

Weekly Newsletter 8th September 2024



**Right of the Fortnight: Article 8:
The Government should respect
your right to a name, nationality & family.**



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a great summer break. To those parents/carers who are new to the school, **we extend a warm welcome** to you. The term started for staff on Monday, 1st September where we spent the day focusing on our Academy Improvement Plan and looking back and **celebrating our many successes** from the previous year. We also spent time updating annual **safeguarding training**. It was also a great opportunity to welcome back all members of staff. We're delighted to welcome **Miss Crawford** who will be a temporary Teaching Assistant in the **Little Sycamores**. Warmest congratulations to Miss Owens on her marriage in August! We're delighted to now call her **Mrs Robson** wishing her a lifetime of happiness in this exciting new chapter. She enjoyed the most perfect day with her family and looked absolutely stunning.



It's been truly wonderful to welcome our children back to school. Each day as we walk through the school, we are met with the **buzz of learning** and the **joy** of children **fully immersed** in their classrooms, clearly thrilled to be back. Being surrounded once again by our **dedicated staff** and **vibrant pupils** is a powerful reminder of what a **special** place this is—and what an incredible **privilege** it is to lead such an **inspiring school community**. It is common for children to feel nervous about going back to school at the start of a **new term**. To help calm their nerves and make sure they are prepared for the school day, you could try: **Adjusting bedtimes** to get into a healthy routine - making sure they **sleep well** and are not taking their mobiles, tablets, or any devices to bed; Helping them to be organised—get the **correct uniform**, packed **lunches & water bottles** ready the night before & ensuring bookbags are returned **every Friday**; Making sure they eat **breakfast** every morning.

Attendance will be a continued focus this year as we have a 97% target to achieve. This only allows up to 5 days of absence in the school year. A big thank you to the majority of parents/carers who make sure their children attend school regularly! This school year, our **attendance rewards** will continue. These offer incentives on a weekly, termly and, of course, the chance to win a special treat for **100% attendance** for the whole school year. **If you are booking a holiday please take advantage of the two weeks in May & June. The Half-term holiday runs from Monday, 25 May to Friday, 5 June 2025 inclusive (two weeks). The children will break up on Friday, 22 May and will return to school on Monday, 8 June 2026.**

Our **building improvement projects** are well underway, with **roofing work** completed and both halls, along with the entrance hall, now **refurbished**. Things may look a little bare for now, but we are making great progress and it's all coming together!

The **'Weekly Newsletter'** will continue to be uploaded to the Newsletter section of the website. Paper copies will not be routinely sent home. **Please keep your phone details up-to-date and please be available should we need to contact you.**

What an exciting year we have ahead of us - we can't wait to see what we can achieve together.

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

Week Commencing 15th Sept: Launch of Extra-curricular Clubs & Y4 Swimming Block commences

Tues 16th Sept Y5 Sports Leader Training - AM
Wed 17th Sept 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Reception Pupils

Week Commencing 22nd Sept: Fairtrade Fortnight

Tues 23rd -Thurs 25th Celebrate European Day of Languages
Wed 24th Sept KS2 Cross Country event
Thurs 25th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning
Fri 26th Sep PD Day 2 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

OCTOBER

Black History Month

Thurs 2nd Oct National Poetry Day & Y6 visit Beamish Museum
Fri 3rd Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1 Pupils
Y5 PM Scavenger Hunt & Team Building Day, Northfield

Wed 8th Oct Y6 PM Tag Rugby Festival &
3.20pm Hallowe'en Costumes Shop (dining hall)
Thurs 9th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils

Wed 22nd Oct Y1 PM Sports Festival
Thurs 23rd Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils
Hallowe'en Disco 4-4.50pm Y1-Y3 and
Y4-Y6 5-6pm (No Extra-curricular Clubs)

Fri 24th Oct

Children Break Up for Half-Term
Half-Term Break Monday, 27th Oct - Friday, 31st Oct

NOVEMBER

Non Fiction November

Wed 5th Nov 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 Pupils
Y5/Y6 PM Boys Football

w/c Mon 10th Nov Parent Consultation Evenings (No Extra-curricular Clubs this week)
Wed 12th Nov 18 chn from Y3/Y4 attend Indoor Athletics event
Fri 14th Nov Children In Need Day & Flu Nasal Spray (pupils from Rec-Y6)

w/c Mon 17th Nov Road Safety Week
Wed 19th Nov 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils
Fri 21st Nov Individual & Sibling Photographs

w/c Mon 24th Nov UK Parliament Week & Young Poets Week
Tues 25th Nov 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils
Wed 26th Nov PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

