OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

FAMILY NEWSLETTER | Friday 16th October | Issue 06

THIS WEEK AT OAKWOOD

Developing a Love of Reading

Following an in-depth assessment of Reading this week, we have identified some exciting opportunities to further strengthen our reading provision across the school. We want every child, whatever their age, reading ability or interests, to feel confident, supported and inspired to read. Our next steps will focus on making our classrooms and reading areas even more inviting, ensuring that every child has access to a wide range of engaging, age-appropriate books that match both their reading level and interests. We have made a start in Year 1 (see picture). This also includes developing our Early Years reading environments, expanding our selection of graphic novels and high-interest books for older pupils who are still developing their reading skills, and providing books that support children as they progress towards independent reading.



Reading is a priority for us all, and our whole staff team will be working together to make these improvements. **Our aim is simple: every child should see themselves as a reader and experience the joy that reading can bring.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been another busy and exciting week of learning across the school, and it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, creativity and determination our children bring to their lessons each day.

In EYFS, the children have been busy developing their letter formation skills, creating and exploring collections, investigating patterns and experimenting with watercolour painting. It has been lovely to see their curiosity and creativity shine through as they develop important early learning skills.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 22nd October
Year 4/5 Special Visitor - Marine Park Comes to You session

Friday 23rd October
Year 4/5 Special Visitor - Marine Park Comes to You

Friday 23rd October – last day of Term 1
PTFA Halloween Disco (Reception - Year 2 3:30-4:30 and Y3-6 4:45-5:45)

Wednesday 4th November

SEND ILP Parent Meetings

Friday 6th November



In Years 1 and 2, our young mathematicians have been exploring part-whole models, using practical resources such as cubes to investigate the different ways numbers can be made. Year 1 have particularly enjoyed finding different ways to make the number 7! The children have also been enjoying our daily dice game, growing in confidence when using tally marks to record their results.



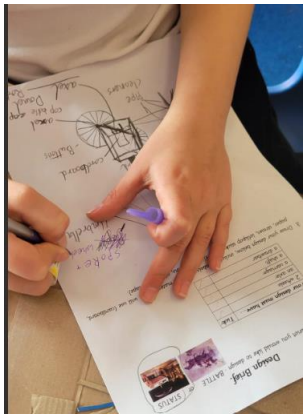
Year 3 have combined their learning about prehistoric Britain with their artistic skills to produce some fantastic charcoal drawings. They have applied their knowledge of different drawing techniques to create some truly impressive artwork, demonstrating both creativity and attention to detail.



In Years 4 and 5, the children have been developing their French language skills, focusing particularly on accurate pronunciation and growing in confidence when speaking French. They have also been discovering where French is spoken around the world, developing their understanding of different countries and cultures. In Design and Technology, they have been practising their sewing skills, showing patience, concentration and perseverance.



Meanwhile, Year 6 have been putting their creativity and design skills to the test as they begin creating their Roman chariots! This week, they have been busy planning their designs, carefully measuring and cutting out the materials needed for their creations. It has been fantastic to see them applying their historical knowledge alongside their practical skills, showing precision, creativity and problem-solving. We look forward to seeing their finished chariots next week!



Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 12th November

Smeaton and Firestone 'Learn With Us' parent sessions (8:40-10am)

Monday 16th November

Interhouse mini cake decorating (entries to the Community Entrance)

Thursday 19th November

Saltram and Mount Batten 'Learn With Us' parent sessions (8:40-10am)

Friday 20th November

Reception/Year 1 – school trip to 'The Box'

Year 6 – school trip to Dartmoor

Thursday 26th November

Burrator and Mayflower 'Learn With Us' parent sessions (8:40-10am)

Thursday 3rd December

Dockyard and Raleigh 'Learn With Us' parent sessions (8:40-10am)

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd December

Parents Evenings

Friday 18th December – last day of Term 2

PTFA Christmas Event from 3:30pm onwards

ATTENDANCE

94.8%

What stands out to me each week is not just the wonderful work being produced, but the confidence, resilience and enthusiasm our children demonstrate as learners. Whether they are mastering a new skill, exploring an idea or overcoming a challenge, there is so much to celebrate.

Well done to all our children for another fantastic week of learning, and thank you to our staff for continuing to provide such engaging and inspiring opportunities.

CELEBRATING OUR CHILDREN

SHOUT-OUT

This week's special shout-out goes to all the children who have impressed me with their **wonderful manners and kindness** around school.

It has been lovely to see children holding doors open for others, saying "please" and "thank you", greeting adults politely and showing consideration for those around them. These may seem like small gestures, but they make such a big difference to our school community.

I am particularly proud when I see children demonstrating these behaviours naturally, without needing to be reminded. It shows the respect, thoughtfulness and kindness that we value so highly in our school.

Good manners cost nothing, but they mean so much! Keep it up, everyone. You are making our school a welcoming and happy place to be, and I am very proud of you.



Whole-school attendance this week

TOP CLASS

Smeaton— 99.4%

Word Count Winners

Year 3 – 85,049

Mayflower – 70,469

Year 6 – 263,711

Early Birds & Busy Bees – Wraparound Care

Don't forget that our wraparound care is available to support families before and after the school day. Early Birds runs from 7:00–8:40am, giving children a welcoming and positive start to their school day. Busy Bees runs from 3:30–5:30pm, providing after-school care in a safe and familiar environment.

School Lunches

Please order your child's school lunch through ParentPay by midnight the night before.

Free School Meals – Please Check!

Eligibility has changed, so all families are encouraged to check, even if you have applied before. This is important even for Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils who already receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. Registration can unlock additional Pupil Premium funding and reduce some costs for eligible families.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Oakwood Primary Academy PTFA
HALLOWEEN COMPETITION
Get creative and make something spooky!
Create anything Halloween-inspired:
Decorations
Spooky scenes
Crafts and models
Or any other Halloween creation!
Bring your entry into school by
Tuesday 20th October
Please ensure all entries are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.
One winner from each class will be chosen by the teachers.
Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in assembly on
Thursday 22nd October
Good luck – we can't wait to see your fang-tastic creations!





Wedofootball
October Half Term Holiday Club

Oakwood Primary Academy

Monday 26th October
Tuesday 27th October
Wednesday 28th October
Thursday 29th October
Friday 30th October

Ages 5 to 12

10.00am till 15.00pm

Just £15 per child per day

Maximum fun, with no pressure and a safe learning environment.

Can all players please bring a packed lunch and drink, moulded studs and trainers. If you require any further information, contact: Joe Geraghty on 07795804127 or email wedofootball1@gmail.com.

Drop off from 09.15am no extra cost





FA Affiliated and Full Liability Insurance

School Terms and Holidays
2026/2027 Academic Year

DISCOVERY

September 2026						
M			7	14	21	28
T		1	8	15	22	29
W		2	9	16	23	30
Th		3	10	17	24	
F		4	11	18	25	
Sa		5	12	19	26	
Su		6	13	20	27	

October 2026						
Mo			5	12	19	26
Tu			6	13	20	27
We			7	14	21	28
Th		1	8	15	22	29
Fr		2	9	16	23	30
Sa		3	10	17	24	31
Su		4	11	18	25	

November 2026						
M		2	9	16	23	30
T		3	10	17	24	
W		4	11	18	25	
Th		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	

December 2026						
M			7	14	21	28
Tu		1	8	15	22	29
W		2	9	16	23	30
Th		3	10	17	24	31
F		4	11	18	25	
Sa		5	12	19	26	
Su		6	13	20	27	

January 2027						
M			4	11	18	25
Tu			5	12	19	26
W			6	13	20	27
Th			7	14	21	28
F		1	8	15	22	29
Sa		2	9	16	23	30
Su		3	10	17	24	31

February 2027						
M			1	8	15	22
Tu			2	9	16	23
W			3	10	17	24
Th			4	11	18	25
F			5	12	19	26
Sa			6	13	20	27
Su			7	14	21	28

March 2027						
M		1	8	15	22	29
Tu		2	9	16	23	30
W		3	10	17	24	31
Th		4	11	18	25	
F		5	12	19	26	
Sa		6	13	20	27	
Su		7	14	21	28	

April 2027						
M			5	12	19	26
Tu			6	13	20	27
W			7	14	21	28
Th		1	8	15	22	29
F		2	9	16	23	30
Sa		3	10	17	24	
Su		4	11	18	25	

May 2027						
M		3	10	17	24	31
Tu		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
Th		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	

June 2027						
M			7	14	21	28
Tu		1	8	15	22	29
W		2	9	16	23	30
Th		3	10	17	24	
F		4	11	18	25	
Sa		5	12	19	26	
Su		6	13	20	27	

July 2027						
M			5	12	19	26
Tu			6	13	20	27
W			7	14	21	28
Th		1	8	15	22	29
F		2	9	16	23	30
Sa		3	10	17	24	31
Su		4	11	18	25	

August 2027						
M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W		4	11	18	25	
Th		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su	1	8	15	22	29	

Term time	School holiday	Bank holiday	INSET day

Term dates							
Term 1	03 September	-	23 October	37 days	**Term 2**	02 November	-	18 December	35 days
Term 3	04 January	-	12 February	30 days	**Term 4**	22 February	-	25 March	24 days
Term 5	12 April	-	28 May	34 days	**Term 6**	07 June	-	23 July	35 days
Total									195 days

Bank and public holidays			
Christmas Day	25 December	**Easter Monday**	29 March
Boxing Day	28 December	**May Day**	03 May
New Year's Day	01 January	**Spring**	31 May
Good Friday	26 March	**Summer**	30 August