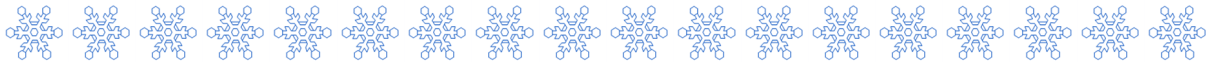


Weekly Newsletter
15th January 2024



Right of the Fortnight: Article 30:

Your right to use your own language



Dear Parents/Carers,
It's been another superb week at Oakdene with children uncovering a **world of possibilities**. We aim to **inspire** each and every child in each and every class to **feel happy, safe and to reach true academic brilliance**.

Online Safety - Many children will have received new devices at Christmas. Teaching Online Safety is an important part of **keeping our children safe at school and in the home**. We do this mainly through the **computing curriculum** in school using age appropriate resources to demonstrate the risks and how to avoid them. It is very important that children take these messages with them at the end of the school day and are **supported when using technology at home**. **Each and every adult has a responsibility to protect children and this includes when they are on line.**

Technology changes at a fast pace. We recognise that, as parents and carers, it is a challenge to try to keep up with how to keep children safe whilst they access technology. So, as a school, we subscribe to a **monthly online newsletter** for parents and carers. In addition, **Childline and O2** have teamed up to offer a **free helpline** for parents/carers for any queries you may have regarding online activity, this could just be simple queries about online gaming or parental controls. The free phone number is **0808 800 5002**. There are times when something uncomfortable happens while online. Please talk to your children about letting a trusted adult know if something they see or hear feels 'uncomfortable'. Children need to know that if this happens they have not done anything wrong.

Stay safe, warm and have a wonderful week!
Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



Paula, a **Civil Engineer** from a company called **Sir Robert McAlpine** visited Oakdene this week. She talked about her career as a civil engineer and the work her company does in our local area to take care of the A19. She introduced the children to a number of **new careers** and they asked lots of interesting questions. She worked in Year 1, 2 and 3 to share a book called 'Lottie' which introduces the children to careers in civil engineering on our doorstep.



On Tuesday, 9th January, Mrs Delyth Linacre (School Improvement Officer - **Early Years Lead** for the **Enquire Learning Trust**) spent a day in school looking at practice and provision in our Early Years Foundation Stage. Mrs Linacre agreed with our self-evaluation that Early Years is judged as **outstanding** and **no action points** were recommended. This is the written feedback we received:-

Firstly, thank you so much for making me feel so welcome this morning! Your early years provision is **stunning!** From your 2 year-old provision through to your Reception. When I go into early years settings for the first time, I like to observe and take it all in and get a real feel for the provision and sense of what it's like on a day-to-day basis. What I've seen this morning across all rooms and outdoors was **exceptional quality** throughout.

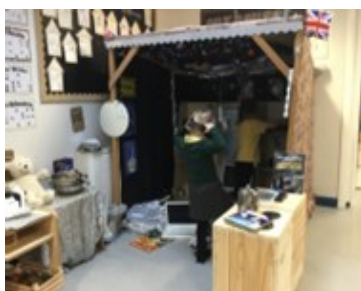
Some of the 'stand-outs' for me were: -

Excellent relationships. These were between adults and children and peers. Adults were warm and caring, showing children they were really interested in listening to them and sharing the learning journey, whatever that might be. Children worked well collaboratively and were caring and polite. Children want to please adults and do the best they can.

- **Environment** oozes quality everywhere. Every space is used and used well. Childrens work is Celebrated throughout. Children look after their environment and care for it.
- **Consistency in environment across all rooms**, with **developmental progression** in continuous progression - through choice of activities and resources. Continuous provision and enhancements are well thought out and engaging. Children's play is not left to stagnate, but children are challenged and supported to learn and develop new skills and knowledge.
- **Routines and expectations are well embedded.** Adults continually reinforced expectations through their conversations with children and to each other. They used verbal praise aloud that was specific, so children understood and were clear on what they were doing that was good and adults wanted. Children tidied away after themselves without being asked and tidy-up time at the end of the session in reception was done exceptionally quickly and without fuss!
- **Highly engaged and motivated children.** All children were focused and on-task in whatever they had chosen to do. Children **produced 'quality' work/learning** and showed **high levels of concentration and persistence** in completing what they were doing to the end. Whether it be a jigsaw, tidying up an area, creating the solar system in different ways, making rockets etc. Children showed pride in what they achieved. This really was stunning to observe as an outsider! Children are obviously taken by their current topics/themes but it was also evident that their interests and input have played a part in the design of the environment and continuous provision and enhancements.
- **High quality interactions** - all adults could be heard. Interactions were of quality and included specific, positive praise; vocabulary development; extension of language and speaking in sentences; extending knowledge; modelling interest, enquiry and curiosity; development of skills; supporting collaboration; supporting wellbeing ...

