

Newsletter
October 2026

OAKWOOD
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Headteacher's Term 1 update



Dear Oakwood reader,

What a Term it has been!
From our Ofsted visit and county safeguarding audit, to Show Racism the Red Card Day and finishing with the creativity and fun of Spooky Hair Day, it has certainly been a busy and memorable first term at Oakwood.
Throughout these first eight weeks, our pupils have embraced every opportunity that has come their way. As I shared following our special visit from the King's friends, we are incredibly proud of how our children demonstrated our Oakwood Way. Their kindness, resilience and enthusiasm has been evident across this term and I'm proud to continue working with all of our children, teachers and families to continue driving our school forwards.

Thank You to Our Community
A huge thank you to our families for your continued support this term. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our hardworking staff team. Their dedication, commitment and care for our children never go unnoticed, and they have worked tirelessly throughout an exceptionally busy term.

Attendance Matters!
As we look ahead to Term 2, we have one clear goal: more children in school, more often!
We're excited to be introducing several new attendance initiatives to celebrate and encourage excellent attendance, at both an individual and class level - head to page 16 to find out more!

Personal Development and Enrichment
We are incredibly proud of the broad and balanced curriculum we offer at Oakwood.
From specialist teaching in PE and music to engaging science investigations, creative art projects, electing student ambassadors and enriching classroom experiences, it has been a pleasure visiting lessons and seeing such a wealth of learning taking place across the school. The photographs featured throughout this newsletter capture only a small snapshot of our Oakwood opportunities that our pupils have experienced during their first term. From themed days and special visitors to educational visits and enrichment events, we remain committed to ensuring our children benefit from a wide range of memorable experiences. As we continue through the year, we look forward to expanding these opportunities even further, continuing to grow our personal development offer.

Communication is Key
One theme that emerged from parent surveys and conversations with our parent body during the last academic year was the importance of clear and effective communication. This remains a priority for us.
We continue to encourage families to speak directly with us whenever they have a question, concern or something positive to share. In most cases, your child's class teacher should always be your first point of contact. Spending over six hours each day working alongside your child, your child's class teacher is often the best placed person in school to initially discuss any worries, queries or celebrations. Equally, often it is the small conversations at the school gates that make the biggest difference. These discussions help shape our thinking and ensure we continue moving forward together. We positively encourage families to speak with teachers and members of our senior leadership team at drop-off and pick-up times. You'll find us dotted around the site, and often helping on different gates or entrances, so please do come and say hello! If you cannot locate one of us, simply pop into the school office and ask.

We were thrilled with the uptake from our families for our first round of parent consultations this year. These opportunities to work together are invaluable and help us build the strongest possible partnership between home and school. We are always happy to talk in-between diarised times and we are already looking forward to welcoming families back into school for our Christmas events next half term!

HANNAH MORGAN
Headteacher
Oakwood Primary Academy



Term 1 LAB Chair Update

As always, the time seems to have flown by since the last LAB News. Oakwood has entered another amazing year due to be packed with so many activities and a much enriched curriculum and dedicated learning.

Farewell. This is my last LAB News as Chair and as a LAB member as I am retiring, and I wish the very best for the school, its staff, the children and all the parents and carers. Oakwood has come a long way in the last six years after it was sadly judged inadequate by Ofsted in March 2020. In that time, Ryan Laker became Headteacher, and in October 2022 the school was judged Good, which was a tremendous turn around, particularly during the challenges of Covid. We were then able to set up a new LAB in January 2023. We were very pleased to welcome Hannah Morgan as Headteacher in January 2025 who continues to take the school forward, ably supported by David Sharp Deputy Head and Kerry Wood DSL and SENDCo. Thank you to them and to all the staff, who I know, work very hard to give the best outcomes for the pupils.

New Chair. I am delighted to announce that the Aurora Trust has appointed Kimi Westgate as Chair. Kimi has been a LAB member since the LAB started, first as a parent and then as a co-opted LAB member and knows the school very well.

