

## Weekly Newsletter 13th February 2023



**Right of the Fortnight: Article 38:**  
Children should be protected during war  
& not allowed to fight in an army.



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

It's been another fabulous week at Oakdene. On Monday, we had a visit from **Mr Darren Holmes, CEO** of the Enquire Learning Trust. Mr Holmes joined myself and Mrs Osborne for a tour around school, visiting classes and speaking with children and staff to get a real flavour of what **excellence** looks like at Oakdene. He was really pleased with what he saw, but was particularly impressed with the **rich curriculum** offer, the **exemplary behaviours** for learning, the **deliberateness** of widening children's **vocabulary** and the **confident articulation** of their learning.



This half term's **RSE and Health Education** focus has been '**Being Safe**'. Mrs Osborne organised two different age-appropriate virtual assemblies delivered by the **NSPCC**— '**Speak Out. Stay Safe**' for pupils in KS1 and KS2 this week. These online assemblies and supporting resources are an effective way to support our school's **safeguarding duties** and link directly to the curriculum. They will help reinforce key messages about abuse and neglect as part of a school's teaching on **relationships**. They will support children to feel **empowered** - knowing how they can speak out and stay safe at school and in the home.

Our thoughts are with all those effected by the **earthquakes** in **Turkey** and **Syria** last week. Following 'Picture News' sessions, the children are keen to **make a difference** to help. Our pupil voice groups will lead this.

Please remember, the last day for pupils to attend school this half-term is on Thursday, 16th February. Staff have a **PD Day on Friday, 17th February**. We look forward to seeing you on **Monday, 27th February 2023**.

Have a wonderful half-term!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



Last week we held an extremely successful **Open Morning** for the Parents & Carers of Y6 pupils. This term, we will be sharing activities linked to **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)** throughout our open days. **They included: Science**—making bread and butter, **Electrical engineering**—creating a circuit using lemons as a battery and **Mathematics**—sharing the latest methods for calculations. Some of the activities also linked to the **rainforest topic theme**.

The **Technology** activity linked to the 2023 theme for **Safer Internet Day: Want to talk about it?** Parents and carers were encouraged how to make space for conversations about life online.



## Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Thurs 16th Feb 1.30pm Y1 (inc Y1 Willows) Open Afternoon for Parents & Carers  
Launch Readathon & Promote 'Eat to Defeat Campaign'  
Pupils break up for half term

Fri 17th Feb **PD Day 4 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**

### HALF TERM

**Monday, 20th February - Friday, 24th February**

**Monday, 27th February - Children Return to School**

Week commencing 27th Feb: Fairtrade Fortnight (27th Feb to 12th March)

Mon 27th Feb Y4/Y5 STEM visit (am):  
Industry will Power the Future Workshops  
Tues 28th Feb 9.10am Y3L & Y3/4H Open Morning for Parents & Carers  
Thurs 2nd March World Book Day (**SPECIAL WORLD BOOK DAY LUNCH MENU**)  
& Readathon Celebration  
Fri 3rd March Wonderdome In School

Mon 6th March Careers Week  
Tues 7th March Y4 visit RSPB Saltholme  
Wed 8th March 9.10am Y2 Open Morning for Parents & Carers

**Mon 13th March PD Day 5 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**  
Launch of British Science Week  
Y4 Times Table Rockstar League Competition  
Wed 15th March Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day  
Fri 17th March 1.30pm Reception Open Afternoon for Parents and Carers

Wed 22nd March 9.10am Y4 Open Morning for Parents & Carers  
World Water Day  
Thurs 23rd March World Maths Day  
Fri 24th March Y3 Earth Hour

Week commencing 27th March: Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers  
Thurs 30th March Y6 Easter themed Chocolate Workshops & **Easter Bake Sale**  
Fri 31st March Nursery Open Morning and Afternoon (times to be confirmed)  
**Children break up for Easter**

