



Spring Term Newsletter 2025

This latest edition of our school newsletter continues to demonstrate the amount of learning that takes place, even during the shortest term. This has included a number of parental engagement opportunities. We are striving to continue to develop these following the decrease seen during and after the pandemic. Thank you to the parents who have attended, we hope they have proven to be useful. We also understand that it is difficult for parents to be able to attend due to work commitments. We have provided the information directly to any parents who have requested this.

As always, it has been wonderful to see how hard our pupils have worked, the progress made and the participation in a wide range of learning opportunities across all of our year groups. We have also continued to develop our pupil voice and the school council have been working hard to support the development of the school:

'The School Council's focus, this half-term, has been litter picking in an attempt to help keep the school grounds tidy. We have worked together to organise a rota and provide all year groups the opportunity to help litter pick. So far it has been a success, with lots of children volunteering. We look forward to continuing our journey of keeping the school grounds clean.' Year 6 School Council

'I enjoy that we are looking out for the environment.' Joseph Year 4

'I like making sure that the school is an eco-friendly place.' Marius Year 4

'Litter picking is going really well. I feel that the school grounds are cleaner than previously.'

Francesca Year 5

A reminder that this newsletter is not added to the website as some children do not have photograph permissions for social media. We aim for all children to be represented throughout the year so you can talk about the term at home with your children. We also want to ensure that you continue to have the opportunity to film and take pictures of assemblies and events. This is permitted with the understanding that you support us to safeguard our pupils and do not share images on social media. We thank you for your support and understanding.

This term the year group comments have been written by the year group teaching staff. Our topic overviews are on Google Classroom for you to continue to refer to each term.

The next half of the school year promises to be just a busy and exciting for the children with trips, visits, class assemblies, Friends events and sports days etc. coming up. Dates for the next term will be emailed out soon and will also be available on the school website: [Annual Planner - Oakdale Primary School](#)

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Food and Allergies



The safety and wellbeing of all our students is our top priority, which is why we have delivered a whole school assembly to raise awareness about allergies and specific food diets.

Whenever food is provided at school, we always check for allergies and ensure that suitable alternatives are available for those with specific dietary requirements. In order to maintain this safety, we also ask that children do not bring in food for celebrations e.g. sweets for birthdays. This is a precaution to prevent any risk of exposure to allergens and to ensure children do not feel excluded.

It's crucial that we work together to ensure the safety of all children, as food allergies can have serious consequences, ranging from mild reactions to life-threatening emergencies. Thank you for helping us keep all of our children safe and healthy!

Snacks

We encourage all children to live a healthy lifestyle and encourage them to bring a healthy snack for playtime if they wish. The Government supplies free fruit daily for all KS1 pupils. Sweets and chocolate bars are not permitted as a morning snack. There has been a huge increase in the number of children bringing in unhealthy snacks to eat at playtime. Please ensure snacks are healthy.

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle with water (squash and fruit juice are not permitted) to help keep them hydrated throughout the day.

Reception



This term has been full of exciting experiences and growth in Reception! We've been learning about "People Who Help Us," and our core stories have been Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Supertato. The children absolutely loved meeting the police and fireman, especially getting the chance to explore their fire engines and police cars. It was such a fun and educational experience for them. Specsavers also visited and let us try on all of the glasses. Imagination has been key this term, with lots of dress-up fun as princesses and knights! It's been wonderful to see their creativity flourish. And of course, Pancake Day was a highlight – we had so much fun making and eating pancakes together. The children have

enjoyed exploring the outside equipment, developing their gross motor and fine motor skills.

Bumblebees had a huge milestone performing their first assembly, it was great to see how much they have grown in confidence. Watching them recite *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* was such a joy.

'I'm especially impressed with the children's progress in writing. They are now confidently writing letters and using their phonics to help them! It's been a fantastic term, and I'm so proud of all their achievements. Looking forward to all the fun and learning ahead!' Mrs Benton











'It has been lovely to see Butterflies grow in confidence with their learning as well as their independent skills developing through provision. We are very proud of each and every one of them and how much progress they have made in all areas of the curriculum. The children have been very engaged in all our topics and we are excited for the new learning we have coming up next term.' Mrs Green

Year 1



This term Year 1 have enjoyed Fairytales and Amazing Animals! We particularly loved dressing up and celebrating the world of fairytales with a day of fun, have any of your beanstalks managed to grow as tall as Jack's yet? The children all created a new baddy for the three pigs and have been focusing on simple sentences with punctuation. Seeing the progress all the children have made in their writing since they started Year 1 has been amazing as they recently wrote their first story based on 'Dear Zoo'. They have all loved choosing their own animals to describe in their story and why they would not make a good pet. Next term we will continue to focus embedding those simple sentences with full stops and capital letters independently as well as progressing our numbers to 100 in maths.

'Leopards were so proud to win the Get Set4 January this term and enjoyed an extra play outside with toys. They spent the time with year 3 who then became reading buddies for the afternoon as they all shared books together. It was lovely to see how engaged the children were, playing with and reading with the older children was a great way to develop their love of reading. The leopards love singing and dancing and our music lessons have improved their understanding of pitch and rhythm, they have the energy and enthusiasm to be great performers! We are excited to see what the summer term brings.' *Mrs Cham*















'Lions class like to be active! Last term we started our gymnastics curriculum in PE. The children were brilliant at developing their gymnastic holding positions and it was fantastic to see their stretches and rolls developing over the term. I have also been really impressed with their artistic skills especially developing 3D art where fine motor skills have been put to the test creating structures from paper and card! They have grown so much over the Spring term that I am really looking forward to our final Summer term together.' Mrs Johnson

Year 2



Science has been a big part of year 2's curriculum this term. We've learnt lots about materials and carrying out an investigation and even planning a party! More recently we have been learning all about animals. It was delightful to take all of year 2 on a trip to Shepreth wildlife park where we learnt all about food-chains and saw lots of exciting animals close up! Year 2 are also working super hard on our reading skills at the moment and improving our speed and prosody. We have much improved since the beginning of the year and it's showing in our confidence and test scores!

