



## Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Fri 1st March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y3 Pupils
Week Commencing 4th March	Careers Week
Tues 5th March	Y3 French Cafe
Thurs 7th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y2 Pupils World Book Day & Readathon Celebration Dental Survey for some Reception and Y1 Children
Fri 8th March	Reception Visit Newham Grange Farm
Mon 11th March	Launch of British Science Week
Wed 13th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y4 Pupils
Fri 15th March	Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day
Mon 18th March	Y2 Visit Washington Wetlands
Tues 19th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y5 Pupils
Fri 22nd March	World Maths Day Y5 Visit to Whitby
W/c 25th March	Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers
Wed 27th March	Y5/Y6 Hockey Event
Thurs 28th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils <i>Children break up for Easter</i>

## EASTER HOLIDAYS Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April

**Mon 15th April Summer Term commences—children return to school**

Mon 6th May **BANK HOLIDAY**

Mon 13th May -Thurs 16th May **Key Stage 2 SATs** are Timetabled

Half-term holiday runs from: Monday, 27 May to Friday, 7 June 2024 inclusive (two weeks). The children will break up on Friday, 24 May and will return to school on Monday, 10 June 2024.

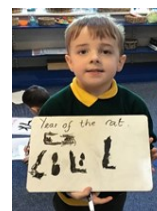
2-week period commencing 10th June: **Y4 Multiplication Tables Check**

Week commencing 10th June: **Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Y2 Resits**



**Chinese New Year** marks the start of a new lunar year and always falls in January/February. (This year it began on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, starting the Year of the **Dragon**.) It is celebrated with **gifts, fireworks, dances** and ended on the 15<sup>th</sup> day with a **lantern** festival.

Reception, **celebrated** with their very own Chinese New Year party! They explored interesting **artefacts** associated with **China** and Chinese New Year; they dressed up like the Jade Emperor from the story of how the years got their animal names. Finally, they prepared, cooked and enjoyed a 'Chinese **Banquet**'. It was delicious!



In Billingham we are so fortunate to have an ice rink on our doorstep. Ice skating lessons are an excellent way to keep fit and learn new skills. Y2 pupil **Niamh Bellew** has only attended two lessons and has already been awarded with her first certificate.



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.



### Promoting the Love of Reading

For children in hospital, books and stories are particularly important - they comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. **Read for Good** provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals.

It's been heart-warming to see the librarians organise this event and to hear the children talking about how the **Readathon** has kept them busy during the half term break.

Please complete the Readathon and return the Sponsor Cards to school on **World Book Day Thursday, 7th March 2024**.

All children who return their completed Sponsor Cards on World Book Day will be given a certificate & sticker for their participation.

These will be presented by Nichola from **Billingham Library** as well as our own **Oakdene librarians!**

If you are able to make a donation please do so via the website: [www.readforgood.org.uk](http://www.readforgood.org.uk)

- Select-Sponsor a Pupil (Blue Tab)
- Enter -Oakdene Primary Academy/  
Billingham/TS23 3NR
- Select -Our school from the drop down list
- Donate -Choose amount or click other to enter your amount
- Complete -Your details including name, address & postcode
- Pay -By Direct Debit or Credit Card



**Recommended Read**  
This week's recommended read is from **Mylah Bruce & Trudi Langstaff**  
**'Storytime' comics & 'The Week Junior' Magazines**



The librarians have read these marvellous magazines & they would like to share their thoughts about them.

**Storytime** is aimed at children aged 5-10 years old, published monthly and includes a wide range of stories with great illustrations. These will be available in our **Hogwarts Library**.

**The Week Junior** includes news from around the world presented in an age-appropriate way. There are different sections which include 'Photos of the Week', 'Book Club', 'Puzzle Page' and 'Quiz of the Week.' These will be on display in the **Fact Forest**.