Staff LAB member We are thrilled to announce that Rachel Hall - reception teacher - will be joining the LAB this half-term, in role as staff LAB member. Rachel has taught in reception at Oakwood since graduating and is now heading into her third year of teaching with the school. She is keen to play an important role, sharing staff perspective and feedback.

LAB membership: We were also pleased to welcome new members to the LAB, Matt Stephens and Ben Smith who both have a wealth of experience in education.
The membership for this year will be;
Chair: Kimi Westgate, Head teacher: Hannah Morgan - ex officio, Parent Member: Lauren Moir, Parent Member: Nicky Pilbro, Co-opted Member: Beth Fitzpatrick, Co-opted Member: Matt Stephens, Co-opted Member: Ben Smith, Staff Member: Rachel Hall

LAB meetings: We hold 5 meetings each year, with our last meetings on 16th July and 22nd October.
At each meeting, we review the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and the Headteacher's Report, which covers all aspects of school life from the curriculum, to safeguarding, SEND, attendance, progress and attainment.

Year end results: At our July meeting we also looked at the results from Early Years, MTC Multiplication Test Check, and PSC Phonics Screening Test which all show a sustained upward trend with MTC and PSC attainment now securely above national benchmarks.

Year 4 and the MTC - Multiplication Test Check, I would particularly like to mention the MTC. In the previous two years the results reflected 25% and 35%. This year, it is an amazing 82%. Very well done to Year 4 and everyone involved in achieving this. Knowing one's times tables is a great confidence booster and lays a very good foundation in maths going forward.

Reception pupils. Welcome from the LAB to all our new reception pupils, as well as other pupils joining Oakwood this year. We hope that you have had a wonderful term settling in to life at Oakwood.

LAB engagement. Across the year this year, LAB members will be visiting the school to speak with families, children, teachers and leaders to gain insight into what's working well and what areas still need to be focused on. We look forward to speaking with you in person, at key events, at drop off and collection times, as well as canvassing your opinions, as they do truly matter to us and the school as an important marker for school improvement.

Lastly, thank you to all parents and carers for all that you do to support the school. It is greatly appreciated.

With very best wishes for a happy half-term break.
Anne McWilliams, handing over to Kimi Westgate (LAB chair).

From Term 1, we want to shout about...



Nursery





This term in Nursery, our topic has been "Moving in and People Who Help Us."
The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring who they are and what makes them special. Through a range of activities, they have had opportunities to look at themselves, talk about their interests, recognise their unique features and celebrate what makes them different. The children have also shared information about their families, helping them to develop a sense of belonging and understand that every family is unique.
As part of our learning, we have explored People Who Help Us within our community. The children have learned about the important roles of doctors, nurses, firefighters, police officers, teachers and other key workers who help to keep us safe and healthy. We have discussed why these people are important and how they support us in our everyday lives. The children particularly enjoyed learning about our real-life superheroes and the valuable work they do.
The children have also developed their mathematical skills through play-based learning. They have been exploring patterns in a variety of ways, including creating repeating patterns with colours, shapes and natural objects. Through practical activities and everyday play experiences, the children have been encouraged to identify, continue and create their own patterns, helping to develop their early mathematical thinking.





OAKWOOD
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From Term 1, we want to shout about...

Reception





This Term we started by looking at what makes us unique and who we live with at home. We discovered our interests and what makes us different and similar. We then looked at every day superhero's such as the police, fire, nurses, and vets. The children predicted who they would like to be when they're older. We have an exciting visit next week so keep an eye out on Tapestry!

In maths, the children can now speedily subitise (don't count, say the amount) and detect quantities without counting each item. We also have been introduced to Numberblock 1, 2, and 3. We have collectively learnt how to accurately count, using concrete objects.

