

Weekly Newsletter
11th March 2024



Right of the Fortnight: Article 28:
Your right to an education



Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Early years provision	Outstanding

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week we were delighted to be able to share the **final inspection report** with you. The report will be uploaded onto the Ofsted website later this week. We continue to be an **OUTSTANDING** school. Only 17% of 370 “outstanding” schools kept their grade when they had a full reinspection in 2021-22.

As our CEO shared in a letter accompanying the report: *“When Oakdene was inspected in March 2013 it was labelled as outstanding. In the decade that has passed, the inspection process has changed significantly and the bar for an outstanding judgement has been set at a much higher level. In a very real sense the report that has been published today represents a significant and sustained improvement over ten years.”* Thank you so much for the wonderful messages congratulating our team, the wonderful cards and the doughnut deliveries.

Ofsted reports are now much slimmer. 700 words can't reflect the detailed verbal feedback we heard at the Team meetings at the end of each day of the inspection. What the report doesn't share is that we had a significant restructure and a **considerable change** in staffing for the academic year 2022-23: with a **new Vice Principal** role created (recruited internally), recruited a new **EY/KS1** and a **KS2 Leader** (internally) plus **4 Early Career Teachers** who had been TAs and followed the SCITT (school centred route into teaching). This created **4 new TA** appointments and we appointed another ECT in Sept '23. Very few teachers based in classrooms had experienced Ofsted. We are very much like a new team. Four out of five ECTs have led a subject since September '23 they are **fledgling leaders**. Three of them were invited to be in the spotlight when inspectors looked at foundation stage subjects. They really rose to the occasion.

There was an **additional HMI inspector** who isn't named on the report as she was quality assuring the process. Most schools our size have one or two inspectors. This is the most intense inspection we have endured. **We are exceptionally proud of our entire team**. So much of the inspection relies on the children. Inspectors shared how the children ‘beamed with pride’ as they talked about every aspect of school life. Once again we'd like to say a **huge thank you** to the children who were truly **remarkable**.

Despite receiving such a **glowing report**, we still have lots of exciting developments and are always looking to improve even further - we never rest on our laurels here at Oakdene!

Ramadan 2024 started yesterday and is celebrated by Muslims globally. **Ramadan Mubarak to all our Oakdene families** who observe Ramadan!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Mon 11th March
Wed 13th March
Fri 15th March

Launch of British Science Week and Careers Week
9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y4 Pupils
Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day
Y1 Ramadan presentation from the Gibson family

Mon 18th March
Tue 19th March
Fri 22nd March

Y2 Visit Washington Wetlands
9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y5 Pupils
World Maths Day
Y5 Visit to Whitby

W/c 25th March
Tue 26th March
Wed 27th March
Thurs 28th March

Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers
Y1 Visit Stockton Fire Station (am)
Y5/Y6 Hockey Event
9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils
Children break up for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April

Mon 15th April Summer Term commences—children return to school

Mon 6th May **BANK HOLIDAY**

Mon 13th May -Thurs 16th May **Key Stage 2 SATs** are Timetabled

Half-term holiday runs from: Monday, 27 May to Friday, 7 June 2024 inclusive (two weeks). The children will break up on Friday, 24 May and will return to school on Monday, 10 June 2024.

2-week period commencing 10th June: **Y4 Multiplication Tables Check**

Week commencing 10th June: **Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Y2 Resits**



Remember on **Friday, 15th March**, we are raising money for **Comic Relief**. The **Right, Respecting Steering** Group have organised a non-school uniform day in exchange for a small donation. We will be encouraging you 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).



Y2 pupil Charlotte Eley-Carberry impressed her dance teacher with her **new skill**. Charlotte can now **cartwheel** confidently. Very well done!



Y1 pupil Zayn Gibson was presented with a trophy in recognition of being a **'star player'** in his Wynyard football team. You are such a **talented** young man – congratulations!



Y4 pupil Lily Lloyd has achieved the Learn to Swim **Stage 4 award**. Lily has perfected her leg kicks for all **four strokes** and has developed her push and glide techniques.



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. All classes enjoyed fun and engaging activities, and a fabulous World Book Day special **assembly** led by Mrs Osborne and our librarians.

All children from our 2yr olds up to Y6 received a **£1 Book Token** as usual, however, last year pupil voice revealed that many children previously rarely exchanged their voucher for a book. So once again, we used **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 **Drake Independent Book Shop in Stockton**. The librarians helped Mrs Osborne collect the delivery.

Richard Drake welcomed some of our dedicated librarians into the beautiful bookstore which is hidden away in **26-27 Silver Street, Stockton On Tees**. Next time you are in town, pop in for a browse and a coffee. The librarians diligently **sorted new books alphabetically** by surname, created new **displays** and served some familiar customers in their role as **'guest booksellers'**. They were generously rewarded with a book of their choice. Richard very kindly invited them to access the store room and **select resources** to further enhance our library areas at school.

