

## Weekly Newsletter 16th September 2024



**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**.

I 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.

Our **wonderful caretaker**, Mr James Armstrong (Jim) will retire just before the half term break. Mr Armstrong has been extremely **dedicated** whilst serving our school community for the past 12 years. Mrs Armstrong will also retire from the NHS—we wish them both a **happy, healthy and long retirement**. **Mrs Gordan** has been successful at interview and will be our new caretaker with effect from 23rd October.

Enjoy your week!  
Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

### Summer Reading Challenge

Angela Foster (Stockton Librarian) presented **certificates & medals** to all the children who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Angela presented goody bags to **Caleb Jefferies, Willow Earle, Thomasin Scotland, Lilly Dixon** and **William Nimmo** who have made an exceptional effort with their reading during the holidays.

Mrs Osborne invited Y6 & Y5 pupils to apply for **Librarian** and **Reading Buddy** roles and we were overwhelmed with the written applications – it was really difficult to shortlist. Angela provided information about **'Stockton Children's Book of the Year'** and this is also an amazing opportunity for upper KS2 pupils to continue their **'reading for pleasure'** journey.

Reception pupils enjoyed **story time** with Angela. Angela read **'Splash'** by **Claire Cashmore MBE** a **Paralympic gold medallist**. This is featured as our **'recommended read'** on page 3 of the newsletter.



Nathaniel Jefferies	YR	Izzy Matthews	YR
Caleb Jefferies	Y1	Alex Wainwright	Y3
Hallie Richardson	Y1	Evie Richardson	Y4
Thomasin Scotland	Y1	Henry Brown	Y2
Willow Earle	Y1	William Nimmo	Y2
Neave Bateman	Y2	Connor Bateman	Y7
Riley Titlestad	Y3	Morgan Titlestad	Y6
Lilly Dixon	Y3	Kara Dixon	Y6
Albert Balanescu	Y4	Peter Balanescu	Y6
Daisy Thompson	Y4		



## Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

### Week Commencing 16th Sept: Launch of Extra-curricular Clubs

Mon 16th Sept	Y1 Visit from the Cats Protection
Wed 18th Sept	9.10am Open Afternoon for Parents & Carers of Reception Pupils Y5 Sports Leader Training - AM
Tues 24th Sept	Celebrate European Day of Languages
Wed 25th Sept	KS2 Cross Country event
Thurs 26th Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning
<b>Fri 27th Sept</b>	<b>PD Day 2 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)</b>

### ORACY OCTOBER

Tues 1st Oct  
Wed 2nd Oct  
Thurs 3rd Oct  
W/c Mon 7th Oct

Tues 8th Oct  
Wed 9th Oct

Tues 15th Oct

Tues 22nd Oct  
Wed 23rd Oct

**Fri 25th Oct**

### Black History Month

Tag Rugby Festival - PM  
3.20pm Hallowe'en Costume Shop (Dining Hall)  
National Poetry Day  
Libraries Week  
PM Y1 Visit Forum Theatre to see the Gruffalo  
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils  
Y1 Sports Festival, Y4 visit Binchester Roman Fort & Y6 Pupils visit Beamish Museum  
  
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1 Pupils  
  
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils  
Y2 Sports Festival (7Girls)  
Hallowe'en Disco 4-4.50pm Y1-Y3 and Y4-Y6 5-6pm  
**Children Break Up for Half-Term**

### Half-Term Break Monday, 28th Oct - Friday, 1st Nov

### NOVEMBER

Wed 6th Nov

w/c Mon 11th Nov  
Mon 11th Nov

Wed 13th Nov  
Thurs 14th Nov  
Fri 15th Nov

w/c Mon 18th Nov  
Wed 20th Nov  
Wed 27th Nov  
**Fri 29th Nov**

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 Pupils  
Boys Y5/Y6 Football  
Parent Consultation Evenings (**No Extra-curricular Clubs this week**)  
**Phototronics (Individual and Sibling Photos)**  
Remembrance Day Activities  
Y3 Danelaw Viking Visit & Y4 K'Nex STEM visit at EDF  
Flu Nasal Spray (pupils from Rec-Y6)  
Children In Need Day

Road Safety Week & UK Parliament Week  
Y2 visit Preston Hall  
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils  
**PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**

### DECEMBER

Tues 3rd Dec

Wed 4th Dec  
Thurs 5th Dec

Mon 9th Dec  
Wed 11th Dec  
Fri 13th Dec

Tues 17th Dec  
Wed 18th Dec  
Thurs 19th Dec

Fri 20th Dec

'School's Big Gig - Rocking Christmas' 1.30-2.30 at Middlesbrough Town Hall.

