



# Oakwood Academy Newsletter

"Living, learning and thriving"

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## 23rd July 2019

### School Reminders

#### Feast of Fun

A summer of fun for families at Derriford United Reformed Church - a range of activities including crafts, games, face painting, bouncy castle and lunch.

10am - 1pm Thursday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th August

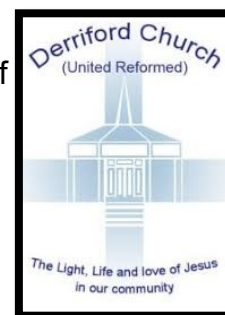
Free to attend but booking is advised.

Email: derrifordurc@gmail.com

Call: 07795967330

Derriford United Reformed Church, Powisland Drive, Derriford, PL6 6AB

For more information, visit [www.derrifordchurch.co.uk](http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk)



#### Parent Pay

Please be aware that from the 31st of July the school will no longer be able to take payments over the phone or made on the front desk. For more information, please see the letter on the website.

### Attendance

#### For Week Ending 12th July

The expected average percentage attendance for a child is 96%.

<b>Frogs</b>	<b>99.3%</b>
Dragonfly	88.1%
Squirrel	96.3%
<b>Badger</b>	<b>99.3%</b>
Hedgehog	98.7%
Alder	93.3%
Maple	95.8%
<b>Willow</b>	<b>99.6%</b>
Hazel	97.3%
Pine	92.7%
Chestnut	96.9%

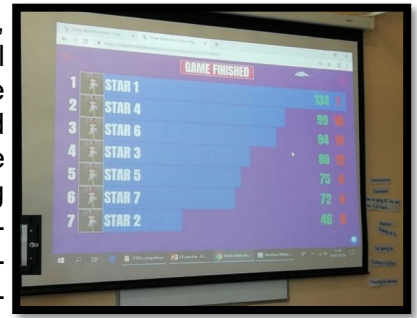


Well done to  
Frogs and Badgers KS1 and  
Willow KS2  
For the highest attendance



## Times Tables Rockstar Event

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, two boys from Year 4, Dan and Ty, represented Oakwood at the annual Times Tables Rockstars Red Carpet Event. The boys arrived at school in their Rockstar inspired outfits ready to take on the competition. The morning started with six intense rounds involving sixty-four children from schools across Plymouth. Each round was a battle between four children to be the fastest to answer 100 multiplication questions. The two boys got off to a great



Star	Score
STAR 1	134
STAR 4	98
STAR 6	94
STAR 3	90
STAR 5	75
STAR 7	72
STAR 2	46



start with Dan winning the round and Ty coming second. After the six rounds, the competitors had to add up all the points they had won during the six rounds and the top twenty-eight children went into the quarter finals. Ty did very well and was in the top half, but he just missed out by a few points. Fortunately, Dan had done just enough to make it into the quarter finals. The first six rounds were completed on paper, whereas the finals were played on the I pads. Dan, who is our fastest Rockstar player in the school, was feeling confident he could win. The crowd was getting very excited when the first few players managed to answer close to 100 correct multiplications in one minute. It was finally Dan's turn to play in front of the crowd and after watching the first few quarter finals, he was feeling nervous but confident. Dan performed brilliantly by answering 117 correct multiplication questions in one minute. The crowd was shocked at this speed, and it meant he went through to the semi-finals. After winning his semi-final comfortably, Dan was ready to compete against the fastest children in the final. Many of the finalist were older than Dan, but that did not scare him. The seven-finalist sat



in front of the crowd ready to battle to become Plymouth's Rock God. By the end of the minute, second place had answered 99 multiplication questions correctly. Unbelievably, Dan was the fastest by far with a ridiculous score of 134 in one minute. Yes, 134! With this victory, Dan was the overall winner of the event and became Plymouth's Rock God for 2019! We are incredibly proud of both Dan and Ty for doing so well in the competition and representing Oakwood in a fantastic manner. They have worked incredibly hard to improve their multiplication knowledge this year by regularly playing Times Table Rockstars. Is there anyone in Oakwood that can challenge Dan to be the next Rock God? He has set the challenge, who will take him on?

