

Weekly Newsletter 15th September 2025



Right of the Fortnight: Article 12:
Your right to say what you think should happen and be listened to.



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another amazing week at Oakdene. It is always lovely to see how **enthusiastic** the children are towards their learning. We are so impressed with how the children have all **settled** into their new classes. I've been particularly impressed by our new children in Little Sycamores, Nursery and Reception who have been extraordinary as they adapt to their new surroundings. Reception pupils have really enjoyed sampling our **delicious school dinners**.

We would also like to say a huge **thank you** to all of the parents and carers who have been really patient waiting at the end of each day while teachers and staff get to know you all. Handing children over to the correct adult is really important. As we begin the new school year, you will have received **key resources** to help your child settle back into their learning routines. Your support in engaging with these materials is vital to ensure a smooth and successful start.

- **New Book Bags** – Provided for all our new children to help them carry and care for their reading materials.
- **Reading Books** – Carefully selected based on your child's end-of-year Oxford Reading Tree Stage or ZPD Range to match their current reading level.
- **Spelling Lists** – A new set of spellings for children in Years 2 to 6. (Year 1 will begin in January, as this term focuses on reading, phonics, and speed words.)
- **Homework Overview** – Includes a 'Useful Information' section with links to websites relevant to your child's year group.
- **Curriculum Overview** – A termly guide to what your child will be learning, helping you stay informed and involved.

To help children re-establish their reading habits, **Free Choice Friday, Library Visits, and Books for Pleasure commenced last Friday**. Additionally, **Key Author Challenge Booklets** will be sent home this Friday, once children have had time to settle into their reading books, spellings, and complete the Summer Reading Challenge. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child thrive both in school and at home.

Attendance remains a key priority for us at Oakdene, and we're encouraged by the commitment shown by the vast majority of families since the start of term—thank you for your continued support. A small number of families have already received a home visit from our **Education Welfare Officer**, Mrs Cartwright, as part of our efforts to **ensure every child is in school, on time, every day**. If your child is absent, you should expect to be contacted, as our expectation is clear: regular attendance is essential. Please ensure your child attends school daily unless they are genuinely unwell. If your child has been **prescribed medication**, we are happy to administer it during the school day—just pop into the main office to complete a consent form. Every single day counts, and together we can reach—and hopefully exceed—our 97% attendance target. Let's keep working as a team to give every child the best possible start.

We will be bidding farewell to one of our cherished Teaching Assistants, **Mrs Anne Pullinger**, who will be retiring at half term. Since joining Oakdene in **1997**, Mrs Pullinger has shown unwavering dedication and commitment, making a lasting impact on generations of children and families within our school community. As we prepare to say goodbye, we are also beginning the search for a new member to join Team Oakdene. Enjoy your week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

Week Commencing 15th Sept: Launch of Extra-curricular Clubs & Y4 Swimming Block commences

Tues 16th Sept	Y5 Sports Leader Training - AM
Wed 17th Sept	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Reception Pupils

Week Commencing 22nd Sept: Fairtrade Fortnight

Tues 23rd -Thurs 25th	Celebrate European Day of Languages
Wed 24th Sept	KS2 Cross Country event
Thurs 25th Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Fri 26th Nov	PD Day 2 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

OCTOBER

Black History Month

Thurs 2nd Oct	National Poetry Day & Y6 visit Beamish Museum
Fri 3rd Oct	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1 Pupils
	Y5 Scavenger Hunt & Team Building Day, Northfield PM
Wed 8th Oct	Y6 Tag Rugby Festival - PM
	3.20pm Hallowe'en Costumes Shop (dining hall)
Thurs 9th Oct	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils
	Y4 visit Binchester Roman Fort
Fri 10th Oct	Y5 Ancient Greek Workshop
Tues 21st Oct	4.00pm Open evening for prospective new 2026 Reception/ EYFS Starters (new date)
Wed 22nd Oct	Y1 Sports Festival PM
Thurs 23rd Oct	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils
Hallowe'en Disco 4-4.50pm	Y1-Y3 and Y4-Y6 5-6pm (No Extra-curricular Clubs)

Fri 24th Oct

Children Break Up for Half-Term
Half-Term Break Monday, 27th Oct - Friday, 31st Oct

NOVEMBER

Non Fiction November

Wed 5th Nov	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 Pupils
	Boys Y5/Y6 Football PM
Thurs 6th Nov	Y3 visit Danelaw Viking Village
w/c Mon 10th Nov	Parent Consultation Evenings (No Extra-curricular Clubs this week)
Wed 12th Nov	18 chn from Y3/Y4 attend Indoor Athletics event
Fri 14th Nov	Children In Need Day & Flu Nasal Spray (pupils from Rec-Y6)
w/c Mon 17th Nov	Road Safety Week
Wed 19th Nov	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils
Fri 21st Nov	Individual & Sibling Photographs
w/c Mon 24th Nov	UK Parliament Week & Young Poets Week
Tues 25th Nov	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils
Wed 26th Nov	PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)
Tues 2nd Dec	Y5 visit Centre for Life Newcastle
Wed 3rd Dec	3.30pm Friends of Oakdene Christmas Fair
Fri 5th Dec	10am Y3/Y4 Tableau @ St. Luke's Church
Mon 8th Dec	Christmas Lunch
Tues 9th Dec	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils
Wed 10th Dec	2.15pm Nativity Performance
Thurs 11th Dec	2.15pm Nativity Performance
Tues 16th Dec	9.10am Y5 & Y6 Christingle, PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties
Wed 17th Dec	PM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties
Thurs 18th Dec	AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties
	PM Reception Christmas Party
	PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties
Fri 19th Dec	LAST DAY OF TERM

Christmas Holiday: Monday, 22nd December 2025 - Friday, 2nd January 2026
Children will return to school on Monday, 5 January 2026



On Monday, Mrs Osborne, our Wellbeing Lead, introduced *The Story Project* to pupils during a whole-school assembly. The initiative was met with great enthusiasm as children explored a sample of the engaging resources.

The Story Project is designed to help children understand and **express emotions, build empathy**, and connect with others through storytelling. It's a fantastic way to **nurture wellbeing** and creativity across the school community.



We're incredibly proud of Year 6 pupil **Lily Lloyd**, who recently achieved **four swimming medals** in her latest competition!

Lily shines in the pool and is especially confident in **back-stroke**, which is her favourite stroke.

Y4 pupil **Roman Chesworth** and his team went to **St George's Park** (the home of England's training ground) to compete in a national 3v3 football competition. The team remained **unbeaten** through the group stages but were knocked out in the quarter finals following a controversial decision by the referee. This was a **huge achievement** progressing this far and Roman was in awe of the huge platform he was **honoured** to play on.



Y6 pupil **Alyssa-Frost Usher** is celebrating success in her recent **dance exams**, where she was awarded **high merits** for her **exceptional** performance in **modern dance**.

Alyssa was assessed for her **technique and musical interpretation performance**.

A fantastic achievement – well done, Alyssa!

Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from

Mrs Brown

'Gozzle'

by **Julia Donaldson**



Gozzle, written by the brilliant Julia Donaldson and beautifully illustrated by award-winning artist Sara Ogilvie, is a funny and heartwarming tale about **family, growing up** and a very lovable little gosling.

This delightful story is sure to charm readers of all ages!

Congratulations to **Scarlett Allon (Year 5)** on achieving her first Gymnastic Proficiency Awards – **Levels 1 and 2**.

A big well done also to **Neave Bateman (Year 3)** for reaching **Stage 6** in gymnastics.

Both achievements are richly deserved – fantastic work!



Y2 pupil **Brodie McLaughlin** was delighted to share his **three football medals**. Following in his Dad's footsteps, Brodie is making his own mark on the pitch — and was keen to point out that he plays **right wing**, not **goalkeeper**! Well done, Brodie!



Supporting your Child's Reading at Home

Do you remember your favourite books as a child – you know, the ones you read time and time again and knew practically every word of? Maybe you were lucky enough to regularly read stories with your family and had someone to read you a bedtime story before you drifted off to sleep? You won't have known at the time, but those experiences were building vital building blocks for your future.

Reading, being read to, and sharing books in the home, helps to build a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world. Research shows children who start school with good vocabulary and communication skills make friends more easily, have fewer behavioural issues and are more likely to do well academically. **A strong, early foundation in language has even been linked to better mental health as children get older.**

Reading with your child, or encouraging your child to read independently for just ten minutes each day can make all the difference. Keep reading!

For further tips and support check out:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbxbby9q>



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Thursday, **25th September** at 9:10am, Oakdene Primary Academy warmly invites you to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning in the school dining hall.

To help us **raise money** for Macmillan Cancer Support, there will be a range of games to participate in for a small cost.

If you have the time to bake, contributions of cakes will be gratefully received.

Cake donations can be brought into school on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning.

There will be a star bake-off competition too **(with an added prize!)**

Please come along, buy cake and coffee and enjoy a chat.

We'd love to see you there.

For a small contribution, children will be able to buy any remaining cakes after the coffee morning has finished.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Sleep and Routine

Like everyone, **children need sleep** and it's really important they get it (both for them and for you). Sometimes, getting them to sleep is tricky, but a predictable routine can help. It's pretty obvious that a child who is getting enough sleep is more likely to be happy and alert than a child who isn't.

Getting your child into **a good sleeping pattern** isn't just about avoiding tantrums though, lack of sleep has been linked to future problems, such as anxiety, depression, obesity and high blood pressure.

How much sleep? As a rough guide, children need:

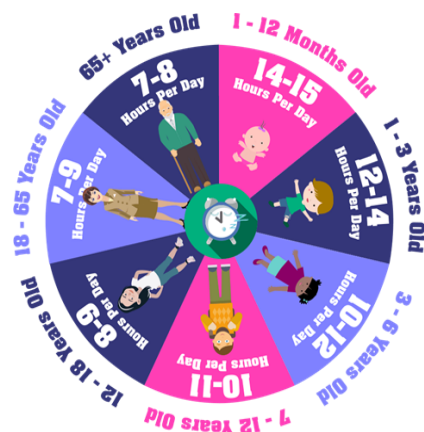
- **3-5 year olds need 11 - 14 hours of sleep**
- **6-12 year olds need 10 - 13 hours of sleep**

Top tip: Turn off screens an hour before bedtime.

Audiobooks or good old-fashioned paper books are a good alternative to eBooks.

Light from screens stops the production of the sleep hormone melatonin.

Try to remove all phones and technology from the bedroom. It should be a calm and relaxing space.



Week Ending 19th September 2025

Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematicia 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Isabelle Harding	Ralphie Dodds-Day	Mia Campbell	Matilda Lenham
YRC Miss Dixon	Jayden Serrechia	River French	Oliver Metcalfe	Archer Dixon
YRK Miss Dignen	Ebony-Rae Lane	Max Kendall	Theo Bell	Douglas Chocholko
Y1B Mrs Brown	Darcie Murray-Denby	Dexter Dobson	Grace Harris	Wyatt Hold
Y2D Mrs Durham	Jenson-John Murray	Dylan Allon	Isabel Liddle	Prashvita Bhimavarapu
Mrs Thompson	Jack Bourne	Harper Cooper	Katy Coates	Scarlett Van-Wyk
Y3H Mr Horkan	Sava Ali	Fionn Baker	Mia Hudzicka	Oakley Harrison
Y4R Miss Robinson	Adridev Vineetha	Leighton Daniels-Owen	Skyla Wilks	Lily Archer
Y5SW Mrs Smith	Edward Gardiner-Jukes	Harley Wallace	Blake Playle	Charlie Owens
Mrs Wilson	Beth Denmark	Daisy Thompson	Evie Richardson	Megan Squires
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Ava Hammond	Skye Stainsby	Logan Daniels-Owen	Finley Orley
Y6M Mr McConnell	Autumn Lonsdale	William Culley	Fearne Fisher	Olivia-Grace Allison



YR & Y1
Elsie Balogun

Y2 & Y3
Adridev
Vineetha

Y4, Y5 & Y6
William Culley