

## Weekly Newsletter 22nd September 2025



Right of the Fortnight: Article 12:  
Your right to say what you think should  
happen and be listened to.



Dear Parents/Carers,

There's been a fantastic buzz around school again this week, with learning truly at the heart of everything we do! Last Monday, we were delighted to welcome **Jaimie Holbrook, Director of Improvement and Effectiveness for the Enquire Learning Trust**, who spent the day fully immersed in our classroom activities. Jaimie was thoroughly impressed by the **exceptional behaviour** of our pupils and the consistently **high quality** of teaching and learning taking place throughout the school.

**After-school and lunchtime clubs** began last week, and there was an overwhelming demand for places—especially among our KS2 pupils. A huge thank you to all the staff who have generously committed their time to providing this fantastic additional provision.

We are trying our very best to ensure that children leave school each day with their belongings and uniform. Please ensure that your child's uniform, PE kit and coat are **clearly named or labelled**. Already we have a huge collection of 'lost property' items, mainly sweatshirts and cardigans.

Just a quick reminder that **school will be closed this Friday** for a **Professional Development (PD) Day**. So this week we'll be having **Book Bag Thursday** instead of the usual Friday. Please make sure your child brings their book bag to school on **Thursday** so they keep reading!

Have a super week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Thursday, **25th 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 Wednesday evening or Thursday 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.*



## Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

### Week Commencing 22nd Sept: Fairtrade Fortnight

Tues 23rd - Thurs 25th Celebrate European Day of Languages

Wed 24th Sept KS2 Cross Country event

Thurs 25th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning

**Fri 26th Sept PD Day 2 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**

### OCTOBER

#### Black History Month

Thurs 2nd Oct

National Poetry Day & Y6 visit Beamish Museum

Fri 3rd Oct

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1 Pupils

Wed 8th Oct

Y5 Scavenger Hunt & Team Building Day, Northfield PM

Thurs 9th Oct

Y6 Tag Rugby Festival - PM

3.20pm Hallowe'en Costumes Shop (dining hall)

Fri 10th Oct

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils

Y4 visit Binchester Roman Fort

Y5 Ancient Greek Workshop

Mon 13th Oct

PM Y1 Forum Theatre visit 'The Smeds & The Smoos'

**Tues 21st Oct**

**4.00pm Open Evening for Prospective New 2026 Reception/ EYFS Starters (new date)**

Wed 22nd Oct

PM Y1 Sports Festival

Thurs 23rd Oct

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils

Hallowe'en Disco

Y1-Y3 4-4.50pm and Y4-Y6 5-6pm (No Extra-curricular Clubs)

**Fri 24th Oct**

**Children Break Up for Half-Term**

**Half-Term Break Monday, 27th Oct - Friday, 31st Oct**



### NOVEMBER

#### Non Fiction November

Wed 5th Nov

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y2 Pupils

Thurs 6th Nov

Boys Y5/Y6 Football PM

Y3 visit Danelaw Viking Village

w/c Mon 10th Nov

Parent Consultation Evenings (No Extra-curricular Clubs this week)

Wed 12th Nov

18 chn from Y3/Y4 attend Indoor Athletics event

Fri 14th Nov

Children In Need Day & Flu Nasal Spray (pupils from Rec-Y6)

w/c Mon 17th Nov

Road Safety Week

Wed 19th Nov

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils

Fri 21st Nov

Individual & Sibling Photographs

w/c Mon 24th Nov

UK Parliament Week & Young Poets Week

Tues 25th Nov

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils

**Wed 26th Nov**

**PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**

Tues 2nd Dec

Y5 visit Centre for Life Newcastle

Wed 3rd Dec

3.30pm Friends of Oakdene Christmas Fair

Fri 5th Dec

10am Y3/Y4 Tableau @ St. Luke's Church and Christmas Lunch

Tues 9th Dec

9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils

Wed 10th Dec

2.15pm Nativity Performance

Thurs 11th Dec

2.15pm Nativity Performance

Tues 16th Dec

9.10am Y5 & Y6 Christingle, PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties

Wed 17th Dec

PM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties

Thurs 18th Dec

AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties

PM Reception Christmas Party

PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties

Fri 19th Dec

**LAST DAY OF TERM**

**Christmas Holiday: Monday, 22nd December 2025 - Friday, 2nd January 2026**

**Children will return to school on Monday, 5 January 2026**

*Pupils have voted for a special brunch on Thursday, 2nd October*

- Full English breakfast
- Vegetarian Full English breakfast
- Tomato Sauce Pasta Kitchen

If your child normally has a packed lunch please **book a brunch**.



The Daniel girls had a fantastic weekend competing at the two-day **Johnson's Dance Festival**, bringing home an **impressive collection of awards** and making their family **incredibly proud**.

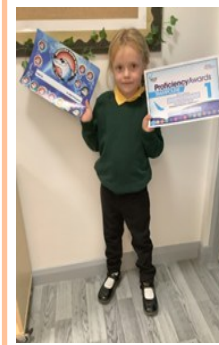
**Lily** shone across multiple categories, placing: **1st** in Song, Modern, Character, Tap, and Tap Duet, **2nd** in Ballet and **3rd** in Lyrical. She was also awarded a trophy for **100% Effort** (Over 10s category) and the **Highest Marked Aggregate** in Ballet, Character, and National (10–12 age group).

**Rosie** also had a brilliant performance, placing: **1st** in Tap (qualifying her for the Open section), **2nd** in Character and she also received the trophy for **Most Promising Vocal Performer** (Under 10s).

**Poppy** impressed the judges with consistent results, placing: **2nd** in Modern, Tap, Song, Ballet, and Character. She was awarded: **Most Promising Baby**, the **Highest Marked Baby Aggregate** in Tap, Modern, and Song.



Our new **Play Leaders** attended their **training** last week at Queen's Campus, Durham University. The leadership training aims to introduce pupils to the skills needed to be a Sports Leader and enthuse the leaders to take on this leadership role when back in school. The training day is only the beginning and leaders are expected to assist school staff in **promoting the School Games**, running intra school competitions, organising personal best challenges, getting children active and leading warm ups in PE. Our leaders were praised for their **enthusiasm** towards being active and for demonstrating **excellent organisational and oracy skills**.



Year 1 pupil **Annie Tunney** has been very active outside of school!

She has earned her Level 1 award in **trampolining** and achieved Stage 5 in swimming.

What a fantastic effort—well done, Annie!



Year 2 pupil **Dylan Allon**, who plays for **Wolviston F.C.**, proudly brought in his trophy to share his **sporting success**.

He was awarded it for his excellent **passing**, strong **tackling**, and **scoring** two fantastic goals.

Well done, Dylan!



Congratulations to Year 3 pupil **Arabella Sedgwick**, who won the **Best Designed Outfit** at the **Billingham Show**!

Arabella **impressed the judges** with her creativity and eye for design, showcasing a wonderful sense of **style** and **imagination**.

Well done, Arabella!

#### The Great Look for a Book

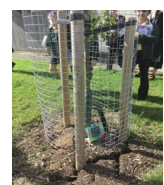
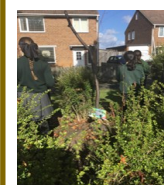
Last Tuesday, with help from **Linzi Winn** (National Literacy Trust) our newly appointed **school librarians** launched a fantastic initiative just for our KS2 children — a community book hunt! Twenty books were cleverly hidden along the route from our school gate and throughout the surrounding area, including popular walk-home paths. Each book contained a special flyer inviting the finder to take part in a **Book Review Challenge**.

Children who discovered a book were encouraged to take it home, enjoy reading it, and then either write a short review of the book they found, **or** review any favourite book they've read recently.

They can then re-hide the book somewhere in the community for someone else to find and enjoy — **keeping the reading adventure going!** This simple but exciting idea is designed to spark curiosity and encourage **reading for pleasure**, which we know plays a vital role in building confidence, wellbeing, and literacy skills.

#### Prizes to Be Won!

Ten lucky winners will receive a **£100 voucher** to support their reading journey. Plus, all entries will be entered into a draw to win one of **four £1,000 donations** for their school or local library! Let's get reading, reviewing, and re-hiding — and spread the joy of books across our community!





## Reading Spotlight

### HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads    A student who reads    A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

5:00

minutes per day

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to  
**1.8 MILLION**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**90th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

will be exposed to  
**282,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**50th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

will be exposed to  
**8,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**10th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

## #20MinutesADay

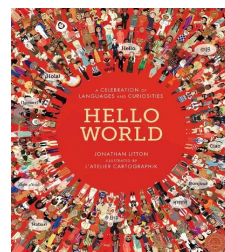
### Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from

**Miss Robinson**

**'Hello World'**

by **Jonathan Litton**



Travel the globe without leaving your seat with *Hello World*—an interactive atlas that teaches you how to say “hello” in over 150 languages!

Lift the flaps to learn pronunciations, uncover fun facts about writing “hi” in hieroglyphs, and even try your hand at Native American hand talk. With every page, *Hello World* invites young explorers to connect with cultures near and far.

Open the book and let the adventure begin!

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

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:- playing superhero games, creating a vegetable **healthy hero**, inspired by the text **Supertato**, and an introduction to '**Mighty Maths**'. Mrs Osborne and I were so impressed with the superhero **reading**. It was great to see the children so **eager** to read **speed words** and to have a formal 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!



## Week Ending 19th September 2025

### Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Arla Watts	Grace Bellew	Eleanor Sutheran	Albie Doherty-Grainger
YRC Miss Dixon	Ruban Gilbey	Lewis Daniels-Owen	Junior Morgan	Theo Grimwood
YRK Miss Dignen	Zac Love	Ruben Earle	Ruby Bunn	Lola Langridge
Y1B Mrs Brown	Oscar Stainsby	Molly Robson	Junior Scarth-Ferguson	Leighton Wardle
Y2D Mrs Durham	Amelia Wright	Hallie Richardson	Jason Adekunle	Darcy Hammond
Mrs Thompson	Louie Walker	Caleb Jefferies	Izzy Matthews	Elliot Hardy
Y3H Mr Horkan	Saga Svedlund	Lily Grantham	Holland Finley	Aria Dugdale
Y4R Miss Robinson	Max Prout	Lola Pearce	Michelle Adekunle	Niamh Bellew
Y5SW Mrs Smith Mrs Wilson	Archie Donnelly & Scarlett Allon	Lily Scott-Mullin & Albert Balanescu	Lewis Harris & Aalia Dobson	Anna Cooley & Jacob Edgar-Simpson
Y6C Mrs Cowan	Charlie Kibbler	Ellis Fearn	Nancy Green	Jake Atkinson
Y6M Mr McConnell	Landon Quinn	Amez Ali	Archie Hall	Toby Chocholko



YR, Y1 & Y2  
Caleb Jefferies

Y3 & Y4  
Sava Ali

Y5 & Y6  
Anaya Usman