Oakfield newsletter – 23rd October 2026

Attendance this week:

Class	Attendance %	Late
Nursery	91.83%	4
Reception	95.68%	3
Year 1	96.34%	4
Year 2	88.98%	4
Year 3	94.14%	8
Year 4	94.57%	11
Year 5	95.18%	3
Year 6	92.88%	1

97% and above Excellent
95% to 96% Attendance is slipping and will be closely monitored
95% or below Poor (high numbers of children are persistently absent)

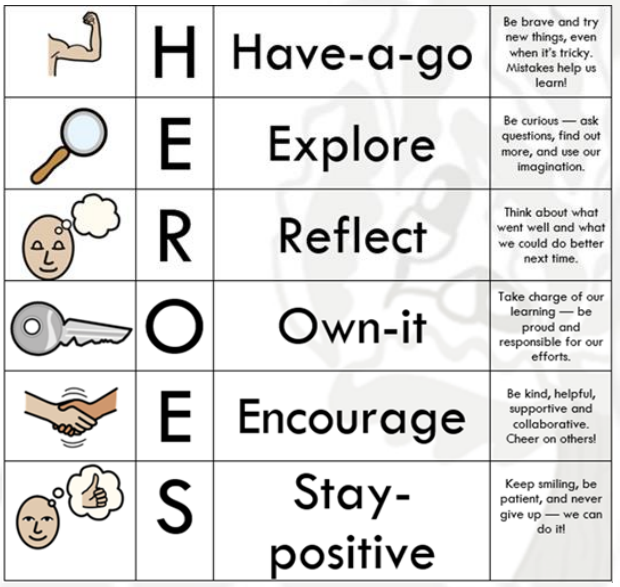
Lateness has a huge impact on children's learning -not only on the children that are late, but also on the children in the classes being disrupted. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time each day

Oracy updat 

In the next half term, we will continue our dictation work. We will be focusing on paired talk and developing the children's skills to listen to their partner and to share what has been said.
In our first assembly, we will share this with the children and weekly examples that you can reinforce with your child at home.

Learning H.E.R.O.E.S

This week's Learning Heroes have impressed us by demonstrating the HEROES learning behaviours



Learning Heroes of the week	
Nursery	Billy
Reception	Zayaan
Bumble Bees	Luca
Tawny Bees	Amelia
Year 1	Hope
Year 2	Joshua
Year 3	Joshua
Year 4	Harry
Year 5	Layton
Year 6	Whitby residential

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Dates for the diary

Autumn 2 - November

Date	Event
2.11.26	All children return to school
9.11.26	Individual photographs am
11.11.26	EYFS Open Evening 4-6pm
13.11.26	Year 1 visit to Portland Basin am *Children to wear uniform for the school visit and bring a change of clothes for Children in Need in the afternoon
13.11.26	Children in Need day. Out of uniform day - wear something spotty to school (t-shirt, jumper, dress, headband, socks – whatever you choose!) and we ask you to make a donation on MCaS. After school cake sale to be held by Year 6 children. Further information to follow
16.11.26	SRE consultation 5-5:30pm. Following the new Relationships Education guidance, parents/carers are invited to attend a consultation meeting
20.11.26	Year 4 visit to the Jorvik Centre in York
23.11.26	Year 2 visit to the Fireground museum
24.11.26	Year 5 Greek workshop visitors in school
25.11.26	End of term reports sent to parents/carers
26.11.26	Parents' evening for all classes 3:30-7pm.

All parents' evening and SEND review meetings will be booked via MCaS.

For all Christmas events, there will be two parent/carer places available for each child. These will be booked via MCaS.

This year, we are holding a Christmas craft event on Friday 4th December after school, 3:30-5:30pm. All families are invited to join us for a range of Christmas crafts activities and there be a raffle and festive food and drinks available.

Autumn 2 - December

2.12.26 	Year 3 visit to Tatton Park for a Stone Age day
4.12.26 	Family Christmas craft event 3:30-5:30pm
9.12.26 	KS1 nativity 1 at 9:30am
10.12.26 	KS1 nativity 2 at 9:30am
10.12.26 	Year 6 Victorian day at Quarry Bank Mill
11.12.26 	EYFS nativity 9:30am
14.12.26 	Christmas event for Bumble Bees at 2:30pm
15.12.26 	KS2 Christmas performance 1 at 9:30am. Christmas event for Tawny Bees 2:30pm
16.12.26 	KS2 Christmas performance 2 at 9:30am
16.12.26 	SEND review meetings EYFS, Y1 and 2 am and Y3-6 pm
17.12.26 	Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day SEND review meetings for Tawny Bees and Bumble Bees am
18.12.26 	Christmas parties for all classes. Children should come to school in their party clothes.
18.12.26	School closes
5.1.27 	All children return to school



If you have spades and trowls, please bring along with you. Children are able to attend but will need to be supervised by their adult/s.

