

Weekly Newsletter 28th November 2022



Right of the Fortnight: Article 23: Your Right to Special Help And Support



Dear Parents/Carers

It's that time of year when we plan for the challenges that the weather may bring. Our **winter gritting plan** is on the school website and we highlight priority routes for Mr Armstrong (Caretaker) to grit. Please stick to priority paths.

It is difficult to predict what the conditions will be like this year. The weather may vary from day to day, so a decision to open the school is made each day. As there are many factors to take into account, these decisions are made once it is clear whether the school is able to operate safely and with the correct level of supervision for the children. We endeavour to make the decision as early as possible in order for us to communicate this with parents/carers as we appreciate that alternative childcare arrangements are often required. Oakdene has a fantastic record of opening school on days when other local schools are closed, however, some children who live very close do stay off when we were open, so please check.

In 15 years of headship we have only closed for two school days due to snow. Please remember that some staff live locally whilst other staff travel much further from North Yorkshire, Sunderland and Durham.

In the case of '**emergency closures**' the school has a clear protocol to follow. Announcements would be made on Marvellous Me, Stockton Borough Council's website and also by local television and radio stations. Parents and carers are more than welcome to phone the school from 8.30am onwards before setting out on their journeys if they are concerned in anyway.

Children need to be prepared for the change in temperature. Please ensure they bring a warm coat and suitable footwear to school each day. If you need help with buying new coats, clothes and footwear please speak to Mrs Hood.



Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

Attendance

Please ensure that your child is/children are in school every day! **LOST DAYS = LOST LEARNING!**

End of Day Collections

Please try to make every effort to pick-up your child/ren at the correct time every day. There has been a significant rise in the number of children that are being picked-up late at the end of the school day or after clubs. This is having an impact on our staff whose working day doesn't finish at the same time of the children and still have work tasks to complete instead of supervising children who should have been collected. We understand that on the odd occasion collecting your child on time may not be possible and in these unlikely circumstances (which shouldn't be regular), a phone call to the office should be made with an explanation. We will be monitoring late collections very closely.

Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

Fri 2nd Dec	Friends Of Oakdene Christmas Fayre
Tues 6th Dec	Y4 TVMS Snappy Christmas at Thornaby Pavilion PM - Mock Wedding for Reception Pupils
Thurs 8th Dec	Christmas Lunch for Pupils & Staff (please book on MCAS by Friday, 02.12.22)
Fri 9th Dec	Nursery Open Morning and Afternoon (times to be confirmed)
Tues 13th Dec	Nasal Flu Spray (Reception to Y6) (please book on portal)
Wed and Thurs 14th and 15th Dec	2.00pm Nativity Performance for Parents & Carers of Reception, Y1, Y2 and Willows
Fri 16th Dec	10.00am Tableau at St Luke's Church for Parents & Carers of Y3 & Y4 Reception Theatre Visit 'How to Catch a Star'
Mon 19th Dec	9.10am Christingle at Oakdene for Parents & Carers of Y5 & Y6 AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties AM Reception Christmas Party PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties
Tues 20th Dec	AM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties Break up for Christmas Holiday



**Wednesday, 21st December 2022 to
Tuesday, 3rd January 2023
Christmas Holiday**

Wednesday, 4th January 2023 Spring Term Commences

Parking Reminder

Unfortunately, this week we have had to speak with several parents/carers regarding their dangerous parking. Please do not put our children at risk by parking in a dangerous manner. Parents/carers must not park on the zig zag markings or park on the pavement around school..

Drivers that continue to ignore the requests of our staff will have their details passed on to our local officers at Billingham Police Station.



Christmas Fayre

The **Friends of Oakdene** and Mrs Hood are putting the last minute plans in place for the **Christmas Fayre** which will be held on Friday, 2nd December.

This will be our first Christmas fayre in three years and it will bring the whole school **community** together. 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.



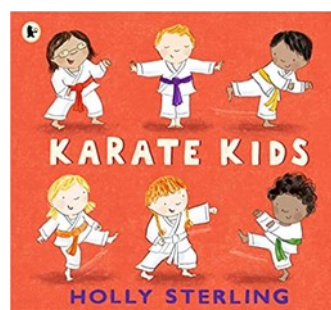
In school we have been thinking about good habits for living and setting daily challenges to help us live well together. This week, we have focussed on challenges linked to sharing, for example, sharing a book with a family member.