3.30pm Friends of Oakdene Christmas Fair  
Christmas Lunch

2.10pm Nativity Performance  
2.10pm Nativity Performance  
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils

9.10am Y5 & Y6 Christingle, PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties  
PM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties  
AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties  
PM Reception Christmas Party  
PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties

**LAST DAY OF TERM**



**Christmas Holiday: Monday, 23rd December 2024 - Friday, 3rd January 2025**

**Children will return to school on Monday, 6 January 2025**  
(More dates will be confirmed shortly)

### 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/zbxby9q>



### Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from **Angela Foster (Stockton Librarian)**  
**'Splash'**  
by **Claire Cashmore MBE**



I'm sure we've all been inspired by the **Paralympic Games 2024** which took place in Paris this Summer.

**'Splash'** by **Claire Cashmore MBE**, a **Paralympic gold medallist** who was born without a left forearm. Claire never let being different stand in the way of her **big dreams**.

**Splash** is based on Claire's real-life experience of how she conquered her fear of water.

It was a delight to welcome so many parents & carers of Y5 pupils during their open afternoon last Friday. All activities were linked to Y5's Key Author—Roald Dahl. And it provided the perfect way to celebrate **Roald Dahl Day**. The activities included making **BFG Dream catchers**, following instructions to create **George's Marvellous Medicine** from the Forest, **researching** Roald and **retrieving** information for a quiz. The children cooked up their own **mud burgers** inspired from **James & the Giant Peach**. These proved to be a popular treat for home time.







We believe that **'Knowledge is power'** and that we need to educate, to **prevent**. In response to knife crime incidents rising in England we invited **Bigfoot Arts Education** to deliver a programme which uses an early intervention creative approach to understanding key messages around the topic of knife crime, gang violence and **keeping safe** for pupils in Y5 & Y6.

The programme consisted of an interactive assembly and follow-up workshops, providing a **safe** and **creative** opportunity to introduce sensitive issues and subject matter, as well as an excellent starting point for future conversations about **choices** and **consequences**.



### Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Thursday, **26th 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.*



### 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:

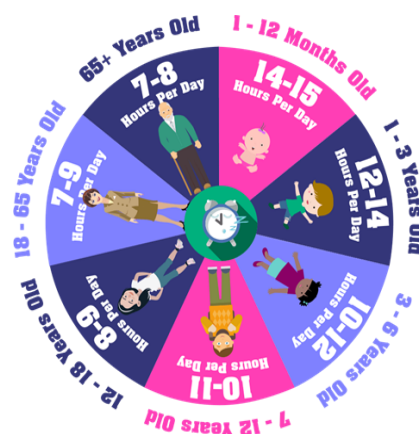
- 3-5 year olds need 11 - 14 hours of sleep
- 6-12 year olds need 10 - 13 hours of sleep

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 13th September 2024  
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Ruben Earle	Ruby Bunn	Lewis Daniels-Owen	Lottie Cooper
YR Miss Dixon	Grace Harris	Nathaniel Jefferies	Wyatt Hold	Jamie Hart
Y1 Mrs Brown & Mrs Thompson	Willow Earle	Izzy Matthews	Jason Adekunle	Caleb Jefferies
	Hallie Richardson	Dylan Allon	Nate Oliver	Jenson-John Murray
Y2 Mrs Durham	Neave Bateman	Keesha Griffin	Aidan Turner	Sava Ali
Y3 Mr Horkan	Lilly Dixon	Freddie Bell	Michelle Adekunle	Alex Wainwright
Y4 Miss Robinson	Oscar Prince	Evie Richardson	Cason Tierney	Charlie Owens
Y5SW Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Hollie Dale	Leighton Harvey	Ava Hammond	Skye Stainsby
Y5M Mr McConnell	Fearne Fisher	Sophie-Alysa Minter	Florence Bruce	Alannah Bell
Y6 Mrs Cowan	Isabelle Owens	Cally Wright	Holly Stapleton	Yener Arslan



YR & KSI  
Aidan Turner

Y3 & Y4  
Scarlett Allon

Y5 & Y6  
Kara Dixon