



OAKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL

OAK TREE NEWS

Deep roots for future growth



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of the autumn term. It has certainly been an interesting one and we have continued to face many challenges.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole of the Infant team for their dedication, care and commitment to the school. As always, they have put others before themselves. We have tried to do the best we can under the circumstances and ensure consistency and calmness for all. Sometimes the decisions we have had to make, have not been easy ones.

Most recently there have been some very special highlights, namely being all together at the panto and our Wriggly Nativity. The children were amazing with learning their lines and all the songs, the staff also did a great job with making props and the rehearsals. Over the last few years, bringing the whole school together has been rare but having these moments have been very special and memorable. We look forward to sharing the filming of Wriggly Nativity with you soon.

As this is the last newsletter of 2021, I wish all our families a very happy Christmas and I truly hope 2022 brings much happiness - enjoy your time with loved ones.

With best wishes,
Mrs H O'Neill

Headteacher



LOST PROPERTY

The lost property box is over flowing. Please do check the box out if you missing anything. We have coats, cardigan's, jumpers, gloves, hairbands, ear muffs, water bottles and a judo kit. All of it is un-named. We would like it to be returned before we donate it.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Wednesday 5th January 2022

FOODBANK AND POPPY APPEAL

We have had a wonderful thank you card from the Foodbank. Our donations weighed a staggering 282.56kg!!!! This will help many local families.

Also The Royal British Legion have presented us with a certificate to say that Oaklands Infant School raised £229.87. Many thanks for all your support.

IFG SCHOOL DINNERS

Don't forget to order your child's school dinners for the next half term (January 2022) via the IFG website.

HOLLY LEAF

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

Ash: Chelsea, Toby, Evie and Trevor
Willow: Rea, Charlotte, Finley and Ava
Chestnut: Rowan, Poppy, Stanley and Frank
Silver Birch: Liana, Alex, Luca and Zerrin
Beech: Macie, Anais, Florence and Harry
Elm: Harrison, Arthur, Thomas and Lache

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

Ophelia in **Silver Birch**



TERM DATES 2021/2022



End of term: 17th December 2021 at 1:30pm

Inset Day: 4th January 2022

Spring term starts: 5th January 2022

Finish for half term: 11th February at 3:15pm

Half term: 14th - 18th February 2022

Return to school: 21st February 2022

End of term: 1st April 2022 at 1:30pm

Easter holiday: 4th—18th April 2022

Summer term starts: 19th April 2022

Election day: 5th May 2022

Finish for half term: 26th May 2022 at 3:15pm

Inset day: 27th May 2022

Half term: 30th May - 3rd June 2022

Extra day for Queen's Platinum Jubilee: 6th June 2022

Return to school: 7th June 2022

End of term: 20th July 2021 at 1:30pm

Inset Day: 21st July 2021

PETS AS THERAPY

We would like to welcome you to the newest Oaklands family member Zac. In the New Year Zac will be coming into school to listen to some children read. These visits can have a positive impact on a child's educational, social and emotional welfare. The Read2Dogs scheme can help young people to improve their literacy skills and encourage confidence and concentration in the classroom too.



During the Christmas holidays,
we would like our children to:

Spend time with the people that you care about

Do the things that you enjoy

Eat food that you love

Watch your favourite film

Do something nice for somebody else

Visit your favourite place

Play with your toys

And finally,....



Come back to school ready to learn!



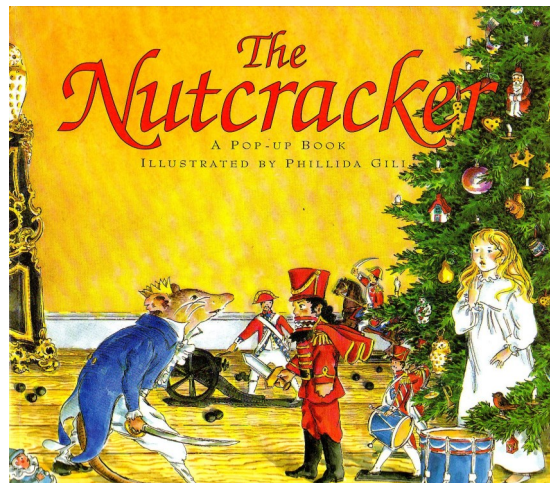
READING NEWS



This week I thought it would be fitting to share my book review. This is my all time favourite Christmas book 'The Nutcracker'. I received this book as a Christmas present from my grandparents when I was 9 years old, which is one of the reasons it's my favourite. The other, because of the amazing illustrations and elaborate pop-ups, pull-tabs and moving parts including a battle with the Mouse King and the Nutcracker. A wonderful story of Clara and her Christmas fantasy coming to life. Every year I look forward to reading this book and seeing the joy in the children's faces.

