

Weekly Newsletter
7th November 2023



Right of the Fortnight: Article 31:

Your Right to Relax & Play



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a wonderful half term break. School was a flurry of activities on the last day of term with our **Reception Superhero Day** and the **Y6 Victorian Day**. Mrs Jackson hosted our first **'Friends of Oakdene'** meeting. Many thanks for those who attended and helped plan our **Christmas Fayre**.

On Friday, we say **goodbye** to two members of Team Oakdene. Mrs Megan Prince, who is one of our **Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants** for nursery pupils accessing 30 hours provision, is leaving to support a **new family business**. We wish the Prince family the best of luck with this exciting new venture. We welcome Miss Claire Orley to the team as she steps into this role.

We also say goodbye to one of our **experienced Teaching Assistants**, Miss Carmen Slevin, who will be moving to a new post in a special school in Darlington. Miss Slevin has been offered the opportunity to commence a teacher training apprenticeship in September 2024. We know she'll be fabulous.

Mrs Emily Thompson returned in September to cover a maternity TA position in Y5, she will now move to Y1 and draw on her KS1 experience. Miss Ameera Akram, who previously worked in Y4 as a TA at Oakdene, completed her teacher training last year and has been successful in securing the maternity cover until Miss Owens returns in the summer term. She will also support Y1 some afternoons.

Parent consultation evening appointments are now available to book on the My Child at School (MCaS) app.

Enjoy your week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

It was fantastic to welcome so many parents & carers of Y3 pupils to a Hedgehog themed **Open Morning**. The morning was inspired by the whole class reading text **'The Hodgeheg'** by key author **Dick-King Smith**. Activities included creating **Hedgehog Feeders**, baking **Hedgehog Bread** and designing a **Road Safety Hedgehog Bookmark**. Parents & carers were introduced to this term's **whole-class texts** and found out how we assess the children. We also shared with them our **approach to mathematics in Y3**.



Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

NON FICTION NOVEMBER

Mon 6th Nov

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

UK Parliament Week

Fri 10th Nov

Remembrance Day Activities

w/c Mon 13th Nov

Parent Consultation Evenings (No Extra-curricular Clubs)

Mon 13th Nov

Phototronics (Individual and Sibling Photos)

Tues 14th Nov

Y1 Visit North York Moors 'One Snowy Night'

Wed 15th Nov

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 Pupils

Y3 Danelaw Viking Visit

Fri 17th Nov

Children In Need Day

Mon 20th Nov

Road Safety Week

Wed 22nd Nov

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils

Wed 29th Nov

Y5 Visit Newcastle Centre for Life

Fri 1st Dec

3.30pm Christmas Fair

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 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



Sporting success Some of our year 5/6 children took part in an indoor **Athletics** event at Durham University Stockton Campus. They competed against other schools from the Billingham area in many different events including some varied relay races, triple jump and speed bounce, amongst others.

Our children showed excellent **teamwork, resilience** and **determination** to compete individually and as part of the team events. We are currently waiting to hear the results to see if our school have made it through to the district finals.

Y1 pupils also took part in a **Sports Festival** at Stockton Campus. The Festival was designed to develop children's **fundamental movement skills** eg, jumping, skipping, throwing, catching, gymnastics, karate, team games and yoga which challenged the children to achieve their **personal best**.



Y5 pupil **Indi Chesworth** left her most recent swimming gala highly decorated with an impressive **four medals**. Indi came 3rd place in two events: the 100m freestyle and 100m medley, combining 4 different strokes (breast back, front crawl & butterfly).

Indi also achieved medals for gaining 4th-6th places in the 50m freestyle and the 100m backstroke.

Many congratulations Indi! You are a **swimming superstar!**



REMINDER

Once again the Rights Respecting Steering Group would like to support **Children in Need Day** on **Friday, 17th November 2023**.

This year's theme encourages you to be *SPOT*acular with lots of fun ways to raise money and take part in the appeal.

Non-uniform or pyjamas are welcomed. Whatever your child chooses to come dressed in, please just make sure that it is appropriate for the school day, eg, sensible shoes for playtime.

We would like to encourage the children to bring in a voluntary donation (£1 suggestion) to contribute towards this fundraiser.



Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from Mrs Bramley 'Sea Change Save the Ocean' By 50 illustrators from across the world

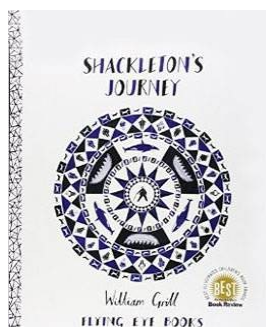
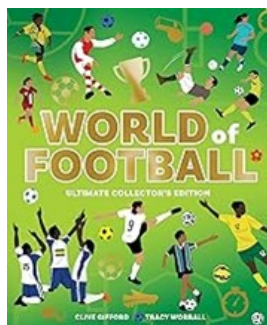


This is a stunning collection of original postcards and messages from **50 illustrators across the world**, working to celebrate and protect the precious life in our oceans. Each illustrator has provided an image of sea creatures, fishes or other sea life, with a **message of inspiration** to help point out the massive and imminent dangers that **climate change, pollution, over fishing** and other human-led interventions are having on our oceans. The postcards are displayed under three headings: **Celebrating the Ocean; The Danger to the Ocean & Take Action for the Ocean.**

A perfect choice for **Non-Fiction November & UK Parliament Week!**

Non-Fiction November provides a wonderful opportunity to **expand children's reading choices** and **learn new facts** about the world. Non-fiction can **spark curiosity**, answer **questions** and help children **discover the world** around them. Non-fiction can be found **everywhere!** From the back of a cereal packet at the breakfast table to the books in your local library. Reading together is a fantastic way to **stimulate discussion** and with so many options to choose from, the possibilities are endless. Here are some recommendations from the National Literacy Trust: fact books, newspaper and magazine articles, recipes, diaries/journals, autobiographies and biographies.

