



OAKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL

OAK TREE NEWS

Deep roots for future growth



Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week I was privileged to join Year 1 on their trip to Windsor Castle on a very chilly and frosty morning. We had a wonderful time, and I was hugely impressed with the children's behaviour throughout the day. Whilst visiting St. Georges Chapel I had a tourist say to me "These children are being so quiet and respectful". I was so happy to see that the values we teach our children are continuing to be used when out of school.

Today, we held Chestnut class assembly. The children shared a variety of learning and activities that had been happening across the half-term, which was amazing. All the staff and parents felt very proud of them. Today we also celebrated NSPCC Number day, it was brilliant to see the children and staff dress in some very creative numerical ways. Thank you to Miss Davies and Miss Devereux for organising today. Photos will be on the website soon.

A reminder, next week we have parents evening on Tuesday and Thursday. These are face-to-face appointments, please refer to the booking letter to make an appointment and to check the location of your meeting with the class teacher.

This half term has gone extremely quickly, it only feels like yesterday that Mrs O'Neill was here. She has arrived in Northern Ireland safely and is settling in, working through the piles of boxes to unpack and getting used to the cold weather!

As this is my last newsletter before half-term, I would like to say thank you to all the staff and Governors for their support, the parents for their kindness and the children for always making me smile!

We hope you all have a lovely half-term week and we will see you on Tuesday 21st February.

Miss E Weston

Acting Headteacher

Reminders!

- ◆ The PTA will be holding a Pre-Loved Uniform Sale on Sunday 19th February between 10am and 12pm. The sale will take place in the Terrapin building located just inside the Junior School entrance.
- ◆ We have noticed more and more children and even adults walking across the grass out the front of the Infant school. There are trees and flowers growing here so please keep to the footpath.



- ◆ We return back to school on Tuesday 21st February.

Staffing Update

Sadly, we are having to say goodbye to Mrs Allen at the end of this half term. Mrs Allen has been working at Oaklands Infants since 2019; supporting individual children and running interventions throughout the school. I was lucky enough to work closely with Mrs Allen in Elm class a couple of years ago and saw first-hand how nurturing and kind she is with the children. We have loved having Mrs Allen as part of our Oaklands team and we will all miss her immensely. We thank her very much and wish her all the best for the future.





Children who have received a Solo leaf (now on display on the Oak Tree in the hall):

Ash: Freddie, Carlie, Arian and Thomas

Willow: Edie, Emily, Immie and Darcie

Chestnut: Lilly, Jaxon, Toby and Edward

Silver Birch: Henry, Alife, Charlotte C and George

Beech: Chloe, Archie, Leon and Thea

Elm: Suraj, Rowan, Felix and Aryahi

Goldie awards for children around school, from different members of staff:

Willow: Ella and Scarlet

Silver Birch: Frankie and Michael

Elm: Nathan



Class	Date	Time
Ash	Monday 6 th February	2.45pm
Willow	Monday 6 th February	2.45pm
Chestnut	Friday 3 rd February	9.00am class assembly in the hall
Silver Birch	Tuesday 7 th February	2.50pm
Beech	Thursday 9 th February	8.40am
Elm	Thursday 2 nd February	2.50pm

Year 1 Visit to Windsor Castle

Year 1 visited Windsor Castle on a truly beautiful, crisp winter's day. Having arrived safely and put our lunches away, we explored the staterooms. We saw Queen Mary's Dolls' House, many suits of armour, shields and swords and we walked through grand, historical rooms. Many of the children commented on how beautiful the rooms were; they were certainly impressed!

Both classes attended a Meet the Monarch session in the Learning Centre. The children learnt about the life and work of His Majesty, King Charles III. Everyone discovered how to know if The King is in the castle and what he likes to do when he takes time off. There were lots of role play activities including inspecting the guards and a rousing coronation ceremony.

After a much-anticipated lunch, we walked to see the guard and admired his concentration and smart appearance. We also visited St George's Chapel, the sight of many royal weddings.

All in all, it was a wonderful day for everyone. We were very proud of the children's behaviour which elicited positive comments from other visitors!



Music Concert

This week a group of instrumental teachers from our local music hub Berkshire Maestros came into school . They talked to us about their instruments (violin, viola and cello) and explained how to play them. We listened to several pieces including film music from Aladdin and Spiderman as well as some classical pieces by Mozart and Grieg. We clapped along to We Will Rock You by Queen and sang a little extract from The Greatest Showman. It was amazing!

If you would like to find out more about music activities and instrumental teaching please take a look at their website. They run a wide range of activities for all ages.

www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2023

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 6-12 February 2023.

This year's theme for Children's Mental Health Week will encourage children (and adults) to look at how we can make meaningful connections. Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health.

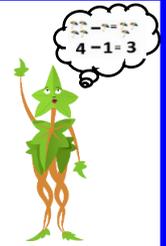
Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week and beyond.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we're encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways. Watch the video below to learn more about the theme.

Check out the website: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



Magical Maths



Magical Maths Club

In yesterday's assembly, the children met Professor Poopenstinken and his assistant Kathryn who wowed us with their mind-blowing maths tricks. The Magical Maths Team will run a Maths club for the children on Wednesdays after school starting in the summer term. Your child will come home with an invitation from the club today detailing how to sign up and relevant costs. Spaces will be limited so if your child is interested, please sign up as soon as possible.