Children in **reception** joined a **live virtual event with author** and illustrator **Raahat Kaduji** for a gentle **storytime** and **draw-along** session inspired by her latest book, I'm Not Sleepy! **KS1** were immersed into a **magical tales** and drawing workshop with popular children's illustrator **Axel Scheffler**. **Y3** joined Nina Peanut creator **Sarah Bowie** to meet some of the characters and even learn how to draw them! **Y4, Y5 & Y6** participated in a Live Virtual event **'The Great Big Footy & Booky Quiz'**.

The **Readathon** created a real buzz around school and raised an incredible **£995.00** to support children in local hospitals. We were overwhelmed with the **generosity** of family members despite challenging times with rising food and energy costs. You are **AMAZING!**



Each week **Madame Sonley** (specialist language teacher) teaches languages to all KS2 pupils. The Y3 pupils practised their new vocabulary during a **French Day** at school. The children immersed themselves in French culture. They entered the **French Café** to order breakfast (in French) and paid with Euros. The Y3s played French bingo, enjoyed traditional French playground games, and learned the Can-Can dance. **Merci beaucoup** for the generous donations which made the café really special.



As part of their **farm topic**, we were very lucky to receive some eggs to hatch in the YR classroom. They arrived in an **incubator** to keep them warm. Miss Dixon taught the children about their **life-cycle** and within the first day of having the eggs, two had hatched! The chicks were very wet and tired. Once the chicks were dry, we moved them into the **brooder cage**. By Friday, we had 6 very fluffy and **healthy** chicks. At first, the chicks loved being handled but as they grew, they preferred to run around, **flapping their wings!** YR had a class **vote** and decided to name them Sunshine, Midnight, Mango, Cookie, Trixie, and Baby.



Two very special visitors were welcomed into the reception classroom in preparation for their farm visit—two lambs, **Flossy** and **Cotton!** Flossy, was 10 days old and Cotton was just 2 days old. We asked Mrs Jackson lots of interesting questions, such as, "What do they eat?" and "How big will they grow?" Mrs Jackson then kindly agreed to take the lambs on a tour of the whole school to meet all of the children.



Last week we held another exciting **Open Morning** for the Parents & Carers of Y2 pupils. The activities linked to some special bears from around the world and **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths)**. They included: **Science** (& food technology) & mathematics) following a **Scottish** recipe & weighing ingredients to make Cranachan. **World Book Day**—sharing favourite stories and celebrating **WBD** with a scavenger hunt in the **Wonderland Library** **Art**—creating artwork inspired by the **Northern Lights** and **Technology**—sharing a story with **Digiduck** & Pals to learn how to maintain friendships, be responsible & stay safe online.





Newham Grange Farm:



On Friday 8th March, all Reception pupils visited a local farm: 'Newham Grange'. They were greeted by a farmer who provided a tour of the farm and answered questions about the different animals. YR were very lucky to meet lots of newborn animals, including lambs (who were born that morning!), kids, piglets, and calves. They also had the opportunity to hand feed the animals. Finally, the children had great fun playing on the outdoor play area.

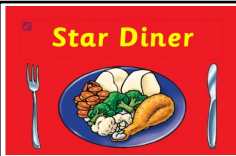


What a fantastic day!



Week Ending 8th March 2024
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Early Years Unit Mrs Guest	Wyatt Hold	Elijah Wilson-Hill	Ivy Laing	Oscar Stainsby
YR Miss Dixon	Ruben Black	Bonnie-Rae Scarth-Ferguson	Harper Cooper	Michael Smith
Y1 Mrs Brown	Cia Hindmarsh	Ariana Wilson-Hill	Lincoln Wardle	Saga Svedlund
Y2 Mrs Durham	Freddie Bell	Max Prout	Lily Archer	Roman Chesworth
Y3 Mr Horkan & Mr Brown	Theo Smith-Sewell	Harley Wallace	Sophie Squires	Jake Marshall
Y4R Miss Robinson	Olivia-Grace Allison	Max Devlin	Dolly Rogers	Frankie McQuilling
Y4S Miss Smith	Lily Daniel	Ben Bainbridge	George Reeve	Eddie-James Midgley
Y5 Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Daniel Young	Zia Kelly-Bostock	Isabelle Owens	Kara Dixon
Y6M Mr McConnell	Monica Dobson	Kallum Squires	Kaci-Leigh Moody-Blackburn	Cody-Lee Fitzpatrick
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Connor Bateman	Isabelle Bramley	Emily Daniel	Amelia Wood

 <p>Star Diner</p>	<p>YR & KSI Delilah Dodds-Day</p>	<p>Y3 & Y4 Lily Daniel</p>	<p>Y5 & Y6 Kara Dixon</p>
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