### EASTER HOLIDAYS

**Monday, 3rd April - Friday, 14th April**

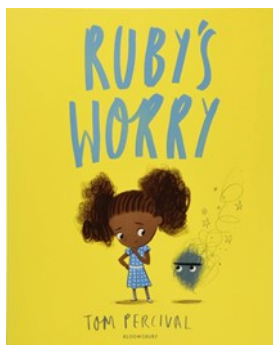
**Mon 17th April Summer Term Commences - Children Return to School**

Thurs 4th May 9.10am Y5 Open Morning for Parents & Carers



## Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from  
Mrs Pullinger  
'Ruby's Worry' by Tom Percival



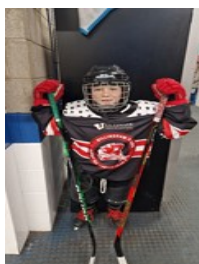
This thoughtful book encourages young children to talk about their worries.

Even very young children will have feelings that concern them, and this book offers a brilliant way of showing them that we all have worries that can be shared with others.

A problem shared is a problem halved.

One of our Y5 pupils, **Finley Amos**, currently plays **ice hockey** for the Billingham Stars Under 12s. He has also been selected to play for the Under 14s and the Under 16s. This demonstrates how **gifted and talented** he is.

Finley has been invited to engage in the development pathway into the **England** Programme. Attending regular camps really accelerates Finley's progression and development. Finley is currently still too young to be selected for the England Team, however, his **skills** have been recognised by coaches around the country and he has been told as soon as he is of age, he will be included in the trials for the team selection! This is a **phenomenal** achievement and we are immensely **proud** of Finley and look forward to following Finley as he chases his dreams. Finley is extremely modest and is putting 100% effort into ensuring he continues to **excel** at school.



A few weeks ago, Y5s and Y6s were invited to complete an application form to apply to be a **school librarian**. Senior Leaders shortlisted 10 candidates who met the essential, and some desirable, elements of the job description.

On Monday, **Nichola Davey** (from Billingham Library) interviewed the prospective Librarians and they were all successful at interview! The children were delighted to receive their lanyards and badges.

They have created an **action plan** and have impressed staff with their **dedication** and **commitment** to keep the library areas tidy already. Nichola also led an assembly with Mrs Osborne to introduce the 'World of Stories' and explain the role of a Librarian.



**Wheels Day** Last week, Y1 pupils were invited to bring 'wheeled toys' into school to explore the different features they each have, how they work and how different they are.

They spent time talking about how to **keep safe** when riding them and **practised crossing a role play road**. Fun was had by everyone and we look forward to seeing some **excellent** wheels related writing!



Week Ending 10th February 2023  
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 
Morning Nursery Mrs Guest	Scarlett Van Wyk	Nate Oliver	Harry Robinson
Afternoon Nursery Mrs Guest	Finley Short	Thomasin Scotland	Louie Walker
YR Miss Robinson	Holland Finley	Oliver Hall	Noah Selvon
Willows Mrs Farnaby & Mr Brown	Mason Lavender	Alyza Bateman	Junior Hindmarsh
Y1L Miss Leonard	Freddie McQuilling	Lincoln Rose	Rosie Daniel
Y2D Mrs Durham	Spencer Jardine	Isaac Cummings	Milo Hancock
Y3/4H Mr Horkan	Amez Ali	Frankie McQuilling	Olivia-Grace Allison
Y3L Mrs Largan	Charlie Kibbler	Toby Chocholko	Ellis Fearn
Y4S Miss Smith	Morgan Titlestad	Holly Stapleton	Eliora Eguegu
Y5W Mrs Wilson	Kaveesha Soyza	Rocco Garthwaite	Isaac Dobson
Y5M Mr McConnell	Amelia Wood	Cody-Lee Fitzpatrick	James Luker
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Ben Carmichael	Lilly Jackson	Toree Wardle

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