

## Weekly Newsletter 8th December 2025



Right of the Fortnight: Article 14:  
Your Right to Follow your own Religion



Dear Parents/Carers

**The Friends of Oakdene Christmas Fair** took place on Wednesday, 3rd December. The Fair raised an incredible **£1085.00!** A **huge thank you** to Mrs Jackson for coordinating this event and the **Friends of Oakdene** volunteers who made this event happen. We'd like to express an enormous thank you to Mrs. Smith and the entire catering team for preparing such a **delicious Christmas lunch** for pupils and staff.

The end of term is fast approaching and there is a festive feel in the air. We are looking forward to **opening our doors** this week for the Nativity. Parents and carers of Y5 & Y6 pupils are invited to join us for the **Christingle** service in the main hall at Oakdene at **9.10am** on **Tuesday, 16th December**. Next week, **Christmas parties** will also take place and we thank you for bringing in your **£1** donations so that teachers can buy the party food.

Finally, we received a letter from **Olivia Bailey MP Minister for Early Education** and Minister for Equalities last week: "I am delighted to say that, following a review of the latest Early Years Foundation Stage Profile data (2024/2025), your school has now been selected to apply to lead one of our new Reception Networks. We are looking for schools with exemplary reception practice to deliver Reception Networks in their region. **I am writing to you today because I recognise that your school is demonstrating strong reception outcomes in your region, based on sustained outcomes data.** I would like to invite you to apply to be a Reception Network Lead School in your region." This recognition is a true testament to the **dedication, expertise, and hard work** of our entire **EYFS team** in delivering **exceptional early years education**. We are proud and excited about the opportunity to lead and inspire others.

Enjoy the week ahead!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

**Billingham Forum Ice Arena** played host to the **Stockton Schools Partnership Primary School Festival** with 10 Primary schools (including Oakdene) taking part in a **Festival on Ice**.

We selected 24 KS2 pupils and there will be another opportunity for more children to attend an **ice festival** very soon.



We are so proud of our determined Y3s who participated in a **speed stacking** competition at Durham University **Queen's Campus**. The event began with fun games and challenges designed to develop **fine and gross motor skills**, which the children absolutely loved! The second half was a thrilling **timed competition** where teams worked together to stack cups as quickly as possible.

Oakdene were triumphant, **securing first place for the second year running!** All children and staff were rewarded with a **gold medal**. We are immensely proud of you all!



## Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

Tues 9th Dec	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils 9.30-10.30am Poetry workshop <b>Joseph Coelho</b> alongside radio DJ, host and presenter <b>Lauren Layfield</b>
Wed 10th Dec	2.15pm Nativity Performance
Thurs 11th Dec	2.15pm Nativity Performance
Fri 12th Dec	10.00am Y5 visit Arc - linked to Key Author
Tues 16th Dec	9.10am Y5 & Y6 Christingle, PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties
Wed 17th Dec	Y2 Victorian Christmas Visit to Preston Hall Museum 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	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM</b>

**Christmas Holiday: Monday, 22nd December 2025 - Friday, 2nd January 2026**

**Children will return to school on Monday, 5 January 2026**



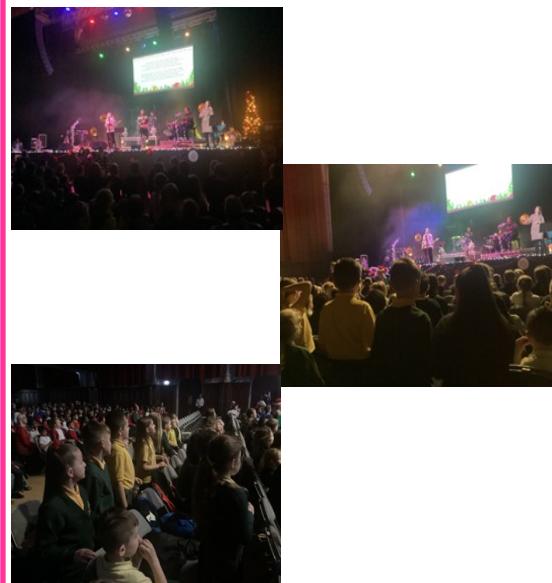
Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us at St Luke's Church last Friday for a truly special Y3 / Y4 Christmas Tableau. The joyous singing, the confident readings and the enthusiasm of the children really set the standard for the start of our Christmas performances. We were thrilled to see the impact of our oracy development shining through in their presentation skills.

