



OAKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL

OAK TREE NEWS

Deep roots for future growth



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's only our second week back from half term, and it's already been a busy one!

Our Foundation Stage children have started *Drawing Club* - a story-based approach that uses drawing to develop imagination, language skills, and a love of writing. Each session begins with a whole-class focus on a story, tale, or animation, followed by independent drawing time where children are encouraged to use new vocabulary and create their own adventures.

Years 1 and 2 pupils have been continuing with *I Am a Clever Writer* - a carefully structured approach to teaching writing, where each skill is broken down into small, manageable steps to help every child experience success.

Yesterday, we welcomed colleagues from the Corus English Trust for a review of our English provision. The visit included a writing book look, reading and writing learning walks, and pupil voice discussions. The Trust praised the hard work teachers have put into planning and delivering our new writing approaches. They were particularly impressed with the quality of teaching, pupil engagement, and the progress already evident in children's writing skills.

For me, one of the most important parts of their feedback was hearing children say that they *enjoy reading and writing*.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our incredible PTA and all the volunteers who organised another fantastic Fireworks Display at Oaklands last Saturday. A great deal of work happens behind the scenes - from setting up and managing Health and Safety to clearing the site the next day. Our PTA and volunteers truly go above and beyond for the school, and we are very lucky to have such dedicated people supporting our community. Some of the staff and I were at the event on Saturday, and we all agreed it ran incredibly smoothly, especially with such a large crowd. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all. We look forward to sharing the total amount raised with you very soon!

On Sunday 9th November, the Boyles family (in Year 1 and Year 2) attended the Remembrance Service at St John's Church, Crowthorne, alongside two Junior School families, to represent Oaklands School. We were very proud of them for representing our school community with such respect and thoughtfulness during this important occasion. Taking part in events like this helps our pupils understand the importance of remembrance and honouring those who have served. Thank you to the families who gave their time on Sunday to represent Oaklands so beautifully.

This half term is one of our busiest terms with lots of Christmas events taking place. Please note the dates later in this newsletter, information regarding tickets for the Christmas plays will come out soon.

Miss E Weston



Congratulations to all the children who received a Goldie leaf last half term. These children received their leaf for remembering their Marvellous Manners: listening to adults, speaking in a polite tone, being ready to learn and allowing others to learn. Well done children, your leaf will be coming home with you next week.



Oakland Infants Character: HOLLY

This half term our character focus is Holly.

Holly was on her own feeling lonely. She decided to 'have a go' at making friends. Before she knew it she was surrounded by lots of other holly leaves and berries. Now she'll always have a go.



Already we are seeing children throughout the school:

- not giving up when an activity gets tricky.
- having a go at changing behaviours to make good choices.
- trying to be more independent e.g. getting changed for PE.
- not giving up when it gets challenging in maths.
- remembering to use their phonics in reading and writing.

Well done infants, keep on 'having a go' like Holly!



LEARNING CELEBRATION

Celebration of Learning

Each half term, we invite parents/carers to each class to celebrate the children's learning. Please find listed below the dates and times for this half term.

Come directly to the classroom for the time stated.

Class	Date	Time
Ash	Friday 12th December	2:50pm
Willow	Friday 12th December	2:50pm
Chestnut	Thursday 10th December	3pm
Silver Birch	Thursday 10th December	3pm
Beech	Monday 15th December	3pm
Elm	Thursday 11th December	3pm



Children who have received a Holly leaf

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

Ash: River and Margot

Willow: Reilly and Mila

Chestnut: Lily M and Robyn

Silver Birch: Rocco and Alfie

Beech: Lucas and Arthur

Elm: Luna and Ezra



Remembrance Day

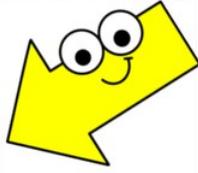


Thank you to the Boyles, McCauley and Davis families for paying respects and laying the wreath at the remembrance day service at St Johns Church on behalf of Oaklands Schools.





LOOK what we're LEARNING!

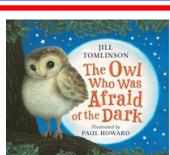
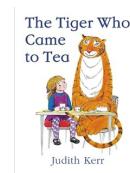
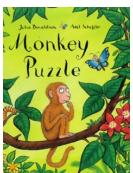


Foundation Stage

This half term is bursting with excitement as we explore our new topic 'People Who Help Us'. We will be discovering the amazing roles of the people in our community who help us and we might even have some special visitors coming in to share their stories first-hand. The children were very excited to start Drawing Club this half term. We started by reading the book 'Emergency!' and the children drew a character, setting and used their imagination to draw a magical fuel for their emergency vehicle. Their creativity and mark making skills have truly impressed us! In Maths we will continue learning to subitise, identify one more and one less than a given number within five and looking at different representations of numbers to 5. To develop our artistic skills, we will be painting pictures of people who help us and tearing paper to create a fire engine collage. As the term unfolds, we will be preparing for the festive season with rehearsals of our songs and dances for our much-anticipated school nativity. It is going to be a busy half term full of lots of fun!

