



# OAKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL

## OAK TREE NEWS

*Deep roots for future growth*



Dear Parents/Carers,

I feel I can finally say that Spring has arrived, although I worry that typing this will jinx the weather! The children have really been enjoying the warmer weather at lunchtime.

I hope those who came to the PTA disco last Friday enjoyed themselves, there was plenty of dancing and excited screaming from the Infants. Thank you to the volunteers and to our amazing PTA. The total raised from both discos was an impressive £1,605.73! Well done to all those involved.

A huge thank you to all of you that supported our sponsored read/listen, I have been blown away with the amazing number of minutes and sums of money raised by the children. The school council have been busy meeting with each class to collate a list of books they'd like to purchase for their classrooms, school libraries, reading shed, home readers and books for their teachers to read.

Many thanks to those of you who have visited the book fair, last day to visit and buy some books will be after school on Monday 10th March.

*Miss E Weston*

### **Red Nose Day: Friday 21st March 2025**



Once again Oaklands Schools will be helping Comic Relief raise money to help disadvantaged children, with a non-uniform day in return for a donation of £1 or more.

Dress up for Joy (children and staff)

Go red from head to toe or simply dig out your brightest socks. Wear something that makes you and your school smile. Wearing something red could just be a red nose and we kindly ask that anyone with a bought red nose, keeps it safe when not being worn i.e. in a pocket or school bag.

If possible, please pay using the Just Giving link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/oaklands-rednoseday23-1677669609818>

Please note: we will still accept cash.





# LEARNING CELEBRATION

## Celebration of Learning

Each half term, we invite parents/ carers to each class to celebrate the children's learning. Access to school will only be at the Ellis Road gate. Come directly to the classroom for the time stated. Silver Birch will be hosting a class assembly showcasing their learning. Please line up at the main entrance, we will open the hall door from 8.50am.

Class	Date	Time
Ash	Wednesday 19th March	2:50pm
Willow	Thursday 20th March	2:50pm
Chestnut	Tuesday 25th March	3:00pm
Silver Birch	Friday 28th March	9.00am: class assembly in the hall
Beech	Thursday 27th March	3:00pm
Elm	Wednesday 26th March	3:00pm

**For Celebration of Learning, please enter via Ellis road gate.  
The gate will be opened 5minutes before the time above.**

## Oaklands Infant School

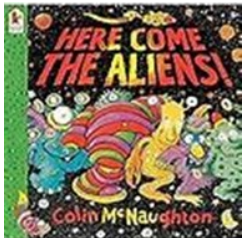
### Spring Term Dates 2025



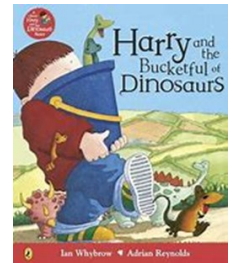
Date	Activities in March
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	8.15am: Reading for Pleasure (Infant hall)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Red Nose Day
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	9am: Silver Birch class assembly 2.15pm: Foundation Grandparents afternoon (information to follow)
Week beginning 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Arts Week
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	1.30pm: End of term
<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Start of summer term

# LOOK what we're LEARNING!

## Foundation Stage

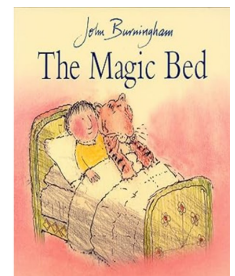


This half term our topic is Adventure Time! The half term started with much excitement when some funny sandy footprints were discovered in Ash and Willow classrooms. After lots of investigating we found that they belonged to a Parasaurolophus. This started our focus on dinosaurs and we will be learning about all different types of dinosaurs. Some of the children are experts so we're sure they will be teaching the teachers a few things. We will be learning about how dinosaurs defended themselves, what they liked to eat and how we can learn a lot from fossils. We will be reading 'Harry and his bucket of dinosaurs' and deciding where we would like to take our dinosaurs on an adventure. We will then be leaving the prehistoric times and will be going on an adventure to space and learning about our solar system. In Maths we will become more familiar with the counting pattern beyond 20, explore the composition of numbers within 10, look at odd and even numbers and begin to link even numbers to doubles. It's going to be another busy, fun and crazy half term in Ash and Willow!



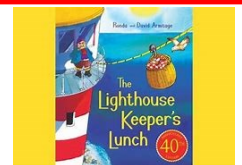
## Year 1

This half term Year 1 are travelling 'Far Far Away' in our Geography based topic. We will be using maps and globes to name and locate the 7 continents of the world and using directional language including near and far, left and right. We have heard about where children went during half term both locally and much further afield as they develop their oracy skills in speaking in full sentences. The Magic Bed by John Burningham is our writing inspiration, ask your child to retell the story. Where would you go in a magical adventure? In Science we continue to consider the seasons as we move from winter to spring. Throwing, catching and aiming are the areas we will be working in our outside PE, we are 'rocking and rolling' in our gym lessons.



## Year 2

This term Year 2 will be learning all about how to stay healthy as part of their PSHE and Science curriculum. The children will learn about what makes healthy lifestyle including a balanced diet, the importance of exercise and rest. In the weeks to follow we will be learning all about personal hygiene, safe and unsafe medicine and how to look after our mental health. To start off our 'Healthy Me' topic, the children visited Pizza Express to find out how to make pizzas and the children were fortunate enough to make and eat their own pizza!



In English, our focus text will be 'The Light House Keepers Lunch'. We will use this text to write instructions and write our own version of the story. Grammar, punctuation and joining our handwriting will also continue to be a focus. In Maths, the children will be learning all about division and multiplication and will be focusing on their 2s, 5s and 10-time tables. Across the Foundation Subjects, Year 2 will be painting seascapes in the style of Turner, asking and answering questions using pictograms and graphs in Computing and learning about the physical and human features of the seaside in Geography. A fun packed half term ahead!

## Children who have received an Ivy leaf

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



**Ash:** Rocco and Daisy

**Willow:** Persie and Isla

**Chestnut:** Cesar and Isla M

**Silver Birch:** Rosie and Ryder

**Beech:** Mariam and Sophie C

**Elm:** Christian and Margaret

Freddie (Elm class) received a Goldie leaf for keeping our playground tidy.



## This term our focus for the school character is Ivy

*Ivy was fed up with being at the bottom of the tree. She wanted to see more. She worked hard to grow over the obstacles in her way. When she reached the top she could see the whole wood.*

**Ivy often says....**

- ♦ **challenge yourself!**
- ♦ **keep trying! Stretch and reach for your goals!**
- ♦ **how are you going to challenge yourself today?**
- ♦ **keep trying, can you do even better?**
- ♦ **keep trying; reach the next branch like me.**



**What things can you do at home to be like Ivy?**

**Could you....?**

- ♦ **read more books**
- ♦ **try new food**
- ♦ **make your bed everyday without being reminded**
- ♦ **create a new family tradition**
- ♦ **give your family a new challenge**





# ARTS WEEK



**31<sup>st</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Oaklands Infants will become Oaklands Arts Academy for the last week of this half term as we become artists, musicians, dancers and sculptors. The theme of our week is 'Around the World.' Each child will produce a piece of 2D and 3D work and experience a range of music, dance and drama workshops.

Parent/carer(s) will be able to view all our work at a special Art Exhibition on Friday 2nd May 2025 (separate letter to follow) where there will be an opportunity to purchase the children's work which will have been mounted and framed.

We are looking for resources for Art week, if you have any of the following you could donate, we would be very grateful. Please drop off in the office or to Beech classroom.

- \*cartridge paper – A4 130 gsm
- \*shiny paper
- \*arts and crafts bits and bobs
- \*display boards for our exhibition (to borrow)



This will be an exciting end to our Spring term and we look forward to sharing our finished work with you.

Miss Davies and Mrs Virgo

Art and Music Subject Leads



# It's British Science Week!



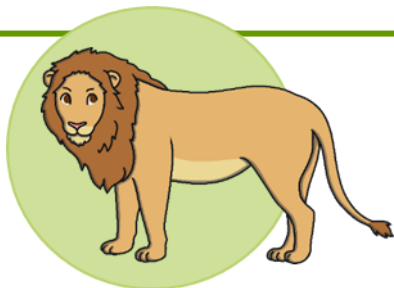
British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of Science, that runs from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> March. It's time to celebrate all things science!

The theme for 2025 is **Change and Adapt**. You can think about all the changes and adaptations we see in our wonderful world! For example, you could think about the following:

How are animals' bodies adapted to suit their environment? Maybe they have thick fur to keep warm or large eyes to see in the dark.

How have you changed since you were a baby?

See if you can find out how a tiny seed becomes a huge tree.



If you would like to know more about science week follow this link:

<https://www.britishtscienceweek.org/>

## What is Science?

Science is learning about all the things around us. Scientists find answers to questions such as,

- \* Why is the sky blue?
- \* What is the biggest animal?
- \* Will we ever run out of water?
- \* What is a star?

The BBC offer lots of educational videos for Primary School age children. Why not explore <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/british-science-week/zg9c3j6>



# A Science Visitor for Year 1

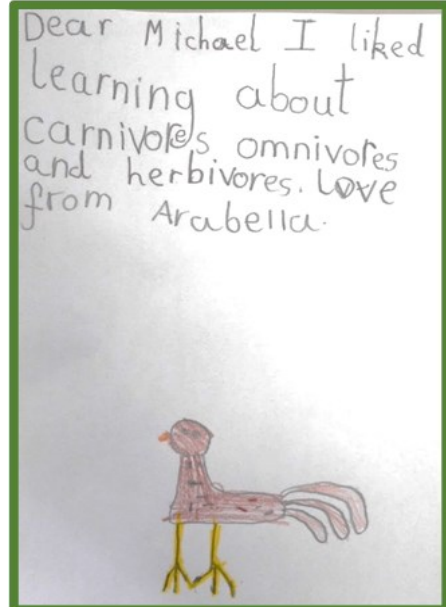
Year 1 were lucky enough to have a visit from Michael, a member of the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership, which is an organisation that works to preserve our precious heathlands. The children learned about the animals that rely on our heathlands and how to protect this fragile habitat. Afterwards, some of the children wrote thank you notes to Michael for visiting Year 1.

I liked learning about frogs and bugs.

**Daisy**

I learned lots about creatures on the heathlands.

**Willow**



I liked learning about wild fires and nightjars.

**Seb**

I liked learning about the nightjars and the beewolf

**Thomas**

I liked the videos and pictures.

**Archer**

Learn more about our heathlands and how to protect them here:

<https://www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/about-us/>

## What did we remember afterwards?

Some butterflies are camouflaged so they cannot be seen - **Zuzia & Lucas**

Do not start a fire in heathland - **Raphy**

Caterpillars come out of eggs and they turn into butterflies - **Rosie**

The name heathland comes from heather - **Carys**

If you let a dog free on heathland it might find a nest. If the mummy and daddy birds are frightened away they might not come back to feed their babies. - **Jessica**



# IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



Thursday 6th March 2025, books came alive at Oaklands Infant School as we celebrated World Book Day! The children spent the day celebrating books by discussing their favourite stories and authors, reading books, visiting Pinehurst Care home and reading with the Junior children.



### Sponsored Read/Listen

Well done to all the children who took part in the sponsored read/listen. An impressive 15,587 minutes have been tallied up across the Infant School.

Congratulations to Silver Birch class who was the winning class of the most amount of minutes.

Each child will receive a certificate in assembly for taking part, plus every class will receive a small gift. Silver Birch will be receiving a class set of books that they will get to choose.

Class	Minutes read/listened
Ash class	2666
Willow class	3208
Chestnut class	1263
Silver Birch class	3862
Beech class	2401
Elm class	2187







New photos from World Book Day 2025 on the school website. See the gallery tab.



## Home-Learning

We do not provide the children with formal homework but expect children to regularly practise basic skills such as reading, spelling and number facts.



Home learning sheets are shared half termly which link to our topics. They contain ideas and activities you can do at home to support work ongoing in class. Children are encouraged to bring in any learning tasks completed at home to share with their class. Alongside the home-learning sheets we have created Victor Vocabulary sheets, these provide a list of key vocabulary being taught.

Please **click** the links below for your year group:

[Foundation Stage: Ash and Willow](#)

[Year 1: Chestnut and Silver Birch](#)

[Year 2: Beech and Elm](#)





## Year 2 Visit to Pizza Express



In the first two week of the half term, Year 2 became junior Pizzaiolos for the morning at Pizza Express in Fleet.

During the morning, the children learnt about good food, tasted fresh ingredients, and of course, made their own authentic Margherita pizza. The children kneaded the dough to make the perfect base before topping their creations with passata and mozzarella.

At the end of the visit, the children brought their pizzas back to school for a shared lunch in the classroom. We all agreed that the pizzas tasted delicious and we'd quite like to go to Pizza Express every week!

I liked the texture. It was stretchy and squishy - **Emily**

The best part was when we flipped the dough from hand to hand - **Hugo**

My favourite part was when the chef spun his dough and made a hole in it - **Isla**



I'd like to make pizzas every day of the week .— **Bear**

This is the best pizza I've tasted! - **Levi**

**For further photos from the morning, please see the website.**

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