

Weekly Newsletter
20th November 2023



Right of the Fortnight: Article 23:

Your right to special care & support
if you are disabled.



Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all of you who attended appointments to see class teachers on **parent/carer consultation evenings**. It is always important to meet up early in the academic year to let you know how your child has settled, to **share the progress** that your child is making and to **identify the next steps**. We thank you for your continued support.

Individual and sibling **School Photographs** were taken by Phototronics earlier this month. Many thanks to all of you who accepted the option to purchase these photos.

We celebrated **World Kindness Day** on Monday, 13th November 2023. Our **Fabulous Fundraising** is just one shining example of how kindness can make a huge difference to others. I've been asked to say **a huge thank you** from our School Councillors and Rights Respecting Ambassadors for your generosity supporting charities during these unprecedented times. The British Legion Poppies proved to be very popular and the **'Children In Need Day'** raised lots of funds for this amazing cause.

Y4 pupil **Kain Carmichael** and his brother Ben (Y7) respected and remembered all those who have served our country as they took part in a **Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph at Station Road** on Sunday, 12th November with the 8th Billingham Scout Group.



Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

It was fantastic to welcome so many parents & carers of Y2 pupils to a Remembrance-themed **Open Morning** earlier this month. Activities included **playing with games & toys from the past** (including wartime), baking **gingerbread remembrance cross biscuits**, creating a **Poppy Field** piece of artwork and Mrs Osborne shared our **approach to reading in Y2**.

Parents & carers were also invited to **browse our reading book scheme** and hybrid **mathematics scheme** as well as looking at our extensive range of reading and mathematics resources.



Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term NON FICTION NOVEMBER

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon 20th Nov | Road Safety Week |
| Wed 22nd Nov | 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils |
| Wed 29th Nov | Y5 Visit Newcastle Centre for Life |
| Fri 1st Dec | 3.30pm Christmas Fair |
| Tues 5th Dec | NEW DATE Visit from Wheelchair Rugby Athlete Jack Smith |
| Thurs 7th Dec | NEW DATE 9.10am Y5 & Y6 Christingle at Oakdene (Y5 & Y6 parents/carers welcome) |
| Tues 12th Dec | 2.00pm Nativity Performance |
| Wed 13th Dec | 2.00pm Nativity Performance |
| Thurs 14th Dec | 10.15am Y3 & Y4 Christmas Tableau at St Luke's Church (Y3 & Y4 parents/carers welcome) |
| | Christmas Lunch for staff & pupils |
| Fri 15th Dec | 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils Some Y4 pupils will attend Snappy Christmas Music Event |
| 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 | |
| Wednesday, 3rd January 2024 school closed to pupils for in-service day (training) | |
| Children will return to school on Thursday, 4 January 2024 | |



Reception Places for September 2024

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, they will be able to start school in **September 2024**. Parents must apply online for a reception place at Oakdene via the Stockton Borough Council website.

We will be holding an open evening shortly for prospective parents/carers to visit and look around our **exceptional Early Years environment**.

We are trying to boost numbers so that we can have two small classes.

If you introduce a new family to Oakdene who secure a reception place we will reward you with a **£20 voucher of your choice**.

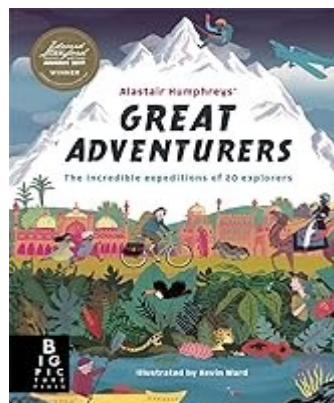


Inspired by Nick Butterworth's book 'One Snowy Night' the Y1 children visited the North York Moors. Y1s enjoyed a visit at the North York Moors National Park to bring to life their science and Forest School work. Percy left a special message for the Y1 children. The children followed an animal fact-file and trail of clues around the grounds of the visitor centre, collecting animal characters from the story and taking part in short activities related to wildlife on the way. The children were invited to take a close look at, and handle, stuffed animals and birds from a woodland habitat including characters from the story. Everyone enjoyed a game of woodland pass the parcel and ended up in a magical Mongolian Yurt, warmed by a log burner, whilst listening to the story and sipping hot chocolate.



Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from
Mr Horkan
'Alastair Humphreys' Great Adventurers'
By Alastair Humphreys



Hand-picked by adventurer Alastair Humphreys, this compilation retells the extraordinary journeys undertaken by his personal heroes.

These men and women have ventured into space, oceans, deserts and jungles and inspired Alastair's own adventures.

They may do the same for you too!

18 Year 4 children attended an **athletics competition** at Durham University Queens Campus. They took part in a range of track and field events, including running, hurdles, relay races, javelin throwing and the long jump.

They gained points for each of the activities and overall, Oakdene achieved a very impressive **4th place**—just missing a medal place narrowly.

We are immensely proud of you all!



Y4 pupil George Reeve was presented with a trophy in recognition for his remarkable rugby skills. Very well done George for stepping into a position to help your team.



Y3 pupils enjoyed spending the day as Vikings in a replica Viking settlement based on the outskirts of York. The unique educational environment formed part of the history curriculum on their study of *Invaders and Settlers*. *Danelaw Dark Age Village* contains a number of houses, workshops and fields, offering an atmospheric and hands-on learning environment. During the course of the day, the Y3s were *farmers*, hoeing the field and *craftsmen*, making clay oil lamps. Children dressed up in *period-costumes* and carried out a range of activities. They performed household tasks that involved *collecting firewood* and *grinding wheat* to make bread. Guard training was given to help the new settlers protect the village from marauding *Saxons*.



Milo Hancock in Y3 was so proud to share his latest achievements in martial arts. Milo was awarded his 9th belt—the red belt which recognises 'leadership'.

What a fantastic achievement!



Christmas Fayre

The **Friends of Oakdene** and Mrs Jackson are putting the last minute plans in place for the **Christmas Fayre** which will be held on Friday, 1st December at 3.30pm

This is our biggest fundraising event. To make the fayre as successful as possible we would like to request **donations of any unwanted gifts, bottles and raffle prizes.**

Can you bake a yummy Yule log, marvellous mince pies, cute cupcakes, or a fantastic figgy pudding...? The list is endless.



Worry Worms

Y5 Pupil **Jack Wilks** loves to crochet with his Nana. Together they created over **40** worry worms to give to children who may have **anxiety**, **sleep problems** or feel worried about anything in their lives such as **bereavement** **divorce/separation**, etc.

What an amazing act of Kindness Jack!



Week Ending 17th November 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 | Aubree Kitchen | Junior Scarth- Ferguson | Nathaniel Jefferies | Annie Tunney |
| YR Miss Dixon | Tommy Wilks | Thomasin Scotland | Lucas Milne | Hallie Richardson |
| Y1 Mrs Brown | Noah Selvon | Mia Hudzicka | Aria Dugdale | Lincoln Wardle |
| Y2 Mrs Durham | Lily Archer | Rosie Daniel | Olivia Wallace | Junior Hindmarsh |
| Y3 Mr Horkan & Mr Brown | Jake Marshall | Harrison Kirk | Alyza Bateman | Archie Donnelly |
| Y4R Miss Robinson | Logan Daniels-Owen | Brooke Carse | Harry Laws | Archie Hall |
| Y4S Miss Smith | George Reevell | Alyssa Frost-Usher | Lily Daniel | Landon Quinn |
| Y5 Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith | Phoebe Donnelly | Indi Chesworth | Brienna May-Thomas | Zia Kelly-Bostock |
| Y6M Mr McConnell | Kallum Squires | Amelia Booth | Lenny Hawkes | Arez Ali |
| Y6B Miss Bestwick | Eleanor Lewis | Lucan Fletcher | Zac Dale | Joe Gardiner-Jukes |



YR & KS1
Ruben Black

Y3 & Y4:
Finley Orley

Y5 & Y6:
Jack Westmoreland