



Newsletter
April 2026



OAKWOOD
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Headteacher's Term 4 update

Dear Oakwood reader,

As we cross over the half-way marker this academic year, it's hard to believe just how fast another half-term filled with Spring activity has flown by. In this newsletter edition, I want to celebrate all of our Oakwood opportunities and our mission of 'being better everyday' for this term has been filled with learning, reading and readiness. Our pupils have truly shown that they are ready for each new day, lesson, trip, challenge and even, animal care all in the space of the last few weeks!

In the next few snippets of our termly newsletter, I hope to capture just a few of our wonderful Oakwood opportunities that we've enjoyed in T4.

Oakwood Opportunities

Term 4 was filled with Oakwood Opportunities!

- World Book Day was a fantastic array of dressing up and reading activities, including parental engagement to help revitalise our library decoration!
- We hosted and cared for our sheep family!
- Year 3 visited Herstmonceux Science Observatory.
- Year 4 visited The Cuckmere Valley.
- We embraced red-nose day with accessories!
- We welcomed head teachers from across Aurora Academies Trust!
- Medal-winning, Olympian gymnast - Courtney Tulloch - visited and ran a series of fitness workshops and assemblies.
- We ran our Easter attendance competition, with 72% of children not missing more than 1 day of school across term 4!
- We achieved 100% of our Accelerated Reader target and came third our Trust-wide reading competition!
- We came third in our Trust-wide, termly TTRS battle!
- Our PTFA organised a wonderful Easter-inspired mask-making hunt and tombola!
- We hosted our Year 3 & 4 music concert!

We've been 'baaaaa'rmy about our sheep!

A huge thank you to the South of England Agricultural Society, our local farming family at Chyngton Farm in Seaford and Ms Seath for arranging our extremely cute sheep family visitors to end the term! We loved visiting and taking care of our guests and the children in year two even put this to good use for their science learning about life cycles and mammals!

Our Oakwood Way: School Rules & Reflection

As part of our Oakwood way, we want all children to be able to come to school to learn, and to demonstrate our three school rules: ready, respectful and safe! We're continuing to drive our behaviour curriculum and teach the children about our school rules, values and behaviour pathway so that our school, our pupils and our teachers can keep 'being better every day'.

We continue to celebrate excellent behaviour through dojo points, star of the day certificates, weekly assembly awards, our whole-class SUPERSTARS initiatives and our notorious 'Golden Tickets'. Alongside all of the positives, we're also going to be trialling 'reflection time' for short periods of break and lunch times in term 5 to allow restorative learning or conversations about behaviour to take place. It's important to us that our children understand when actions have consequences, and we believe this approach will support children to reflect on behaviour choices.

We know the huge difference that parent support from home can make to all aspects of your child's school-life, and our staff team also and I hope that you and your families enjoy much quality time together over the Spring break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 14th April, prepared to show our Oakwood way of being: ready, respectful and safe. I know the coming term is often associated with assessments and the preparations that these bring, but I'm looking forward to seeing our values of 'knowledge' and 'determination' in action!

HANNAH MORGAN

Headteacher
Oakwood Primary Academy



From Term 4, we want to shout about...

Reception

Our reception children have been learning all about Ramadan, with Zog and Snail & the Whale classes learning what this means to Muslims around the world, through a brilliant hands-on RE session! The children asked so many thoughtful questions and could remember so much 'knowledge' - one of our school values!



Year 1



Getting creative in DT, year 1 have been exploring and constructing books and pictures with 'moving parts' and levers.



Our year 1 children have also been expressing different emotions, learning what 'big feelings' look, feel and sound like through role-play, as part of our behaviour curriculum. They've been getting used to naming emotions and spotting signs of facial expressions and body language and as Miss Clark and Mr Lelliott have told us, we've got to be able to 'name it to tame it!'



From Term 4, we want to shout about...

Year 2

Year 2 had a splash-tastic visit from Southern Water, who helped bring their science learning to life by exploring the water cycle and following the exciting adventure of a water droplet. The children discovered the journey of water, all while going with the flow and soaking up new knowledge. Through fun activities and clear explanations, pupils were able to see just how important water is in our everyday lives. It was a lesson that really made a big splash, and Year 2 are now brimming with water-wise ideas!



Year 3

Year 3 had a force-tastic time on their school trip to Herstmonceux Science Centre, where curiosity was truly set in motion! The children explored the hands-on exhibitions and discovery park, learning all about pushes, pulls and forces while putting their observation skills to the test. From experimenting with movement to seeing science in action, pupils were really drawn in by the interactive activities and outdoor learning spaces. It was great to watch them ask questions, make predictions and go the distance with their scientific thinking. A brilliant day of exploration that definitely gave their science learning a boost!



From Term 4, we want to shout about...



Year 4

Making the most of our local area, Year 4 headed off on their school trip to explore the Cuckmere, and it was a day that really went with the flow. All of the teachers were currently blown away by the children's impressive knowledge about rivers, as they confidently streamed ahead and immediately spotted and named the meanders that make this part of the river so famous. Their learning had clearly run deep, with pupils eagerly banking new observations and making links to their geography lessons. It was wonderful to see their understanding gather momentum in such a picture-perfect setting—a trip that will certainly stand the test of time!



Year 5

Year 5 shone on our recent visit from Olympian – Courtney Tulloch. They set out to each activity station with sheer determination and brought such fantastic enthusiasm for this whole-school event. Courtney even commented that he could see real potential superstars in this Key Stage 2 class!



Year 6

It's that time of year for our year sixes to work hard towards their upcoming SATs tests. We are incredibly proud of how every child has tried their utmost and we know how they'll continue to focus and remain determined to do their best – which is all we ask!

SATs Week will take place from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026, and to help each day start smoothly, we're delighted to be offering a SATs breakfast on test days. This provides a calm, supportive start to the morning and helps some children feel settled-in and ready to do their best.

Parents can help at home for this important week by:

- Ensuring optimum bed times and a good night's sleep (with less device/ screen time) so children feel rested and alert
- Helping your child to arrive at school on time to start the day calmly
- Providing reassurance and encouragement – confidence makes a huge difference
- Keep routines normal and avoid last-minute revision cramming
- Offer a healthy breakfast (or take advantage of the SATs breakfast at school)

Most importantly, remind your child that SATs are just one snapshot of their learning, and that we are here to support them every step of the way!



Ewe-nique Spring Visitors!



Leaping into Learning with an Olympic Gymnast!



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Reading is how we roll!

World Book Day is always an exciting time as we saw our students dress in their best costume! From Princesses to the Gruffalo, students were able to showcase their passion for their favourite books while being creative and having fun! A huge thank you to our parents for joining us for our World Book Day parental engagement too - we can't wait to share further library updates with you all!



Together, we're speaking out for safety: 'Speak out, Stay safe' – NSPCC News!

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Programme** this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for children aged 6-7 and 9-11. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy.

Parents and carers are asked to let school know if their child may have experienced anything (in the past or happening now) which may mean they need extra support before, during or after taking part in this programme.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.



The NSPCC would like to gather feedback from pupils aged between 7-11 about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme to gauge their learning. This will be voluntary and children can still take part in the programme if they don't take part in the survey.

All survey questions are multiple choice and focussed on the programme.

The survey is anonymous and confidential. However, if in the process of completing the survey, a teacher becomes concerned for a pupil's welfare (e.g., through something a pupil says) we will follow our school's safeguarding procedures.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please inform the school office and your child's class teacher.

If you have agreed that your child can take part in the survey but your child changes their mind on the day, that is also okay.



Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers.

www.nspcc.org.uk/parents

Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe.

www.nspcc.org.uk/activities



Online Safety Hub

For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more.

www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

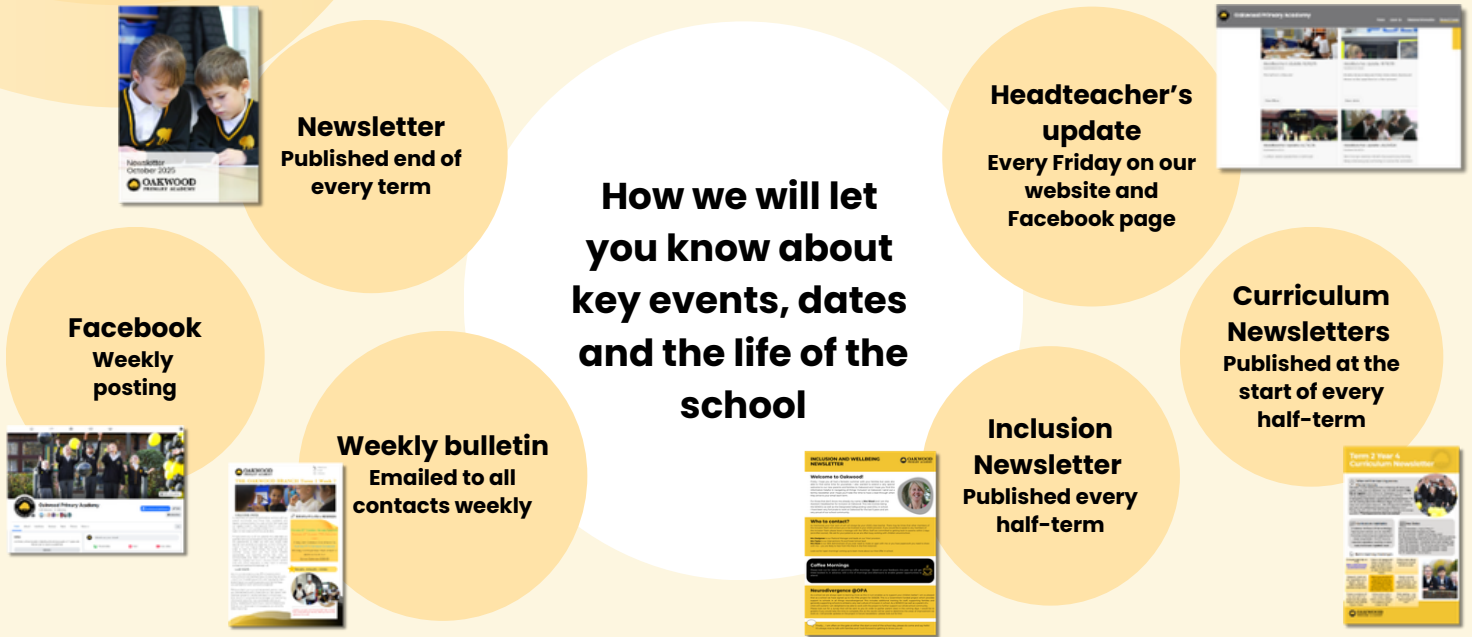
[www.childline.org.uk/buddy\(5-7\)](http://www.childline.org.uk/buddy(5-7))

[www.childline.org.uk/kids\(7-11\)](http://www.childline.org.uk/kids(7-11))

Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

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

School Improvement Objectives 2025-26			
Quality of Education	Behaviour and Attitudes	Personal Development	Growth
Objective 1.1 Continue to raise standards in core subject areas. 	Objective 2.1 Continue effective work to raise attendance and punctuality. 	Objective 3.1 Refine existing school provision to embed a sense of belonging. 	Objective 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.
Objective 1.2 Embed curriculum delivery strategies in foundation subjects. 	Objective 2.2 Embed an improved behaviour culture that leads to meaningful engagement and a shared understanding of fairness. 	Objective 3.2 Embed a shared understanding of fairness. 	Objective 4.2 Embed a shared understanding of fairness.
Our vision: Being Better Every Day Our rules: READY - RESPECTFUL - SAFE Our values: KNOWLEDGE - EQUALITY - DETERMINATION - ACHIEVEMENT 			

Whole-school reading events to promote enjoyment of reading for pleasure, including WBD and our AR competition!

Attendance Incentives
-Our lovely attendance officer - Mrs O'Connell - organised prizes for **Eggcellent term 4 attendance!**

Raising the profile of foundation subjects!
-Science equipment has been on loan to support our practical enquiries and lessons.

Concert Success
- Our year 3 & 4 classes proudly performed in their Spring Music concert!

Opportunities at Oakwood
-Additional school trips/visitors have been booked into our calendar to add broad experiences to our curriculum offer.

Creating an improved behaviour culture
-We've been celebrating great behaviour with our rewards and have plans to build upon our restorative work.

We're a neuro-affirming school!
- Our PINS project work continued in Term 4, with our Hive team delivering 'Amazing Me!' intervention sessions!

Term dates

Monday 13th April

INSET Day



Tuesday 14th April

First day back for the start of term five



Friday 17th April, 2 – 3pm

Parent Coffee Afternoon: Supporting Sibling Conflicts



Friday 24th April, 2.40 – 3pm

Year 6 Parents Assembly: SATs preparations



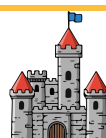
Thursday 30th April

Reception School Trip to Community Centre



Friday 1st May

Year 1 School Trip to Lewes Castle!



Wednesday 6th May

Year 4 trip to Michelham Priory



Thursday 7th May

Parent coffee morning with Place 2 Be: 9 – 10.30am



Friday 8th May

Year 2 School Trip to Drusillas!



W/C 11th May

SATs week for Year 6



Friday 15th & Friday 22nd May: 1.15pm

Sports day afternoons: KS2 (15th) & KS1 & EYFS (22nd)



Friday 22nd May

End of Term 5



Monday 1st June

Start of Term Six



Click the calendar below to see our website school calendar:



Remember PE kit consists of a plain black tracksuit or shorts & our school, yellow PE shirt.



PE days

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Year 6 classes: Skellig & Code Name Bananas</p>	<p>Year 1: Paddington Class & Elmer Class</p>	<p>Year 3: Invisible Class Reception: Zog and Snail & the Whale Classes</p>	<p>Year 2: Beegu Class Year 4: Harry Potter Class</p>	<p>Year 5: Varjak Paw Class Year 6 on Bank Holiday/ four-day weeks!</p>



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