

Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Mon 17th Feb	Launch Readathon
Tues 18th Feb	10 Pupils Attend Y4 Active Learning Competition @ Durham University - PM
Thurs 20th Feb	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y2 Pupils
Fri 21st Feb	PD Day 4 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)

HALF TERM

Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February
Monday 3rd March - Children Return to School

Week Commencing 3rd March	Careers Week
Mon 3rd March	Scooter & Skateboarding Day (all equipment provided and delivered by Rubicon)
Tues 4th March	Rebel Women Workshops led by Bigfoot Education Shrove Tuesday
Weds 5th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y1 Pupils
Thurs 6th March	World Book Day & Readathon Celebration
Mon 10th March	Launch of British Science Week
Tues 11th March	Y1 Visit Shildon Railway Museum Y5/Y6 Dance City Workshops
Wed 12th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y3 Pupils
Tues 18th March	Y2 Snappy Spring Music event @ Thornaby Pavilion - AM
Weds 19th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y4 Pupils Y2 Visit the Washington Wetland Centre
Fri 21st March	Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day
Mon 24th March	World Maths Day
Mon 24th—Wed 26th March	Y5M attend Trust Residential at Streonshalh Field Study Centre, East Whitby Primary Academy, Whitby.
Wed 26th March—Fri 28th March	Y5SW Attend Trust Residential
Tues 1st April	12 Pupils from Y5/Y6 Hockey at Norton Sports Complex
W/c 7th April	Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers - PM
Fri 4th April	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils
Thurs 10th April	Height & Weight Checks for Pupils in Rec & Y6
Fri 11th April	Children break up for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday, 14th April - Friday, 25th April
Mon 28th April Summer Term Commences - Children Return to School

Mon 5th May **BANK HOLIDAY**

Mon 12th May - Thurs 15th May **Key Stage 2 SATs** are Timetabled

Half-term holiday runs from: Monday, 26th May to Friday, 6th June 2025 inclusive (two weeks). The children will break up on Friday, 23th May and will return to school on Monday, 9th June 2025.

Week commencing 9th June - School Administer:

Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Y2 Resits.
Y4 Multiplication Tables Check





Promoting the Love of Reading

For children in hospital, books and stories are particularly important - they comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. **Read for Good** provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals.

It's been heart-warming to see the librarians organise this event and to hear the children talking about how the **Readathon** has kept them busy during the half-term break.

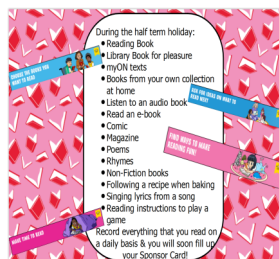
Please complete the Readathon and return the Sponsor Cards to school on **World Book Day Thursday, 6th March 2025**.

All children who return their completed Sponsor Cards on World Book Day will be given a certificate & sticker for their participation.

If you are able to make a donation please do so via the website: www.readforgood.org.uk

- Select - Sponsor a Pupil (Blue Tab)
- Enter - Oakdene Primary Academy/ Billingham/TS23 3NR
- Select - Our school from the drop down list
- Donate - Choose amount or click other to enter your amount
- Complete - Your details including name, address & postcode
- Pay - By Direct Debit or Credit Card

We raised £995.00 in 2023 and £1,827.00 in 2024. Since our first Readathon our school has raised a grand total of **£2,822.00**.



Fifteen is fantastic

Young people who read for 15 minutes a day...



Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a young person's future success - more than their family background, parents' educational background, or income.

All children from our 2yr olds up to Y6 will receive a **£1 Book Token** this week.

A few years ago, pupil voice revealed that many children previously rarely exchanged their voucher for a book. So once again, we have used **Pupil Premium funding (10p per book)** to ensure that **every child** will receive one of the **World Book Day £1 books** that were chosen for each phase of the school by our librarians and kindly organised by **Drake Independent Book Shop in Stockton** on World Book Day—6th March .



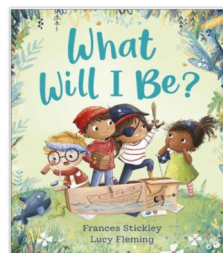
Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from

Mrs Cowan

'What Will I Be?'

by **Frances Stickley**



A superb choice for Careers Week!

This book teaches you that even though you might be young, if you just believe, you could be anything at all!

What do you want to be when you grow up? Anything is possible.

Y3 pupil, **Darcie Berry**, achieved her level 1,2 and 3 Proficiency in Gymnastics, whilst Y4 pupil **Evie Richardson** achieved her L6 & 7! Both girls received wristbands and certificates in recognition of their success.



Y6 pupil, **Tyler Curry**, participated in the **first-ever inter-library chess tournament** last Saturday.



Tyler represented Billingham Library and his chess **strategy** and analysis proved to be very impressive.

Y3 pupil, **Niamh Bellew**, was euphoric to receive her **Level 4 Tees Active Learn to Skate Scheme certificate**.



Niamh shared how she had to refine her skills. She was required to make short strokes with the correct **take-offs** from one foot to the other.

Y1 pupil, **Henry Brown**, received a medal & nominated '**Rider of the Week**' for his **cornering, control & one-handed riding effort**.



Henry attends the Beginners & Improvers cycling sessions at **Stockton Wheelers Cycling Club**.

Chinese New Year marks the start of a new lunar year and always falls in January/February. This year it began on 29th January, starting the Year of the Snake. It is celebrated with gifts, fireworks, dances and ended on 12th February with a lantern festival.

Reception **celebrated with their very own Chinese New Year party!** They explored interesting artefacts, they dressed up like the Jade Emperor from the story of how the years got their animal names. Finally, they prepared, cooked and shared a '**Chinese Banquet**'. It was delicious!

Mrs Smith (school cook) also prepared an amazing feast for the whole







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 14th February 2025
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Oliver Metcalfe	Jayden Serrechia	Mylah Thompson	Max Kendall
YR Miss Dixon	Isaac Stewart	Nellie Puckering	Dexter Dobson	Nathaniel Jefferies
Y1 Mrs Brown & Mrs Thompson	Willow Earle	Vinnie Westwood	Elliot Hardy	Michael Smith
	Darcy Hammond	Liam Turner	Isabel Liddle	Lucas Milne
Y2 Mrs Durham	Jacob Jackson	Jacob Matthews	William Nimmo	Fionn Baker
Y3 Mr Horkan	Niamh Bellew	Riven Mansell	Freddie Bell	Leo Archer
Y4 Miss Robinson	Cason Tierney	Eliza-Grace Mack	Daisy Thompson	Albert Balanescu
Y5SW Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Piper Noon	Ellis Fearn	Archie Hall	Max Devlin
Y5M Mr McConnell	Lily Lloyd	Florence Bruce	Kayci Scott-Mullin	George Reevell
Y6 Mrs Cowan	Max Harris	Teddie Edmenson	Thea Birch	Joey Marshall

 <p>Star Diner</p>	<p>YR & KSI Isla Featherstone</p>	<p>Y3 & Y4 Olivia Wallace</p>	<p>Y5 & Y6 Logan Daniels-Owen</p>
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