

# Weekly Newsletter 11th December 2023



Right of the Fortnight: Article 23:

Your right to special care & support  
if you are disabled.



## Dear Parents/Carers

The end of term is fast approaching and there is a festive feel in the air. Thank you to everyone who came along to our Y5/6 Christingle service. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

The service started so atmospherically. The lights dimmed and the Y5s entered carrying their Christingles. It combined the winning formula of traditional Christmas classics with a few Teesside twists—The Twelve Days of Christmas will never be the same again!

We are pleased to be **opening our doors at 1.45pm** on Wednesday and Thursday this week and looking forward to welcoming families of Early Years and KS1 children to watch our **Christmas Nativity starting at 2.00pm**. Our children have been rehearsing - learning their lines and words to songs. You are in for a real treat from what we've heard so far!

On Thursday, this week, doors open at **St Luke's Church at 10.15am** for the **Y3 & Y4 Tableau** which starts at **10.30am**. We look forward to seeing you there and so does Jack the donkey!

Have a wonderful week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



We were delighted to meet Gold medal Paralympian **Jack Smith**, from Sedgefield who visited our school last week. Jack shared his inspirational story of how he was paralysed playing rugby in Billingham at the age of 16, just weeks after a cancer diagnosis. He admitted that he was "terrible" when introduced to wheelchair rugby initially, however, he worked hard and persevered and achieved his dream of winning a gold medal in Tokyo.

We wish Jack the very best as he prepares for Paris in 2024.



## Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Tues 12th Dec  | 2.00pm Nativity Performance   |
| Wed 13th Dec   | 2.00pm Nativity Performance   |
| Thurs 14th Dec | <b>10.15am Y3 &amp; Y4 Christmas Tableau at St Luke's Church</b><br><b>(Y3 &amp; Y4 parents/carers welcome)</b><br>Christmas Lunch for Staff & Pupils |
| Fri 15th Dec   | 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils<br>Some Y4 pupils will attend Snappy Christmas Music Event                                 |
| Mon 18th Dec   | AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties<br>PM Reception Christmas Party<br>PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties                              |
| Tues 19th Dec  | AM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties<br>PM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties  |

### LAST DAY OF TERM

**Christmas Holiday: Wednesday, 20th December 2023 - Tuesday, 2nd January 2024**

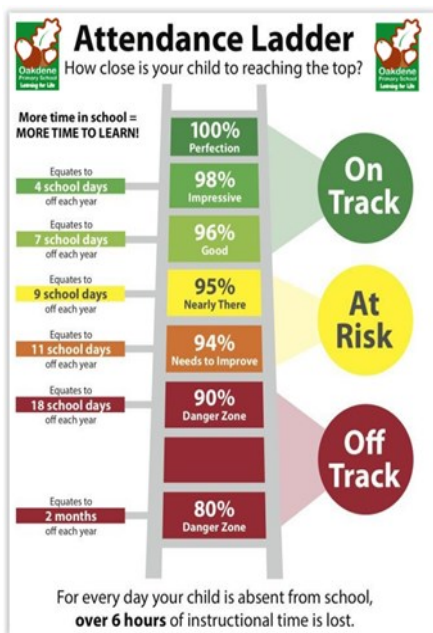
**Wednesday, 3rd January 2024 school closed to pupils for in-service day (training)**

**Children will return to school on Thursday, 4 January 2024**



### Attendance

Unfortunately, our attendance has fallen well below our expectations this week. Please make every effort to ensure children are in school every day! I am aware that it is that time of year with lots of bugs lingering around, but if your child is well enough to come to school, please send them in. If they are too poorly during the school day, we will contact you.



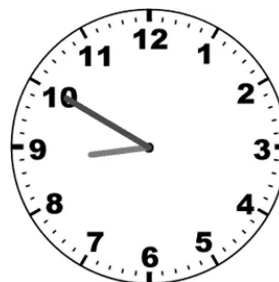
### Punctuality

At Oakdene, we monitor punctuality as well as attendance. The law treats some persistent lateness in the same way as irregular attendance and parents may be prosecuted by the Local Authority if late arrival is not resolved. All pupils in Reception to Y6 should be ready to enter school at 8:50a.m.