EYFS Open Evening

Is your child due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2027?







Wednesday
11th November 4-6pm

Oakfield Primary School,
St Mary's Road, Hyde SK14 4EZ

0161 368 3365

admin@oakfieldhyde.co.uk

Come and see what makes our school so special!

- ✓ Meet our EYFS team
- ✓ Take a look around our engaging indoor and outdoor spaces
- ✓ Learn about our EYFS curriculum
- ✓ Ask any questions you may have

Oakfield Primary School

Achieving our best together

the enquire learning trust

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

Spending time outdoors plays a vital role in children's health, happiness, and development. This guide explores why nature matters, the barriers families may face, and practical ways to help children reconnect with wildlife and the outdoors. Here we highlight simple activities, creative ideas, and safe approaches to encourage exploration, confidence, and a lasting love of nature in everyday life.

1 TIME OUTSIDE MATTERS

Evidence shows that time in nature can benefit children's mental and physical health, learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. Nature does not need to be rare, grand, or far away to matter. Common, small, and local spaces can offer valuable opportunities too. Despite competing demands on children's time, many say being in nature makes them happy.

2 UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS

Children's outdoor play has reduced significantly in recent generations, with independent play and roaming also becoming less common. Reasons can include alternative play options, worries about safety and risk, fewer suitable play spaces, busier roads, and increasingly structured routines. Understanding these barriers helps adults respond with practical, realistic ways to make outdoor time easier and more appealing.

3 TAKE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE

Children can benefit from being in natural spaces even when engaging with nature is not the main activity. Think about everyday pursuits that could be moved outdoors, such as reading, playing cards and board games, arts and crafts, hide and seek, exercising, eating, or chatting. Involve children and young people in creating their outdoor space – for example, an upturned box can become a table, while cushions wrapped in strong bags can make temporary outdoor seating.

4 USE TECHNOLOGY POSITIVELY

Too much screen time can be unhelpful, but technology can also support nature connection, particular for older children and young people. They can use a camera to document the wildlife they find, create art projects, or record natural sounds. Apps can help identify birdsong, plants, insects, or stars. Older children and young people may also enjoy citizen science projects, where their observations contribute to real environmental research.

5 CREATE MINI ADVENTURES

Green spaces are brilliant for exploration, adventure, creativity, and problem-solving. Adventures can be small and local, such as hunting for insects, looking for natural colours, or spotting patterns. They can also be bigger, including hill walks, den building, rock pooling, or watching the sunset. These experiences can create moments of awe and leave lasting memories.

6 BUILD NATURE AT HOME

Even small spaces can help children connect with nature through play and creativity. Seeds can be grown in windowsill boxes or hanging baskets, while herbs, strawberries, flowers, and cherry tomatoes often thrive in containers. Bird feeders, nest boxes, and insect hotels can support local wildlife. Indoors, garden magazines, leaves, and natural textures can inspire imaginative art, storytelling, and play.

7 EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD

Holidays and weekends can offer children and young people the opportunity to visit country parks, nature reserves, waterways, woods, and the coast. These places may create memorable "Wow!" moments, such as rock pooling, exploring forests, pond dipping, or simply visiting somewhere new. Local activity centres may also offer taster sessions in canoeing, climbing, or archery, helping children and young people try outdoor activities safely.

8 ENGAGE OLDER CHILDREN

Teenagers may be less interested in adult-led activities designed for younger children. They often respond better to challenges, independence, skill building, and meaningful responsibility. Wildlife surveys, photography, outdoor cooking, whittling with safe tools, den building, or conservation tasks can feel more purposeful. Allowing controlled risks can support confidence, judgement, and a stronger connection with nature.

9 NOTICE LOCAL NATURE

Natural spaces enable unstructured play and exploration. Adults don't need specialist knowledge to help children enjoy nature and wildlife. Start by noticing what can be heard, smelled, and seen in a garden, school grounds, local park, or on the way to the shops. Encourage walking at a slower pace, looking for birds, leaves, insects, clouds, colours, and patterns, so that nature becomes part of daily living.

10 MANAGE SENSIBLE RISKS

Taking certain small risks in nature can in fact be valuable for children. Getting wet, muddy, or even stung by a nettle can help them understand the consequences of nature, cope with discomfort, build confidence outdoors, and assess situations more safely in future. Adults can support them in these moments by setting clear boundaries, supervising appropriately, teaching safety, and preparing children for all sorts of weather and natural spaces, while still allowing their curiosity, independence, and resilience to grow.

Meet Our Expert



Kate Whitehead leads on Connecting Children with Nature for Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment. With a background in ecology and sustainable development, and a passion for education, Kate works to facilitate between the environmental, education, and health sectors, collating research and best practice to support schools to unlock the multitude of benefits nature can offer.

#WakeUpWednesday®

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See full reference list on our website

National Online Safety