



# OAKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL

## OAK TREE NEWS

*Deep roots for future growth*



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to those of you who have wished us congratulations on our Ofsted report. I could not be prouder of my team, the work we have all put into the curriculum has been extensive. The inspectors said multiple times we offer an ambitious curriculum for all pupils, they also recognised all the hard work we've achieved in a relatively short time since the last inspection in May 2022. So a huge thank you to all my staff.

The last few weeks we've been in full Christmas mode starting with our Christmas play 'A Christmas Recipe' the children did an amazing job and performed beautifully. This last week we've had; Christmas lunches, Southill Park Pantomime, a visit to Pinehurst care-home, Carol Service at St John's church, many Christmas activities taking place in class and even a visit from Santa himself!

On behalf of all the staff, we would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

*Miss E Weston*



### Children who have received a Holly leaf

(now on display on the Oak Tree in the hall):

**Ash:** Avery, Jools, Seb and Freddie

**Willow:** Raphael, Ryan, Kenan and Carys

**Chestnut:** Ethan, Marija, Mariam and Saskia

**Silver Birch:** Oscar, Reuben, Daisy and Sophie I

**Beech:** Charlotte N, Zack, Myles and Esme

**Elm:** Heart, Lucas, Yagiz and Miesha

Children who also received a Goldie leaf:

Sophie C & Christian (Silver Birch), Rhomuel (Chestnut) and Lee (Ash)

Start of term:

**Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

**Doors open: 8.40am**

**Doors close: 8.50am**

After 8.50am your child is marked as late which impacts their overall attendance.

### Voluntary Contribution

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who have donated money for the Christmas play and our Santa visit; your support means so much to us. This link is also available on our home-page on the school website.

[Just Giving Link](#)

LOOK what we're LEARNING!



**Foundation Stage**

What another busy half term we have had! Our topic has been 'People who Help us' and we have been learning about different jobs in our local community. The children have shared ideas of what they would like to be when they grow up. We had a great visit from two PCSO's who talked about their jobs and even let some of the children try on different bits of uniform. The children enjoyed asking questions and learning about the police. In art we have painted pictures of people who help us, focusing on colours and the different uniforms. We have shared lots of fun stories including 'You Can't Call an Elephant

in an Emergency'. The children have been applying their new phonic knowledge to read and write decodable words. There has been a focus on correct letter formation and their handwriting has shown great progress. The Christmas madness has recently hit and we have enjoyed learning the songs and dances for our Christmas play. The children did a fantastic job in their first performances.

The children have loved our new improvements to the outside area and we all can't wait to see what other resources are added to it in the coming months.



**Year 1**

As well as thinking about the changing seasons, Year 1 have been very busy learning about animals this half term. The children have been budding scientists – they have been thinking about how to group animals according to their different features or according to what they eat. You can see what the children have been learning in this half term's Knowledge Organisers on the Year 1 learning page of the website. Many of the children have used this new learning to add information to their favourite animal talks to the whole class. It's been wonderful to see how they have grown in confidence since the beginning of term.

In Design Technology we have been learning about simple levers and sliders. The children used these design features to make picture that included animals. There were killer whales that leapt from the sea or snakes that slithered through rainforests.

We have been focusing on the Julia Donaldson book *Monkey Puzzle* in literacy. We thought of ways to describe the mummy monkey character and enhanced our oracy skills by learning to retell the story to an audience of other Oaklands Infant School children.

Very recently, both classes have planted a mixture of bulbs at the front of the school as part of thinking about how we can contribute to the school grounds. We hope that in the spring there will be more flowers to bring a smile to everyone's faces.





# LOOK what we're LEARNING!

## Year 2

Year 2 have had another busy half term learning about the history behind calendar events marked during the months of November and December. As historians we discovered the reasons behind the Gunpowder Plot before looking at the significance of the poppy. We visited St John's Church and looked at the names of the brave soldiers from Crowthorne who gave their lives. You can see the key facts and information the children learnt on this half term's Knowledge Organisers on the Year 2 learning page of the website.



