

Newsletter

Edition No 12 November 2024



OAKFIELD ACADEMY
BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE



Insp Rachel Clark at the start of one of the Runs

Our RUN A MILE event with Insp Rachel Clark was a huge success—even managing to avoid Storm Bert! The final figure raised by staff and pupils for WE HEAR YOU was a super £220.18.



Miss Wilkes sets a cracking pace with Acorn



Mr Fowler is amongst the leaders !



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If you would like further information on any of the items in the newsletter, please contact the academy office.

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The Power of Music



A huge 'thank you' to Sam Macdonald and Magnus MacDonald from 5C who helped demonstrate 'the power of music' so brilliantly on their violins during Monday morning's assembly in the hall.

KS2 were treated to a beautiful violin recital from Sam as they walked quietly into the assembly. Sam demonstrated excellent musicianship and confidence as the audience watched in awe! KS2 pupils then found out how playing a musical instrument uses EVERY part of the brain. In fact, it provides a complete 'workout' for the whole brain. Magnus

demonstrated this musical 'workout' by performing a Yiddish folksong on his violin whilst Mr Coleman, Mr Ward and Mr Mephram completed some rather challenging physical workouts using kettle bells, dumb bells and a medicine ball. Magnus hardly broke a sweat whilst our three 'red- faced' members of staff battled hard to complete their exercises. Despite all their hard efforts, it was revealed that Magnus was actually giving his brain a much more thorough workout by playing his violin than the others. Well done Magnus! KS2 pupils are going to ensure they keep listening to lots of music, singing along to all their favourite songs and taking every opportunity they can to 'make music' now that they know the POWER it gives them! Well done and 'thank you' to all involved.

Ms Parsons



2024 Lantern Parade



We hope everyone enjoyed the annual Lantern Parade in Frome last Friday, with Oakfield Year 8 pupils contributing beautiful fallow deer light sculptures. A big thank you to local artists, Mel Day and Alice Vaas from 'Light the Night', who lead the lantern workshops and parade each year. Thank you also to our fantastic Year 8s, who came along on the night to join the parade. The Oakfield deer are on display in Frome museum over Christmas - please drop by and say hello to them.

Ms Mundy

Oakfield Academy

Christmas Bingo

Friday 13th December 2024



Doors open 6.00pm, eyes down at 6.30pm.

Bingo books £1.00 each,
or 6 for £5.00.

Hamper prizes. Raffle. Special flyer game.

Entrance tickets £1.00 per person to be
bought in advance and will be deducted from
the price of Bingo Books.



ENGLAND ROCKS

Congratulations to
Nikodem Kruk 8R,
Natasha Ping 8N and
Theodore Graham 5S who
were our top 3 performing
pupils in the
TTrockstars competition
England Rocks.

Across England almost
400,000 pupils were
recording
201,538,761 answers
to timestables questions
across the 3 days of the
competition;

**57,000 of them coming from
Oakfield pupils!**

Over the next few days, the
top 50 pupils will be receiving
achievement points to recog-
nise their efforts!



Thank you for your support

Your support has made a real difference to those in the
Armed Forces community.

To find out more about how your donation helps,
please visit rbl.org.uk/about-us



To OAKFIELD ACADEMY

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion

Together we raised £170 = 39



MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Winter Calendar

Join the fun from the 1st – 24th of December!

[Log in to Doodle](#)

New to Doodle? Create a [free parent account](#)



Earn seasonal rewards by Doodling
'little and often'!

Between the 1st – 24th of December, our famous Winter Calendar is returning to DoodleMaths and DoodleEnglish!

Designed to encourage a few minutes of daily learning, joining the fun is a great way to keep your child **motivated and engaged** over the holidays.

Most excitingly, if they open all the calendar doors, they'll receive an **exclusive festive virtual badge**!

Competition: design our Winter Calendar badges

We know how creative kids can be – that's why we're running a competition to design next year's in-app Winter Calendar badges!

There will be two winners: one will become our DoodleMaths badge, and the other our DoodleEnglish badge. Both winners will also receive a jam-packed goodie pack!