A big thank you to our amazing Year 3/4 Teaching Team for making this event possible. We also deeply appreciate your generous donations for Kingstone Primary in Uganda and the phenomenal feedback we received—we're so pleased you enjoyed it!



Y4 attended the 'School's Big Gig - Rockin' Christmas Event' at Middlesbrough Town Hall last week. The atmosphere was electric as Apollo Arts delivered a magical singalong with a live band, creating an unforgettable festive experience.

The children enjoyed participating in lots of musical games. We were incredibly proud of how the children performed with great confidence and maturity. We received lots of positive comments about the children's exemplary behaviour.



**Recommended Read**  
This week's recommended read is from  
**Mrs Smith**  
**'Dog Man' By Dav Pilkey**

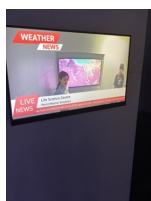


This popular graphic novel series follows a half-dog, half-human police officer on his crime-fighting adventures. Packed with comic-style illustrations, speech bubbles, and plenty of humour, these books are a hit with children aged 6-9. Known for their wacky storylines and visual appeal, they're perfect for encouraging reluctant readers to dive into books.



We're delighted to share that **Willow Earle**, a Year 2 pupil, has successfully achieved **Stage 2 in swimming**. This is a **fantastic milestone** that reflects her hard work and determination in the pool. Well done, Willow!

Year 5 visited the **Life Science Centre** in Newcastle to explore how scientists and engineers support astronauts like Tim Peake in living and working aboard the International Space Station. The pupils were captivated by **interactive science shows**, an **immersive planetarium experience** and **hands-on experiments**, including tasks to help robots repair solar panels and prepare astronaut meals. To top off the day, the children enjoyed some fun on the **ice rink**!



We're thrilled to share that Y3 pupil **Bonnie-Rae Scarth-Ferguson** has won a **dance medal**!

Her **dedication, talent** and **hard work** truly shine through this achievement.

Well done, Bonnie. Keep dancing and inspiring us all!



Y2 pupil **Altay Arslan**, has proudly earned **3 football medals**!

These magnificent achievements reflect Altay's **teamwork, skill** and **dedication** on the pitch. We are so proud!



Year 2 pupil **Izzy Matthews** impressed at a recent trampoline display, earning **three medals** — one for her individual performance and two for synchronised routines. Izzy also successfully achieved her Level 7 in gymnastics.

Congratulations also to **Olivia Curry (Year 2)**, **Scarlett Allon (Year 5)**, **Hannah Liddle (Year 5)**, and **Isabel Liddle (Year 2)**, who were all awarded medals and certificates for achieving awards between Level 2 and Level 8. Well done on your **fantastic accomplishments**!

10 pupils recently took part in an exciting **dodgeball competition** that had everyone on the edge of their seats! The team showed fantastic **energy, teamwork** and **sportsmanship** throughout the event. Every match was packed with **fast throws, quick dodges** and plenty of **cheering** from their peers. Congratulations to all the players for their **determination** and **enthusiasm**—it was a brilliant display of skill and fun!





**Week Ending 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy**

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematicia 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Hunter Corley	Jonathan Johnson	Tilly Lenham	Rosie Ferguson
YRC Miss Dixon	Lewis Daniels-Owen	Ava Fleming	Theo Burgum	Harrison Howdle
YRK Miss Dignen	Theo Bell	Dougie Chocholko	Ruben Earle	Ebony-Rae Lane
Y1B Mrs Brown	Grace Harris	Harriet Smith	Aubree Kitchin	Oscar Stainsby
Y2D Mrs Durham	Hallie Richardson	Bonnie-Rae Ferguson	Lucas Lee	Louie Walker
Mrs Thompson	Michael Smith	Thomasin Scotland	Willow Earle	Katy Coates
Y3H Mr Horkan	Chanel Ambrose	Holland Finley	Lincoln Wardle	Neave Bateman
Y4R Miss Robinson	Rosie Daniel	Kian Jewson	Isla O'Hare	Leighton Daniels-Owen
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Anna Cooley	Rupert Culley	Daisy Thompson	Evie-Jayne Harrison
Mrs Wilson	Gracie Dale	Evie Richardson	Sebastian Eley-Carberry	Edward Gardiner-Jukes
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Sophie-Alysa Minter	Leighton Harvey	Seb Bostock	Max Devlin
Y6M Mr McConnell	William Culley	Alannah Bell	Ben Bainbridge	Lily Lloyd



**YR & KS1**  
Elliot Hardy

**Y3 & Y4**  
Riley Titlestad

**Y5 & Y6**  
Milo Hancock