NSPCC Day Number Day

Thank you for all your donations for NSPCC number day. We raised £121.07

The children looked fantastic in their digit inspired costumes.



Maths Week

We are excited to start a new half term on 22nd February with our Maths week based on 'Maths through Stories.' The children will take part in lots of different Maths activities and we start our week with an interactive and hands-on educational experience from Subject Revolution. The children will solve clues in an immersive action-adventure game, wrapped up in a story full of intrigue. Thank you to the PTA for funding this event.

As part of Maths week, we are keen to promote the use of Maths in the workplace. If there are any parents who would be willing to take a photo of themselves using Maths or come in and talk to their child's class about how they use Maths in their job, we would really appreciate it. Please contact your child's teacher to arrange.

Miss Davies and Miss Devereaux

Maths Leads





Safer Internet Day 2023 – 7th February 2023

Wise and compassionate citizens understand the power of the internet. At Oaklands Infants, we encourage our children to embrace the opportunities to acquire new knowledge and learn new skills online whilst being curious about where the content has come from, and understanding how to keep themselves and others safe when online.

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people and inspire a national conversation. This year, celebrations and learning will be based around the theme '**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online**'.

Having regular conversations with your child from a young age about the online world will help your child to build confidence when talking about online issues, and therefore help to build trust too.

Below are a few **links** to some very useful information regarding online safety for parents, carers and children:



Think U Know – containing internet safety advice for those aged from 5 to 16, along with parents and teachers, this site is produced by CEOP (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre).

Kidsmart – An award-winning internet safety programme for children.

Know IT All – lots of useful advice for keeping yourselves and your children safe on the Internet.

Kidscape – An organisation which helps to prevent bullying and child abuse.

Childline – ChildLine is the free helpline for children and young people in the UK.

BBC Stay Safe – Test your Internet safety knowledge with Hacker and help the Horrible Histories gang stay safe online.

Net Smartz Kids– Click on the image opposite to visit the Net Smartz Kids website for lots of e-safety activities.

Childnet International – website to “help make the Internet a great and safe place for children”.

Parent Information – Expert information to help children and young people stay safe online.

UK Safer Internet Centre – E-safety tips, advice and resources.

NSPCC Online Safety – Helpful advice and tools you can use to help keep your child safe whenever and wherever they go online.

Childnet International – Parents & Carers

PARENTSAFE – LGFL advice for parents



READING NEWS



National Story Telling Week



Ash and Willow Story Time

On Monday I read some fairy tales to Ash and Willow class. The children voted on the stories they wanted me to read, they chose: The Gingerbread Man and Little Red Riding Hood. They were brilliant at joining in with the well known phrases: "Run, Run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!" and "Oh Grandma, what big teeth you have. All the better to EAT you with!". We had a lovely conversation discussing titles of other fairy tales.

Chestnut and Silver Birch Story Time

On Thursday I read some poetry to Chestnut and Silver Birch class. We read a variety of rhyming poems about animals and many nonsense limericks about letters of the alphabet. All the children joined in with the rhymes and enjoyed playing guess which letter of the alphabet the limerick would be about.



Beech and Elm Story Time

Today I read some stories to Elm and Beech class. I showed them a range of stories written from well-known authors: Dr Seuss, Allan Ahlberg Anthony Brown and Anthony Brown. 'Funny Bones' by Allan Ahlberg was a clear winner. The children loved joining in with the phrases and adding character sounds. We even had time for Dr Seuss story 'One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish' which certainly was a tongue twister to read!

CHANGE OF DATE: World Book Day 2023



We will be celebrating World Book Day 2023 in school with many fun activities. Due to the teacher strikes we will be changing our celebration date to **Friday 3rd March** we would like to encourage the children to dress up a book character. Look out in the next newsletter for a book day competition!

JOIN OUR
WELCOMING
PTA TEAM
TODAY!!

Help us plan:
*school discos
*fireworks night
*fundraising events...
And much more!

THE
PTA
NEEDS
YOU

Please consider
joining us! We are
always looking for
new members and
volunteers

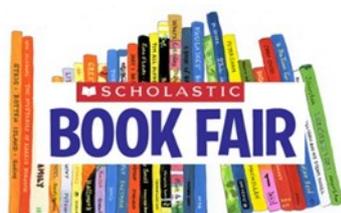


If you would like to join get
in touch via email at
oaklandschoolspta@gmail.com
or send us a Facebook message!

Spring Book Fair

Tuesday 21st February to Monday 6th March 2023

Celebrate reading books and earn free books for your school! Books start at just £2.99. **This will be in the Year 2 library after school all week from 3:10pm.** Coupons and World Book Day vouchers can be used at the Book Fair. These vouchers will be handed out after half term. The voucher entitles you to £1 off the purchase of any book at the book fair. There will also be 'pocket money' items available to buy, should you wish. The school benefits hugely from the commission generated by these sales (we get 60% off on all sales). At the last book sale this resulted in £617.56 worth of 'free' books to the school. This makes a huge difference to the school's library and topic resources, so all your support is much appreciated.



CONTACT US

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If you have any feedback about our newsletter, please email

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