In phonics, the children have now learnt the first 16 sounds and some are beginning to blend sounds together to form a word. We have had excellent parent engagement with phonic videos at home as well as use of the phonic sound cards.

What a brilliant first term all together! We look forward to the upcoming terms ahead of us!















OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

From Term 1, we want to shout about...

Year 1
In Elmer class, we've been learning about addition within 10 and number composition. We've been pattern painting, number hopping,...



...finger counting and shop purchasing to help us with our maths learning.
In our behaviour curriculum sessions, we've also been focusing on being 'ready' for learning.















Year 1&2
In BFG class we have been looking at non-fiction books and learning about how to make a non-fiction book of our own, about Space. We looked at the contents page and index page and then wrote our own contents page for our Space fact book. In year 2 maths we have been learning about 'tens and ones' and making representations of numbers to 100 out of base 10.

From Term 1, we want to shout about...







Year 2

We had the privilege of some of our pupils sharing their prayer mats with their class. They talked about how and why they are used daily and this enhanced our children's understanding of how important daily prayers are to Muslims.



In our History learning, we've been looking at how homes have changed over time. We constructed Lego houses and collected different, organic materials to create a suitable roof, before testing them to see if they were waterproof or not! Beegu class loved the trial and error learning involved in this task!

Year 3







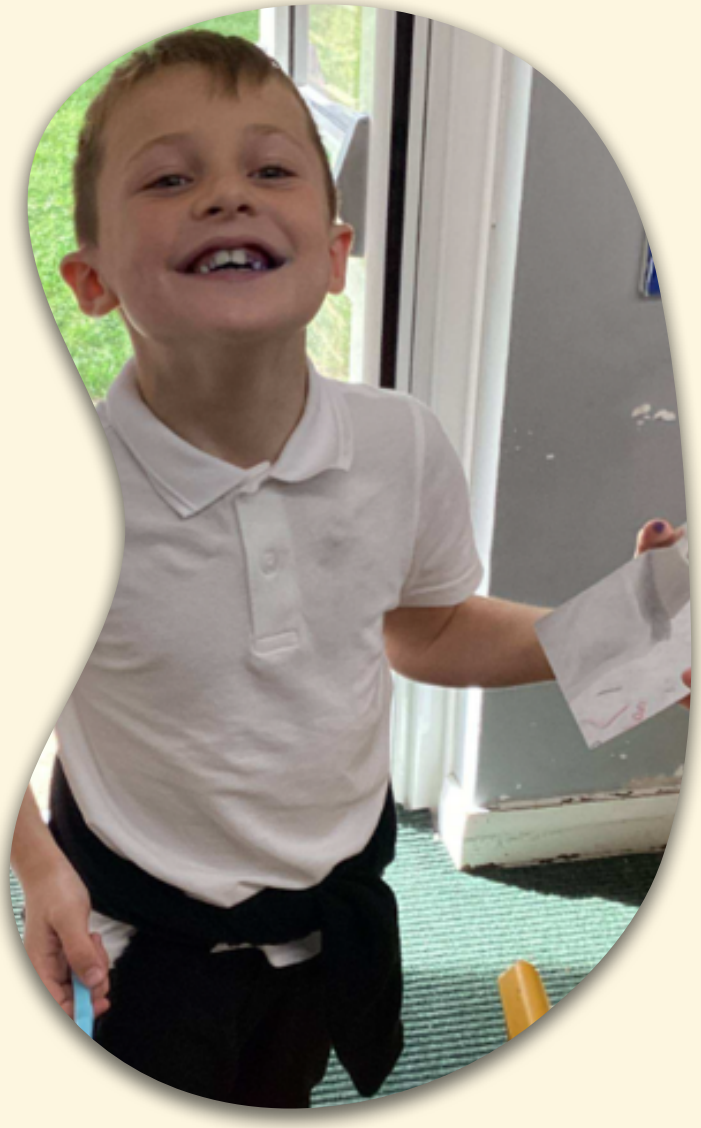
In History, we have been exploring the Stone Age and discovering what life was like thousands of years ago. We have created our own cave paintings using natural ingredients and built Stone Age settlements and hillforts using natural materials. The children have loved getting creative, developing their historical understanding and imagining what life might have been like for people living during the Stone Age!