In Art, the children learnt about the artist Georgia O'Keefe and used her work as inspiration for some amazing pastel pictures of poppies.

In Literacy we have written poems, a non-chronological report and a story. Our focus has been on checking our sentence punctuation and trying to choose more ambitious vocabulary. We read the book 'Stubby' an incredible true story of Sergeant Stubby, the dog who served bravely in the First World War, sniffing out gas attacks, catching spies and winning the hearts of his fellow soldiers. This led us to do further research and write a report on other animals who helped during the war. We then moved on to the magical story of Alfie's star and wrote our own versions.

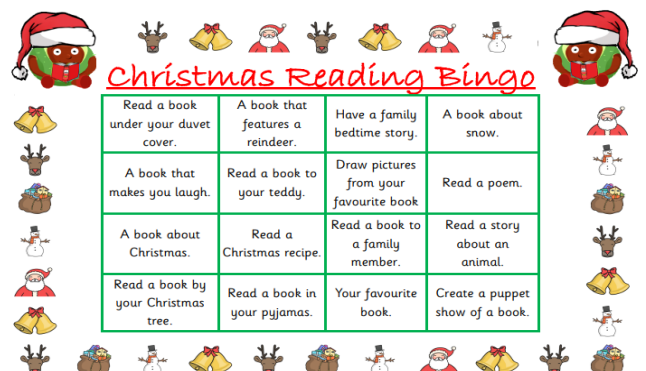
In Maths we have focussed on strategies for adding single digits before moving on to adding two digits add two digits, using the column method. Well done Elm and Beech for a great first term in Year 2!

## Knowledge Organisers

The Autumn 2 knowledge organisers are available to you on the learning pages of the website. This is so you can clearly understand what your child has learnt this half term and a good way for you to review and revise their learning. Regular retrieval of knowledge helps us remember more effectively and helps the children have a deeper understanding over time.

Click here: [Foundation Stage](#) [Year 1](#) [Year 2](#)

Please find attached to the newsletter **Christmas reading bingo** that your children might like to participate in to keep reading fun during the holidays.



## Governor Awards

Today at our final assembly, the Governors came in to present six children with a Governor Award, based on our school characters. The teachers nominated different children from across the classes for these awards. It is always extremely hard to choose when everyone has been doing so well. All the children appeared surprised to receive their certificate but proud at the same time. Well done from everyone at the Infants.

Character	Name of pupil	Class
Ivy – rising to challenges	Jack W	Silver Birch
Holly – not afraid to fail	Lucas L	Elm
Laurie – pride in achievement	Jake S	Ash
Solo – encouraging independence	Eleanor W	Chestnut
Goldie – respect for all	Myles S	Beech
Casey – being happy, cared for and cared about	Ava L	Willow

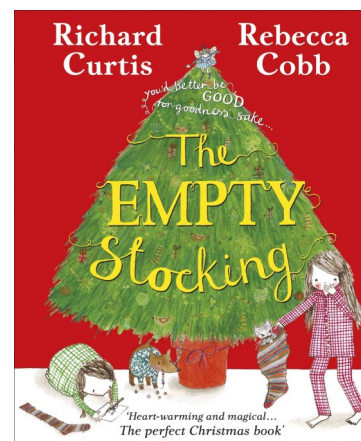
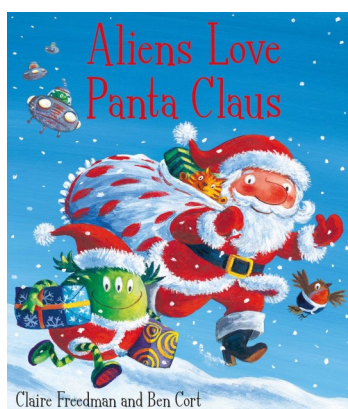
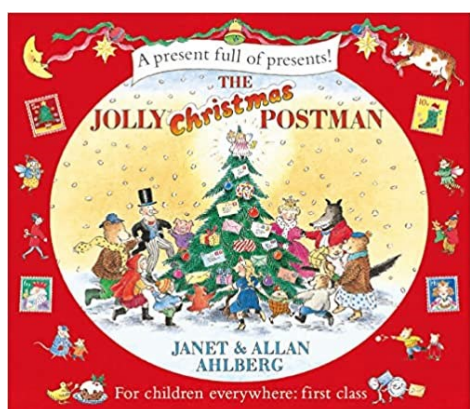


# What are we reading?

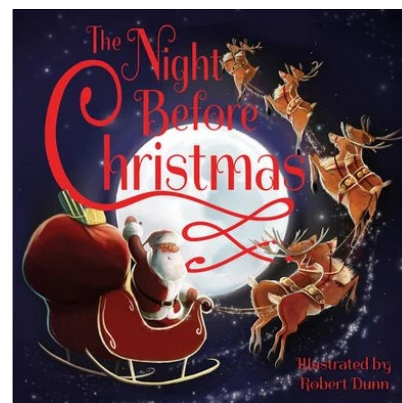
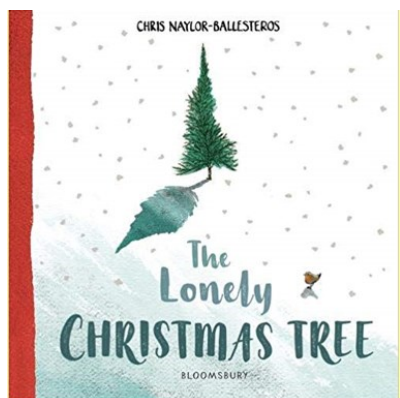


We have been reading many Christmas stories over the last few weeks. See below just a few of our favourites!

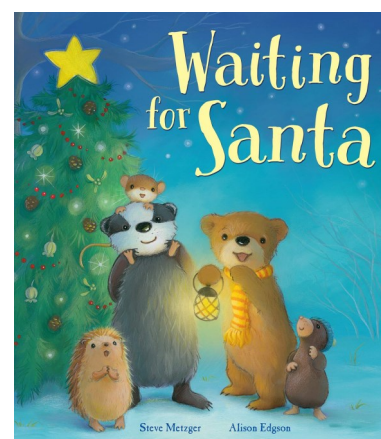
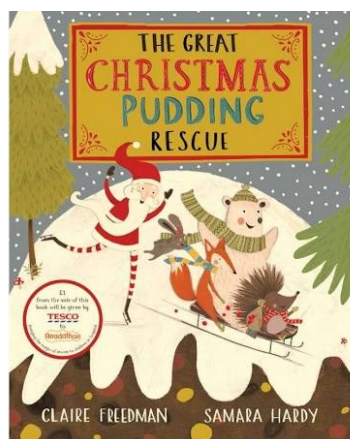
## Ash and Willow Recommendations



## Chestnut and Silver Birch Recommendations



## Beech and Elm Recommendations



# Christmas at Oaklands Infants



More photos available on the school website



# OAKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL STREET DANCE



**MONDAY'S 07:45-08:45 AM - INFANT HALL**

To book your child on to our clubs, please head to our website:  
[www.elibah.dance](http://www.elibah.dance)

## Thank you

Thank you to all our families for your Christmas cards and presents. We are all very grateful.

## PTA

All of us at Oaklands Infants would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA who have run a number of successful fundraising events during the last term. The money raised goes towards providing activities that enrich our curriculum. We really appreciate all your hard work and dedication.

## New Menu from Culinera

Culinera's new menu for January 2024 will be live from 27th December.

To view the new menu please [click here](#)

## CONTACT US

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### Chair of Governors

Mat Parker

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If you have any feedback about our newsletter, please email

[admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk)

# It's Christmas Time!



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

## It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

**Scan the QR code to find out more.**

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

**Skips Educational** Email: [info@skipsed.com](mailto:info@skipsed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



[www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)