Lots of opportunities to mark make and develop children as writers. This was evident through the range of activities and CP that supports their physical development, through to opportunities to make marks and write in different ways. Sending 'messages' is also proving to be a big hit!

I know all of this doesn't just happen! Whatever you are doing as a team and as individuals, keep doing! Your early years children and families are really lucky to have you all. Thank you also Mrs Brown and Mrs Bramley for your time this afternoon. Early Years has strong leadership with leaders that have an excellent knowledge and understanding of early years pedagogy!



Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term
RSPB Schools Big Bird Watch (8th Jan to 19th Feb)

Tues 16th Jan	Rec Pupils Attend EY Multisport Festival
Mon 22nd Jan—Fri 2nd February	Swimming Block 2 for Y5 pupils
Tues 23rd Jan	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Reception Pupils Y3/Y4 Netball Competition Careers Assembly for KS2
Week Commencing 30th Jan	'National Storytelling Week'
Wed 31st Jan	Dental Nurse Survey for some Reception Pupils
Week Commencing 5th Feb	'Children's Mental Health Week'
Tues 6th Feb	Safer Internet Day Y4 Visit York Chocolate Story
Thurs 8th Feb	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y6 Pupils
Mon 12th Feb	Chinese New Year
Tues 13th Feb	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y1 Pupils Shrove Tuesday
Thurs 15th Feb	Y1 Visit to Shildon Railway Museum
Fri 16th Feb	PD Day 5 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

HALF TERM

Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February
Monday 26th February Children Return to School

Fri 1st March	9.10am Open Morning for parents/carers of Y3 Pupils
Week Commencing 4th March	Careers Week
Thurs 7th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y2 Pupils World Book Day & Readathon Celebration
Mon 11th March	Launch of British Science Week
Wed 13th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y4 Pupils
Fri 15th March	Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day
Mon 18th March	Y2 Visit to Washington Wetlands
Tues 19th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y5 Pupils
Fri 22nd March	World Maths Day
W/c 25th March	Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers
Wed 27th March	Y5/Y6 Hockey Event
Thurs 28th March	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



School Picnic Menu Thursday, 18th January 2024

Mains

Pizza Slice or Sausage Rolls
served with Wedges and Salad or Pasta Salad

Or

Mini Sandwiches & Crudités

Dessert

Eton Mess, Ice Cream Cones, Fruit Yoghurt or Cheese & Crackers

Our catering team have planned a special menu on 18th January for the school census day. This menu is to encourage pupils to have a school meal. The uptake of school meals on this day is counted towards the schools pupil funding for the next academic year.

To cover increasing energy bills, sustain staffing levels and to be able to continue to offer fabulous resources, we really need every penny.



On Tuesday, 9th January, **Angela Foster** (Stockton Librarian) was in school with Mrs Osborne & the **Stockton Council Book of the Year (SCBY) Book Club** to write a winning book review.

Angela shared a presentation with the group which included some useful **tips** of what to include in a book review. The children were also inspired by looking at examples of previous winners. **Good Luck everyone!**

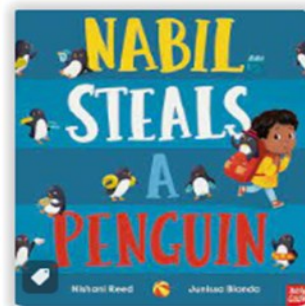


What to include			
General information <ul style="list-style-type: none">What kind of book is it?When was the book written?Is it an easy or challenging read?Is there anything that would be useful for the reader to know about the author?Is the book a debut or an established author?	Plot <ul style="list-style-type: none">What happens?Is it worth using the first phrase 'This book is about...'	Characters <ul style="list-style-type: none">Who are the main characters?What makes them interesting?What conflicts do they face?Are they realistic or unrealistic?How do they connect with each other?Could you relate to any of the characters in the story?Who was your favourite character? Why?	Style <ul style="list-style-type: none">What is the book about?Common themesIs it a challenge?Is it a good read?



Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from **Kaci-Leigh Moody-Blackburn**
'Nabil Steals a Penguin'
By **Nishani Reed**



This is Nishani's first picture book which she shared with our Reception children during the Northern children's Book Festival.

If you are a fan of Paddington then you will love this funny story with the lovable character Pierre the Penguin. It is on display & available to read from our KS1 Wonderland Library.

We've been asked to promote a multi-agency event where families of children up to 19 years (or young people up to the age of 25 with SEND) can pop in for advice and to book an appointment with one of the services. The sessions are drop ins between 9.30am-11.30am, no need for an appointment.

Attending are CAMHS, Daisy Chain, Alliance, SENDIASS, School Support and the Neurodevelopment Assessment Team amongst others.

It's a great opportunity for families to make appointments and have a brief conversation, particularly if you need to speak to a number of agencies. Hopefully this will feel less overwhelming.

All Together For You
Monthly multi-agency drop-in sessions

January 19	Billingham	9.30am - 11.30am
February 16	Redhill	9.30am - 11.30am
March 15	Stockton	9.30am - 11.30am
April 19	Thornaby	9.30am - 11.30am
May 17	Billingham	9.30am - 11.30am
June 21	Redhill	9.30am - 11.30am
July 19	Stockton	9.30am - 11.30am
August 16	Thornaby	9.30am - 11.30am
September 20	Billingham	9.30am - 11.30am
October 18	Redhill	9.30am - 11.30am
November 15	Stockton	9.30am - 11.30am
December 20	Thornaby	9.30am - 11.30am

No appointment needed, just turn up!

All Together For You
Monthly multi-agency drop-in sessions

Pop along to ask questions and get advice from a variety of services to help support your family.

Ask questions, get advice on the support available or make a plan on how to tackle your issues.

No appointment needed, just turn up!

We are so proud of our determined Y3s who participated in a **speed stacking** competition. Overall, it was a fantastic event, and the children thoroughly enjoyed it and demonstrated amazing teamwork. The activities were engaging, well thought out, and created a positive buzz among the children and staff.

During the competition, we were informed that one of our teams achieved an **impressive** time of 57 seconds. This was the time to beat. Nobody beat this time.

Initially there was a discrepancy with scoring. We challenged this and our Y3s are **worthy winners! We have received an apology and some medals which will be richly deserved.**



The **Y5/Y6 Football event** on Friday was aimed at both Y5 and Y6 pupils, schools were invited to send a selection of pupils from both year groups and mixed teams of girls and boys. Oakdene did just that, however, all other school teams were comprised of Y6 boys.

We fed back to the School Sports Partnership and have expressed our disappointment that other schools did not adhere to the criteria.

We are exceptionally proud of our **fabulous football** team who exhibited all the **School Games Values.**



Week Ending 12th January 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	Finley Ayre	Lewis Daniels-Owen	Grace Harris	Nathaniel Jefferies
YR Miss Dixon	Bonnie-Rae Scarth-Ferguson	Hallie Richardson	Lucas Jardine	Finley Short
Y1 Mrs Brown	Jacob Jackson	Louis Ferguson	Sava Ali	Issac McCarthy
Y2 Mrs Durham	Rosie Daniel	Ivy-May Fiddes	Leighton Daniels-Owen	Darcie Berry
Y3 Mr Horkan & Mr Brown	Jessica Dunn	Blake Playle	Harrison Kirk	Aalia Dobson
Y4R Miss Robinson	Charlie Kibbler	Ava Hammond	Hollie Dale	Dolly Rogers
Y4S Miss Smith	Elliot Lambert	Kayci Scott-Mullin	Eddie-James Midgley	Lily Daniel
Y5 Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Peter Balanescu	Noah White	Cally Wright	Isabelle Owens
Y6M Mr McConnell	Trudi Langstaff	Aiden-James Finley	Kaci-Leigh Moody-Blackburn	Casey-Lee Morgan
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Lucan Fletcher	Joe Gardiner-Jukes	Isabelle Bramley	Emily Daniel



YR & KSI
Oakley Purvis

Y3 & Y4
Evie-Jayne Harrison

Y5 & Y6
Amelia Richards