



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 wonderful school dinners.

Last Friday we held our first **celebration assembly** of the year. Teachers really wrestled with their decisions as so many children have been worthy of these awards. At the start of term, Mrs Brown (Mathematics lead) introduced a new award '**Star Mathematician**' and I was particularly excited to present the first children receiving their special certificates. **Congratulations** everyone!

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.

Attendance continues to be a huge focus area for us to improve on here at Oakdene and I have been encouraged by the efforts of the large majority of families since the start of term. A small minority of families have already received a home visit from our Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Cartwright. If your child is absent, expect to be contacted as the **expectation is that children are in school, on time, every day**. It is therefore really important that you ensure that your child attends school every day unless they are really unwell. If your child has been **prescribed medication** we can administer this in school. Just complete a consent form from the main office. Every day really does count and it is important that we all work together to ensure we are able to reach (or exceed) our 97% target.

Enjoy your week!
Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

Summer Reading Challenge

Angela Foster (Stockton Librarian) presented a **record number of certificates & medals** to all the children who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Angela presented goody bags to **William Nimmo** and **Tyler Curry** 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.



Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

Week Commencing 18th Sept: Y5 Swimming Block 1 Week 2

Tues 19th Sept 1.30pm Open Afternoon for Parents & Carers of Reception pupils



Week Commencing 25th Sept: Launch of Extra-curricular Clubs

Tues 26th Sept Celebrate European Day of Languages
Fri 29th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning

OCTOBER

Mon 3rd Oct
Thurs 5th Oct
Fri 6th Oct

Black History Month

Libraries Week
National Poetry Day
9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils

Tues 10th Oct Y6 Pupils Visit Preston Hall Museum
Thurs 12th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1 Pupils
(change of date)

Tues 17th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils
Y6 Pupils Visit Beamish Museum

Wed 25th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils
Hallowe'en Disco (new date)
KS1 (Y1, Y2) disco will be 4.00pm-4.50pm
KS2 will be 5.00pm-6.00pm.

Fri 27th Oct Children Break Up for Half-Term

Mon 30th Oct - Fri 3rd Nov
October Half-Term Break

Mon 6th Nov PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)
UK Parliament Week

Fri 11th Nov Remembrance Day Activities

w/c Mon 13th Nov Parent Consultation Evenings (No Extra-curricular Clubs)
Mon 13th Nov Phototronics (Individual and Sibling Photos)
Wed 15th Nov 10.00am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 Pupils
(new date)

Fri 17th Nov Y3 Danelaw Viking Visit
Children In Need Day

Mon 20th Nov Road Safety Week
Wed 22nd Nov 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils

Fri 1st Dec 3.30pm Christmas Fair

Tues 12th Dec 2.00pm Nativity Performance
Wed 13th Dec 2.00pm Nativity Performance
Thurs 14th Dec Christmas Lunch
Fri 15th Dec 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils

Mon 18th Dec AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties
PM Reception Christmas Party
PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties
Tues 19th Dec AM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties
PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties
LAST DAY OF TERM

Christmas Holiday: Wednesday, 20th December 2023 - Tuesday, 2nd January 2024
school closed to pupils for in-service day (training) Wednesday, 3rd January 2024

Children will return to school on Thursday, 4 January 2024

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:

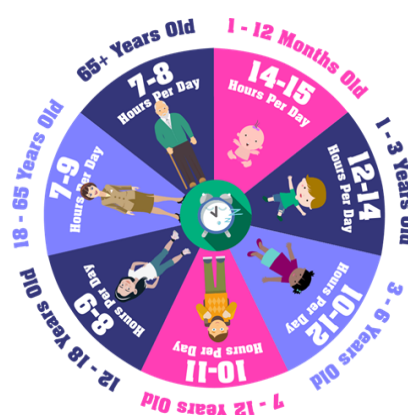
- 3-5 year olds need 11 - 14 hours of sleep
- 6-12 year olds need 10 - 13 hours of sleep

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.



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>



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday, **29th 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 Thursday evening or Friday 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**

Emily, Lily and Rosie Daniel took part in the **Johnson's Dance Festival Comp** a fortnight ago. Between them they **performed** an incredible 23 routines and scooped up an outstanding number of medals and trophies. We are so proud of you!

Emily placed in the following dances-Character 1st 🏆, National 1st 🏆, Modern 1st 🏆, Ballet 1st 🏆, Encanto troupe 1st 🏆, Tap duet 1st 🏆 and Tap/song trio 1st 🏆. Emily also received 2nd place in 5 events.

Over the full weekend the judge selected 6 routines/performances that she really enjoyed and asked them to dance again. In the supreme champion of the weekend section, Emily was picked to perform her character routine again which is called 'Granny's Memories'. To the delight of Emily's family and dance school, Emily was named the **Junior Supreme Champion of 2023**. Emily also achieved the **highest score in character for under 12's** and the **highest score for 10-12 aggregate in ballet national** and character which is all Emily's classical dance routines.

Lily performed beautifully, her confidence on stage is growing which is lovely too see and her results really reflect this. In the following Dances Lily placed- Character 1st 🏆, Mario troupe 1st 🏆, Ballet 2nd 🏆, Modern 3rd 🏆 and Song 3rd 🏆.

Rosie also had a super weekend. She placed in the following- Song 1st 🏆, Mario troupe 1st 🏆, Tap 2nd 🏆 and Ballet 3rd 🏆.

In the presentations six year old Rosie won the trophy for the **highest marked song under 12** which is fabulous. Her song is called 'Naughty' by Charlie Drake, a very cheeky, funny song which she performed with heaps of mischief.



Y2 pupil **Niamh Bellew** brought in her very first medal from **Hamsterley Trailblazers** to show everyone—she was beaming with pride and has shown great promise in mountain biking

Niamh achieved this award for her improvement in mountain bike skills – Niamh was one of 394 people up for the award—a massive achievement.



Alex Wainwright (Y2) achieved 3rd place in the **Billingham Show** for his creative writing. Alex adapted **'The Tiger who Came to Tea'** and it was brought to life with his amazing ideas and images. Librarian **Angela Foster** was really impressed with Alex's publication too. Alex was really hooked onto this book in Y1 and it was great to see him share this story with the current Y1s.



Week Ending 15th September 2023
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Early Years Unit Mrs Guest	Ivy Laing	Isaac Stewart	Emmie Marshall	Leighton Wardle
YR Miss Dixon	Hallie Richardson	Caleb Jeffries	Thomasin Scotland	Harry Robinson
Y1 Mrs Brown	Sava Ali	Aria Dugdale	Saga Svedlund	Hunter Lake
Y2 Mrs Durham	Roman Chesworth	Alex Wainwright	Freddie McQuilling	Oakley Purvis
Y3 Mr Horkan & Mr Brown	Aalia Dobson	Milo Hancock	Oscar Prince	Alyza Bateman
Y4R Miss Robinson	Jake Atkinson	Dolly Rogers	Frankie McQuilling	Piper Noon
Y4S Miss Smith	Alannah Bell	Ben Bainbridge	Florence Bruce	Eddie-James Midgley
Y5 Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Max Harris	Kara Dixon	Ellie Smith-Sewell	Jaden Ridley
Y6M Mr McConnell	Harleigh Ramsey	Casey-Lee Morgan	Kaveesha Soyza	Monica Dobson
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Lucy Macklam	Mylah Bruce	Jack Tunney	Meghan Dyson



YR & KSI
William Nimmo

Y3 & Y4:
Sophie-Alysa Minter

Y5 & Y6:
Jack Wilks