How to enter

1. Download and print out our [badge design template](#)
2. Encourage your child or pupils to design a winter-themed badge. They could use paints, coloured pens and even glitter to bring their design to life!
3. Once they've finished their design, take a photo of it and send it to doodlecompetitions@discoveryed.com by midnight on the 31st of December 2024
4. Two lucky winners will receive a Doodle goodie pack and have their design brought to life as next year's Winter Calendar badges!

[Download badge template](#)

How to take part



1. Log in to Doodle

[Log in to Doodle](#) or [start a free 7-day trial](#).

Please note: a Premium subscription is needed to join the Winter Calendar.



2. Use Doodle 'little and often'

Between the 1st-24th of December, kids can open the calendar doors by completing one exercise a day in DoodleMaths and/or DoodleEnglish.

Don't worry if your child misses a day on their calendar; they can use their stars to open any doors they've missed!



3. Unlock seasonal rewards!

They'll find festive rewards waiting behind each door, including unique accessories and songs for their jukebox – and if they open all the doors, they'll receive an exclusive in-app badge!

Goodbye

Wishing Mrs Naomi Cook, Teaching Assistant
Very best wishes for the future, from everyone at
OAKFIELD ACADEMY



Year 8 pupils have been revisiting prior knowledge of Acids and Alkalis. Ava Corcoran was able to recreate the whole pH scale using a universal indicator.

Pictured are Ava and Pearl.

Yr 6 Students of the Week



Congratulations to the winners of Year 6 Student of the Week, L-R Ella Bown 6S, Elsie-Mae Barnfield 6O, Charlie Magnano 6C, Ella Norris 6R, Felicity White 6N and Mila Biela-Claire 6A.

Year 5 Science



In Year 5, we have been learning about skeletons in science. We have learned the two types: endoskeleton and exoskeleton. We also identified where the smallest and largest bones in the human body are located. The stapes is the smallest (in the ear) and the femur is the largest (top of the leg). Mr Mepham



Kids & smartphones – what’s the big deal?

When children first started getting smartphones a decade ago, there was no research about their impact. Now there is, and it’s overwhelming.



HARMFUL CONTENT

Smartphones act as a gateway to pornography, violent and extreme content. Often kids don’t seek them out but are exposed to them via algorithms and messaging apps. Once seen, these things can never be unseen. 90% of girls and 50% of boys say they’re sent explicit content they didn’t want to see.



ADDICTION

Tech companies intentionally make apps addictive, because the more time we spend, the more data they harvest, the more money they make. By leveraging dopamine circuits, they trigger brain responses akin to slot machine gambling. 1 in 4 young adults show signs of behavioural addiction to smartphones.



ACADEMIC DISTRACTION

The average teen receives 237 smartphone notifications a day – one every few minutes – making focusing on schoolwork hard. Studies show that excessive smartphone use has negative impacts on academic performance. Children at schools with effective smartphone bans get GCSE’s 1-2 grades higher.



GROOMING

Sites like TikTok, Snapchat and Roblox are used by sexual predators to target children with their first smartphones, blackmailing them into sharing sexual content. Sextortion is now the fastest growing crime against teens. Since 2022, there has been a 66% rise in ‘self generated’ sexual abuse imagery of children under 10.



CYBERBULLYING

Disagreements between pupils used to stop at the school gate, now they follow kids wherever they go, 24/7. Young people who experience cyberbullying are twice as likely to attempt suicide and self-harm. One in six teens report being cyberbullied in the past month, according to the World Health Organisation.



MENTAL ILLNESS

Rates of depression, anxiety and suicide in young people have spiked globally since 2010, when children first began getting smartphones. The first generation to grow up with smartphones are now adults – data shows that the younger they got their first smartphone, the worse their mental health today.



