

## Weekly Newsletter 4th April 2022



**Right of the Fortnight: Article 40:**  
**Your right to legal help if you need it.**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of you who attended the most recent parent/carer consultation evenings. It is always a special time to embed the partnership between home and school, to **celebrate** your child's progress and to identify next steps and how you can support your child's education. If you were unable to attend on the day please contact your child's class teacher to rearrange the consultation.

Last Thursday we said '**Goodbye**' to Y4L's exceptional and dedicated teacher **Mrs Helen Laville** and her son Oliver in Y6S. This pandemic has taught us that life is for living, so I am sure Mrs Laville and her family will both flourish and enjoy their new opportunities in Abu Dhabi. Mrs Laville accepted a teaching post at an international school and their summer term commences on 11th April. Oakdene hopes to establish a link with this school.

We were delighted to offer **Mr Michael Horkan** a permanent teaching post and he started to teach Y4L from 1st April 2022. Mr Horkan spent the last few weeks getting to know his new class and saying farewell to Y3. **Miss Ameera Akram** will cover the Teaching Assistant vacancy for the summer term in Y3 until she commences her teacher training with Stockton in September 2022.

Have a wonderful Easter! We look forward to seeing you on **Monday, 25th April!**

Mrs E. Bramley and Miss C. Champion

### Reception's egg-citing adventure

On their visit to Hall Hill Farm, reception were all very excited to have held a chick and talked about how fluffy they were! The children were very surprised when Mrs Hood received a message to go to the school office and she returned with an **incubator, a pen and some eggs!** Reception didn't know what the eggs were but they predicted that something amazing was about to happen. They were very lucky to observe six chicks hatch! The children discussed what the chicks would need to survive and we shared the role of making sure the chicks had enough water, food and bedding in the home.

Reception were sad to see the chicks go, but they enjoyed the experience of watching them hatch and change each day. Reception gained lots of new information about chicks, animals and their babies and how to take care of animals.

Throughout the topic reception asked lots of questions about farming as a **career** and they have found out that there are so many opportunities from a dairy farmer to a tractor engineer, a vet to an auctioneer. We have **high aspirations** here at Oakdene and by the end of this brilliant trip there are now lots of budding future farm workers!



## Dates For Your Diary - Spring and Summer Term

Tues 5th April Y5 Oriental Museum Visit  
Fri 8th April **Non-uniform day raising money for Ukraine**  
KS1 Open the Book - pm  
**Children break up for Easter**

**EASTER HOLIDAYS**  
**Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April**

**Mon 25th April**  
**Summer term commences—children return to school**

Fri 6th May KS1 Open the Book  
Mon 16th May Y5 SPARK Education Visit  
Mon 23rd May Royal Reading Challenge  
Thurs 26th 10am Y2 'Guardians of the Wild' Presentation  
PM Y2 Theatre Royal Newcastle Visit  
'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'  
Fri 27th May Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations including  
**special Jubilee Menu at lunchtime**  
PM KS1 Open the Book  
**Children break up for Half Term**

**MAY HALF TERM BREAK**  
**Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June**

**Mon 6th June**  
**PD Day for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)**

**Tues 7th June School reopens for pupils**



## Summer Term Statutory Assessments

### KS1

- May 2022 **KS1 SATs** test period.
- **Week commencing 6th June: Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Y2 resits.**

### KS2

- **Key Stage 2 SATs** are timetabled Monday 9th May- Thursday 12th May 2022.

Mon 9th May: English grammar, punctuation & spelling papers 1 & 2.

Tues 10th May: English reading

Wed 11th May: Mathematics Paper 1 & 2

Thurs 12th May: Mathematics Paper 3

- **3-week period commencing 6th June: Y4 Multiplication Tables Check**

Weekly Awards - week-ending  
Friday, 8th April 2022

Congratulations to each of our  
Star Pupils:

Nursery	- Roman Wraith & Oakley Harrison
Reception	- Riven Mansell
Little Willows Y1L	- Joshua Wood - Milo Hancock
Y2F Y2/30	- Charlie Kibbler - Violet Wood
Y3R	- Peter Balanescu
Y4H Y4SW	- Monica Dobson - Ceejay Chambers
Y5BE Y6G Y6S	- Arthur Stead - Alex Metcalfe - Lewis Gatenby

Weekly Awards - week-ending  
Friday, 8th April 2022

Congratulations to each of our  
Remarkable Readers:

Nursery	- Aria Dugdale & Sava Ali
Reception	- Leighton Daniels-Owen
Little Willows Y1L Y2F Y2/30	- Theo Smith-Sewell - Lily Charlton - Ellis Fearn - Finley Orley
Y3R	- Ellie Smith-Sewell
Y4H Y4SW Y5BE Y6G Y6S	- Meghan Dyson - Finley Amos - Olivia Woodcock - Ethan Wood - Paige Evis

**Recommended Read**

This week's recommended read is from Miss Grainger 'We're Going On an Egg Hunt' by Laura Hughes.



Join the Easter Bunnies as they set off on an exciting lift-the-flap Easter egg hunt. With ten eggs to find and count, it's great fun. But watch out for the obstacles along the way - lambs, chicks, bees and ducks - and there's even a wolfish surprise, so do take care. Based on the traditional 'We're Going on a Lion Hunt' rhyme, this will be a huge hit with all fans of the classic 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.

Y1 were the first school to visit the first children's performance at the new Fire Station Venue Sunderland. Y1's key author is Julia Donaldson and they saw the 'Smartest Giant In Town' brought to life. This heart-warming tale about friendship and helping those in need is brought to life in a musical, puppet-filled adventure.

George wished he wasn't the scruffiest giant in town, so when he spotted a new shop selling giant-sized clothes, he decided it's time for a new look. George was the smartest giant in town...until he bumped into some animals who desperately need his help - and his clothes!



## Washington Wetlands Visit: *Generation Wild—Ava's Destiny*

Y2 visit the Washington wetlands each year. This year, Oakdene has been invited to be involved in a special project. The project was introduced through a digital storybook where Ava's story began. We were provided with a range of curriculum-linked resources so that we could incorporate work on ospreys and wetlands into the teaching.

During the free school visit, children met 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 are saying. The children 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 log ins on return to school. They can access a specially designed website where Ava's story continues through a series of updates from her journey. Will she fulfil her destiny, find the Guardians and finally be reunited with her family? 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 Guardians certificate and membership badge?



## Open The Book

KS1 pupils watched and joined in a performance from local church volunteers depicting the **Easter Story**. The children explored the story of **Holy Week** and Easter in drama, music and art during the past few weeks. They have learnt about the death and resurrection of Jesus; about the Biblical characters and evidence from history and the different emotions we may experience as we engage with this. The children will be bringing home beautiful Easter cards this week. Y1 enjoyed making their Easter loaves too.