From Term 1, we want to shout about...

Year 4

This term in Science, the children have been learning about the digestive system and the important role teeth play within it. They explored the different types of teeth and their functions, as well as investigating what causes tooth decay and how we can best care for our teeth.
As part of their learning, the children carried out an experiment to discover the effects of different drinks on teeth. They enjoyed bringing their toothbrushes to school and using disclosing tablets to reveal plaque on their teeth, turning them bright purple!







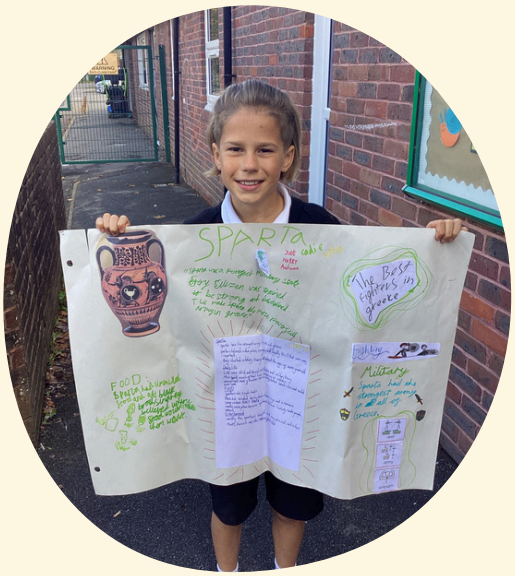


OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

From Term 6, we want to shout about...

Year 5

Messy experiments, great teamwork, and lots of scientific discoveries! Year 5 enjoyed investigating reversible and irreversible changes and learning how materials can be transformed in different ways.





Year 6

Year 6 have been busy learning about the Ancient Greeks in History this term and have been doing some group work researching the city states. The children had to work together to find out the information, record it and present to the class. Here are some amazing examples!



On Friday's 'show racism the red card' Year 6 spoke about their heritage and created portraits of themselves with their heritage flags to highlight the key message of 'everyone is welcome here'. Year 6 could identify that at Oakwood children are accepted for their differences and this is celebrated. The children also created raps or poems to address key messages from the day and these were shown to the class.



OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

From Term 1, we want to shout about...

At Oakwood, we're proud of our inclusion offer. This year, as part of our ongoing inclusion strategy work, we've introduced two support bases to deliver bespoke learning support and intervention. Our Nest is our Key Stage 1 provision and our Hive is our Key Stage 2 provision. Mrs Wood (Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion) works closely alongside our pastoral and support base teams and we're so proud of how well both children and staff have settled in to their new routines and spaces!

The Nest

Learning through play is an essential part of our daily provision offer in the nest. Here you can see our children loving their messy play, pretend cake making (practising key life skills for butter spreading), playing balancing maths games, and enjoying music (sharing and turn taking/working alongside each other). The children build their skills and language through high quality interactions with adults and engagement in rich and varied activities like these!









The Hive

Our Hive groups have been thriving this term, focusing on their reading and maths skills in the morning, through hands-on, practical learning opportunities. Our afternoon, pastoral sessions have included an abundance of cooking, fine motor and sensory activities.









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From Term 1, we want to shout about...



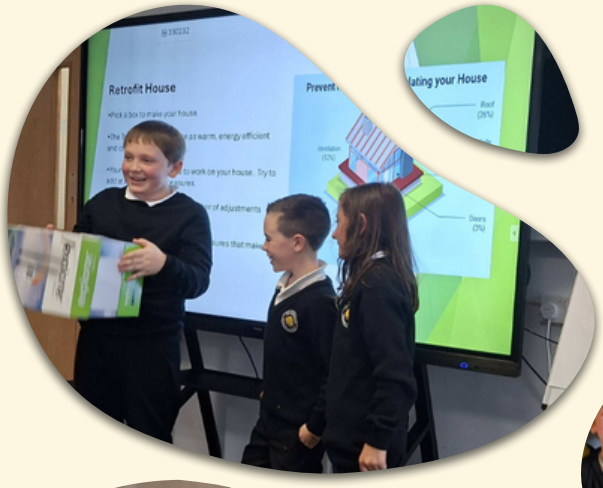
Selected Year 6 pupils represented Team Oakwood at a local schools, sustainable construction workshop & competition!

Even more Oakwood Opportunities...



We've proudly appointed our pupil ambassadors, including our head boy, head girl and deputy head boy and girl too! They've already supported assemblies, school tours and continue to act as role models for our school!







Our football superstars represented Oakwood with sheer resilience in our local inter-school competition earlier this term.











We loved ending the term with spooky hair day - thank you all for your contributions towards our OPAL play and hats off to the incredible hair styling efforts you all made!

OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

From Term 1, we want to shout about...

Wrap Around Care

At after school club this term we have been enjoying the good weather and getting outdoors. Forest club ended the term with s'mores, whilst craft club has been following a spooky theme with bats and skeletons!







Whilst we remain on the 'waiting list' for our school to become part of the DfE funded 'free' breakfast club scheme, we continue to try and keep our offer as affordable and available to families as possible.

In term 2, we're looking to offer some extra 'taster' sessions for all our families, so keep your eyes peeled.

Mrs Taylor, Mrs Towsey and Mrs Woollard (our wonderful TAs who run our wraparound care) can't wait to run our term 2 offer with you all.

Remember to book your spaces via the Arbor app as soon as possible - spaces are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.



OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our Family Survey

Thank you to all parents who took part in our annual survey last half-term, as well as our Ofsted parent voice - your feedback is integral to helping achieve our Oakwood vision: 'Being Better Every Day'. I hope that the survey highlights shared below give an insight into what's working well and the areas we'll be responding to collectively this academic year.

What's working well?

"There is a good range of subjects available to my child."

"My child has lots of opportunities to take part in school clubs & activities."

"Staff are polite and approachable, warm and communicative."

"The school encourages pupils to do their best."

"Lessons are presented well for children to understand."

"The school supports pupil wellbeing & the inclusion team are amazing!"

You said...

Parents generally feel that the school needs to do more to ensure that children are well behaved. Parents voiced that sometimes, children who work hard and meet our school expectations go unnoticed.

We will...

Already this year, in consultation with our staff team, we've made key changes to our behaviour policy. We continue to refine our approach, to ensure that we are able to uphold consistent expectations for behaviour in school, in line with our three school rules: ready, respectful and safe. It's our ambition that all stakeholders feel clear about the steps we will take to manage behaviour. We also recognise the importance of celebrating the positive, so we've included this in our pathway too, with the introduction of 'Superstar' status, more regular certificates and celebrations, and the continued use of Dojo points too! Mrs Morgan is also introducing 'a little note to say...' which are sent home to recognise positive achievements and contributions to our school.



OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our Family Survey continued...

You said...

We understand that the school is trying to improve their lunch time offer for children across the school, but the mixing of all age groups poses some challenges and doesn't always feel safe.

We will...

We listened to this feedback and made a change to our OPAL lunchtimes for term 1. Our separate key stages now have lunch times on their respective playgrounds Monday to Thursday and we only mix for 'Friends and Family Free-Flow Friday' once a week so that children can enjoy broader social circles, our Friday Disco (which has already become quite the hit) and the joy of playing across different areas of our site.

You said...

Communication continues to be an area that the school needs to work on. Parents don't like last minute changes and feel that 'more' communication is needed. Parents also want to feel that communication can be two-way.

