

Weekly Newsletter  
16th December 2024



Right of the Fortnight: Article 14:  
Your right to follow your own religion



Dear Parents/Carers

After an enormously **successful** term, we have finally made it to the **Christmas holidays**. The children have had a wonderful time preparing for Christmas and taking part in Christmas activities over the last few weeks. The Christmas **Nativity, Tableau** and **Christingle Services**, have been absolutely amazing and we were delighted with the amount of parents and carers joining us each day.

**Santa** visited every classroom and made a quick delivery of selection boxes for every child in our school, kindly donated from **The Teesside Family Foundation**. **Fujifilm** also invited school to nominate children **for gift donations** and we had a visit from **four elves** with high quality presents.

We feel so blessed to lead such an **exceptional team** and it's heartwarming to hear how you appreciate staff for going the extra mile for the children. On behalf of the whole team, we would like to **thank** everyone for their Christmas cards, messages and kind gifts which the Oakdene team received for the festive season. We would like to **wish each and every one of you, a truly special Christmas**.

The children have been a credit to you and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on **Monday, 6th January 2025**. **We wish you a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!**

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



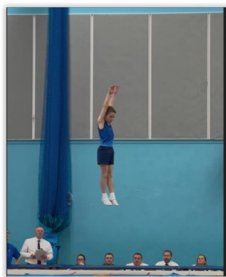
Nursery Open Morning

The attendance at the open session was fantastic and a festive time was had by all. The children demonstrated their creativity and imagination whilst making a **tree decoration, Christmas cards** and beautiful **calendars**. Everyone enjoyed playing **Christmas-themed number games and puzzles** and creating a **hot chocolate reindeer**.



Y6 pupil, **George Robinson**, competed in the **North of England Trampoline Championship** in Consett. It was a tough competition but he was placed **1st** and was awarded a **gold medal** in his **individual trampoline routine** and **4th** place in his **DMT**.

George worked so hard preparing for the competition putting in extra practices at the club. His hard work paid off. Congratulations!



Y2 pupil, **Aiden Turner**, enjoys playing football for his team '**The Riverside PSG Under 7s**'. Aiden was proud to share that his **trophy** & his team were the **league champions** for the Winter season. Aiden had made a **significant contribution!**

Three children who attend **Velocity** for trampoline or gymnastics coaching have been awarded beautiful **certificates** and **wristbands**. Congratulations to **Fionn Baker** (Y2) who achieved his L1 proficiency in gymnastics, **Isabel Liddle** (Y1) progressed to L5 and her sister **Hannah** (Y4) accelerated to L10. On the trampoline, Isabel achieved L1 and Hannah achieved L6. **Amazing!**

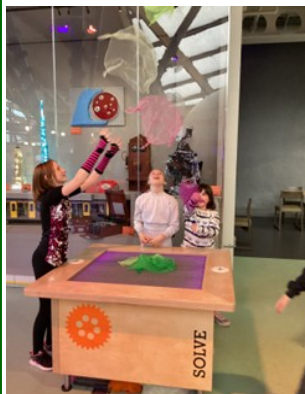


Y5 visited the **Life Science Centre, Newcastle** to take part in a **winter cookie mystery**.

The Y5s completed an **experiment** looking at different powders and **tested** them using **acid** and **iodine** to work out which powder was the correct one, from the way it **reacted**, to create a cookie.

The Y5s were enthralled with **science shows**, the **planetarium** and some hands-on experiments.

The children also had fun ice-skating.



Y1 pupils had a wonderful **Christmas Extravaganza Experience** at **St Aidan's Church** last Thursday.

In a carousel of creative tasks, they created **wool-wound sheep**, **biscuit stables**, **recycled material mangers** and even followed the journey of **Mary and Joseph** on a very special map.

The Y1s finished the morning with a **Christmas singalong** - everybody had an amazing experience!



### Recommended Read

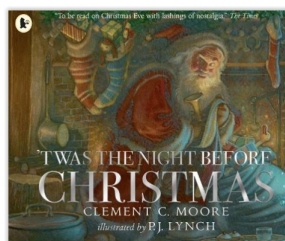
This week's recommended read is from

Mrs Wilson

'A Visit from St. Nicholas'

By

Clement Clarke Moore



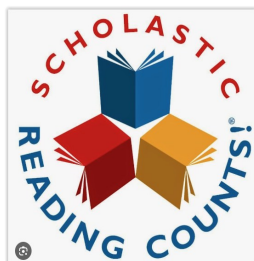
This classic Christmas verse is well known to every parent and child preparing for Christmas and this beautifully illustrated new edition is the perfect Christmas gift for young and old.

*'Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all through the house;  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;*

### Winter Reading Challenge:

You can access this via [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk)  
Rate and review three or more books to unlock a special virtual badge and certificate.

There is a mini Reading Record which will be printed out for all children from YR to Y6 to go home in book bags this Friday - Librarians will distribute these. **Once completed, please return to school in the New Year to receive 10 Dojos.**



The book of  
gifts



LUCY CLAIRE DUNBAR

Mrs Osborne (English Lead) would like to pass on a huge thank you to everyone who purchased books through the Scholastic Book Shop. We received £243.75 worth of orders. For every £1 spent we earned 20p for our school. This raised £48.75 for Oakdene to spend on books to add to our wonderful reading areas, poetry corners and libraries.

Mrs Osborne will ensure that the librarians share 'pupil voice' so that we can meet demand for the popular titles.

The thoughtful *gift of a book* can make the biggest, most meaningful difference in someone's life, and can become a memory that will last a lifetime.

The Book of Gifts by Lucy Claire Dunbar is a perfect gift choice for adults at this time of year.




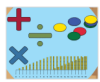
Last week, reception were ready to be enchanted by **The Light Princess**, a new musical adaptation of the beloved fairytale that captivated the children with **beautiful songs, interactive antics**, and an **inspiring story** of self-discovery.


The Princess floats. She always has. The Queen worries about keeping her little girl's feet on the ground but all the Princess wants is to fly free.

When the Princess meets Orla, a little girl with big ideas, the two recognise a spark in one another – the unstoppable desire for change. Together they melt the heart of a frozen kingdom.



Week Ending 13th December 2024  
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	River French	Finley Ayre	Mylah Thompson	Ruban Gilbey
YR Miss Dixon	Dexter Dobson	Jamie Hart	Nathaniel Jefferies	Grace Harris
Y1 Mrs Brown & Mrs Thompson	Izzy Matthews	Amelia Wright	Willow Earle	Vinnie Westwood
	Dylan Allon	Nate Oliver	Lucas Milne	Tommy Wilks
Y2 Mrs Durham	Sava Ali	Lily Grantham	Lincoln Wardle	Oliver Hall
Y3 Mr Horkan	Malachi Worth	Oakley Purvis	Kian Jewson	Olivia Wilkinson
Y4 Miss Robinson	Lily Charlton	Gracie Dale	Edward Gardiner-Jukes	Lacie Love
Y5SW Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Skye Stainsby	Archie Hall	Hollie Dale	Reuben Edgar-Simpson
Y5M Mr McConnell	Kayci Scott-Mullin	Finley Orley	Alyssa Frost-Usher	Kain Carmichael
Y6 Mrs Cowan	Cassius Dobson	Joey Marshall	Ellie Smith-Sewell	Amelia Wilks

	YR & KSI Harriet Smith	Y3 & Y4 Lewis Harris	Y5 & Y6 Jack Wilks
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