

Weekly Newsletter 12th January 2026



Right of the Fortnight: Article 7:

Your Right to a Name and Nationality



Dear Parents/Carers,

A **Happy New Year** to you all! We hope that you all had a wonderful time over the Christmas period with family and friends. It was wonderful to welcome the children back and it's like they've never been away. We've hit the ground running with **launching our new topics** and all teachers have sent home **curriculum information sheets** last Friday so that you know what we will be covering with your children this term. As ever, we have a programme of exciting events planned for this term, so please have a look at the **'Dates for your Diary'** section.

As we look ahead to 2026, **the National Year of Reading**, we're proud to celebrate the vibrant reading culture already thriving in our school. Every day, our pupils immerse themselves in stories through dedicated reading lessons, library sessions, author visits and our much loved book events. We **champion reading for pleasure** because we know its power: to spark imagination, build confidence and open doors to new worlds. Throughout the coming year, we'll continue to nurture this enthusiasm with even more exciting activities and opportunities.

So far this year the weather has been particularly cold. Please ensure that your children have **suitable footwear**. All pupils should wear a school **jumper/cardigan** and bring a **warm coat** to school and **gloves**. In Billingham, the snow didn't stay, however, many staff were driving to and from school in treacherous conditions, in darkness with snow and black ice on the roads, for most of the week. A huge thank you to Mrs Gordon for ensuring our site remained safe and accessible during the snowy conditions.

Reporting Absences

If your child is unwell and not able to attend school, it is essential that parents and carers call the office **first thing in the morning** to let us know. If we do not have contact by 9.30am, and are then unable to contact you, this may become a safeguarding concern.

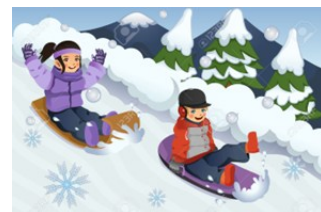
Staffing update

Just before the end of term, two new Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants joined Team Oakdene. We are delighted to welcome Miss Callender and Miss Fleming. Miss Crawford, our Teaching Assistant in Little Sycamores, is now on maternity leave. We wish her all the very best during this exciting time and look forward to hearing news of the new arrival. We are also pleased to welcome Mrs Pearn, who will be covering this role.

We were very sad to hear that Mrs Alison Cheal, a wonderful Y6C Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant, died on Christmas Eve. The death was unexpected after a very short illness. Mrs Cheal has been a part of the Oakdene family for several years and was a much-loved member of the school community and will be missed by everyone that knew her. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to another fantastic year ahead.

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Tues 7th Jan	RSPB Schools Big Bird Watch (6th Jan to 13th Feb)
Wed 14th Jan	Reception Sports Festival @ Durham University, Stockton
Thurs 15th Jan	KS2 Boys Football Tournament
Week Commencing 19th Jan After school provision recommences	
Mon 19th Jan—Thurs 29th Jan	January Swimming Block for Y5 pupils
Thurs 22nd Jan	Y4 visit York Chocolate Story
Tues 27th Jan	AM Y2 Pirate ABC Sports Festival @ Durham University, Stockton
Fri 30th Jan	PD Day 4 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

Week Commencing 2nd Feb 'National Storytelling Week'

Tues 3rd Feb	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Reception Pupils Y4 visit Hartlepool Power Station
Wed 4th Feb	PM 15 pupils from Y3, Y4 & Y5 attend Active Learning Competition @ Durham University, Stockton

Week Commencing 9th Feb 'Children's Mental Health Week'

Mon 9th Feb	Safer Internet Day - Online Behaviour workshops delivered by Bigfoot Arts Education to Y3-Y6 pupils.
Tues 10th Feb	KS2 Dance Festival @ Durham University, Stockton
Fri 13th Feb	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y5 Pupils Y5/Y6 Football tournament @ Stockton Town FC

Mon 16th Feb	Launch Readathon
Tues 17th Feb	Chinese New Year & Shrove Tuesday 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y1 Pupils
Wed 18th Feb	Y1 visit Shildon Railway Museum
Fri 20th Feb	Break up for half term



HALF TERM

Monday 23rd February - Friday 27th February
Monday 2nd March - Children Return to School

Tues 3rd March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y6 Pupils
Wed 4th March	Careers in medical workshops & p.m. Y5/6 Netball Competition
Thurs 5th March	World Book Day & Readathon Celebration
Week commencing 9th March Launch of British Science Week & Careers Week	
Tues 10th March	AM - Curling event @ Durham University, Stockton
Weds 11th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y3 Pupils Y5SW attend Trust residential at Streonshalh Field Study Centre, East Whitby Primary Academy, Whitby.
Weds 18th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y4 Pupils
Fri 20th March	Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day
Mon 23rd March	World Maths Day & KS1 Theatre visit 'Gruffalo's Child'
Wed 25th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y2 Pupils
Fri 27th March	30 KS2 girls attend Wildcats Football @ Stockton Town FC
W/c 30th March	Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers
Tues 31st March	PM 10 pupils from Y5/Y6 Hockey @ Norton Sports Complex
Thurs 2nd April	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils & Children break up for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAYS

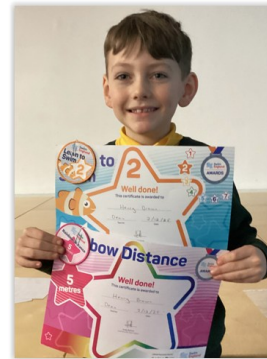
Friday, 3rd April - Friday, 17th April

Monday, 20th April Summer Term commences—children return to school

Over the Christmas break, Y4 pupil **Roman Chesworth** and his football team, **Billingham United U10s**, took part in a 7-a-side tournament at the MFC Foundation. The team played brilliantly throughout the competition and went on to **win the final**, proudly taking home the cup. Roman was especially delighted to be awarded **Player of the Tournament** by his coach — a fantastic achievement and well deserved.



We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of **Year 3 pupil Henry Brown**, who has recently earned **two swimming certificates and badges**. Henry successfully completed his **5-metre award** and achieved **Stage 2 in the Learn to Swim programme**. These accomplishments reflect Henry's growing confidence in the water, his commitment to learning new skills. Well done, Henry!



Winter Mini Reading Challenge Success!

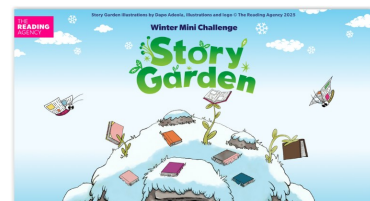
Congratulations to all the children who have already completed this year's **Winter Mini Reading Challenge** via wintermini.org.uk. This online challenge invites children aged 4 – 11 to read three books or more, between **1 December 2025 and 20 February 2026**, to earn digital rewards. **So there's still time!**

To complete the challenge, the children read **three or more books of their choice**. By reaching their reading goal, each participant unlocks a special **certificate of achievement** to print and treasure, along with fun online rewards for their reading efforts.

We are exceptionally proud of the following pupils for their enthusiasm and commitment:
Daisy, Lily, Thomasin, Willow, Caleb, Nathaniel, Mylah and Izzy

All participating children also received a small reward in school to celebrate their fantastic achievement.

Well done, everyone! Keep reading!



Week Ending 19th December 2025

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 	Star Scientist 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Harper Bunn	Albie Docherty-Grainger	Charlotte Ayre	Isabelle Harding	Thomas Higgins
YRC Miss Dixon	Ava Fleming	Sophia Peers	Lewis Daniels-Owen	Archer Dixon	Oliver Metcalfe
YRK Miss Dignen	Harper-Rose Hill	Ruby Bunn	Finley Ayre	Mason Walker	Lucas Bailey
Y1B Mrs Brown	Frankie McCullagh	Grace Harris	Poppy Daniel	Jamie Hart	Nellie Puckering
Y2D Mrs Durham	Dylan Allon	Lucas Milne	Liam Turner	Michael Smith	Prashvita Bhimavarapu
Mrs Thompson	Axyl Edgar	Alfie Cain	Thomasin Scotland	Aysel Khan	Michael Smith
Y3H Mr Horkan	Lily Grantham	Lincoln Wardle	Oakley Harrison	William Nimmo	Sava Ali
Y4R Miss Robinson	Ivy-May Fiddes	Lilly Dixon	Elena Hold	Lincoln Rose	Jack Blasco
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Rupert Culley	Evie Richardson	Lacie Love	Jacob Edgar	Sebastian Eley-Carberry
Mrs Wilson	Alyza Bateman	Milo Hancock	Edward Gardiner-Jukes	Gracie Dale	Evie-Jayne Harrison
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Alyssa Frost-Usher	Nancy Green	Ellis Fearn	William Marshall	Finley Orley
Y6M Mr McConnell	Fearne Fisher	Amez Ali	Amber Hammond	Hollie Dale	Lily Lloyd



YR & KS1
Alaia Cunningham

Y3 & Y4
Niamh Bellew

Y5 & Y6
Edward Gardiner-Jukes

Week Ending 9th January 2026

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematicia 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Charlie Kelly	Jessica Wilson	Thomas Higgins	Matilda Lenham
YRC Miss Dixon	Theo Burgum	Theo Grimwood	Junior Morgan	Alicia Edwards
YRK Miss Dignen	Parker Purvis	Ollie Foster	Douglas Chocholko	Lucas Bailey
Y1B Mrs Brown	Poppy Daniel	Jamie Hart	Molly Robson	Darcie Murray-Denby
Y2D Mrs Durham	Lucas Milne	Olivia Curry	Darcy Hammond	Altay Arslan
Mrs Thompson	Harper Cooper	Vinnie Westwood	Tommy Wilks	Jaxon Moutrey
Y3H Mr Horkan	Noah Selvon	Miley Dodds-Day	Elsie Dinsdale-Swales	Holland Finley
Y4R Miss Robinson	Lillymae Morgan	Oliver Coates	Lola Pearce	Max Prout
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Jacob Edgar	Hannah Liddle	Albert Balanescu	Milo Hancock
Mrs Wilson	Daisy Thompson	Beth Denmark	Lily Charlton	Evie-Jayne Harrison
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Florence Bruce	Charlie Kibbler	Kayci Scott-Mullin	Seb Bostock
Y6M Mr McConnell	Amez Ali	Hollie Dale	Lily Lloyd	Lily Daniel



YR & KS1
Hallie
Richardson

Y3 & Y4
Miley
Dodds-Day

Y5 & Y6
Kain
Carmichael