



Oakdale News Autumn 2024

We have had a successful start to the new academic year with the children quickly settling into their new year groups. A warm welcome to the new families who have joined us in this time.

The focus to begin the year was to revisit our school values: care, collaboration, challenge, respect and aspiration and to consider how they are demonstrated every day in relation to the learning journey. Our main school development priority this year is to increase the number of pupils who achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined. We have reflected upon both parental feedback and pupil voice in order to best work together to raise attainment.

We will continue to develop opportunities for parents to engage with learning in school as requested. Our events this term have included: Year 6 assessment information session; Early Years drop-in sessions; Year 4 times table fayre; parent/teacher consultations and class assemblies. All were very well attended which reflects our supportive school community. We have future events planned to span all year groups over the course of the year, keep an eye out for these on our termly planner! We have also reviewed our homework approach and are excited to launch a new platform for our Key Stage 2 pupils to access following a successful trial by our Year 6 pupils. This keeps parents informed about your child's progress and uses AI

technology to target learning specifically to gaps of knowledge. Several of you requested more regular feedback on your child's progress. We hope that you will find this useful to support your child at home. Further details will follow next term.

As always each and every day is packed with learning and we have much to celebrate, as you will find out below. As we conclude the end of our first term, we hope all of our school community have a good break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Year 6



Topics:

-Evolution and Inheritance (Science)

-Peterborough Now and Then (Geography/History)

Enrichment: Residential Trip

'We learnt about Darwin's evolution theory at the start of Year 6. One of the investigations we did was to help us to understand evolution. We had spoons and chopsticks and used them to pick up different objects that represented seeds e.g. Maltesers, raisin and rice grains. This demonstrated the evolution of finches. Their beaks have evolved to adapt to the food they have available to eat.' Muhammad

'The Tudor topic has been my favourite. We have learnt such a lot including, the lives of normal people, the timeline of the Tudor family, their diet and how it all began at the Battle of Bosworth.' Chiara

'Henry VIII was an interesting King. He changed a lot so he could be in charge. He was very overweight as he was so unhealthy and his diet was poor. He wanted a son but Edward only lived a short time. Life in the Tudor time was difficult as they didn't have medicines as we do now.' Oscar



1 - House Captains





Year 6 Residential Trip



Year 6 went to PGL Caythorpe for two nights just before half term. This was an outdoor adventure trip where the children had the opportunity to try new challenges and collaborate. A highlight of the trip for the staff was the number of activity leaders and staff from other schools who commented on the behaviour and care demonstrated by our pupils.

'I would 100% recommend Year 5 to go on this trip next year. It was the first time I had been away and even though you're away from home and it feels different you have a great time. Everyone is kind to you, the activities are fun and you get to know your friends better.'
Reuben

'Rock climbing was my favourite activity. I wouldn't have tried it normally but my group really encouraged me and I managed to get half way to the top. I was proud of myself.'
Kaitlyn

'I liked the giant swing the best. When the team pull the ropes to pull the swing up it seems really high. One of my group was really nervous and I helped him to have a go. I wanted to go as high as possible as it makes the swing better.' Thomas D

Thank you to the adults who planned and attended the trip, taking time away from their own families to enable this to take place.











Year 5



Topics:

-Mysterious Materials linked to Harry Potter (Science)

-Conflict WW1 and WW2 (History)

Enrichment: Harry Potter Warner Bros studio tour

'Harry Potter was my favourite topic and visiting the studios was the best trip ever! In Diagon Alley we saw all the shops and the wand boxes for each of the characters. They filmed there but also in Scotland. At first I was nervous in some of the areas, but I then loved it as you got to see so many things and it was all realistic. It was better than I expected by far. We made our own fantastic beasts in school. We could design our own creature and then we made our own models of the creature we had created. I also loved the different materials experiments we did in school. They were all at different tables and we had to investigate each station.'

