OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

FAMILY NEWSLETTER | Friday 6th November | Issue 08

THIS WEEK AT OAKWOOD

A School Community United in Remembrance 💛

Our whole-school Remembrance display is a beautiful tribute, made possible by the wonderful efforts of our children, staff, families and wider community. A special thank you to Mr Matthews, who generously made, delivered and installed the silhouettes that have brought our display to life. It has been lovely to hear children and families talking about Remembrance, asking questions and reflecting on its importance.

We are delighted that **One Plymouth News** will be visiting on Monday to write an article about our display. We are also honoured to welcome **the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Councillor Kevin Sproston, on Wednesday 11th November**, in the afternoon. This will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase both our Remembrance tribute and the many improvements we have made across our school.

We are incredibly proud of our school community and look forward to sharing all that we have achieved together.



We will remember them. 💛





A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome back, everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break, filled with Halloween fun, family time and a chance to recharge ready for another busy half-term at Oakwood.

The children have settled back into school really well, and it has been fantastic to see such a wide range of learning taking place already. From playing the recorders and cornets to hockey, French lessons and developing letter and number formation, there has certainly been plenty happening across the school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 12th November

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

Reception/Year 1 – Parent Phonics Meeting – 10am

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all parents and carers to have a conversation with their children about rough play at lunchtimes. At Oakwood, we have zero tolerance for physical behaviours towards others, whether intended as a playful or not. Every child has the right to feel safe and happy at school, and we will be addressing any incidents firmly and consistently. There are plenty of activities available at lunchtime, including ball sports, colouring, music and dancing, and board games. Please reinforce our expectations at home so that everyone can enjoy their breaktimes safely and positively.

Improving outcomes for our pupils remains at the heart of everything we do, and this half-term we are placing a particularly strong focus on reading. I want to be open with parents that we are on a determined improvement journey at Oakwood with our Reading culture/outcomes, and we are being robust in our approach to ensuring every child makes the progress they are capable of. Reading is fundamental to success across the curriculum, and we want to see real, measurable improvements in children's fluency, confidence and understanding.

To support this, we are launching our new reading mission. Every child who reads at home at least three times a week will receive a raffle ticket, with one lucky child from each class winning a brand-new book every Friday. We want to celebrate reading, encourage positive reading habits at home and recognise the efforts of our pupils.

All reading at home must be recorded in your child's planner, as this will allow us to monitor engagement and celebrate their achievements. Planners will be checked daily, and where no reading has been recorded, a small red dot will be placed in the planner to indicate this. This is simply a way for us to track reading consistently and identify where further encouragement may be needed. We ask all parents and carers to support us by ensuring reading is recorded regularly and accurately. Just a few minutes of reading each day can make a real difference!

Alongside this, we are strengthening our approach to teaching reading across the school. We have introduced Little Wandle in September 2026, our new phonics scheme for children in Reception to Year 2. To help parents understand how we teach phonics and how you can support your child at home, we will be holding a parent workshop next week at 10am, following our Learn With Us session.

In Key Stage 2, we are continuing with Bug Club Comprehension and Accelerated Reader to develop children's reading fluency,

Friday 13th November

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

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 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

Year 3 – school trip to Dinosaur World

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

comprehension and confidence, while encouraging a greater love of reading.

This week, Mr Mantell and I have personally assessed our Key Stage 2 pupils, and we have identified gaps in phonics knowledge and tricky word recognition. I want to be transparent with parents that these are areas we need to address, and we are taking a robust and targeted approach to improving reading outcomes. We will now use these assessments to plan tailored packages of support for individual children and groups of learners, ensuring that gaps are addressed systematically and progress is closely monitored.

Our priority is clear: every child at Oakwood deserves to become a confident, fluent and successful reader, and we are determined to put the right teaching, interventions and support in place to make this happen.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working alongside us. Together, we can make a real difference to every child's experience and success at Oakwood.

Here's to a fantastic half-term ahead!

Mrs Jodie Chubb

Headteacher

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

94.6%

Whole-school attendance

TOP CLASS

Smeaton— 100% Mufti Winners 😊

Celebrating Attendance

SHOUT-OUT



Today, an incredible 110 pupils were awarded their Silver Attendance Award wristbands for achieving **100% attendance throughout Autumn Term 1!**

This is a fantastic achievement, and we are so proud of their commitment to attending school every day, ready to learn. Well done to all 110 pupils. Let's keep up the fantastic attendance throughout Autumn Term 2 and see even more children earning their awards.



School Spotlight – Exciting Trips Ahead!

We are delighted that every class at Oakwood will be heading out on an educational trip this month! These experiences are an important part of our curriculum, giving children opportunities to bring their learning to life, explore new places and create lasting memories.

A huge **thank you** to all our families for your voluntary contributions towards these trips. Your generosity and support help us provide these valuable experiences for our pupils, and we are incredibly grateful.

Parents and carers of children in Years 2 and 3 will receive their trip letters over the weekend, with further details about their upcoming visits. Trip dates are in the column on the right. We can't wait to see our children enjoying these exciting opportunities beyond the classroom!

Word Count Winners

Year 3 – 38,727

Dockyard – 98, 764

Year 6 – 221, 835

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.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Pendeen Crescent, Southway, Plymouth, PL6 6QS • 01752 775478
oakwood.office@discoverymat.co.uk • www.oakwood-primary.co.uk

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!)

PTFA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER!



Tuesday
24th November



4pm



Oakwood
Primary School



Refreshments and cake will be provided!



Come along, meet the team, have a chat and find out what being part of the PTFA is all about.

We look forward to seeing you!

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