

Weekly Newsletter
10th November 2025



Right of the Fortnight: Article 27:
Your Right to a Good Standard of Living



Dear Parents/Carers,

As the nights draw in and the air turns crisp, there's nothing quite like curling up under a cozy blanket with a **good book** and a steaming mug of **hot chocolate**.

This November, we're excited to celebrate **Non-Fiction November** once again! This annual event is a fantastic opportunity to broaden children's reading horizons and **spark their curiosity** about the world around them. Non-fiction books don't just share facts—they inspire questions, encourage exploration, and help children make sense of everyday life. This year, the theme is '**Past Puzzles and Timeless Treasures**', which invites pupils to explore history, archaeology, legends and the evolution of places and objects over time.

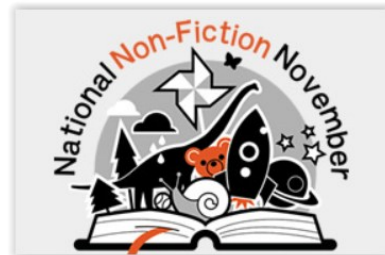
Non-fiction is everywhere! From the back of a **cereal box** at breakfast to the shelves of your local library, there are endless chances to discover something new. **Reading together** is a wonderful way to **start conversations**, and with so many options available, the possibilities are limitless.

The **National Literacy Trust** recommends exploring a variety of non-fiction formats, including **fact books, newspapers, comics, recipes, diaries and journals, autobiographies and biographies**.

Why not try something new this month and see where your reading takes you?

Have a lovely week and **keep reading!**

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



It was fantastic to welcome so many parents & carers of Y2 pupils to the termly **Open Morning** last week. Activities included **playing with games & toys from the past** (including wartime) and **making a cup and ball toy**. These activities linked with their topic.

Everyone enjoyed baking **gingerbread biscuits**, **mathematics challenges** and Mrs Osborne shared our **approach to reading** in Y2. This included the **high expectations** and an opportunity to share our wealth of **resources**.



Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

NON FICTION NOVEMBER

w/c Mon 10th Nov Tues 11th Nov	Parent Consultation Evenings (No Extra-curricular Clubs this week) Royal British Legion & National Literacy Trust Virtual Remembrance Assembly hosted by JJ Chalmers with appearances from two Oakdene pupils.
Wed 12th Nov Fri 14th Nov	18 children from Y3/Y4 attend Indoor Athletics event Children In Need Day
w/c Mon 17th Nov Tues 18th Nov Wed 19th Nov Thurs 20th Nov Fri 21st Nov	Road Safety Week Flu Nasal Spray (pupils from Rec-Y6). Re-arranged date 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils Y1 'One Snowy Night' visit Individual & Sibling Photographs
w/c Mon 24th Nov Tues 25th Nov	UK Parliament Week & Young Poets Week 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils Mock Wedding for Reception Pupils
Wed 26th Nov	PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)
Tues 2nd Dec	Y4 visit 'Rockin' Christmas Gig Y5 visit Centre for Life Newcastle
Wed 3rd Dec Fri 5th Dec	3.30pm Friends of Oakdene Christmas Fair 10.00am Y3 & Y4 Tableau @ St Luke's Church Christmas Lunch
Tues 9th Dec Wed 10th Dec Thurs 11th Dec Fri 12th Dec	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils 2.15pm Nativity Performance 2.15pm Nativity Performance 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	LAST DAY OF TERM



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

Children will return to school on Monday, 5 January 2026

REMINDER

Once again, the Rights Respecting Steering Group would like to support Children in Need Day on Friday, 14th November 2025. This year's theme is 'Challenge Yourself to 25'

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, for example, sensible shoes for playtime.

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



Years 3 and 4 were thrilled to welcome **Gabrielle Kent**, a **inspiring author** from the North East, for a special visit! Gabrielle shared her varied career journey as a writer and spoke openly about living with ADHD, showing the children how **creativity** and **perseverance** can lead to amazing achievements. Her career began as a video-game artist working on titles for PC, PlayStation, and Xbox, before spending sixteen years as a university lecturer teaching students how to make games and hosting major games and animation festivals. She answered lots of curious questions and sparked ideas for our **budding young writers**. The children left feeling motivated and full of creative energy—what an incredible experience!



Y3 pupils enjoyed spending the day as Vikings in a replica **Viking settlement** based on the outskirts of York. The unique educational environment formed part of the history curriculum on their study of **Invaders** and **Settlers**. **Danelaw Dark Age Village** contains a number of houses, workshops and fields, offering an atmospheric and hands-on learning environment. During the course of the day, the Y3s were **farmers**, hoeing the field and **craftsmen**, making clay oil lamps. Children dressed up in **period-costumes** and carried out a range of activities. They performed household tasks that involved **collecting firewood** and **grinding wheat** to make bread. Guard training was given to help the new settlers protect the village from marauding **Saxons**.



Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from

Miss Dixon

**'So, You Think You've Got It Bad:
A Kid's Life in Ancient Rome'**

By **Chae Strathie**



Ever wondered what it was like to be a child in ancient Rome? This brilliant book by award-winning author Chae Strathie, created with experts from the British Museum, is packed with **fascinating facts** and **funny illustrations**. Discover surprising details—from washing clothes in wee to snacking on dormice—and even learn about gladiator battles! Perfect for curious readers who love **history with a twist**.

Sporting Success

It has been another great week for our sports teams. Year 5 had an amazing time taking part in a **Scavenger Hunt and Team Building event**, working together to **solve clues**, complete **challenges**, and strengthen their **teamwork skills**!



A group of KS2 pupils proudly **represented our school** in the Stockton Sports Partnership football competition.

Congratulations to all players for showing **outstanding teamwork** and demonstrating the core values of **sportsmanship** so brilliantly!



Congratulations to Y1 pupil **Darcie Murray-Denby**! Darcie has achieved her **5m and 10m front crawl** awards, as well as her **Swim England Stage 3** certificate. What an amazing accomplishment—well done, Darcie!



Many congratulations to Year 2 pupil **Bonnie-Rae Ferguson**, who recently received a **silver medal** for her amazing **gymnastics routine**! Bonnie's **hard work, balance, and determination** really paid off as she wowed the judges with her skills. Keep reaching for the stars, Bonnie!

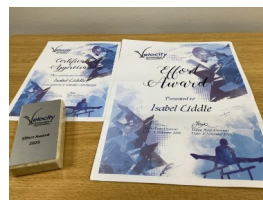


Dylan Allon (Year 2) who plays for Wolviston FC U7s and Billingham Juniors 'Man of the Match' **Joseph Luker** (Year 3) were awarded trophies for their outstanding **defensive** skills, while **Kian Jewson** (Year 4), playing as an attacker for Billingham Synthonia U9s scored five goals and was named Player of the Match.



Year 2 pupil **Isabel Liddle** has been super active and busy! She recently achieved her **5m backstroke swimming award** and also earned her **trampoline certificate**.

What an amazing combination of skills—well done, Isabel!



Year 1 pupil **Annie Tunney** has been flying high in gymnastics! She's proudly earned her **Level 1 and Level 2 Trampoline Proficiency Awards**.

What an amazing achievement—well done, Annie!

Keep aiming high!



Year 6 pupil **Piper Noon** recently stepped into the ring at an exciting **boxing competition in Newcastle** and proudly brought home a **medal**!

Boxing takes **focus, discipline and determination**.

Piper showed all of these in abundance.

What an amazing achievement—well done, Piper!



Year 2 pupils **Michael Smith** and **Harry Robinson** love attending **Beavers**, and their enthusiasm has really shone through! Michael was awarded the title of '**Smartest Beaver**', while Harry proudly earned '**Beaver of the Month**'. Harry also achieved his **Level 5 Proficiency Award** for trampolining!



On Sunday, 2nd November, the **Billingham Tidy Up** group held a fantastic **community** event. The day began with a **litter pick** around the Low Grange Avenue shops at 9:30am, followed by **bulb planting** at 10:00am. Thanks to **Y2 pupil Katy Coates**, her Grandad and a dedicated team of volunteers, over **100 daffodil bulbs** were planted, helping to restore the beauty of **Daffodil Park**. Katy is looking forward to revisiting the park in Spring 2026 to see the results of everyone's hard work!



Week Ending 7th November 2025

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 	Star Artist 
Nursery Mrs Gassett	Olivia Dunn	Jessica Wilson	Ethan Adenikele	Mylah Thompson	Eleanor Sutherland
Y1C Miss Dixon	Archer Dixon	Oliver Metcalfe	Sophia Peters	Willow Watts	River French
Y1K Miss Dignan	Rory Liddle	Parker Purvis	Lucas Bailey	Ruby Bunn	Ebony-Max Lane
Y1B Mrs Brown	Elijah Wilson-Hill	Wyatt Hold	Roscoe Smith	Molly Robson	Leanne Stewart
Y2D Mrs Durham Mrs Thompson	Isabel Liddle	Nate Oliver	Olivia Curry	Delilah Dodds-Daig	Olivia-Jane Midgley
	Loise Lane	Alfie Cain	Michael Smith	Caleb Jefferies	Destiny Murray
Y3H Mr Horlan	Arabella Sedgwick	Loise Ferguson	Ayla-Max Lane	Arwa Usman	Lincoln Wardle
Y4R Miss Robinson	Lily Archer	Niamh Bellow	Max Proot	Theo Plimmer	Michelle Adenikele
Y5SW Mrs Smith Mrs Wilson	Cason Tierney	Lily Scott-Mullin	Eira-Jayne Harrison	Jake Marshall	Aalia Dobson
	Sophie Squares	Harley Wallace	Rupert Cullay	Lily Charlton	Alysa Bateman
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Brooke Love	Max Davlin	Jake Atkinson	Piper Noon	William Marshall
Y6M Mr McConnell	George Russell	Lily Daniel	Annie Murray	Alannah Bell	William Cullay



Y1 & Y1
Molly Robson

Y2 & Y3
Mark Barnshadsky

Y4, Y5 & Y6
Grace Dale