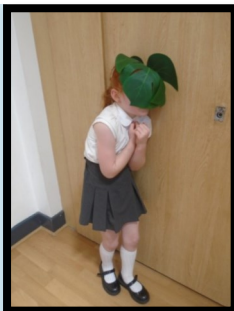
## CaterEd food workshops

Over this term the children have been taking part in Catered food workshops. They have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. From Chestnut class, Katie said "My favourite bit was making the dips!" and Maddie's favourite bit was trying the dips. In Squirrel and Badger class they made smoothies. Brad in Badger said "I enjoyed drinking it" but Isabel said that she liked choosing the different fruits to put into the smoothie. In Squirrel class, Oliver liked the strawberries and James enjoyed chopping up the fruit. Lyla in Pine class said she enjoyed mixing it all and Luke said he liked all the new flavours he tried especially the chili dip! In Willow class, Ruby said that she liked eating the food and Millie said "I would like to do it again but this time I will try different dips!"

A big thank you to Mrs Harvey for organising the workshops and to Jo, Julie, and Louise for hosting the sessions and doing all the clean up!



## KS1 Creative Rainforest Workshop



We have had an exciting afternoon imagining and playing creative games in the rainforest. All of KS1 classes spent a session with Sally doing drama activities pretending to be animals from the rainforest including jaguars, monkeys,



snakes and many more. 'I liked pretending to be a jaguar and creeping up on the deer. It was a bit like the game What's the time Mr Wolf but with rainforest animals!' Jessica, Year 2. 'I thought that Sally was really fun and we all enjoyed playing the games. We even went on an expedition as Scientists looking at the different species in the rainforest.' Abigail, Year 1. We all had a magnificent time – ooh ooh ahh ahh!

## Archery

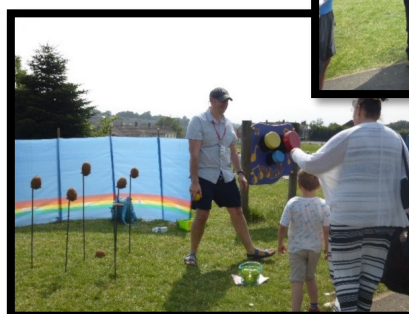
This month, Year 5 and 6 had a fantastic time playing 'archery attack' on the school field. In teams, they played a range of games including 'Hunger Games', 'Freeze Tag' and 'Capture the Flag' using bows and arrows and hiding behind inflatables.

"I loved being the team captain for one of the Year 5 teams and giving my team advice and tactics between each game." James. "It was so fun shooting. It made such a loud noise when it hit. The instructor and was making sure we shot with enough strength and power." Bradley. "I would love to play again. We got so hot and sweaty in our masks. I found it tricky to re-load my arrow each time." Bradley



## Summer Fayre

We had a beautiful sunny afternoon for our Summer Fayre this year. There were all the favourite stalls such as the bottle tombola, wheel of fortune, coconut shy as well a few new activities including the very popular pony riding! The PTFA team have worked incredibly hard this year and it was wonderful to see so many children, parents and friends enjoy the fayre. Overall the fayre raised £1262.94 which is our best profit so far! Well done to everyone on the PTFA team who work hard behind the scenes all year round and for organising such a fantastic event!



## Parent Reading Workshop

During our last week Mrs Dent and Mrs Connett hosted a parent workshop about Reading. We would like to thank the parents who came and were so positive in their feedback. We discussed how we teach phonics and reading comprehension in school and gave out a lot of support sheets. The school website has lots of weblinks that support reading with your children too. We were lucky enough to be joined by Rose from Southway Library who shared all the fantastic ways the library can be used to support reading but many other things too. They run Lego and coding clubs amongst many other things. Over the summer holiday, they will be running a reading challenge and a free lunch for children every Wednesday in August (see below). Please do support Southway library as they have a host of free activities that support families and it is a valuable community resource. Happy Reading!

## Space Chase at Southway Library



From the 13th of July you can pick up a Space Chase mission folder from Southway Library. It is free to join. The mission is to read six library books over the summer holidays. There are stickers and prizes to collect along the way! At the end, your child will receive a medal and a certificate that will be presented in the autumn term. There are many other activities at libraries all around Plymouth!

