

Weekly Newsletter 24th March 2025



Right of the Fortnight: Article 13:

Your right to information



Dear Parents/Carers,

On 20th March, excitement filled the air with the anticipated arrival of the **Minister for School Standards, Catherine McKinnell**. To coincide with the timing of the DfE's publication of the annual update of the pupil premium guidance for school leaders, the Minister had expressed an interest in visiting a school doing **exceptional** work to support all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils.

The Minister moved from class to class to witness at first-hand how the Oakdene curriculum is expertly designed to deliver a **winning formula** of **rigour** and **creativity**. In nursery, the Minister **happily held minibeasts** to promote **early language** whilst reception pupils were **immersed** in their farm topic. The Minister was **impressed** watching Y1 pupils follow their individual design and technology plans to create a bread roll in the dedicated food technology room. As she continued **lesson visits** in Y3 and Y6, the Minister asked older pupils **pertinent questions**; the Minister's warmth made all feel at ease. The children walked with their heads held high around the school and spoke with polite **confidence** to the Minister.



It has been a privilege to welcome the Minister to our wonderful school. Our staff were so **proud** to share their **beautiful learning environments** and to present to her the exciting opportunities the school is offering the children every day.

Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day

The **Rights Respecting Steering Group** would like to thank you for wearing red, black & white, for sharing your jokes and for collectively donating **£247.81** for Comic Relief! This year was all about celebrating 40 years of going big, giving big, and feeling good together. This event raises awareness of the devastating impacts of **poverty**, **conflict** and **climate change** on people around the world. A huge **thank you** to everyone who donated and participated to make Friday such a success!

Finally, detailed information regarding the **parent/carer consultation evenings** is being prepared. Invitations will provide you with the option of face to face meetings or telephone consultations week commencing 7th April.

Have an amazing week and a very happy EID to those families celebrating.

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

Dates For Your Diary - Spring

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
Fri 4th April 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils

W/c 7th April Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers - PM
Tues 8th April Y3 French Day
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 - School closed**

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

Half-term holiday runs from:

Monday, 26th May to Friday, 6th June inclusive (two weeks).

The children will break up on:

Friday, 23th May and will return to school on Monday, 9th June.

Week commencing 9th June - School to Administer checks for:
Y1 Phonics Screening, Y2 Resits and Y4 Multiplication Tables



We've held two more hugely successful **Open Mornings** for the parents & Carers of Y3 and Y4 pupils. The activities linked to **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)**. In Y3 they included **Technology**—coding, **Engineering**—creating an Eiffel Tower structure, **Mathematics**—playing Mathopoly Arithmetic Challenge Children v Parents/Carers and **oracy**—exploratory talk about places/experiences.



Y4's activities included: **Science**—designing an experiment to analyse which drinks contain the most sugar, **Technology**—coding, **Engineering**—building a structure linked to art & **oracy**—sharing the work from key poet, Joseph Coelho.



Y1 pupils got up close to legendary locomotives at the **Shildon Railway Museum**, depicting how the railways have shaped our world.

The children handled a variety of authentic objects associated with the life and achievements of **George Stephenson**. Items included models, books, tools, medals and miners' lamps.



Year 5 and Y6 enjoyed a dance workshop with **Dance City North East** providing them a taster session of what to expect at a professional dance class.

The children learnt a **choreographed** routine to an **instrumental** piece of music.

They then were invited to choreograph their own **interpretive** dance in pairs to demonstrate the journey of a firefly.



Mrs Osborne has once again led a weekly lunchtime Book Club with Y5s as we have been involved in the **Stockton Children's Book of the Year** project. The SCBY award celebrates the best in children's fiction. Each year, five books are **shortlisted** by library staff and shared with children in Years 5 and 6 from primary schools across the borough to vote for their favourite. The winner for **2025** was **The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow**.

Our children's high quality work really impressed Angela Foster (Billingham Librarian). Many congratulations to **Amez Ali** who was awarded with a certificate for the **Best Book Review** and **Ava Hammond** was recognised for her **outstanding effort** at a **prestigious awards ceremony** with the **Mayor**. Arta and Indi also met all 5 authors: **Bex Hogan, Emily Randall-Jones, Matt Goodfellow, Josh Lacey** and **Rachel Delahaye**.