Please make sure your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on learning time.

Poor punctuality can lead to your child:  
Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day.  
Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends.  
Missing the beginning of vital lessons.

**BE ON TIME AT TEN TO NINE**





Lasting eight days, the joyous Jewish holiday celebrates a miracle from more than 2,000 years ago. The Jewish festival of lights, Hanukkah, is celebrated around the world today. But the inspiration for the holiday dates back thousands of years in Israel...

To celebrate, we had a Happy Hanukkah party in Reception. We made our own potato latkes and had jam dough nuts—traditional food eaten during the festival of Hanukkah.



In 2023, Hanukkah started the evening of December 7th and it ends on December 15th. To celebrate the ancient miracle of the oil burning a candle for eight nights, Jews celebrating Hanukkah light a candleholder called a menorah for eight nights. The menorah holds nine candles—one for each night plus a candle called the shamash used to light the other candles.

### Winter Reading Challenge:

You can access this via [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk)  
**Rate** and **review** three or more books to unlock a special **virtual badge** and **certificate**.  
There is a mini **Reading Record** which will be printed out for all children from YR to Y6 to go home in book bags this Friday - Librarians will distribute these. **Once completed, please return to school to receive 10 Dojos.**



### Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from

**Mrs Bramley**  
**'The Christmas Pig'**  
By **J.K. Rowling**



A heart-warming, page-turning adventure about one child's love for his most treasured thing, and how far he will go to find it. A tale for the whole family to fall in love with, from one of the world's greatest storytellers.

Y3 pupil **Blake Playle** was delighted to share his latest achievements in martial arts.

Blake was awarded his **purple belt** which recognises that Blake has moved beyond the beginner level and has a profound level of knowledge and skill.

What an amazing achievement!



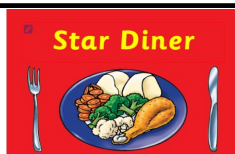
Well done to Y2 pupil **Charlotte Ely-Carberry** who was awarded a trophy in recognition for her enthusiasm and talent.

Charlotte really enjoys attending **modern, freestyle dance** and couldn't wait to show her routine.



Week Ending 8th December 2023  
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

| Class                         | Star of the Week<br> | Star Reader<br> | Star Writer<br> | Star Mathematician<br> |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Early Years Unit<br>Mrs Guest | Jude Gibson   | Oscar Stainsby   | Emmie Marshall   | N/A   |
| YR<br>Miss Dixon              | Darcy Hammond   | Amelia Wright  | Scarlett Van Wyk   | Lucas Jardine   |
| Y1<br>Mrs Brown               | Neave Bateman   | Jacob Jackson  | Jacob Matthews   | Ariana Wilson-Hill  |
| Y2<br>Mrs Durham              | Skyla Wilks   | Freddie Bell   | Roman Chesworth  | Rosie Daniel  |
| Y3<br>Mr Horkan & Mr Brown    | Albert Balanescu  | Leanne Fletcher  | Evie Richardson  | Lewis Harris  |
| Y4R<br>Miss Robinson          | Autumn Lonsdale   | Charlie Kibbler  | Ava Hammond  | Amez Ali  |
| Y4S<br>Miss Smith             | Alyssa Frost-Usher  | Amber Hammond  | Leighton Harvey  | Alannah Bell  |
| Y5<br>Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith  | Scarlett Rogers   | Isabelle Owens   | Kara Dixon   | Jack Wilks  |
| Y6M<br>Mr McConnell           | Isaac Dobson  | Ollie Smith  | Monica Dobson  | Daisy-Mai McCarthy  |
| Y6B<br>Miss Bestwick          | Kiera Ibbotson  | Lucy Macklam   | Amelia Wood  | Amelia Richards   |



YR & KSI  
Finley Short

Y3 & Y4  
Milo Hancock

Y5 & Y6  
Jake Cody