



Newsletter
December 2025



OAKWOOD
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Headteacher's Term 2 update

Dear Oakwood reader,

As we come to the end of Term 2, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly remarkable few months at Oakwood Primary School. This term has been filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit, and I couldn't be prouder of everything our children and staff have achieved, despite a few 'site challenges' that we faced along the way too.

The close of this half-term also marks my first year in post as headteacher at Oakwood and what a year of many firsts and solutions it has been! I love working with our Oakwood children and families and truly consider our school so full of potential. Each day, I feel incredibly proud to be leading here and the Oakwood vision, although inherited, sits permanently in my thoughts: 'Being Better Every Day.'

I continue to recognise that each day is a learning day and that my staff team and I are still in the early phases of establishing many new initiatives and ways of working consistently and collaboratively with our parents. I always share that feedback, in all its forms, is what helps us to know how we're doing and 'do what we do' better. As we head towards 2026, I want to thank our parent body for your continued partnership and support—often, your kindness and recognition that we're trying to get this 'right' for everyone, goes a long way. Likewise, I want to take this moment to thank the incredible staff team here. It continues to be privilege to work alongside talented leaders, teachers, support and site staff—you are the 'rocks' of our school.

Exciting Curriculum Projects

From science investigations to creative writing, pupils have shown incredible curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. We continue to embark on new ventures too, with Term 3 seeing the start of our School Rock Bands (led by Rock Steady) and an exciting electrical sustainability project with year 5 & 6 coming up too!

Sporting Success

Our teams demonstrated fantastic teamwork and resilience in local competitions this half-term, representing Oakwood with pride. Our indoor athletics team came in the top 10 across Eastbourne and our pupils made Miss Stew incredibly proud.

Charity and Community Initiatives

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising events this half-term, from purchasing your children's decorations to supporting our annual Reindeer Walk for Chestnut Tree house; together, we made a real difference & we can't wait to share with you how much money has been raised.

Maths Magic

The children will tell you that maths is my passion! Prior to becoming headteacher, I led maths across the Aurora Academies Trust and now embed a love of maths here at Oakwood. Across Term 2, children shone in our maths events, including the Dotty 6 Challenge and the Times Tables Rock Stars Competition, where we secured third place against the Aurora schools! The children also know how fiercely competitive I am and know that we'll be more prepared than ever for the repeat competition in February!

As we head into the holiday season, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our families and staff for your continued support. **However you choose to spend this special time of year, may it be filled with warmth, laughter, and moments that matter most.** We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, on Tuesday 6th January, for another exciting term of learning: knowledge, equality, determination and achievements!

HANNAH MORGAN

Headteacher
Oakwood Primary Academy



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From Term 2, we want to shout about...

Maths Magic

It's been all about maths this half-term and the children will tell you that this is my absolute passion! Across Term 2, children shone in our maths events, including the Dotty 6 Challenge and Trust-wide Times Tables Rock Stars Competition, where we proudly secured third place against the Aurora schools! The children have assured me that we'll be more prepared than ever for the repeat competition in February!



Visit from local MP, Joshua Babarinde (born and bred in Hampden Park)

To close UK parliament week, we were thrilled to welcome our local MP – Josh Barbarinde – to Oakwood. He inspires so many of our pupils and we couldn't believe that he grew up almost next door to our school! Our school councillors took this opportunity to ask him lots of questions about his journey to becoming an MP and I'm sure we now have many budding politicians in our midst!

Y5 trip to Newhaven Fort

At Oakwood, we strongly believe that so much learning is to be gained from our Oakwood Opportunities for trips, visitors and hands-on activities! To gain even more insight into World War Two, our year five class set out to Newhaven Fort, on the coldest day of the year yet! They braced the winds on top of the cliffs and in the ammunition tunnels too, and even sought refuge in an air-raid simulator! A particular highlight for the children was holding 'real' guns and learning all about the role of the ARP wardens too!



Forest School Expansion

We have always been delighted to offer forest school to small groups of children, in the afternoons, as part of our inclusion support offer. However, this half-term, our reception classes have been exploring the outdoors, suited and booted for all weathers! They have loved becoming mini-foresters and have truly displayed a love of the outdoors and nature!

Fun in the Foundation Village

In reception and year one, we continue to promote 'learning through play', providing opportunities for children to develop their understanding of the world around them through language-rich activities and 'explore time' opportunities. Here, you can see our reception pupils exploring which workers might work at night time and why?



It's easy as 1,2,3! That's right, maths is our number one priority as we head into the Spring term! We want our children to continue being confident and expert mathematicians. To help them along the way, we'll be promoting the use of Times Tables Rockstars at home! We can't wait to take part in the next Trust-wide competition in February and want our pupils to be as prepared as possible. We also know that fluency of key number facts and having automatic recall of addition and multiplication facts can back a real difference to our children become even better mathematicians! Can we persuade you to set a new year's resolution for maths?



Reading, Writing, Maths Achievements

At the heart of our school improvement plan this year, we've set the goal of raising standards in our 'core' subject areas: reading, writing and maths.

Ready for Term 3, we're looking forward to relaunching our Accelerated Reader programme & encouraging more 'reading for pleasure'! We have such a fantastic library that each class visits at least once a week and we can't wait to encourage the children to use it to their advantage!

In writing, we continue to work on improving children's handwriting and presentation. We love our border writes as they give pupils the power to feel proud of the writing they produce and publish. Take a look at these two brilliant examples:



Our broader curriculum

We are proud to offer a broad and balanced (quite literally) curriculum. Our pupils learn a wealth of knowledge across our curriculum and this term a few highlights included:

Collaborative balancing in gymnastics lessons for PE.

Year 6 science work, learning how to use and adjust a microscope...



Year 4 'soupstars' learning about how to use seasonal ingredients to cook soup!



A Hive of activity, in our very own 'Hive' for forest school groups, as part of our impressive inclusion offer! The children made beautifully crafted forest school wind-catchers!

Rock Steady taking over the hall to promote our new school bands, taking off in Term 3! We cannot wait to hear your new sounds!



May your days be merry & bright!

It has been a privilege to experience my first Oakwood Christmas this year and to feel the warm sense of community, belonging and support from our children and parents throughout all of our festivities. Each performance and our reindeer walk filled me with that 'fuzzy' feeling of exceptional pride and joy. I was blown away by the talent, passion and confidence in each 'showcase', with huge thanks to all of the efforts from our staff team. I wish all of our children, families and our staff team a wonderful festive break.



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Our church chorus!



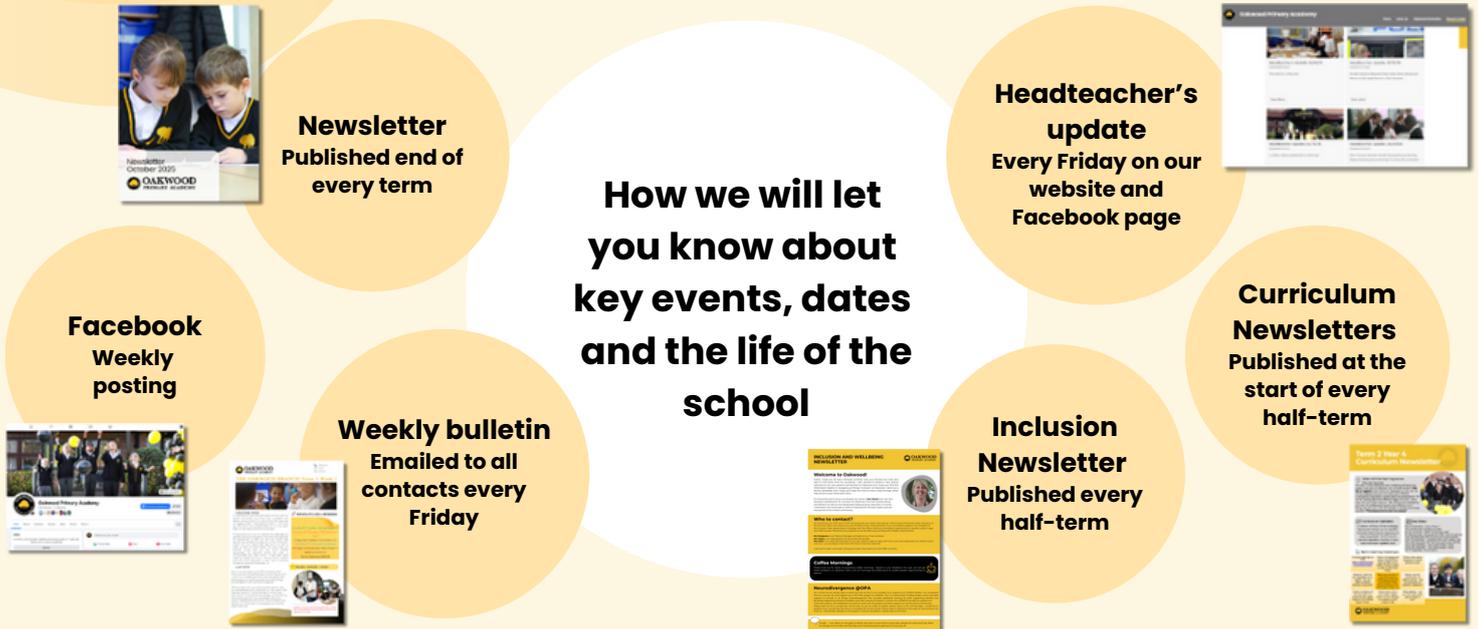
Stars of Term 2



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Communication

As part of our pledge to improve communication with our parent body, we've streamlined our communication channels and have introduced key documents that will be used to communicate regularly with parents. We now have the following up and running!



School Improvement

In term 2, here are just some of the actions we've undertaken towards achieving our objectives:

Whole-school events, raising aspirations and enjoyment of maths!

- Dotty 6 tournament
- Trust-wide TTRS competition

Oakwood's Attendance Advent
-December daily raffle for children in school. You had to be 'in' to 'win'!

| School Improvement Objectives 2025-26 | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Quality of Education Objective | Behaviour and Attitudes Objective | Personal Development Objective | Growth Objective |
| 1.1 Continue to raise standards in core subject areas. White Rose Maths Read Write Inc. | 2.1 Continue effective work to raise attendance and punctuality | 3.1 Refine existing school provision to embed a sense of belonging | 4.1 Rapidly improve marketing and communication strategies to promote the school's effective work and convert 'interest' in the school to applications for admission |
| 1.2 Embed curriculum delivery strategies in foundation subjects | 2.2 Embed an improved behaviour culture that leads to meaningful engagement and a shared understanding of fairness | Opal | Registration Forms |
| <p>Our vision: 'Being Better Every Day'</p> <p>Our rules: READY - RESPECTFUL - SAFE</p> <p>Our values: KNOWLEDGE - EQUALITY - DETERMINATION - ACHIEVEMENT</p> | | | |

Opportunities at Oakwood
-A sense of belonging achieved through milestones e.g. trips, visitors, performances and whole-school events

School Tours
-Senior leaders offered small-group, weekly tours across Term 2 to showcase our school!

Term dates

Monday 5th January

INSET Day



Tuesday 6th January

First day back for the start of term three



Tuesday 27th January

PINS (neurodiversity) Parent coffee morning: 8.45 - 10:30am



W/C Monday 2nd February

Aurora Inter-school TTRS Competition Begins!



Friday 6th February

NSPCC Number Day - Dress like a Rockstar Day!



Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day



Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th February

Parents' Evenings. Tuesday: 3.30 - 6pm & Wednesday 3.30 - 5pm

Friday 13th February

End of Term Three



Monday 23rd February

INSET Day



Tuesday 24th February

Start of Term Four



PE days

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Year 6 classes: Skellig & Code Name Bananas</p> | <p>Reception: Zog class Year 1: Paddington Class</p> | <p>Year 3: Invisible Class Year 1: Elmer Class</p> | <p>Reception: Snail & the Whale Class Year 4: Harry Potter Class</p> | <p>Year 5: Varjak Paw Class Year 2: Beegu Class</p> |



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Get in touch

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