

Weekly Newsletter  
10th January 2022



Right of the Fortnight: Article 7:

Your Right to a Name and Nationality



Dear Parents/Carers,

A **Happy New Year** to you all! We hope that you all had a wonderful time over the Christmas period. On behalf of the whole team we would like to thank everyone for their Christmas cards, messages and kind gifts which the Oakdene team received for the festive season.

We know many families have been affected by COVID in the last few weeks and I'm sure, like us, you have been watching the news keenly to see whether there would be any further restrictions put in place and whether schools would be affected.

Whilst we are hopeful that the new and more transmissible variant is mild in most cases, we are not complacent about this and will continue to follow our risk assessment and safety measures to try and help reduce infections. You will most probably be aware that some schools have already partially closed due to staff absences. Last week we had 10 staff who did not return after the Christmas break due to COVID (including teachers, TAs, LSAs and cleaners). It was impossible to get supply teachers. We are so fortunate to have a fantastic school team who are always willing to adapt and work flexibly. We will continue to do all we can to minimise disruption as a result of staff absence and will, as always, endeavour to provide the best education and care possible for your children.

**To help keep us all safe, we ask that just one parent or carer comes with children to drop off and collect and, where possible, email or ring the school with any queries or concerns. If you do have to attend the school site, please ensure you have a face covering (unless exempt). The guidance is constantly changing and may appear confusing—if in doubt, please make a phone call to school and we'll be happy to help.**

As ever, we have a programme of exciting events planned for this term so please have a look at the 'Dates for your Diary' section.

The first monthly online safety newsletter of 2022 is now available on the website. We would really encourage you to read this as we are aware that many children received new devices/ technology for Christmas.

Finally, the temperatures were quite mild over the Christmas period, however, it is January and temperatures dropped significantly last week. In addition, we need to ensure that we have good ventilation in school. We noticed that some pupils were visibly cold later in the week as they had thin, summer-style dresses and coats. At this time of year we recommend that all children need a thick winter coat, hat and gloves. Please ensure these are named. The Foodbank in Billingham Town Centre has many good-quality, second-hand coats available in a range of sizes should you wish to save money or promote recycling.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding. Stay safe!

Mrs E Bramley and Miss C Champion



## Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Mon 10th Jan Y4 Virtual Visitor Maya Archeologist Dr Diane Davies  
Tues 11th Jan Y4 Virtual Visitor Maya Archeologist Dr Diane Davies

Week Commencing 24th January to Fri 4th February —Y5 Swimming Block 2

Thurs 27th Jan Y3 Stone Age Visit North York Moors  
4pm **Virtual Parent Consultation re: Academy Conversion**

Week Commencing 31st January 'National Storytelling Week'

Tues 1st Feb Chinese New Year

Week Commencing 7th February 'Children's Mental Health Week'

Tues 8th Feb Safer Internet Day  
Wed 9th Feb YR & Y6 Pupils Height & Weight Checks  
Fri 18th Feb Last day of the half term.

### HALF TERM

**Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February**

Mon 28th Feb **PD Day 5 for Staff Training** (school closed for pupils)

Week commencing 28th Feb: Fairtrade Fortnight Celebrations

**Tues 1st March Children return to school**  
Pancake Tuesday

Thurs 3rd March World Book Day

Mon 14th March Launch of British Science Week  
Fri 18th March Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day

W/c 21st March Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers of EYFS & KS1

W/c 28th March Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers of KS2

Mon 28th March Y2/3O visit Washington Wetlands  
Wed 30th March Y2F visit Washington Wetlands

Fri 8th April **Children break up for Easter**

### EASTER HOLIDAYS

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

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



<p>Weekly Awards - week-ending Friday, 17th December 2021</p> <p>Congratulations to each of our Star Pupils:</p>		<p>Weekly Awards - week-ending Friday, 17th December 2021</p> <p>Congratulations to each of our Remarkable Readers:</p>	
Nursery	- Jack Bourne & Esmea Skipp	Nursery	- Callum Hall & Caleb Jeffries
Reception	- Niamh Bellew	Reception	- Riley Titlestad
Little Willows	- Joshua Wood	Little Willows	- Blake Playle
Y1L	- Lily Mullin	Y1L	- Megan Squires
Y2F	- Taylor Perry	Y2F	- Daisy Murray-Walker
Y2/30	- Kain Carmichael	Y2/30	- Ava Hammond
Y3R	- Brienna May-Thomas	Y3R	- Zia Kelly-Bostock & Holly Stapleton
Y4L	- Ollie Smith	Y4L	- Monica Dobson
Y4SW	- Ceejay Chambers	Y4SW	- Arez Ali
Y5BE	- Aimee Lynn	Y5BE	- Libby Hancock
Y6G	- Alicia Archer	Y6G	- Oliver Williams
Y6S	- Emilie Haley	Y6S	- Lacey Lambert

<p>Weekly Awards - week-ending Friday, 7th January 2022</p> <p>Congratulations to each of our Star Pupils:</p>		<p>Weekly Awards - week-ending Friday, 7th January 2022</p> <p>Congratulations to each of our Remarkable Readers:</p>	
Nursery	- Isla Featherstone & Sava Ali	Nursery	- Lily Grantham & Elodie Richardson
Reception	- Mason Lavender	Reception	- Oliver Coates
Little Willows	- Alyza Bateman	Little Willows	- Oscar Smith-Sewell
Y1L	- Meghan Squires	Y1L	- Sebastian
Y2F	- Alyssa Frost-Usher	Y2F	- Eley-Carberry
Y2/30	- Sophie-Alysa Minter	Y2/30	- Alyssa Frost-Usher - Amber Hammond
Y3R	- Cally Wright	Y3R	- Hayden Jackson
Y4L	- Kaci-Leigh Moody-Blackburn	Y4L	- Harleigh Ramsey
Y4SW	- Eleanor Lewis	Y4SW	- Rocco Garthwaite
Y5BE	- David Smith	Y5BE	- Amelia Kelly
Y6G	- Robyn White	Y6G	- Joel Dale
Y6S	- Harry Bennington	Y6S	- Lewis Gatenby



The Oak Academy Online Teaching and Learning resource  
<https://www.thenational.academy>

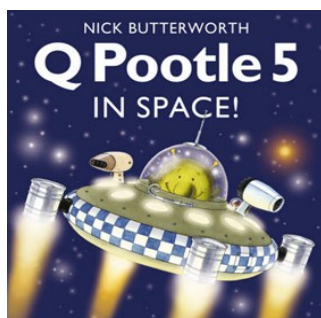
Should you ever need to access our **home learning offer** there is a high quality range of online resources available to you. You will be able to access a wide range of subjects and lessons. Each lesson is an hour long. They are delivered by a teacher, with a pre-recorded video as well as quizzes, worksheets and creative activities. It's all easy to use, there's no login or password required, you can access the lessons on any device, and pupils only need materials they can find at home. This is a national resource produced by the DfE . Have fun exploring the activities.

If you need anything at all please phone the main office: 01642 560768 or email your child's class teacher.

Oakdene's website address: <https://www.oakdeneprimary.org.uk/>

### Recommended Read

This week's recommended read is from  
Miss Slevin



This is an alien story with a difference!

There's lots of laughs in this friendly, funny story and I loved the wonderfully low-tech DIY spaceship. This is perfect for children in Early Years, especially Reception to support their Space topic.

### Autumn Term Reading Challenges

Congratulations to all the children who completed all of the reading challenges on the Readopoly board and for those who completed the Twelve Days of Christmas reading challenge. All children received prizes for their amazing effort.

The name which was drawn out of the Readopoly raffle on the last day of term to win the iPad was **Peter Balanescu** in Y3. Both Peter and his younger brother, Albert, had completed all of the Readopoly challenges. Very well done!



Year 5 visited the **Life Centre, Newcastle** to launch their science topic 'Space' in preparation for the Spring Term. The Y5s really enjoyed exploring the different exhibitions and discovering career options for scientists. They completed a space workshop experimenting with robots and learning about life in space. The photo shows our Y5 astronaut **Tori**. The children visited the planetarium and learnt about the solar system. They watched a science show 'Lumiere' with experiments linked to light. Finally the children enjoyed an ice skating session!



### Primary Engineer Leaders Award Winners.

Congratulations to **Alissia Fryett** and **Alyssa Frost-Usher** for being selected as winners for the Leaders Award! The children designed inventions which were chosen as being fantastic ideas by a panel of external judges.

**Ellie Smith-Sewell** and **Lilly Jackson** were also awarded certificates for high commended inventions. Well Done to our fantastic, creative inventors of the future!



As well as a live story broadcast, the children enjoyed a surprise visit from **Santa Claus** and his elves on the last week of term. The children raced to the fence to wave to the special visitors. **Oakdene** had kindly been nominated to receive selection boxes for all the children from **The Teesside Family Foundation**.

A wonderful festive treat!



### *The Tin Foil Astronaut*

*Reception pupils visited ARC to see **The Tin Foil Astronaut**. The children joined the **Man in the Moon** on a journey to a little known planet called **Earth**, where **Alba Dinkley** was shooting for the stars and planning to enter a **Space Race**!*

*The children experienced a space adventure of discovery, individuality and believing in yourself. The performance was an explosion of rocking music, puppets and a smattering of space facts and science fiction.*



The New Year is a great excuse to set yourself new challenges.  
Miss Bestwick would like to share a challenge with you:

### Skills Builder Challenge

#### Organise a family quiz or games night.

Choose a theme for your quiz or a game your family will enjoy.

Make sure everyone has a job as you get ready for the quiz or game.

You may need someone to set the questions for the quiz, to ask the questions and to keep the scores.

You may want someone to set the game up, explain the rules to everyone - and remember someone will need to sort out drinks and snacks!

As a leader think about everyone's strengths - what job would they be best at to help you set up and run the quiz or game so that you all have fun?

#### Reflection Questions

**Getting Started:** How does this activity make you feel?

**Intermediate:** How can you spot strengths and weaknesses in others?

**Advanced:** How can you develop your leadership skills?

**Mastery:** What are good leaders able to do?

Leadership

Can you complete the challenge linked to the Leadership skill?

Please tell your class teacher if you complete this and what you did to earn a dojo!

More challenges linked to skills which you can complete at home with the children can be found at:

<https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone>

## Welcome to Homezone

Helping parents and carers to build their child's essential skills at home.

