



Right of the Fortnight: Article 12:
Your right to say what you think



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 week we held our first **Open Day** in two and a half years. It was a fantastic feeling to be able to welcome parents and carers of Reception children into school to meet staff, meet other parents/carers, to look at the classrooms and to find out how to support your child. Your continued support in the children's educational journey is so important.

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 you need to discuss attendance issues, please contact Mrs Hood and 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

HRH Queen Elizabeth II

As a school, we have continued to pay our respects and to support pupils as needed during this period of national mourning. The children have appreciated **reflecting** on the Queen's legacy of love, service and kindness to others. Each class has responded in age appropriate ways; writing prayers, poetry and art work, sharing thoughts and asking questions. All of this has been done with a positive focus on thanksgiving for her **inspirational** life and care and concern for the Royal Family. Last Thursday, four of our 'Star Pupils' joined Miss Leonard to witness the Billingham Branch of the Royal British Legion laying a wreath in the **Garden of Remembrance** at John Whitehead Park. The children laid a bouquet containing purple flowers **symbolising royalty** and **elegance** alongside a beautiful card from Oakdene.



Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

Tues 20th Sept	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils Y5 Swimming Block 1 Week 1 Launch of Extra-curricular Clubs
Mon 26th Sept Tues 27th Sept Fri 30th Sept	Y5 Swimming Block 1 Week 2 Celebrate European Day of Languages Macmillan Coffee Morning Y1 Morning Theatre Visit 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'
OCTOBER	Black History Month
Mon 3rd Oct Thurs 6th Oct	Libraries Week National Poetry Day
Tues 11th Oct Wed 12th Oct	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils Y4 Visit to Housestead Roman Fort
Mon 17th Oct Wed 19th Oct Fri 21st Oct	Y6 Children Challenging Industry 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils Superhero Day for Reception Pupils Victorian Day for Y6 Pupils
Fri 21st Oct	Children break up for half term
	Mon 24th Oct - Fri 28th Oct October Half-Term Break
Mon 31st Oct	PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)
Tues 1st Nov Fri 11th Nov Wed 16th Nov	9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1L and Y1W Pupils 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2D and Y2W Pupils 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4S Pupils



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.

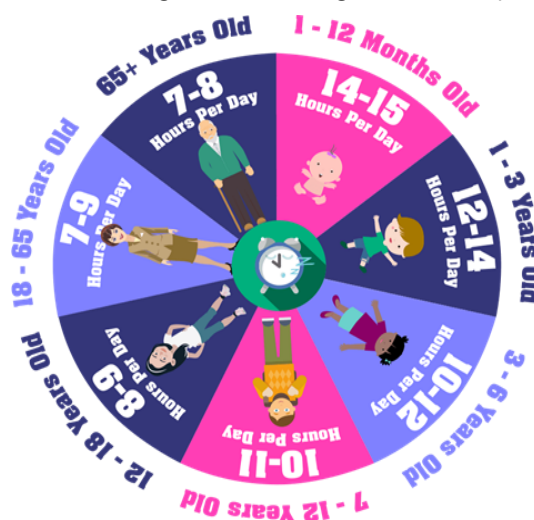
How much sleep? As a rough guide, children need:

- 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.



YR Open Morning and Reading Book Launch 'Read All About It!'

Developing a love for reading and sharing books in the early years is really important. It was amazing to see how engaged and enthusiastic our new Reception children were as they experienced a carousel of activities linked to their 'Superhero' topic. Activities included introduction to the **toothbrushing** programme 'Healthy Heroes', Superhero cities with **Numicon**, Superhero reading with speed words and an introduction to the **Oxford Reading Tree** characters. Sharing a book with your child each day for just five minutes will make a huge difference to their progress in the Early Years and will establish excellent **early reading habits** for their time at Oakdene.

READING IS KNOWLEDGE AND KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!



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 30th 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**

Week Ending 16th September 2022
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 
Morning Nursery Mrs Guest	Lucas Milne	Harry Robinson	Isla Featherstone
Afternoon Nursery Mrs Guest	Harper Cooper	Caleb Jefferies	Louie Walker
YR Miss Robinson	Aria Dugdale	Neave Bateman	Issac McCarthy
Willows Mrs Farnaby & Mr Brown	Leanne Fletcher	Theo Smith-Sewell	Alyza Bateman
Y1L Miss Leonard	Lincoln Rose	Max Prout	Roman Chesworth
Y2D Mrs Durham	Megan Squires	Scarlett Allon	Evie Richardson
Y3/4H Mr Horkan	Violet Wood	Ava Hammond	Yener Arslan
Y3L Mrs Largan	Autumn Lonsdale	Ellis Fearn	Lily Daniel
Y4S Miss Smith	Noah Stephenson	Cassius Dobson	Eliora Eguegu
Y5W Mrs Wilson	Isaac Dobson	Finley Amos	Blake Jeffrey
Y5M Mr McConnell	Daisy-Mai McCarthy	James Luker	Cody-Lee Fitzpatrick
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Olivia Woodcock	George McNay	Robyn Kirk