Here are 3 books which may get your children hooked.



Our pupil voice group, assisted Mrs Wilson and the Billingham and Stockton Borough Foodbank promoting, sorting and loading the van which collected all your kind donations.

The Pupil Voice group would like to thank you again for your generous donations; you have helped families in crisis.

As soon as we have been informed of the KG weight of the donations, we will let you know.

Well done everyone!

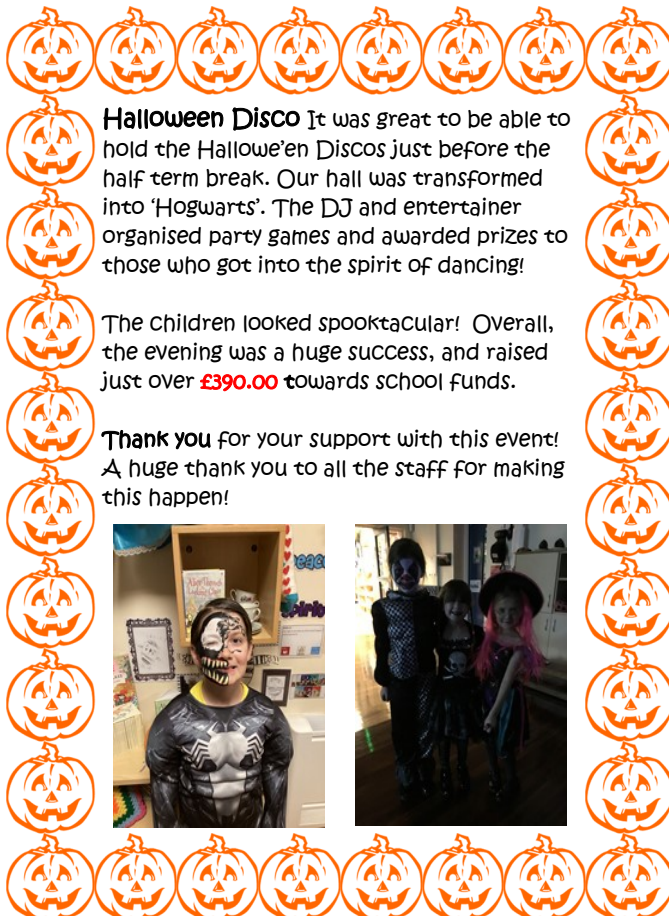


Remembrance Day

Poppies continue to be on sale in school on behalf of The Royal British Legion. Y6 pupils visit classes daily for pupils to purchase poppies.

We will spend time thinking about the brave men, women and veterans who have served our country and the sacrifices they've made.

The whole school will observe a two-minute silence on Friday.



Halloween Disco It was great to be able to hold the Halloween Discos just before the half term break. Our hall was transformed into 'Hogwarts'. The DJ and entertainer organised party games and awarded prizes to those who got into the spirit of dancing!

The children looked spooktacular! Overall, the evening was a huge success, and raised just over **£390.00** towards school funds.

Thank you for your support with this event! A huge thank you to all the staff for making this happen!







With the 'cost of living crisis' everyone is feeling the pinch. That's why we accepted an invitation to host a 'pop up event' 'Coats for All' on 26th October.

A huge thank you to Laura McBride and four members of the **ABC Counselling team** who organised this community event. ABC brought over 400 high quality coats which had been donated, by businesses or were donated from families. **300 coats** were matched with new owners which is amazing!

Hopefully lots of children and families will benefit from **new coats** in preparation for the colder months ahead.



Week Ending 27th October 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	Poppy Daniel	Grace Harris	Leighton Wardle	Isaac Stewart
YR Miss Dixon	Katy Coates	Darcy Hammond	Liam Turner	Jack Mackay
Y1 Mrs Brown	Oakley Harrison	Sava Ali	Ariana Wilson-Hill	Louis Ferguson
Y2 Mrs Durham	Oakley Purvis	Lola Pearce	Lincoln Rose	Freddie McQuilling
Y3 Mr Horkan & Mr Brown	Harrison Kirk	Daisy Thompson	Aalia Dobson	Lacie Carse
Y4R Miss Robinson	Amez Ali	Autumn Lonsdale	Brooke Carse	Ellis Fearnis
Y4S Miss Smith	Leighton Harvey	Alannah Bell	Kayci Scott-Mullin	Annie Harris
Y5 Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Kara Dixon	Jack Westmoreland	Emily Smith	Daniel Young
Y6M Mr McConnell	Kaci-Leigh Moody-Blackburn	Harleigh Ramsey	Olly Harris	Kaveesha Soyza
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Meghan Dyson	Amelia Richards	Kiera Ibbotson	Zac Dale



YR & KSI
Eli Prince

Y3 & Y4
Brooke Carse

Y5 & Y6
Zia Kelly-Bostock