Year 1

This half term, Year 1's topic is Walk on the Wild Side. Our 'I am a clever writer' writing will be focussed on the story of Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson, The Leaf Thief by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater and The Tiger who came to tea by Judith Kerr. Through talk, play, stories, poems, songs and writing, we will be learning to identify, name and describe a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will discover which animals are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We will be walking around our beautiful school grounds to identify signs of Autumn and will discuss the impact of seasonal change upon the plants and animals in our environment. We will also learn about hot and cold continents, the animals that live there and how they adapt to their climate. Towards the end of term, we will begin to immerse ourselves in the magic and stories of Christmas.



Year 2

This half term, Year 2's topic is Remember Remember.



Beech and Elm will be learning about the origins of Bonfire Night and the events that took place during the Gunpowder Plot. Our Clever Writer texts will be The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark, The Snowman and a previous John Lewis advert 'What would Christmas be without Love?' and we will use this as a vehicle to explore character and setting. Year 2 will also be learning about the importance of Remembrance and the significance of the red and purple poppies. They will use the red poppy in their Art lessons to create a range of work using drawing, paint and chalk. In PSHE, we will discuss celebrating difference and how treating each other with respect can make the world a better place. In Maths, we will be revising our number bonds to 10 and 20, looking at related number facts and using this knowledge to add and subtract from a 2-digit number. Another busy, but exciting, half term ahead!





Children in Need



Be SPOTacular

BBC Children in Need is a chance for us to help other children. It has three main aims; for children in the UK to be safe, happy and be able to do everything they are capable of. On the 14th November Oaklands Infant and Junior schools became a school of spots. The children all looked amazing dressed up in their spotty clothes, Pudsey T-shirts, jumpers and ears. Thank you to all of you who donated to this annual event. We have raised so far **£464** between both schools.



If you would still like to donate please use the following link: [Children in Need](https://www.childreninneed.org.uk)



Oaklands Infant School

Autumn Term Dates 2025

HALF-TERM Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October	
Date	Activities in November
Wednesday 19th	Pm: Foundation Phonic workshop
Friday 21st	PTA disco
Activities in December	
Tuesday 9th	9.15am: Christmas play performance
Wednesday 10th	9.15am: Christmas play performance
Tuesday 16th	AM: Pantomime – South Hill Park
Wednesday 17th	PM: Carol Service
Thursday 18th	Christmas lunch
Friday 19th	Christmas jumper day 1.30pm: Break-up for Christmas holidays
Activities in January	
Monday 5th	INSET DAY
Tuesday 6th	Children return to school

The Noticeboard

Foundation Parent Workshop

Foundation classes, please use the link below to book onto the phonic and reading workshop by 4pm on the 17th November. This is taking place on **Wednesday 19th November**.

[FS Parent Workshop 2025 – Fill in form](#)



Parking



Please remember to park safely and responsibly and not block in residents or park over their driveways as we have received a few complaints from our neighbours. Please also remember to drive safely in the surrounding area.

Leave Request Forms

Please use the link below to our website for absence request forms which should be requested in advance (14 days but at least 48 hours notice where possible) for things such as holiday—term time, compassionate, religious holiday. For medical or illness absences please report this through WEDUC.

[Absence Request](#)

Coats

Please can you make sure that all children come to school with a coat due to the changeable weather and now that we are entering the colder months. We will still send the children out to play if it is light rain or sleet.

School Council

Year 2 have elected their representatives to sit on the school council. The children had to prepare a short speech to deliver to the class, stating why they thought they would be a good representative. Elm and Beech class then voted in a secret ballot to choose their two representatives. The four, new councillors will act for the whole of Oaklands Infant School. Well done to Zuzia, Seb, Henry and Isla.

The School Council works on a wide range of issues and allows every child to have a voice and contribute their ideas and opinions through their school representatives for discussion by the School Council.

The School Council will meet half termly and the meetings will be facilitated Miss Davies from the Infants and Mrs Broadhurst from the Juniors

The children will take back suggestions and ideas to their class and report back on the best ones to the whole school community. These suggestions will be acted on and shared with all the children through assemblies, which School Council may sometimes lead.





Casey's Crew 2025-26



We are proud to introduce this year's Casey's Crew. After completing an application for the job stating their qualities and why they think they would be suitable, undertaking a mini interview and training, this fantastic group of Year 2 children will now help as buddies on the playground during break and lunchtimes to encourage safe and co-operative play. Some of their duties will include:

- leading games
- chatting with children on the friendship bench and checking they're ok
- helping children to play co-operatively with each other
- patrolling the playground – to help keep everyone safe
- helping staff on duty

The children will be in teams of six and on a fortnightly rota. Each member of Casey's Crew can be spotted by their bright yellow bib.



Breast Cancer Now Shopping Evening

St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, Crowthorne

5pm - 8:30pm

Friday 21st November

In aid of Breast Cancer Now and raising awareness to check your breasts

23 Stalls

- oo Cakes oo Sweets oo Personalised Gifts
- oo Christmas Gifts oo Beauty oo Jewellery
- oo Pies oo Bath Bombs oo Tea & Coffee oo Raffle
- oo Handbags oo Wax Melts oo Takeaway Curry

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OAKLANDS SCHOOLS PTA

DISCO

FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER

JUNIOR SCHOOL HALL

Infants	4:30 - 5:30 PM (£5)
Juniors	6:00 - 7:30 PM (£6)

BEAT THE QUEUE AND BUY TICKETS ONLINE!

Buy your tickets here:
WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/OAKLANDS/

Snacks and water available for Infants
Tuck shop available for Juniors
Tickets will also be sold on the door
via cash or card payments.

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admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk