OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

FAMILY NEWSLETTER | Friday 23rd October | Issue 07

THIS WEEK AT OAKWOOD

Exploring Our Local Marine Environment



This week, our Year 4 and Year 5 classes enjoyed taking part in 'The Marine Park Comes to You', an exciting session linked to Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.



As children growing up in Plymouth, it is so important that our pupils develop an understanding of the incredible natural environment right on their doorstep. Plymouth has a rich maritime heritage, and Plymouth Sound is a special part of our city's identity. Through this experience, pupils had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of our local marine environment and develop a greater appreciation of why it is so important to protect and care for it.



Experiences like these are an important part of our commitment to personal development at Oakwood. They help children build a sense of belonging, pride in their local community and an understanding of their responsibility towards the world around them. They also provide valuable opportunities to strengthen links between our school, local organisations and the wider Plymouth community, helping pupils recognise the exciting opportunities available beyond the classroom.

We are delighted that our children can benefit from experiences that bring learning to life and help them feel connected to the wonderful city and coastline they call home.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term at Oakwood, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our pupils and thank our whole school community for their continued support.

We have so much to be proud of this term! It has been wonderful to see the progress children are making in their learning, the positive attitudes they are demonstrating and the improvements we continue to see in attendance and behaviour. A particular success has been our continued focus on ensuring that all pupils are accessing

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 2nd November
First day of Term 2

Wednesday 4th November
SEND ILP Parent Meetings

Friday 6th November
Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 12th November

learning in their classrooms, feeling included, supported and ready to achieve. These are important priorities for us at Oakwood, and it is lovely to see the positive impact of everyone's hard work.

Reading for Pleasure – Mystery Reader Thursdays!

We are excited to continue developing our reading culture at Oakwood with our **Mystery Reader sessions every Thursday at 3pm!** We would love parents, carers and family members to get involved by volunteering to visit their child's class and share a favourite story. There is something incredibly special about children seeing adults enjoying books, and these sessions are a brilliant way to promote a lifelong love of reading. If you would like to be one of our mystery readers, please speak to your child's class teacher. Further information can be found on the poster below.

Children in Need – Anything But a Book Bag!

We are looking forward to supporting Children in Need with a fun, creative and meaningful day for everyone at Oakwood! This year, we are inviting children to come to school in **mufti (non-uniform)** and take part in our **'Anything But a Book Bag' challenge!** We are asking children to leave their usual rucksacks and book bags at home and instead bring their belongings in something a little more imaginative. Perhaps a clean washing basket, a pillowcase, a toy shopping trolley or even a saucepan! We cannot wait to see the creative ideas our children come up with. Please ensure that whatever they bring is safe, manageable and suitable for carrying their belongings around school.

Families are welcome to make a **voluntary contribution to Children in Need**, with all donations greatly appreciated.

Alongside the fun, we also want to ensure that the day has a meaningful focus on our children's personal development. As part of our Children in Need activities, pupils will take part in a **special reading-themed afternoon**, with the usual timetable set aside to explore the experiences of children facing challenges and adversity.

Each class will explore a story centred on a character who is a 'child in need', providing opportunities to read, discuss and reflect on the challenges, dilemmas and experiences presented. Through these stories, children will explore important themes linked to our **British values**, including respect, tolerance, inclusion and celebrating differences. Following their discussions, each class will work collaboratively to create a piece of artwork inspired by their character, which will be shared and celebrated in a special whole-school assembly.

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)

Year 4 – school trip to Devonport EfW CHP Facility

Friday 13th November

Children in Need – bring anything but a 'book bag' and mufti (voluntary contribution)

Friday 20th November

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

Year 5 – school trip to Devonport EfW CHP Facility

Year 6 – school trip to Dartmoor

Thursday 26th November

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

Year 2 – school trip to Tamar Bridge

Thursday 3rd December

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

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd December

Parents Evenings – bookings on ParentPay (link will live after half-term)

Wednesday 16th December

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Looking Ahead – Key Dates and Christmas Events

As we move towards another exciting and busy term, please take a moment to check the **key dates section of this newsletter** for upcoming whole-school events, including our Christmas celebrations. We know how important these special occasions are for our children and families, and we look forward to welcoming you into school to share them with us.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to our pupils, staff and families for making this such a positive term. Thank you to our families for supporting good attendance, positive routines and high expectations. We are incredibly proud of our children and everything they continue to achieve, both academically and personally. I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term at Oakwood!

CELEBRATING OUR PTFA

SHOUT-OUT

We would like to say an enormous thank you to our wonderful PTFA, who continue to go above and beyond to organise fabulous events and experiences for our children at Oakwood!

The creativity, time and effort that went into our recent Halloween assembly and disco were simply incredible! The attention to detail, enthusiasm and imagination were beyond words, and the smiles on our children's faces said it all! We are so lucky to have such a dedicated group of parents, carers and volunteers who give so generously of their time to make these special memories possible.



Please continue to support our PTFA events whenever you can. Every ticket purchased, donation made and event attended makes a real difference. The funds raised are invaluable in helping us provide additional experiences, enriching curriculum resources, exciting breaktime and lunchtime activities, and so much more. The list really is endless! Every penny raised goes towards making school life even better for our children.

PTFA AGM – Come Along and Get Involved!

Foundation, Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance to parents – 2:30pm

Years 3,4,5 and 6 Christmas Performance to parents @ 4:15pm

Friday 18th December – last day of Term 2

PTFA Christmas Event from 3:30pm onwards – more information to follow

ATTENDANCE

95.4%

Whole-school attendance for Autumn Term 1 (up from 93.1% this time last year – one happy headteacher 😊!

TOP CLASS

Smeaton— 99.4%

Word Count Winners

Year 3 – 53,945

Mayflower – 84,372

Year 6 – 642,958

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. Lunches can be booked until 9am. If your child is absent, please

Our next PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on an evening in November, in the school staffroom. A Microsoft Teams link will also be shared for parents and carers who would prefer to join virtually.

We would love to see as many families as possible getting involved. Whether you can offer a little time, share ideas or simply find out more about what our PTFA does, everyone is welcome. Your support really does make a difference!

Thank you once again to our fantastic PTFA – you truly are an invaluable part of our Oakwood community.



remove their lunch order to avoid being charged.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Mystery Reader

After half term, on a Thursday

at 3pm,

Parents can volunteer to come into school and read a story to their child's class.



To sign up for this, please contact your child's teacher.

(Just remember to not to tell the children as this is a surprise!)





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