OPPORTUNITY COST

Underpinning all these harms is one that is potentially the most significant of all. For the first time in human history, children are spending more time on devices than they are playing – an activity crucial to our healthy development. Smartphones are experience blockers, distracting children from engaging in the real world. The average UK 12-year-old now spends 29 hours a week – equivalent to a part-time job – on their smartphone. This leaves little time for the real world activities and relationships that enable us to learn the essential life skills we need to transition into adulthood. The average daily time that teens spend with friends has plummeted by 65% since 2010.

Join the grassroots parents movement to protect childhood from Big Tech

www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/join

For all links to stats references see www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/the-problem



YEAR 7 SCIENCE

This week our Year 7 pupils have looked at identifying chemical and physical changes by carrying out 8 different experiments and recording their observations.

Pictured are Lacey and Elena.

YEAR FIVE SWIMMING

5C will be starting swimming on Wednesday 4th December, and 5N will start on Friday 6th. Please ensure that you have given permission for your child to swim via Parentpay, and payment has been made. If you require any assistance, please contact our Finance Office. Thank you.



Stars of the week for Year 7

7A - Emily Carpenter, 7C - Jayden Painter, 7O - Hope Hamer, 7R - Ryan Harvey-Kennedy, 7N - Ruby Maudsley and 7S - Tyler Amphlett

Diary Dates

6 Dec	"A" Tutor Groups Cake Sale
6 Dec	PE fixture at Preston School, Yeovil
11 Dec	Yr 6 Pantomime Trip
12 Dec	Yr 5 Christmas Singalong 2pm
13 Dec	Yr 6 Christmas Singalong 2pm
13 Dec	Oakfield FRIENDS Christmas Bingo
16 Dec	Reports home
18 Dec	Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
20 Dec	Last day of Term 2, finish 12.15pm
w/c 23 Dec	Christmas Holidays
w/c 30 Dec	Christmas Holidays
Mon 6 Jan	INSET day
Tue 7 Jan	Term 3
14 Jan	Yr 8 Subject Evening
21 Jan	Yr 6 Maths & English Evening
28 Jan	Yr 7 Subject Eve
6 Feb	Childrens Mental Health Awareness Day
w/c 10 Feb	House Assemblies
12 Feb	Yr 5 (2 classes) visit Stonehenge
w/c 17 Feb	Half Term Holidays
24 Feb	Term 4
w/c 24 Feb	Whole school Assessment Week
6 Mar	World Book Day
7 Mar	Red Nose Day
12 Mar	Golf Event—Yr 3
12 Mar	Yrs 6 7 8 individual photos
19 Mar	Spring Autumn House Games
20 & 21 Mar	Bikeability
26 Mar	Golf Event—Yr 3
3 Apr	Oakfield's Got Talent
w/c 7 Apr	Easter Holidays
w/c 14 Apr	Easter Holidays
21 Apr	Bank Holiday
22 Apr	Term 5
w/c 19 May	SATS Wk Year 6
w/c 26 May	Half Term Holidays
6 Jun	Yr 5 (2 classes) visit Stonehenge
9 & 10 Jun	Bikeability
w/c 9 Jun	Yr 8 Paris Trip
17 Jun	Yrs 7 & 8 Sports Day
18 Jun	Yr 3 Olympics (9.30-11.30am)
25 Jun	Yr 4 Olympics (9.30-11.30am)
30 Jun	New Parents Evening

1 Jul	Yrs 5 & 6 Sports
2 Jul	Transfer Day
3 Jul	Whole school photograph
w/c 7 Jul	Activities Week
7 & 8 Jul	Bikeability
9-10 Jul	Yr 6 Activity Days (details to follow)
9 Jul	Reports home
11 Jul	Yr 8 University visit
14 Jul	Yr 8 Presentation Evening
16 Jul	Summer Shows
17 Jul	Yrs 5 6 7 Book Look
17 Jul	Yr 8 Leavers Trip
18 Jul	Last day of Term



Attention !

Monday 2nd December is the deadline to sign your child up for a Christmas Lunch (free of charge) at Oakfield.

You can sign them up for a lunch, which will be served on Wednesday 18th December via Parentpay.

Christmas Jumpers can be worn to school on this day.