Merry Christmas everyone.

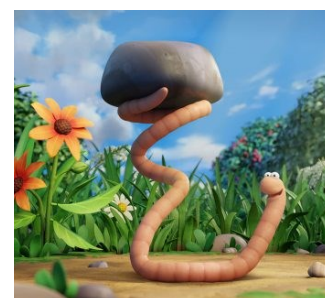
Miss Weston (Deputy Head and English Lead)



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



Enjoy some family stories over Christmas with Julia Donaldson. On Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day BBC I will be showing many of Julia Donaldson's stories such as: The Gruffalo, Gruffalo's Child, Zog, The Highway Rat, The Snail and the Whale, Stick Man and Superworm.



What are we reading?



Beech and Elm Book Recommendation

Over the last few weeks Year 2 have been reading the story *The Owl who is Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson. Plop, the Baby Barn Owl, is like every Barn Owl there ever was, except for one thing – he is afraid of the dark. "Dark is nasty" he says and so he won't go hunting with his parents. Mrs Barn Owl sends him down from his nest-hole to ask various characters about the dark. The children thoroughly enjoyed finding out who Plop would meet next and if he would ever like the dark. We used the story to create our own stories that featured an animal who had a fear such as the duck who was afraid of water or the deer who was afraid of leaves.

"I liked the character Plop because he was funny" Iris

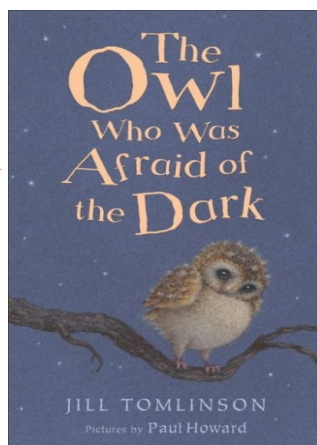
"I liked it every time Plop the owl fell off the branch".
Oliver H

"It's a good book because I liked the beginning and the surprise at the end".
David

"I really liked this book because I like owls. I thought it was clever to make an owl afraid of the dark." Amelie

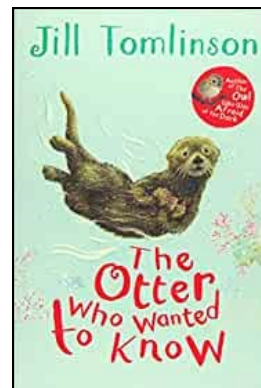
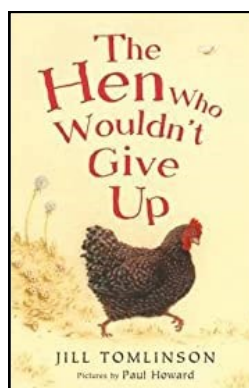
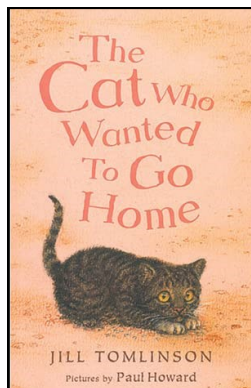
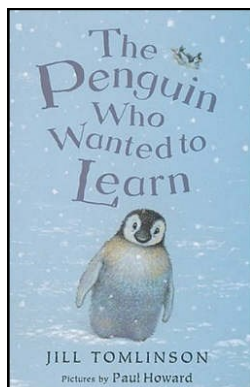
"I liked that the owl was afraid of the dark because it was funny."
Phoebe

"I liked the way the author made me laugh using funny sentences" Oliver C



Books by the same author:

Jill Tomlinson



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

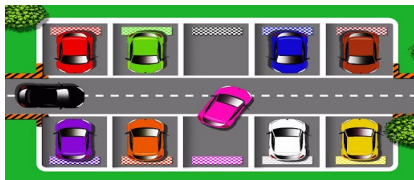
Please find below the 12 Days of Christmas, with a link to the hashtag, where the pupils will be able to see videos as they come out:

1. **To avoid taking a dip, lookout for ways you could slip...**Water in the winter will be freezing cold and could cause fatal cold water shock if you fall in. If you're out for a winter walk or run, look out for trip or slip hazards, especially if the paths are icy and water levels are high.
2. **Festive lights are great, if you consider fire safety while you decorate...**Decorations can be made from highly flammable material. Check that decorations you buy have the correct safety marks and do not attach them to lights or heaters.
3. **To look after your Christmas tree, regular watering is key...**Christmas trees can become a real fire hazard if they are not cared for properly. Keep your tree watered to prevent it from drying out and accidentally setting alight.
4. **Don't drink and drive, drive to stay alive...**If you're going out for a festive drink, make sure to plan your journey home and do not get behind the wheel under the influence of alcohol. Organise a designated driver, catch a bus or get a taxi – it's not worth the risk.
5. **Keep your house cosy and safe, put a fireguard over your fireplace...**With the weather being much colder during December, you might be using open fires to keep your house warm, but remember to use a fireguard to protect yourself from flying embers.
6. **Cooking Christmas dinner is a big job, just remember to keep your eye on the hob...**We know cooking is a big part of the festive period, but remember to keep looking while cooking and keep your eye on the hob at all times!
7. **Candles are pretty without a doubt, if you make sure to blow them out...**Candles and other naked flames can cause fire and injury if not handled safely. Fully extinguish them when you leave the room and keep them away from materials that may burn.
8. **Press to test, weekly is best...**When did you last test your smoke alarms? We recommend that you test yours at least weekly. It only takes a couple of seconds, but it could save your life.
9. **While you countdown the sleeps, remember to give your chimney a sweep...**If you're spending more nights by the fire, ensure that you have had it properly swept and maintained. Find out how to book a chimney sweep on the [**National Association of Chimney Sweeps**](#) website.
10. **If there are boxes on the floor, keep them away from the door...**Avoid leaving clutter that builds up during the festive period blocking fire exits. Clear your clutter so you can make a safe and swift escape in the event of an emergency.
11. **If online shopping is a must, buy from retailers you trust...**Online markets often sell faulty electrical items that are at risk of causing fire or exploding. If you are shopping online, only buy from retailers you trust.
12. **Do you know where to find your nearest defibrillator?** Download the 'Save a Life' app to locate your nearest one, it could just save a life.

To keep up with videos, follow the hashtag
[#RBFRS12Days](#) on Twitter.

STAFF CAR PARK

Please be aware that no-one should be walking themselves or their children through the staff car park when arriving or leaving school. This is not safe as the car park is in constant use. Please use the Ellis Road and Butler Road pedestrian gates.



STAFFING

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Irwin, our Teaching Assistant in Year 2, who has been with us for 10 years. We wish you good luck in your new role. Thank you for being part of our team. All the best for the future. We wish you much happiness, you will be missed.

REMINDERS

School is ventilated as much as possible as a hygiene measure, which means doors and windows are open throughout the school day. Children are permitted to wear additional layers as school may be colder than normal.

Please wear masks when coming onto the school site and maintain social distancing.

Please do not allow children to run across the grass at the entrance to the Infants, we do have trees and plants growing and many have already been trampled on.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Please remember that if you are applying to the Junior School for a space for September 2022 you need to apply by **12th January 2022**. If you do not require a Junior School space Wokingham Borough Council will need written confirmation from parents as to why.

HOLIDAYS ABROAD OVER CHRISTMAS

With the (current) changes to Covid guidance, as regards returning from holidays abroad with the need to PCR test and isolate until you get the result, could you just let the school office know if this might affect your child's return to school in January.

CONTACT US

FAMILY SUPPORT ADVISOR - Nikki Lenon
07748 415285 or email
nlenon@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS
Oaklands Infant School Office: 01344 774644 or email
admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk

GOVERNING BODY

The governing body is a committee that is in place to steer the school's strategic direction and to make sure that the school remains accountable. If you have a concern about your child, normally it is best to speak to their teacher or Mrs O'Neill first as they know them well and will probably be able to deal with it quickly. However, do get in touch if you feel this isn't working or you have other things you wish to discuss - we are happy to hear from you! Thank you.

Mat Parker (Chair of Governors)
governors@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk
Or via the school office

BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

Stanley in Chestnut, Tessa in Elm, Charlotte in Ash, Florence in Silver Birch, Zack in Willow, Adrielle in Chestnut, Alex in Silver Birch, Tommy in Ash, Lottie in Silver Birch, Toby in Ash, Edgar in Elm, Maria in Chestnut, Iris in Elm, Libby in Chestnut and Archie in Chestnut.



When it is your child's birthday, they have the option to wear their own clothes to school - please can they make sensible choices e.g. footwear. If their birthday falls during a school holiday or at a weekend, they can wear it on a Monday or Friday.

Please let us know if you have a **POSITIVE** COVID-19 case in your family.

admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk

If you have any feedback about our newsletter, please email

admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk