

Weekly Newsletter  
29th January 2024



**Right of the Fortnight: Article 38:  
Children should be protected during war  
& not allowed to fight in an army.**



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

Although January feels like it's been a long month, another week has flown by and, as always, the children and staff have been really busy. Here at Oakdene we are **passionate** about providing an **exceptional, innovative education** that **inspires** and **empowers** our pupils, in every class, every day! We aim to develop **confident, resilient, independent lifelong learners** and this has been evident in all of the lessons and after school activities I have visited this week. I am always blown away by the children's articulation about their **learning**. The children are always so proud too!

**Attendance and Punctuality**

This week has been another fabulous week in terms of attendance. We are pleased that overall attendance is closer than ever to our **97% target**. With your continuing support we believe that this remains achievable and we will continue to provide your children with **outstanding educational opportunities**. Please make sure your child arrives for an 8.50am start if they are in Reception to Y6. We are monitoring **punctuality** very closely and will contact you if we have a concern.

**Reading for pleasure**

This week we look forward to celebrating **National Storytelling Week**. The theme this year is **'Dream Up a World'**. This will be a joyful **celebration** of the power of **sharing stories**.

Keep reading! Have a fabulous week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



It was fabulous to see how many parents, Carers and grandparents of reception pupils attended the first **Open Morning of the Spring term**, last Tuesday. Activities included **Cosmic Creativity**: following instructions to make a speedy straw rocket, **Scrumptious Space**: baking delicious space rock cakes, **Astronaut Academy**: completing space themed physical Challenges and **Rocket-fuelled Reading**: finding out more about our fantastic reading opportunities and receiving a **Myon** login for use at home.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many of you enjoyed the opportunity to look at your child's learning journey via their beautiful journals. Thank you to those who emailed Miss Dixon to share photos of your child accessing Myon at home or following the recipe at home.



**Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term**  
RSPB Schools Big Bird Watch (8th Jan to 19th Feb)

Mon 22nd Jan—Fri 2nd February Swimming Block 2 for Y5 pupils

Week Commencing 30th Jan '**National Storytelling Week**'

Wed 31st Jan Dental Nurse Survey for some Reception Pupils (postponed)

Thurs 1st Feb Virtual Storytelling events with Swapna Haddow & Steven Camden

Week Commencing 5th Feb '**Children's Mental Health Week**'

Mon 5th Feb Y1 Wheels Day

Tues 6th Feb Safer Internet Day

Y4 Visit York Chocolate Story

Thurs 8th Feb 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y6 Pupils

Mon 12th Feb Chinese New Year

Tues 13th Feb 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y1 Pupils

Shrove Tuesday

Thurs 15th Feb Y1 Visit to Shildon Railway Museum

Fri 16th Feb **PD Day 5 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**

**HALF TERM**

**Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February**

**Monday 26th February Children Return to School**

Fri 1st March 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y3 Pupils

Week Commencing 4th March Careers Week

Thurs 7th March 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y2 Pupils  
World Book Day & Readathon Celebration

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

Y1 Visit Shildon Railway Museum

Mon 18th March Y2 Visit to Washington Wetlands

Tues 19th March 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y5 Pupils

Fri 22nd March World Maths Day

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

**Children break up for Easter**

**EASTER HOLIDAYS**

**Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April**

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



Year 3s were immersed in their **Stone Age** experience through our **Fantastic Forest School** curriculum. The children searched for sticks, **built and lit fires**, **cooked fish**, tasted Stone Age vegetable broth, and enjoyed berry-infused water with **foraged berries**— an exciting journey through **time and taste**. Mrs Brown was particularly impressed with their **fire safety**.



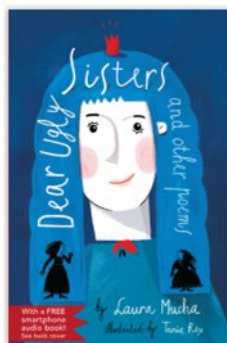
Year 3 enjoyed practicing essential **netball skills**, including:- **passing, footwork, positioning and shooting**, during a fun-filled Netball Skills Event at Durham Queen Campus.

The children received high praise for their **collaboration** and teamwork. It's great to see children demonstrating the **School Games values**.



### Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from **Amelia Booth & Amelia Richards** **'Dear Ugly Sisters & other poems'** **By Laura Mucha**



This is Laura's first picture book of poetry for children which inspired us to write our own after her lively performance at our school.

A favourite was when she read aloud **BIRDSONG** to the YIs beginning with **Brrrrrrrrrrreeeeeeeeep!** Find it on display and available to read in our **Poet Tree Corner**.

Remarkable Reception Pupil **Harry Robinson** was rightly proud to be awarded a trophy from **NESC sports coaching**. He was recognised for being kind, listening carefully and for helping the football coaches.



**Lily Lloyd** has been awarded certificates to recognise her dancing skills and she has progressed to **Stage 4**.



# Can you help?

the enquire learning trust  Yorkshire Cancer Research 

**We're fundraising for Yorkshire Cancer Research by collecting plastic milk bottle tops - any colour.**

The bottle tops will then be sold to plastic recycling companies to raise funds for the charity, then made into plastic playground equipment, garden furniture and children's toys.

It's an easy way to help the charity, the environment, education and children across the country!

Your collection point is:  
**Oakdene Primary Academy**




Pupils in Year 4,5 and 6 enjoyed listening to an assembly led by two nurses from the NHS. The aim of the assembly was to inspire them to think about the many **career opportunities** available in the **NHS**. They talked about what they do each day in their job, the career journey they had taken to become a nurse and the qualities that the NHS would look for in someone wanting to be a nurse.

They also talked about other careers in the NHS including phlebotomy and psychology which some the children hadn't heard of.



# Free Childcare

## What's available for you and when

### How many hours of childcare can you claim per week?

Age 3-4 years				Age 2 years				Age 9-23 months	
All Parents: (Universal)				Families with Additional Needs				Working Families	
15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	30 hours
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	SEP 2024	SEP 2025
Working Families				Working Families					
30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	15 hours	15 hours	30 hours			
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025			

15 hours per week is based on 38 weeks per year (term-time only) but parents can access fewer hours per week over a full year. Eligibility criteria applies to all of the above except for the universal offer for all parents. In addition, you can use Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit to pay for childcare whilst also claiming your 15 or 30 hours of funded childcare.

### Find the right offer for you

Financial support available to working parents to help with childcare costs is increasing from April 2024. Changes will make it easier for parents with childcare responsibilities to move into or take on more paid work.

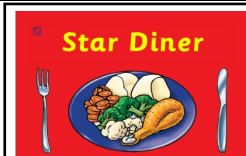
**Childcare Choices**

Visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) for more information.

To keep up to date on when you can start to claim the new funded childcare offer visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/freechildcare](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/freechildcare) or contact the Families Information Service on 01642 527225

Week Ending 26th January 2024  
Stars of the Week at Oakdene Primary Academy

Class	Star of the Week 	Star Reader 	Star Writer 	Star Mathematician 
Early Years Unit Mrs Guest	Willow Watts	Isaac Stewart	Elijah Wilson-Hill	Freya White
YR Miss Dixon	Harry Robinson	Tommy Wilks	Michael Smith	Thomasin Scotland
Y1 Mrs Brown	Zayn Gibson	Lincoln Wardle	Armani Mohammad	William Nimmo
Y2 Mrs Durham	Riley Titlestad	Leighton Daniels-Owen	Jack Blasco	Lillymae Morgan
Y3 Mr Horkan & Mr Brown	Sophie Squires	Lacie Carse	Daisy Thompson	Blake Playle
Y4R Miss Robinson	Ellis Fearn	Frankie McQuilling	Logan Daniels-Owen	Hollie Dale
Y4S Miss Smith	Fearne Fisher	Alannah Bell	Finley Orley	Leighton Harvey
Y5 Mrs Wilson & Mrs Smith	Indi Chesworth	Teddie Edmenson	Amelia Wilks	Peter Balanescu
Y6M Mr McConnell	Casey-Lee Morgan	Kaveesha Soyza	Isaac Dobson	Harleigh Ramsey
Y6B Miss Bestwick	James Luker	Jack Tunney	Mylah Bruce	Amelia Wood



YR & KSI  
Sava Ali

Y3 & Y4  
Florence Bruce

Y5 & Y6  
Cassius Dobson