, it is both practical and appropriate for a day in school (including break and lunchtimes).

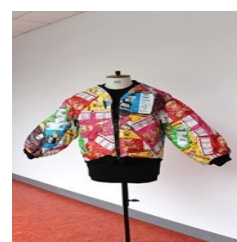


The Pupil Voice children, have been invited to take part in the **Billingham Festival Schools project**. Our theme is **'Upcycling is the future'**. This will be a whole school project! Recently, whilst in our forest area, one of the children found a Crisp packet that had a sell by date on of **2003**. This stirred lots of conversation around how long the crisp packet had been there, why it hadn't disappeared, how long it could have stayed on the ground for and what else a crisp packet could be used for....




The children decided they were going to try and upcycle **crisp packets** by making them into clothes. The garments produced from each Class will form part of a **fashion show** in July before being displayed as part of a **'community exhibition'** held at High Grange Community Centre in August.

We have already collected 2 full bags of empty Crisp packets that can be used in our fashion show. Please could you encourage your child to bring in empty Crisp packets to help create items of clothing. We look forward to seeing the Creations...

Thank you **Pupil Voice Team**



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

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 
Morning Nursery Mrs Guest	Oscar Stainsby	Michael Smith	Darcy Hammond
Afternoon Nursery Mrs Guest	Elijah Wilson-Hill	Caleb Jefferies	Elena Uzor
YR Miss Robinson	Issac McCarthy	Holland Finley	Aria Dugdale
Willows Mrs Farnaby & Mr Brown	Edward Gardiner-Jukes	Taylor Perry	Leanne Fletcher
Y1L Miss Leonard	Oakley Purvis	Freddie Bell	Ivy-May Fiddes
Y2D Mrs Durham	Lily Charlton	Aalia Dobson	Jake Marshall
Y3/4H Mr Horkan	Piper Noon	Logan Daniels-Owen	Kain Carmichael
Y3L Mrs Largan	Ellis Fearn	George Reeve	Vinnie Jeffrey
Y4S Miss Smith	Holly Stapleton	Jack Wilks	Joey Marshall
Y5W Mrs Wilson	Rocco Garthwaite	Connor Bateman	Arez Ali
Y5M Mr McConnell	Zac Dale	Kallum Squires	Joe Gardiner-Jukes
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Lucy Westmoreland	Sydney West-Oyston	George McNay

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