## Women in Engineering



On Friday 28th June, 15 year 6 girls had the opportunity to attend a 'Woman in Engineering' session at a local engineering firm Schneider Electric in Southway. During the session, they learnt about the different products which the company manufactures and met a female engineer who told them more about her job. They were also treated to a tour of the factory floor and then were given the challenge of creating their own packaging to market a thermostat product. At the end, we were kindly given goody bags including a thermal mug and USB stick to take home. One child said 'It was really interesting seeing what they do inside the factory because I walk past it every day. It made me think about different jobs I could do when I'm older because I didn't realise that's what engineers do.'





## Hula hoop and Zumba Workshops



At Oakwood we have been throwing ourselves into trying new and exciting things that help to get our heart rate up to stay healthy and active. This term we were lucky enough to experience Hula Hooping and Zumba.

We had an instructor visit our schools and teach us all (teachers included) how to do some snazzy tricks with a



hula hoop, tips on how to keep the hoop spinning and all of the different body parts we can use. Children had a fantastic time moving their hips, arms, legs and ankles to music trying to keep the hoop from touching the floor. I was so impressed with the rhythm and repetition that all of the children displayed, we were all determined to challenge our own personal best time before the hoop hit the floor. But most importantly it was a fantastic way to show children that exercising doesn't have to be boring, who knew playing with a hula hoop could be so tiring!

In the spirit of making exercise as fun as possible, we were excited to



have a go at Zumba. A Zumba instructor came into school and taught 45minute sessions of high energy dancing to each class. We all learnt several different routines to up beat music that

got everyone wanting to move their feet for the rest of the day. Children



were asked to piece together and remember different steps and movements to create a routine but they



were also given the chance to 'Freestyle' which gave everyone a chance to shine. It was fantastic to see how every child had a different

rhythm and beat that they were able to share with each other. The instructor was fantastic at making all of the children and staff feel confident enough to join in and try every step. It was a tiring morning but a great way to exercise and have fun at the same time.

## Dan Dan the Skipping Man



On Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th July, Dan the skipping man visited Oakwood to carry out skipping workshops with every class in the school. During the fun workshops children's coordination and timing was put to the challenge as they practised different ways of skipping and counting to jump in. I think everyone got a good workout and felt energised for the rest of their lessons that day. All the children have enjoyed trying out their new skipping skills too!

## Goblin Go Kart

On Wednesday 3rd July four brave young warriors (and two older ones) embarked on mission to the depths of Cornwall for the annual Goblin Go Kart event. This year it was being held in Predannack Airfield in the Lizard. At 5:15am the team met and travelled the 2 hour journey to the event, picking up fellow competitors from Beechwood, Weston Mill and St Budeaux. Making good time, Oakwheels (this years team name) arrived first out of all 39 teams. The Gazebo went up, Go Kart came off the truck and our team colours were deployed. This year the team had worked on a portfolio for the race (a massive thanks to Lisa Darcy) and along with signing up that went in for judging also. The team were ready!



With the smallest team at the event, and the only school in Plymouth (out of the 5 going) only running one kart the children had to decide which of the 6 drag runs they were going to do. This was then followed by negotiations for the slalom event. Near on immaculate runs saw Oakwheels finish 6th in the drag race and a somewhat surprising 19th in the slalom. Minus the 5 points for the portfolio, the team ended the day on 20 points, putting them an overall 8th place out of 39 that attended. They were also the best placed team from Plymouth. I would like to thank the team from Babcock for supporting the build and their enthusiasm throughout (Luke and Josh), also the team behind getting the vehicles there. A huge thanks to Lisa Darcy for supporting the team and organising the portfolio, Mrs Headridge for finding us a coach to transport us there, the parents for getting up so early to drop the team off and finally the children who took part, Alfie, Scarlett, Natasha and Bella, all of whom represented our school brilliantly. We'd also like to say thank you to LK Wrapz in Kelly Bray for wrapping the Go Kart and providing us with snazzy t-shirts this year! We did look the part! WELL DONE EVERYONE!



## Year 6 Performance

Year 6 have been working very hard on an end of year performance. They've been practicing magical songs and big dance routines ready for Friday's big performance in front of the rest of Key Stage 2 and parents and friends of the school. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Wieprecht for teaching us the songs and dances when she's 7 months pregnant! Everyone was nervous but did very well even so. It took a bunch of rehearsing in the hall so thank you to all the rest of teachers to make Year 6 practice for this occasion.