Archie

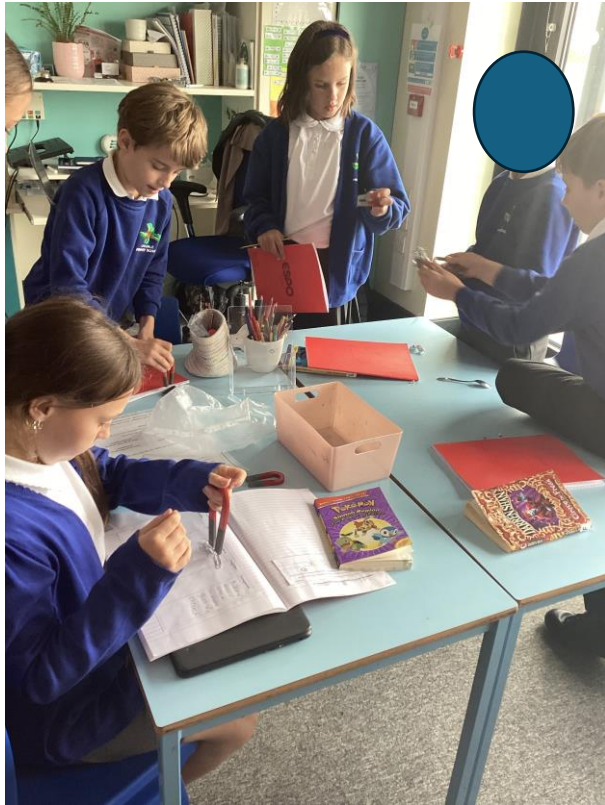
'When we came into the classroom after lunch all the tables were on the floor. We had to go into our version of the trenches. There were noises playing to make it realistic and we had to keep our head down. We had to move around to collect the facts about what it was like in the trenches. It was a fun activity but the real experience would not have been fun.' Olive

'We used our experience in the trenches and our knowledge of the topic, including reading *Private Peaceful*, to write letters home from the trenches. We were writing as if we were soldiers. We used language from the time and described the experience of living in the trenches as they had lice and rats to deal with as well as the mud. It was horrible. Most attacks were at night so they slept in the day.' Kudzwai



2 - Year 5/6 football tournament









Year 4



Topics:

-Roman Britain (History/Geography)

-Bright Sparks (Science)

Enrichment: Trip to Flag Fen

'When we went to Flag Fen we learnt about Boudicca, the great leader of the Iceni tribe. We also learnt how to be a Roman soldier by Markus the Roman. We had to learn some Latin. We made a line with shields, you had to hold the shield in your left hand and your sword in the right. To finish we made some Roman pots from clay. It was a great day and I learnt a lot about the Romans.' Joseph

'This term we have made circuits. We had to predict if a circuit would work. Some didn't work because the circuit wasn't complete. Next we are making different switches. I liked making our own circuits.' Skye

'We made different switches to turn a light on in an electrical circuit. I made a toggle switch and others on my table made a slide switch. I liked the Roman topic the best because I like history'. Nate

'I liked Bright Sparks best because we have made different circuits and we have done investigations about electricity and I found this fun and interesting.' Mia









Year 3



Topics:

-Super Forces (Science)

-Awesome Egyptians (History)

Enrichment: History off the Page Egyptian day

'The first topic we had was called Super Forces. We used magnets to investigate when they repel and attract. We had to explain it to each other and draw the diagrams to show our learning.' Kate

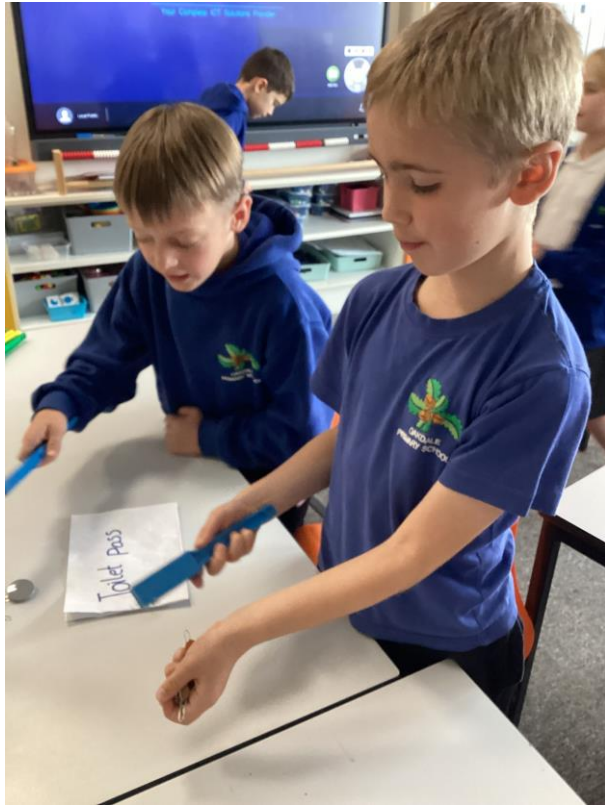
'We also learnt about friction. We had a ramp and put a car down it to test different surfaces. The carpet and sandpaper made the most friction. On some materials it went a long way and we had to measure how far. I like investigating.' Idrees

