

Welcome Back Memo!



WELCOME NOTE

As we head towards our final days of the Summer holidays, we will all no doubt feel a mixture of emotions about embarking upon the start of a new school year. I wanted to write to you all - our Oakwood pupils and parents - to say how much we're looking forward to welcoming you back on **Thursday 4th September**.

I have no doubt that these six weeks have passed both quickly and slowly at times, but do want you to know that we are ever committed to working alongside you all upon our return, to embrace our school motto of 'Being better every day'. Please do read on to find about **one key change to the school day timings**; I've also include a few key reminders to help prepare for next week too!



SCHOOL START TIME UPDATE

During the Summer term, we put forward a proposal to extend our existing school day by 15 minutes daily, with our soft start time moving to **08:30 - 08:45am**, instead of 08:45 -09:00am.

The aims of extending the school day encompassed our desire as a school to enhance learning opportunities, support student outcomes, improve attendance statistics, better meet the needs of our working families, and to fully align with DfE suggestions.

I am thrilled to share that the consultation was successful and therefore the children's start time for reception - year six as of our first day back, on **Thursday 4th September**, will now be **08:30 - 08.45am, with our gates closing at 08:45am each day**. We look forward to greeting you with a warm welcomes & seeing all of your smiling faces on the gates on Thursday!



IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Wednesday 3rd September - INSET Day

Thursday 4th September - First day back!

Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October:
Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 21st October: School Photos

Friday 24th October: End of term 1

Monday 3rd November: Start of term 2

Here's a link to our:
[School Calendar 2025-26](#)



SCHOOL UNIFORM



Our uniform is a part of our school identity, uniting our pupils and we hope they take pride in wearing it!

You can purchase school uniform essentials from most large supermarket stores, or branded items are available via [SuperStitch86](#).

SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS



We take pride in creating a strong sense of community, and wearing our Oakwood uniform is one step to achieving this.

School uniform should consist of:

- Cardigan or jumper with the school badge
- Plain white polo shirt or cotton shirt (school logo not essential)
- Either a black and grey skirt, knee-length shorts, pinafore dress or trousers.
- Yellow and white checked/ striped summer dress (optional).
- White/ black socks or tights
- Black shoes

For PE, we ask that where possible items are plain and non-fashion-logo based/ unbranded.

- Yellow T-shirt (the school logo is not essential)
- Plain black shorts/ joggers
- Trainers/ plimsolls

Remember, now is your chance to shine your shoes, remove all Summer jewellery (apart from small stud earrings), take off nail extensions, have a 'smart school-hair do' practice and ensure you're first-day-back-ready!



TOYS/ PERSONAL ITEMS

To support us in ensuring that our school is a calm and purposeful space for learning, we request and remind parents to please enforce that toys and other personal items should remain at home and for use out of school. Toys or items from home, often act as distractions and are one of the main causes of conflict between peers. Please take this a gentle reminder to leave toys, fidgets and personal items at home. In school, we have a huge supply of school-based items to support learning, including our own stock of fidgets and sensory items to support regulation and concentration, as well as ample play equipment and opportunities through our OPAL scheme!



SNACKS AND LUNCHES

Having your child at home for six weeks has likely highlighted the sheer amount of fuel that they need to keep them going for the day! As we return to school timetables and routines, our tummies certainly take some adjusting too and we know that the morning leading up to lunchtime can feel like a long stint of learning, so please remember to pack a healthy snack (fruit or vegetables are ideal) for them to eat during our break time, regardless of whether your child has school dinners or a packed lunch. We also encourage you to spend time preparing your child's lunch together, so they know where everything is or to take a look through the weekly menu together to pick out meals that they would like to try across the week!