We will...

Continue to refine our communication channels so that parents receive clear notices as well as weekly and termly news.

Plan opportunities across the year for parents to provide feedback and suggestions formally and informally - we value your feedback.

I look forward to sharing further insights as we move through the year together and want to thank you all for your commitment to Oakwood.



OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Behaviour Policy Update

Ready, Respectful, Safe



Behaviour Policy

This year, all classes are using our new behaviour system, which will help everyone to follow our Oakwood Way.



If my teacher notices me being an Oakwood Superstar and demonstrating our school rules, I'll be praised for doing this and I'll move up to 'Superstar' status. This might also mean I could earn further rewards like star of the day and/or dojo points at the end of the session too!



At Oakwood, we have three school rules, which everyone follows.
At Oakwood, we are: Ready, Respectful & Safe.
My teachers notice when I'm following our rules and when I might need reminding to make good choices.
It's important that teachers can teach, children can learn and we can all be 'better every day' (that's our school vision).



We're all human and it's only normal to make a mistake or poor choice once in a while. All teachers will give a reminder to help us know what we need to change, and my name will move down the behaviour pathway.
e.g. "[Name], Reminder 1, one voice. Show me good listening."



If I carry on the behaviour, or show another behaviour that is unacceptable, my teacher will give me one further reminder, outlining again what needs to change and improve. My name will move to Reminder 2.
e.g. "[Name], Reminder 2. We're showing respect by listening to each others' ideas. Stop talking over other members of our class. If you want to add your idea, I'll come to you in a moment."

If I carry on the behaviour, or show another behaviour that is unacceptable, my name will move down again to signal that I now need to receive a consequence. This could be reflection time during my break, a restorative or educational consequence or further internal or external consequences too. Equally, if I turn my behaviour around for a sustained amount of time in the same lesson, I have the opportunity to move back up the behaviour pathway.

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!