'During Egyptian day we made lots of things. We carved soap to be like the Egyptians carving stone, we had a go at doing our own writing in hieroglyphics, we made a clay bowl to put nice smelly things in and we smashed things to make ink.' Leo

'In the afternoon, after we made things, we acted out stories about the Egyptian Gods. We all had different things to do to help us to understand about the different Gods and why they were important. Some people were servants and had to serve water when we watched each other. It helped me to understand when we listened to the stories.' Nihal









Year 2



Topics:

-Pride in Place (History/Geography)

-Where do the Bong trees grow? (The Arts)

Enrichment: Great Fire of London experience day

'We had a special Great Fire of London day in school and we all dressed up. We had some leather and we used a needle to tap into the leather to decorate it. We also made pots out of clay and had to pick different herbs to put into it to make a smelling pot because it was stinky in London in the olden days.' Ollie P

'We used a quill and made our own ink. It was hard to make the ink, we had to mash charcoal and some yellow stuff together with water. We knocked it over but there was enough left still. It was challenging using the quill because it was a different shape at the end to a pencil. We were doing it to be like Samuel Pepys.' Colette

'At the start of Year 2 we wrote a story about Paddington. He visited lots of different places in the United Kingdom, not just England. We had to learn about the places too. We also made our own marmalade sandwiches like Paddington. I didn't like it but I ate it!' Harry

'This term we have learnt about The Owl and the Pussycat poem. We are writing our own shape poems. I like poems. We have written them about the seasons. It is fun in Year 2 and a little bit easy and a little bit hard. My favourite thing was designing and making a chair for Paddington out of paper. We had to work together and make sure they were strong before we tried them all.' Esther







Year 1



Topics:

-Journeys My World (Geography/Science)

-Toys (History)

Enrichment: Peterborough Museum Toy day

'We read a book called 'The Train Ride'. It told us about the things you would see on a journey and then we thought about other things we might see. We labelled a train and looked at other things like motorbikes too.' Effie

'Reception came to visit our toy museum. We had to tell them about our toy and how to play with it. We made signs to say do not touch. You can only look and listen at a museum because the things are old and precious'. Poppy

'In the museum we got to play with old toys. Some were outside toys and some were inside toys. I liked the hoola hoop outside toy. You hit it with a stick to make it roll. The best indoor toy was a kaleidoscope. When you look into it and turn the white bit it makes pretty shapes.' Harper J

'I liked the toy police car at the museum. It wasn't that old but it didn't make a noise. We made a puppet. It was an old toy and it popped out. I like the museum and I like Year 1'. George







Reception



Topics:

-All about me

-Around the world

Reception are settling into school and have formed new friendships. Their first topic in school was 'All about me and Nursery Rhymes' which allows the children to all get to know each other well. The children access inside and out for their learning. They have more formal lessons such as phonics and maths. They then enjoy busy learning when they explore the learning environment and have activities linked to their learning. Each week there is a new focus and the children start by learning the key words linked to this e.g. The Gingerbread man. All their learning is then linked to this throughout the week. An example of this is the wanted posters the children created and then put up around the school. They had seen the flour footprints and needed to find the Gingerbread man!

'My Gingerbread man had sprinkles and icing on. It tasted nice'. Isla

'We pretended to have a bonfire but you had to be careful and not touch the fire. We made firework pictures and there was glitter everywhere!' Daisy

'We learnt about Africa and the animals that live there. We tried fruit. I loved the mango.'

Luca

'We looked at patterns on hands and made special bowls for candles. It was called Diwali.'

Adam









Sporting News



The Golden Foot Challenge in September saw an increase in physical activity before school. This is the second year that Mrs Johnson has organised this and we saw even more children participate this year. Well done to all!

We have been very proud of the teams who have represented the school at various sporting events in the city. Well done for demonstrating such great sportsmanship. Years 5 and 6 also had an interschool football tournament this year the spectators enjoyed this as much as the players.





Christmas Events 2024



Year 2

Year 2 learnt about the Christingle tradition and shared this with their families to start the season. They performed confidently and the weather was kind to us, allowing the children to light their Christingle with their family members before taking them home.

Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about the Nativity story. This year they performed 'We're Going on a Baby Hunt!'. They were very excited to perform and wear their costumes. It was magical, well done to all involved.