"Practicing was really fun" Ruby "It was fun and awesome" Poppy  
"It felt amazing" Lara

## Year 6 Woodlands Trip

On Tuesday 9th July Year 6 were given their reward for all their hard work throughout their school life and especially in the months leading up to their SATs. They were all excited by the surprise trip to Woodlands Adventure Park. They spent the day on the water rapids, drop slides, pirate ship, master blaster, toboggans and many more thrilling rides. All the children thoroughly enjoy the day and we were very lucky with the weather! Well done to year 6, you have all worked so hard this year and deserve a restful and fun summer!

"It was so awesome! All of year 6 loved it!" Alfie

"It was great to spend time out of the classroom and with my friends." Lola

"It was the best trip with the teachers." Jake

"I conquered my fear of going down the death slides!" Katie



# Samba Drumming Workshop

WOW! What an amazing couple of days. The PTFA recently funded a drumming workshop for all classes across the school with Allan from Shumba Arts. The children were able to find out about a wide range of African and Brazilian instruments.

All the children had an opportunity to play simple rhythms and tunes on the Djembe drums, and to use their bodies to create percussion. Stories were shared from both Africa and Brazil and the meanings behind instruments and songs explained. Many of the children learnt African chants and songs, and although initially a little



hesitant they were soon immersed and engaged.

As soon as the children entered the room the excitement was evident. The concentration and focus from the children was fantastic. Their effort and enthusiasm allowed the sessions to be rewarding and beneficial to their learning. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces. They all represented the school brilliantly and continued their enthusiasm after the sessions.





# Rainforest Mural

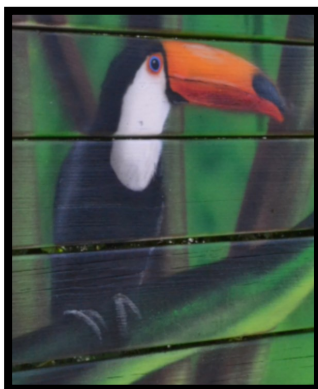
We were delighted to invite Jordan from The Mural Company back in to school to bring colour and vibrancy to the Key Stage 2 Playground. The hope is to inspire children's imaginations in independent play. We were



aware that children know about the big animals, such as lions and monkeys, we wanted the mural to include less common animals, ones that create conversations and teach through play.

Children were able to come and watch throughout the day. It was great for Key Stage 1 who are currently studying Carnival to be able to witness and have an input on the mural. Lunchtime was

incredibly popular and despite the lure of the school field many children chose to watch the mural develop.

