

## Weekly Newsletter 12th September 2022



**Right of the Fortnight: Article 8:  
The Government should respect your  
right to a name, nationality & family.**



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

**Welcome back!** We hope that you all had a great summer break. To those parents/carers who are new to the school, we extend a warm welcome to you. The term started for staff on Thursday, 1st September where we spent two days focusing on our Academy Improvement Plan and looking back and **celebrating our successes** from the previous year. We also spent time focusing on safeguarding, GDPR and personal development. It was also a great opportunity to welcome all of our new members of staff joining our Oakdene family. We have also had lots of work completed in school during the summer break to ensure the children have the best possible setting for them to learn and flourish. We haven't had any vandalism for a number of years and it was disappointing to find damage and theft of outdoor resources including that two of our willow panels had been lifted and burnt on a nearby field.

It has been really fantastic to welcome the children back to school. Seeing happy and excited parents/carers and children walking through the gates was a wonderful experience. As I walked around school each day, it was brilliant to see our children **actively engaged in their learning** and generally delighted to be back to business. Attendance will be a continued focus this year as we have a 97% target to achieve. This only allows up to 5 days of absence in the school year. A big thank you to the majority of parents/carers who make sure their children attend school regularly! This school year, our **attendance rewards** will return. These offer incentives on a weekly, termly and, of course, the chance to win £50 for 100% attendance for the whole school year.

We have ended the week with the sad news of the death of our Queen who has led us through the Elizabethan Age with **remarkable service, an incredible dedication to duty, a source of stability and reassurance - an inspiration to us all**. May she rest in peace. Class teachers spent time supporting and answering poignant questions posed by your amazing children. Staff were struck at how much comfort the children had been given in knowing they had joined the nation in thanking the Queen during most recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations. At the start of this week, Oakdene will come together with the rest of our nation as the mourning period continues, reflecting upon the long reign and life of one of the world's most iconic figures. Whilst observing the national mourning period, we will continue to support our pupils, families and staff.

The official date of the Queen's state funeral is Monday, 19th September. This has been declared as a **Bank Holiday**. Schools received guidance from the Department for Education to close on this day as a mark of respect. We will reopen on Tuesday, 20th September 2022.

**'Weekly Newsletter'** will continue to be uploaded to the Newsletter section of the website. Paper copies will not be routinely sent home. **Please keep your phone details up-to-date and please be available should we need to contact you.**

Have a lovely week!  
Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



## Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

Tues 13th Sept	1.30pm Open Afternoon for Parents & Carers of YR Pupils
<b>Mon 19th Sept</b> Tues 20th Sept	<b>BANK HOLIDAY due to the Queen's State Funeral</b> 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils Y5 Swimming Block 1 Week 1 Launch of Extra-curricular Clubs
Mon 26th Sept Tues 27th Sept Fri 30th Sept	Y5 Swimming Block 1 Week 2 Celebrate European Day of Languages Macmillan Coffee Morning Y1 Morning Theatre visit 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Black History Month</b>
Mon 3rd Oct Thurs 6th Oct	Libraries Week National Poetry Day
Tues 11th Oct Wed 12th Oct Fri 14th Oct	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils Y4 Visit to Housestead Roman Fort 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 & Willows Pupils
Mon 17th Oct Wed 19th Oct Fri 21st Oct	Y6 Children Challenging Industry 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils Superhero Day for Reception Pupils Victorian Day for Y6 Pupils
<b>Fri 21st Oct</b>	<b>Children break up for half term</b>
	<b>Mon 24th Oct - Fri 28th Oct</b> <b>October Half-Term Break</b>
<b>Mon 31st Oct</b>	<b>PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)</b>



## Milk and Fruit

Children in nursery, reception, Y1 and Y2 receive free fruit each day. This is funded nationally. Now that staggered lunchtimes are no longer in place, we will no longer fund fruit for KS2 pupils.

Children may still bring in their own **healthy snacks** for break times (fresh or dried fruit/vegetables).

Children under 5 receive free milk. School provides this for all reception children even once they turn 5.

**Please ensure your child continues to bring a water bottle filled with water only each day and this stays in their classroom. If they have a packed lunch, please add a separate drink into their packed lunch which stays in the dining hall.**

# Celebration Assembly every Friday with Mrs Bramley

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 
Morning Nursery Mrs Guest	Hallie Richardson	Jack Bourne	Nate Oliver
Afternoon Nursery Mrs Guest	Izzabella Matthews	Olivia Curry	Elodie Richardson
YR Miss Robinson	Bella Mansell	This will start for YR next week after Open Morning.	William Nimmo
Willows Mrs Farnaby & Mr Brown	Junior Hindmarsh	Edward Gardiner-Jukes	Taylor Perry
Y1L Miss Leonard	Freddie Bell	Alexander Wainwright	Lilly Dixon
Y2D Mrs Durham	Oscar Prince	Aalia Dobson	Joseph Cooper
Y3/4H Mr Horkan	Ben Bainbridge	Kayci-Lei Scott	Kain Carmichael
Y3L Mrs Largan	Vinnie Jeffrey	Daisy Murray-Walker	Florence Bruce
Y4S Miss Smith	Jaden Ridley	Tyler Curry	Morgan Titlestad
Y5W Mrs Wilson	Jake Cody	Blake Jeffrey	Emily Daniel
Y5M Mr McConnell	Monica Dobson	Amelia Wood	Trudi Langstaff
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Lilly Jackson	Sydney West-Oyston	Libby Hancock

**Star of the Week:** High no of Dojos, Rights Respecting both in class & at lunchtime, PE Readiness, read at home, learnt spellings etc

**Star Reader:** Read at least minimum number of times depending on key stage therefore in Reading Raffle, using myON at home etc

**Star Writer:** Joined handwriting, presentation of written work, creative content, quality/quantity of written work, correct letter sizes etc

### Attendance – September

Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has produced a new report. In the report, *Back into school: New insights into school absence*, she highlights the importance of the return to school as "critical" for "getting pupils into school and settled into the school routine".

This attendance ladder is a clear visual aid which demonstrates that every day in school really does count.



### Attendance - Holiday Request Reminder

Parents and carers are required under the Education Act (1996) to ensure children attend school regularly. The Principal of a school has a discretionary power to authorise absence only in exceptional circumstances. **A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.**

If you complete a leave of absence request form and the request is declined, (as it will be in the majority of cases) and you still take your child out of school, each parent within your household will be issued with a £60 penalty notice for each child you have taken out of school.

If a penalty notice remains unpaid after 21 days it will increase to £120. If after 28 days it remains unpaid you may be summoned to appear before Magistrates to explain why your child has unauthorised school absences and you may be liable for a fine of up to £1000.

Support and guidance on attendance is always available and if you have any questions about this, or if you need help to achieve an improvement, then please contact us to discuss this.

For the academic year 2023-2024 (May 2024) onwards it has been agreed by Trustees that Oakdene will have two weeks break at May Half Term and a shorter summer break.

Please read the detailed explanation and dates on the next page.

### A Warm welcome from Family Support Officer Mrs Natasha Hood

Working with and supporting parents/carers is a key aspect of my role. I am able to signpost parents/carers for community learning as well as carrying out home visits to support you and your family. I can offer advice on a range of topics including finances, smoking cessation, behaviour and routines, bereavement, healthy lifestyles, sleep routines, toilet training and many more topics!

Please call the main office on 01642 560768 to ask for **confidential advice** or to make an appointment/home visit.





**Oakdene Primary Academy**  
**Changes to Term Dates Summer 2024**



Oakdene Primary Academy is always looking for ways to make the best use of learning time, as well as supporting our families the best we can. We propose to extend the half term holiday in May to two weeks and shorten the length of the summer holiday.

**There would be many benefits to this:**

- Holidays (both abroad and in the UK) will be significantly cheaper than in term time. By offering a two-week window in May, parents, carers (and staff) can book holidays at a cheaper rate therefore reducing absenteeism.
- Parents and carers often comment to us about the reduced prices for many activities when it is term time. For example, we know some of them take advantage of reduced prices.
- Possible reduction in fixed penalty notices.
- Families who can afford holidays in the summer break are finding that, as a result of climate change, temperatures in Europe are too hot for young children and are still opting to take a two week break during May/June. This solution would reduce absenteeism and allow families to book holidays in cooler months.
- The proposed timings would even out the length of terms; spring term is very short and summer term is very long. This would be a huge benefit for learning.
- The long summer term is very busy and tiring for children; this can impact on the learning.
- Possible reduction in referrals during the summer holidays. Data over time suggests that our vulnerable children are more likely to be exposed to harm at the end of the summer holidays.
- Childcare during the summer holidays will be easier for working parents and carers to manage.
- The financial strain of feeding children during the holiday period will be reduced by a week.
- All children would benefit from a shorter summer holiday. They will still have the opportunity to return to school well rested but this will reduce the loss of learning.

Our proposal was accepted by Trustees in July 2022. **This new arrangement will not take effect this academic year.** It will be implemented in the next academic year 2023-2024.

This will mean May Half Term will be from **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024** until **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

Instead of breaking for summer on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 we will break up on Tuesday, **30<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**