

OAKDENE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Personal Development 4th September – 16th November 2023



RSHE & PSHE

- At the end of the summer term, we were delighted to have achieved the **Rainbow Flag Award**. The Rainbow Flag Award is a national quality assurance framework that focuses on **positive LGBTQ+ inclusion and visibility**. Over the past year, we have been committed to creating a positive environment of **LGBTQ+ education** across our school, resulting in many positive changes and new initiatives taking place. As we continue our journey, we recognise the need for ongoing improvements and the introduction of further initiatives. For now, we hope you will support us in **celebrating** this wonderful achievement. We are one of the first schools in the **North East** to have achieved this award. This is one example how **the Protected Characteristics** are interwoven in our 'first class curriculum'.
- On Thursday 5th October the whole school celebrated **National Poetry Day**. The theme this year was '**Refuge**'. Early Years **explored 'The Grass House' by Shirley House**, In KS1 pupils **read** and explored '**Nature Trail**' by **Benjamin Zephaniah** and produced their own refuge inspired poems. In KS2, pupils explored and **compared** a selection of poems and **composed** their own Lune poem inspired by their personal sense of refuge.
- On Tuesday, 10th October it was **World Mental Health Day**. The aim of the day was to raise awareness of mental health and to drive positive change for everyone's wellbeing. The theme for this year's day was 'mental health is a universal human right'. This linked with our **Rights Respecting curriculum**.
- **Reading** can help you **relax, boost your mood** and escape elsewhere. As a **North East Partner School** with the **National Literacy Trust** we are taking part in the **Take10ToRead** project to capture a school moment in support of **World Mental Health Day**.
- For **World Kindness Day** on Monday 13 November we are using cross-curricular literacy and RSHE resources based on poignant and best-selling book *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*. Resources include assembly presentations plus follow-up discussion, writing and oracy activities.
- With the 'cost of living crisis' everyone is feeling the pinch. That's why we accepted an invitation to host a 'pop up event' '**Coats for All**' on 26th October. A huge thank you to Laura McBride and four members of the ABC Counselling team who organised this community event. ABC brought over 400 high quality coats which had been donated, by businesses or were donated from families. **300 coats were matched with new owners which is amazing!** Hopefully lots of children and families will benefit from new coats in preparation for the colder months ahead.
- Antonio from the Fire Service delivered a Firework safety assembly.

Citizenship

- Pupils were invited to apply for various roles in school including: **Digital Leaders, Play Leaders, lunchtime monitors, Librarian** and **Reading Buddy** roles. We were overwhelmed with the written applications – it was really difficult to shortlist. They were also interviewed e.g. librarians by Angela Foster (Stockton Librarian).
- **Play Leaders attended training** as part of the Schools Sport Partnership with Northfield (**use of Sports Premium**) The leadership training introduced pupils to the skills needed to be a Sports Leader and enthused the leaders to take on this leadership role when back in school.
- Pupil voice elections took place and our new school councillors have been extremely busy already e.g. organising the **Food Bank Collection**. The children could see the **impact** of their efforts.
- The **Rights Respecting Steering Group** would like to support **Children in Need Day** on Friday, 17th November 2023.
- **The Big Ambition – Have your say!** The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across

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England. The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England. **We asked all our families to participate in this survey.**

Development of Character

- The **Rights Respecting curriculum** continues to be embedded. All classes created their **Class Charters** for the new school year in September so they have ownership about how they contribute to the ethos of our amazing school.
- The

Wider Opportunities

- Angela Foster (Stockton Librarian) presented a **record number of certificates & medals** to all the children who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge.
- Angela Foster also provided information about '**Stockton Children's Book of the Year**' and this is also an amazing opportunity for upper KS2 pupils to continue their 'reading for pleasure' journey.
- Once again there was great demand for our extensive range of **after-school and lunchtime clubs**. We have prioritised places for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND. Most clubs are funded through Pupil Premium. We are hoping to relaunch the **Children's University** in the next few weeks.
- **Weekly newsletters** celebrate **the gifts and talents** of children in school through **extensive reward systems**. We also celebrate children's achievements beyond the school day.
- Curriculum pledges are adhered to e.g. entitlement for wider opportunities. **All classes grow food, cook and access an exceptional learning outside the classroom offer**. This includes **Forest School, Beach School and frequent visits** e.g. Y2 enjoyed their visit to **Preston Hall Museum** to support their topic 'What is in the Oakdene Museum Today?' Y6 visited **Beamish** to engage in a variety of workshops to bring their Victorian topic to life. They experienced what life was like in Britain in the early 1900's. Y3 visit Danelaw as part of their Viking topic this week. This builds cultural capital.