Wed 3rd Dec 3.30pm Friends of Oakdene Christmas Fair
Fri 5th Dec 10am Y3/Y4 Tableau @ St. Luke's Church

Mon 8th Dec Christmas Lunch
Tues 9th Dec 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils
Wed 10th Dec 2.15pm Nativity Performance
Thurs 11th Dec 2.15pm Nativity Performance

Tues 16th Dec 9.10am Y5 & Y6 Christingle, PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties
Wed 17th Dec PM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties
Thurs 18th Dec AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties
PM Reception Christmas Party
PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties

Fri 19th Dec

LAST DAY OF TERM

Christmas Holiday: Monday, 22nd December 2025 - Friday, 2nd January 2026
Children will return to school on Monday, 5 January 2026

(More dates will be confirmed shortly)



Attendance – September 2025

Our attendance ladder provides a clear and powerful visual reminder that every single day in school makes a difference to your child's learning, progress, and wellbeing. **Every day counts.** We're here to support families in achieving strong attendance. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like help improving your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're always happy to work together to find positive solutions.



Attendance - Holiday Request Reminder

Parents and carers are required under the Education Act (1996) to **ensure children attend school regularly**. The Principal of a school has a discretionary power to authorise absence only in exceptional circumstances.

A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance. Family holidays in term time are not allowed in law and are very unlikely to be authorised. Taking children on leave without applying for authorisation may mean the school has to report your child as 'missing' to the local authority and holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively in law. The direct correlation between attendance and attainment is undeniable. Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning and compromises progress. **It creates further anxiety and children may struggle maintaining friendships.**

The government has made changes to the law relating to school attendance. **Penalty** notices have increased and there is now an **escalation** process for repeated offences which includes **prosecution or other legal interventions**.

Support and guidance is always available from school if you have any questions about attendance or if you need help to achieve an **improvement**.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow...
Everyday counts!



Healthy Habits for all Pupils

EYFS & KS1 pupils receive **free fruit each day**, thanks to national funding. **KS2** pupils can bring their own nutritious snacks for break times—these should be **fresh or dried fruit or vegetables** only. Please remember that **we are a nut-free school**. This is to ensure the safety of all pupils, including those with severe allergies. We kindly ask that no products containing nuts are brought into school at any time.

In addition, all children **under the age of 5** are entitled to **free milk**. At Oakdene, we believe that access to nutritious food shouldn't stop just because a child turns five. That's why **we continue to fund free milk for all Reception pupils—even after their fifth birthday**. We feel strongly that this supports their **health, wellbeing**, and ability to thrive in school. We also recognise that it's simply not fair to penalise children or place extra financial pressure on families based on age or cost. Every child deserves the same opportunity to stay healthy and nourished, and we're proud to uphold that principle.

Children should continue to bring a **water bottle** filled with **water only** each day. This bottle stays in their classroom for easy access throughout the day. If your child brings a packed lunch, please include a **separate drink** in their lunchbox. This drink will remain in the dining hall and be used during lunchtime. Thank you for helping us promote a **safe and healthy** environment for all our pupils!



Week Ending 5th September 2025
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Lucie Wilkinson-Young	Joshua Collier	Jessica Wilson	Charlotte Ayre
YRC Miss Dixon	Ava Fleming	George Liddle	Dolly Browning	Theo Burgum
YRK Miss Dignen	Lucas Bailey	Lottie Cooper	Harper-Rose Hill	Rory Liddle
YIB Mrs Brown	Coen Beadle	Nellie Puckering	Elsie Balogun	Junior Scarth-Ferguson
Y2D Mrs Durham	Delilah Dodds-Day	Brodie McLaughlin	Louie Lane	Vinnie Westwood
Mrs Thompson	Alfie Cain	Harry Robinson	Isla Featherstone	Lucas Lee
Y3H Mr Horkan	Esmea Skipp	Neave Bateman	Arwa Usman	Ayla-Mae Lane
Y4R Miss Robinson	Tia Cain	Rosie Daniel	Mark Bershadskiyi	Junior Hindmarsh
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Isaac Cummings	Alyza Bateman	Milo Hancock	Cason Tierney
Mrs Wilson	Daisy Thompson	Theo Smith-Sewell	Ava McLaughlin	Anaya Usman
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Seb Bostock	Florence Bruce	Sophie-Alysa Minter	Leighton Harvey
Y6M Mr McConnell	Harry Laws	Lily Lloyd	Alannah Bell	Reuben Edgar-Simpson



YR & Y1
Sophia Peers

Y2 & Y3
Arabella Sedgwick

Y4, Y5 & Y6
Edward Gardiner-Jukes