Teachers will be launching the 'Twelve Days of Christmas Reading Challenge' next Monday, 5th December. It will run over the last 12 days in school so will finish on the last day of term—Tuesday, 20th December 2022. Keep reading!



Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from
Mrs Martin
"Karate Kid" by Holly Sterling



There are moves to remember, blocks to practise, and punches to perfect! Maya is a white belt, which means she's still a beginner, but with focus, balance and determination she goes far.

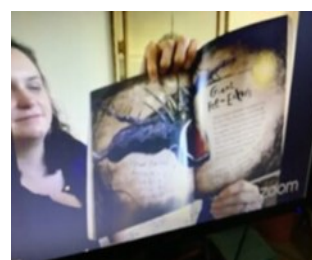
Alongside making books, Holly is also passionate about karate and, from a young age, has competed and won individual and team medals at both European and World level. Holly is now retired from competitive karate but teaches at her own dojos in Durham and Sunderland.

Holly will be at Seven Stories, Newcastle on Thursday, 8th December at 6.30pm.

As part of the Northern Children's Book Festival, and in association with Read North East/National Literacy Trust, our school welcomed the opportunity to engage in a number of different virtual author sessions.

KS2 were enthralled as they met with former Waterstone's Children's Laureate Cressida Cowell. Cressida Cowell, explained how she takes her initial idea and develops it to make a gripping story! The children now have lots of ideas for their own books and characters...

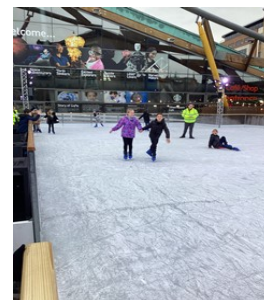
There was also an amazing opportunity to buy signed copies of some of her most popular books: *Wizards of Once* and *Which way to Anywhere*.



Y2 enjoyed their visit to **Preston Hall Museum** to support their topic 'What is in the Oakdene Museum Today?' They explored a range of **artefacts** in the **Homes Workshop** as well as in and around the **Museum** which they couldn't believe once was home to the Roper Family. The children were immersed into a cobbled **Victorian Street** and enjoyed talking to the volunteers working in the shops. The children looked at **careers** from the past. They were especially pleased when each group were given a big bag of traditional sweets to bring back to school. The highlight of the day was meeting **reindeer**—a truly magical experience!



Year 5 had a busy but fun filled day at the **Life Science Centre**. They explored the **Curiosity zone** where the children had to think like **scientists** and explore how things work. Y5s took part in three different science investigations in the **science lab**. They tested the **absorbency** of 'Space Nappies', explored the best strawberries to take into space and rebuilt the solar panels on the **International Space Centre** using a robotic arm. After lunch, the Y5s were excited to demonstrate their ice skating skills on the rink. The **Planetarium**, invited the Y5s to enjoy watching and listening to the journey through **space** before finishing the afternoon off with a visit to the **science theatre** where they learnt all about **light and colour**.



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.



Week Ending 25th November 2022
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 
Morning Nursery Mrs Guest	Dylan Allon	Michael Smith	Jack Bourne
Afternoon Nursery Mrs Guest	Ruben Black	Louie Walker	Finley Short
YR Miss Robinson	Hunter Lake	Sava Ali	Saga Svedlund
Willows Mrs Farnaby & Mr Brown	Harley Black	Taylor Perry	Theo Smith-Sewell
Y1L Miss Leonard	Olivia Wallace	Rosie Daniel	Leighton Daniels-Owen
Y2D Mrs Durham	Sophie Squires	Albert Balanescu	Evie-Jayne Harrison
Y3/4H Mr Horkan	Yener Arslan	Ben Bainbridge	Finley Orley
Y3L Mrs Langan	Archie Hall	Leighton Harvey	Vinnie Jeffrey
Y4S Miss Smith	Thea Birch	Zia Kelly-Bostock	Arta Ahmadi
Y5W Mrs Wilson	Oliver Copland	Eleanor Lewis	Finley Amos
Y5M Mr McConnell	Meghan Dyson	Trudi Langstaff	Monica Dobson
Y6B Miss Bestwick	Ben Carmichael	Reuben Quinn	George McNay

Star of the Week: High no of Dojos, Rights Respecting both in class & at lunchtime, PE Readiness, read at home, learnt spellings etc

Star Reader: Read at least minimum number of times depending on key stage therefore in Reading Raffle, using myON at home etc

Star Writer: Joined handwriting, presentation of written work, creative content, quality/quantity of written work, correct letter sizes etc