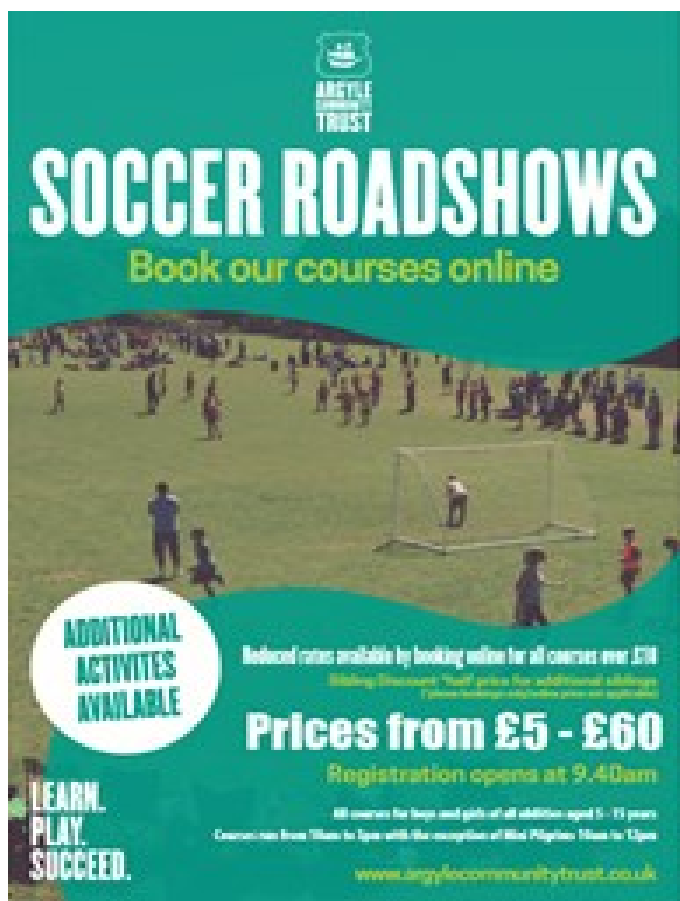


The finished product was truly outstanding and beyond what we had all expected. The children who had created their Brazilian masks as part of topic were itching to get out for pictures with such a lifelike backdrop. We think it looks great and a massive improvement on the black space before. It leaves us looking at even more future

ideas unities as the possibilities are endless.







Free Summer Holiday Activity Weeks at Tor Bridge High Sports Centre for 8-12 year olds

Starting Monday 29th July to Friday 23 August

Sessions will run every day for 4 weeks from 10am to 2pm

Activities include various sports, crafts, cookery and science workshops, circus skills, bubble football to name a few.

A free healthy lunch will also be provided.

Booking is essential to reserve a place please call Nyrene on 01752 307028

Goodbye and good luck!

As we come to the end of another year it is also time to say goodbye and good luck to some of our staff at Oakwood.

Miss Larcombe is moving to a new post in sunny Dubai and is looking forward to this exciting opportunity! We would like to thank Miss Larcombe for all her hard work as our RWI Manager and Reading Lead. We have always had fun dressing up on World Book Day and I'm sure she will continue the tradition in Dubai with her new class!

Some of our TAs are moving to our other schools across the MAT this year. Mrs Hammocott will be moving to Weston Mill and Mrs Delafield, Miss Daw and Mrs Bennison will be moving to Beechwood. We would just like to thank them all for all of their hard work and their many valuable contributions to our school including supporting Junior Ten Tours and training our Field Gun teams. Luckily, they will not be far and we know they will keep in touch!

We will be welcoming the following HLTAs/TAs to Oakwood from September; Mrs Ward and Mrs Pellow from Weston Mill and Miss Wolley from Beechwood. The new teachers joining us are Mrs Crocker will be joining us from Beechwood and will be teaching in year 1, she will be joined by Mrs Baker teaching in year 2 and Mrs Sherrell teaching in year 3 and 4. Miss Brocklesby will be returning from her maternity leave and will be teaching in year 5.

We would also like to wish Miss Gooding lots of luck for her wedding in the summer holidays. We send all of our very best wishes for her special day. Congratulations!

A very fond farewell to all our leavers, good luck in all you do, we will miss you all.

Good luck to our year 6 children in your new schools. To everyone else have a wonderful summer holiday, enjoy your break and see you again in September!

## Diary Dates 2018/2019



Tues 23rd July  
Wed 24th July

School closes for Summer Holidays - Mufti for a donation  
Non Pupil Day

### **2019/2020 TERM DATES**

Tues 3rd September  
Wed 4th September  
Thurs 5th September  
Fri 13th September  
Wed 25th—Fri 27th Sep  
Fri 11th October

### **2019/2020 TERM DATES**

Staff Training Day  
Staff Training Day  
School re-opens 8:45am  
Roald Dahl Lunch—CATERed  
Year 5 Beam House Trip  
World Cup Lunch—CATERed

Mon 21st Oct—Fri 25th Oct

### **HALF TERM**

Mon 28th October  
Thurs 28th November  
Friday 29th November

School re-opens 8.45am  
Non-pupil Day  
Non-pupil Day

23rd Dec—Fri 5th Jan 2020

### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Mon 6th Jan  
Mon 17th Feb— Fri 21st Feb

School re-opens 8.45am  
**HALF TERM**

Mon 24th Feb  
Fri 30th Mar—Mon 13th Apr

School re-opens 8.45am  
**EASTER HOLIDAYS**

Tues 14th Apr  
Mon 4th May  
Fri 8th May

School re-opens 8.45am  
May Day Bank Holiday  
Bank Holiday

Mon 25th May—Fri 29th May  
Wed 22nd Jul

**HALF TERM**  
**Last Day of Term**



*Have a great Summer Holiday!*  
*Jackie Sparrow*  
*Head of School*