Reception

Reception did their first presentation to their parents and shared some songs with their families. This is a huge achievement for such young children. Well done!

3 - Year 1 Nativity



4 - Year 1 Nativity



5 - A1 Reception singing



6 - A2 Reception singing



7 - Year 2 Christingle



8 - Our school choir





9 - Year 2 Christingle

Friends of Oakdale



Our Friends of Oakdale committee have continued to work hard to plan and deliver events for the children throughout the academic year. Thank you to them for their hard work. They are a small group and would relish additional support. Please contact the office if you are able to help.

Friends of Oakdale have been busy in our planning of the Winter Festival for Years 1-6, which took place on Thursday. All of the children had a great time playing fayre games, dancing at the disco, enjoying refreshments and winning lots of prizes.

Every child who attended was also included in our prize draw which took place in assembly on Monday. Children won prizes including vouchers for Big Sky, The Coffee Hive and Amore Dolce plus some mini hampers. In total, we raised just over £1,000, which will go back into the school during the spring and summer terms.

On Friday, Santa visited the Reception children during their party to bring them each a lucky dip present. They were very excited to see him!

Finally, thank you to everyone who downloaded the Asda app for the Cashpot for Schools initiative. We managed to raise a total of £197.72! Thank you for all your support this term and watch out for our 'Break the Rules Day' coming in February!

Nicky, Sarah, Stef Friends of Oakdale



10 - Helper certificates



11 - Key Stage 2 winners





Enrichment: Developing the whole child



Charity Events

Thank you for your support this term. We have raised funds for MacMillan, Children in Need and provided food for the Peterborough Food Bank.

Eco Club

We have a new Eco role in school:

'We've been doing lots of awareness about looking after the earth. This has included making a display, planting trees, building the growing pod and sharing lots of ideas.' Year 5 and 6 committee members.

Miss Clement has been working with PECT to develop our school grounds. All classes have been out to plant our new trees and we look forward to seeing them grow.

Black History Month

During Black history month each class learnt about the significance of this month and created a special piece of work to display. This ranged from a poem about the Windrush generation in Year 4 to a wall hanging in Reception where they used lots of coloured beads to represent that we are all different and respect each other.

Road Safety

This term Year 5 and 6 had the option to complete Level 2 Bikeability. Congratulations to the children who were awarded with this after four days of training.

Outdoor Learning and Mental Health Week

At the start of the term, when the weather was still mild and dry, we held another outdoor learning week. This term this was held during mental health week. Being outdoors is proven to support wellbeing. All classes also had activities and an assembly to recognise that our mental health is as important as our physical health.

Anti-Bullying week

The theme this year was 'Choose Respect'. The week started with a whole school assembly and this was followed by activities in each class. Inclusion, celebrating differences and respect has also been a key theme for assemblies in school this term. With greater understanding the children demonstrate empathy and compassion. We have systems in school to ensure that all incidents are investigated and recorded. It is vital that children feel safe and valued in school to ensure readiness to learn and we regularly gain pupil voice to continuously develop this and wider opportunities for our pupils. .

E-safety

We promote e-safety through the PSHE curriculum. Unfortunately the children no longer have access to Gooseberry app as they have ceased trading.

It is the time of the year when children often receive new devices as gifts. Virgin Media O2, want internet users of all ages to enjoy all the wonderful things the web has to offer, safely. They have created a children's internet safety test to help build awareness for parents and children of all ages to ensure you are better protected online. They also have tips and advice to help with parental controls. NSPCC also have an e-safety top tips area and an online virtual training session to support parents with e-safety: [Free online safety virtual workshop | NSPCC](#). Please visit these websites for help and guidance.

Staffing



Congratulations to Mrs Hayes who welcomed a baby boy in November. Mrs Hoppe was welcomed to cover her maternity leave and has worked hard to ensure a smooth transition.

Mrs Jones (Year 3 TA) has left us to relocate, we wish her well. Also to Mrs Hurst (Year 2 TA) who left us for an alternative career path.

Welcome to Miss Stones who joined us as the new Year 5 teacher after half term.

A big thank you to our interim Caretaker, Mr Hugill, for his hard work. He has now handed over the role to Mr Campbell who we welcome to the team.

And finally...



Happy End of Term!



A huge well done to the children, we have had a fantastic start to the year, continue to demonstrate our school values and congratulations to Green House for your win this term. Thank you to our hard-working staff and to you all for your feedback and continued support. We wish you a very happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming you back at the start of the new term in January 2025.