How we will let you know about key events, dates and the life of the school



Newsletter
Published end of every term



Headteacher's update
Every Friday on our website and Facebook page

Facebook
Weekly posting





Weekly bulletin
Emailed to all contacts weekly

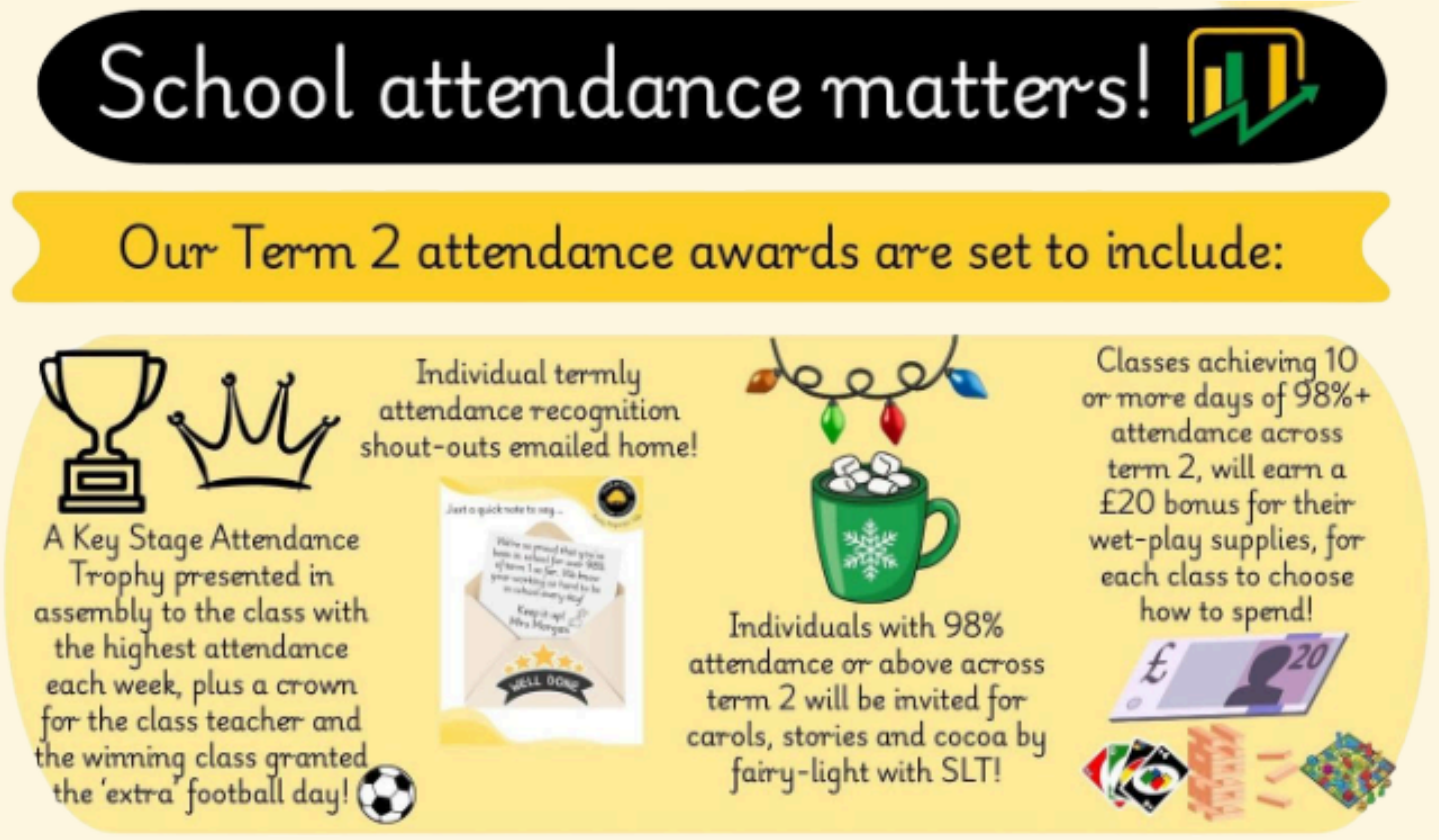


Inclusion Newsletter
Published every half-term

Curriculum Newsletters
Published at the start of every half-term



Attendance Developments



OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Term dates

Monday 2nd November
INSET Day
Tuesday 3rd November
Start of Term 2
Wednesday 4th November
Year 4 school trip
Monday 9th November
Year 5 school trip
Year 5 & 6 TTRS Trust-wide Battle
W/C Monday 16th November
Anti-bullying week
W/C Monday 23rd November
Term 2 TTRS Aurora Throwdown Competition
W/C 30th November - 20th January
Accelerated Reader Competition - Quiz Accuracy
Friday 11th December
Christmas Jumper Day
Rock-Steady Christmas Concert to parents
Tuesday 15th December
Nursery & EYFS Christmas Carols (9.15 - 10am)
KS1 Christmas Performance (2 - 3pm)
Wednesday 16th December
Whole-school Reindeer Walk
Christmas Dinner Day!
Thursday 17th December
KS1 Christmas Performance (9.15 - 10.15am)
KS2 Christmas Carols at the Church (2 - 3pm)



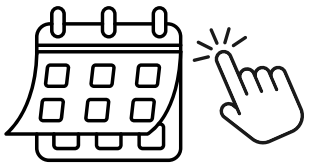








Click the calendar below to see our website school calendar:



School fleeces now on sale at SuperStitch!



We're pleased to announce a 'shake up' of our dinner menu to incorporate a mixture of traditional and 'around the world' dishes!

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



PE days for 26-27

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception classes Year 1 (Mr Lelliott)			Year 3, Year 4 & Year ½ (Miss Clark)	Year 2 (Mrs Taylor) & Year 5 & 6

OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Get in touch

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