British Values

- British Value displays are evident around school. The values are regularly visited in lessons and assemblies.
- We supported the **Royal British Legion** in school and will be selling items for the children to buy if they wish. We spent time thinking about the brave men, women and veterans who have served our country and the sacrifices they've made. The whole school observed a two-minute silence on Friday.

Careers Curriculum

- Each year group has been introduced to the 'Key people' they will be introduced to throughout the academic year in all subjects. Some 'Key people' have been studied in depth e.g. Y6 Key Scientist (paleobiologist) Emma Dunne.
- Oakdene staff have contributed to some **Learn By Design** Legacy lesson resources – which are now available on the Tees Valley Career website.
- Engaged with the Stemettes Mission to further Engage, Inform and Connect the next generation of women and non-binary people into Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) by showcasing a diversity of people working in STEAM.
- Reception pupils learnt about **real life Superheroes**. It was wonderful to catch up with one of our former Oakdene pupils—Paige Wardle who has pursued a career in the **RAF**. Alongside

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her colleague Charnel Fryer, Paige introduced the children to the different **aircraft, uniforms and career opportunities.**

- **Step into the NHS** staff have used a suite of resources, children have attended Health Career presentations which feature NHS staff talking about their jobs.
- **Inspiring the next generation of Scientists** As a school community we are extremely proud to have sustained the **Primary Science Quality Mark (Gilt standard)** award for our **exceptional** work in Science.

SMSC

Spiritual

- We've been delighted to welcome back into school this term the **Open the Book** team from the parish. Volunteers from our local church work with KS1 children to dramatise stories from the Bible and help us reflect on these. It was wonderful to meet the new vicar attached to St. Luke's Church too - **Reverend Mahalha.**
- Harvest celebrations
- Y1 Mock baptism

Moral

- We celebrated 'Libraries Week'. In 2023, Libraries Week became **Green Libraries Week!** We looked at the work going on in libraries across the UK focused on **sustainability and climate change.**
- As part of **Non-Fiction November & UK Parliament Week** upper KS2 were introduced to a new text 'Sea Change Save the Ocean' By 50 illustrators from across the world. This is a stunning collection of original postcards and messages from 50 illustrators across the world, working to celebrate and protect the precious life in our oceans.
- **Picture News** The weekly resources expose children to current affairs, discover their interests and bring the world closer to their everyday lives. We have just registered as an advocate school.
- **Lyfta** Teachers are weaving storyworlds (which feature a real human story, carefully selected to spark curiosity, empathy and compassion and open up conversations on important topics) into topics and assemblies.

Social

- It has been fantastic to welcome so many parents & carers to our termly open mornings. So far the open days for reception, Y1, Y3, Y5 & Y6 have taken place. These have showcased aspects of our personal development offer, for example, sharing **healthy eating** in reception, a typical weekly **Yoga** session in Y1 and **road safety** in Y3.
- It was great to be able to hold the **Hallowe'en Discos** just before the half term break. Our hall was transformed into 'Hogwarts'. Overall, the evening was a huge success, and raised just over £390.00 towards school funds thanks to the entrepreneurial skills of our staff.
- On Friday, 29th September, we held another successful **Macmillan Coffee Morning.**

Cultural

- October marked the start of '**Black History Month**'. During this month, our pupils took part in a wide range of **enriching cultural** activities.
- **European Day of Languages'** - each class studied a country, some of these made connections with topics. KS2 were also super excited to participate in the **Lingotot European Day of Languages Festival** on Tuesday, 26th September! The children had a fun-filled day with Rosie, our **specialist language teacher**, who led activities based on everyday life in France.

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Enquiry

On 9th November 2023, Oakdene hosted an enquiry. The focus was: Personal Development: The rich curriculum offer is underpinned by a strong emphasis on personal development & social skills to enable children to become successful citizens of the future. **Two members of the AIC** plus five colleagues from the ELT attended this day. *Awaiting report.*