All the children involved in the project from Oakdene and Roseberry Primary, plus our Y5 and Y6 pupils, had the opportunity to meet the brilliant author **Matt Goodfellow**. Matt is the **key poet** for Upper KS2 so the children were delighted to buy signed copies of his **award winning book**.



Y2 visit the **Washington Wetlands** each year to prepare a **launchpad** for their **science** topic in the Summer Term. During this school visit, children met characters from a **digital storybook** – including Ava in life-size puppet form at her giant nest. She challenged them to discover the secrets of her story from the animals on site and designed magical listening devices that enabled the children to hear what they were saying. The children eagerly carried out **nature connection** activities to show that they care about nature. To reward them, the animals revealed their secrets. This memorable visit culminated with the children helping Ava to fly. She disappeared into the distance as she began her long journey to West Africa where she hoped to be re-united with her family. There, she will also have the chance to present to the **Guardians of the Wild**, a council of animals that protect nature.

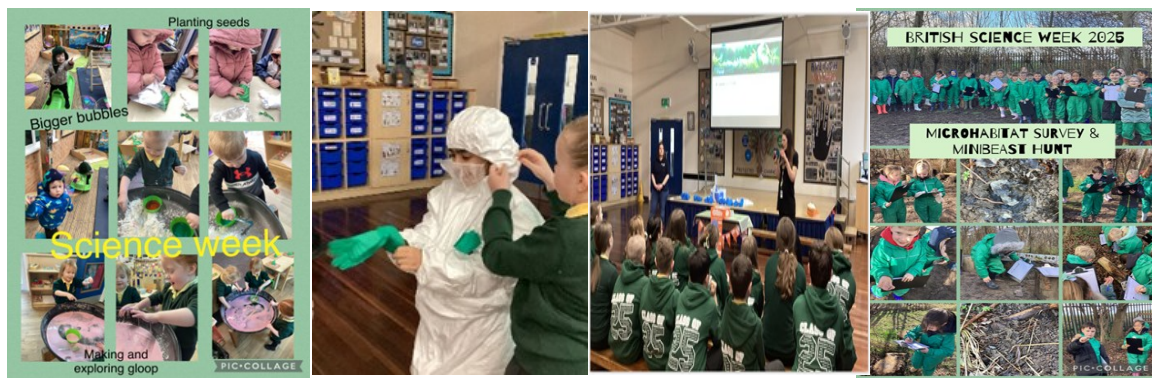
Children, teachers and family members were provided with logins on return to school. They can access a specially designed website where Ava's story continues through a series of updates from her journey. Children are encouraged to complete nature activities in school and with their families to collect virtual badges. The Guardians have promised that any child who demonstrates they are willing to **reconnect** with nature can themselves become **Guardians of the Wild**, an honour not bestowed on humans for thousands of years. Will they do enough to be welcomed as a Guardian and receive their Guardian certificate and membership badge?



Last week we celebrated **British Science Week**. Mrs Cowan organised an exciting series of activities and events to help promote the benefits of scientific involvement. Little Sycamores planted seeds, explored gloop and bubbles. Nursery were enthralled by cockroaches, crickets, grubs & stick insects. Reception enjoyed learning about the diet of their special visitors - the newly hatched **chicks**, who they have loved observing **change** and **growth**. Year 1s used their knowledge of **materials** to 'protect the egg' - they purchased items with their £1 budget from the Oakdene shop and once they were happy with their design, dropped the egg from the upstairs window! Only one egg survived the drop!

Year 2 enjoyed a visit into the forest area linked to their learning on living things - they conducted a **microhabitat survey** and hunted for minibeasts! Year 3s created their own fossils and learnt about their **key scientist - Mary Anning**. In Year 4, the children took part in a BBC Live Lesson - hosted by **Tim Peake** from the ISS. One of the highlights for pupils in Y5 and Y6 was a visit from **two scientists** from **FUJIFILM** in Billingham. They explained their career and their route into FUJIFILM. The children loved competing in a race to see who could get into **protective clothing** the fastest!

Many children purchased science-themed gadgets from our **science shop** - from volcano kits and magnets to rocket balloons and dinosaur fossil digging kits! **Thank you** for supporting this.



Snappy Spring Music Hub Event

Last Thursday, Y2 pupils performed 5 short songs with 600 pupils from across Stockton as part of a Tees valley Music Service event.

The children sang with great enthusiasm and really enjoyed the experience. It was wonderful to hear from teachers, parents and carers how proud our children made them feel.



Y3 pupil, **Roman Chesworth**, is always looking for new ways to stay active. Roman was awarded a **medal** for his contribution to a team playing '**Forza**' - football that promotes the use of a **weighted ball** from an early age.



Y1 pupil, **Hallie Richardson**, shared her L1 and L3 Proficiency in Gymnastics certificates.

Hallie enjoys developing her **core skills**, working on **apparatus** & as part of a **team** at Velocity. Very well done!



Y4 pupil, **Isaac Cummings**, has been identified as a **high potential** ice hockey player and accepted an invitation to the **Elite British Selects Talent Identification Camp** at the National Ice Centre in Nottingham.

Isaac was delighted to find out that he has been selected as one of the **top 34 players** from the **United Kingdom** in the 2015 birth year.

The camp will provide a platform for Isaac to work with elite coaches to showcase the best of their ability.

The first competitive opportunity will take place in May—the 2025 Riga Cup in **Latvia**. **Wow!**



Swimming is a really important life skill.

Y1 pupils **Katy Coates** and **Isla Featherstone** have been working on their **aquatic skills** to become competent swimmers.




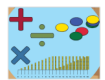
Katy has **perfected** her 'exits' and Isla has mastered **floatation** and **balance**.

Y4 pupil, **Milo Hancock**, has progressed up to 4th Mon at his latest **judo** grading. To earn this belt, he had to learn & demonstrate different throws, rolls, and groups. Milo knows how to follow the judo code.

Y5 pupil **Jake Atkinson** successfully completed his 3rd KUP during his Chi **Taekwondo** Fishburn Promotion Test. Congratulations!



Week Ending 14th March 2025
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Joshua Collier	Albie Docherty-Grainger	Theo Burgum	Mason Walker
YR Miss Dixon	Frankie McCullagh	Eddie Smithson	Aubree Kitchin	Darcie Murray-Denby
Y1 Mrs Brown & Mrs Thompson	Thomasin Scotland	Elodie Richardson	Amelia Wright	Olivia Curry
	Lucas Lee	Jack Bourne	Jenson-John Murray	Bonnie-Rae Scarth-Ferguson
Y2 Mrs Durham	Hunter Lake	Saga Swedlund	Joseph Luker	William Nimmo
Y3 Mr Horkan	Adridev Vineetha	Roman Chesworth	Ivy-May Fiddes	Niamh Bellew
Y4 Miss Robinson	Megan Squires	Albert Balanescu	Scarlett Allon	Harley Wallace
Y5SW Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Charlie Kibbler	Autumn Lonsdale	William Marshall	Amez Ali
Y5M Mr McConnell	Fearne Fisher	Alannah Bell	Sophie-Alysa Minter	Annie Murray
Y6 Mrs Cowan	Jaden Ridley	Emily Smith	George Robinson	Zia Kelly-Bostock







YR & KS1
Harry Robinson

Y3 & Y4
Jacob Edgar-Simpson

Y5 & Y6
Phoebe Donnelly

Week Ending 21st March 2025
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Nursery Mrs Guest	Mabel Dodds-Day	Katelyn Swales-Clark	Edith Lewis	Ruben Earle
YR Miss Dixon	Jamie Hart	Leighton Wardle	Wyatt Hold	Grace Harris
Y1 Mrs Brown & Mrs Thompson	Hallie Richardson	Isla Featherstone	Willow Earle	Harry Robinson
	Dylan Allon	Louie Walker	Nate Oliver	Isabel Liddle
Y2 Mrs Durham	Amani Mohammad	Brianna Pearce	Ariana Wilson-Hill	Louis Ferguson
Y3 Mr Horkan	Olivia Wallace	Mark Bershadskiyi	Oakley Purvis	Rosie Daniel
Y4 Miss Robinson	Jacob Edgar-Simpson	Beth Denmark	Alyza Bateman	Harrison Unsworth
Y5SW Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Amez Ali	Skye Stainsby	Brooke Love	Piper Noon
Y5M Mr McConnell	Ben Bainbridge	Kayci Scott-Mullin	Logan Daniels-Owen	Amber Hammond
Y6 Mrs Cowan	Arta Ahmadi	Scarlett Rogers	Joey Marshall	Indi Chesworth

	YR & KSI Oscar Stainsby	Y3 & Y4 Theo Smith-Sewell	Y5 & Y6 Joey Marshall
---	----------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------