Next term is also going to be super exciting and we hope to get outdoors in our learning more and more because we will be learning all about Plants and Awesome Australia!













"Koalas have been super this term at really challenging themselves and being creative. The amazing ideas they came up with for the 'twisted fairytales' really impressed me!" Miss Clement

"Kangaroos have shown a great interest in learning all about the weird and wonderful variety of living creatures we have in our world and have written some super fact files about a selection of them. We thoroughly enjoyed taking them to Shepreth Wildlife Park to see animals in real life and were proud to see them sharing their understanding of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores during their workshop, where their knowledge was certainly put to the test!" Mrs Carson and Mrs McDonagh

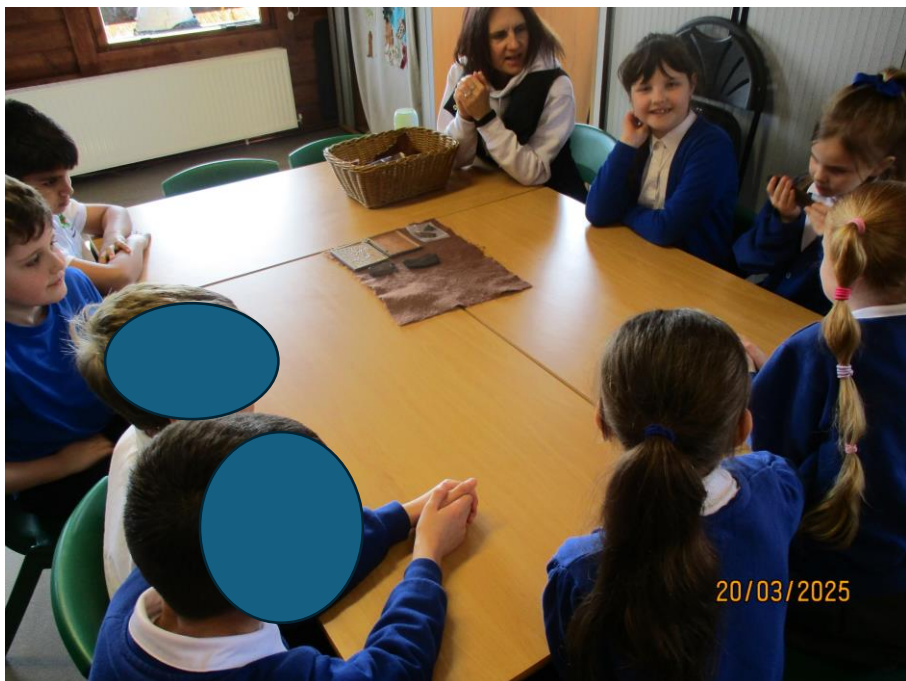
Year 3



We have had a busy term so far in Year 3! Our topic this term has been from Stone Age to Bronze Age where we have been exploring what life was like for people over nearly 3 million years ago. We have discovered what people used to wear, how they hunted for food and how sites like Skara Brae are significant in telling us about the past. We really enjoyed our trip to Flag Fen too on one of the sunniest days of the year so far! In our literacy lessons, we have been focusing on the text, 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. We have written stories describing the perspective of a stone age person meeting someone from our world today whilst working on including speech, descriptive language and a range of fronted adverbials.

The children have impressed us when approaching fractions in maths. We are looking forward to seeing how the children apply their knowledge to a range of questions. All children in Year 3 should be extremely proud of how hard they worked during their assessments. It has been great to see the progress made and how everyone approached them with resilience and maturity. Our focus next term is to ensure that we are really confident with our 3, 4, 8 times tables as well as using a range of punctuation in our writing.

'It has been an absolute pleasure to teach D1 so far this year. They are the most polite, considerate and delightful children that are a joy to teach. Your enthusiasm for learning is incredible and you all take pride in everything you do. You should be very proud of yourselves!' Mrs Blow











'I'm excited to be joining this wonderful Year 3 class, and I'm looking forward to building on the incredible work that's already been done. You are such a bright, kind, and hardworking class, and I can already tell that each of you brings something special to the classroom. I'm thrilled to be your new teacher and can't wait to support you all as you continue to grow and achieve great things!' Miss Galinato

Year 4 Residential



Year 4 had the opportunity to attend the residential trip to Grafham Water. The staff who supported on this trip were very complimentary about the children and how excited they were to embrace new adventures. The activities included a boat trip across the reservoir, rock climbing, archery, team challenges and a long bike ride.

'I had two favourite activities; archery and rock climbing. I got a bullseye in archery! I loved the trip, it was different but better than I expected.' Amelia

'It was worried before I went as I knew I would miss my family. It was better when I got there as I was in a room with my friends.' Scarlett

'I liked the high ropes. It was easy. I would tell Year 3 to go but they will get tired because we are busy and then all chat at night!' Charlie

'The food was good. We voted each day on what to have and it was different each time. The lasagne was my favourite.' Scarlett



















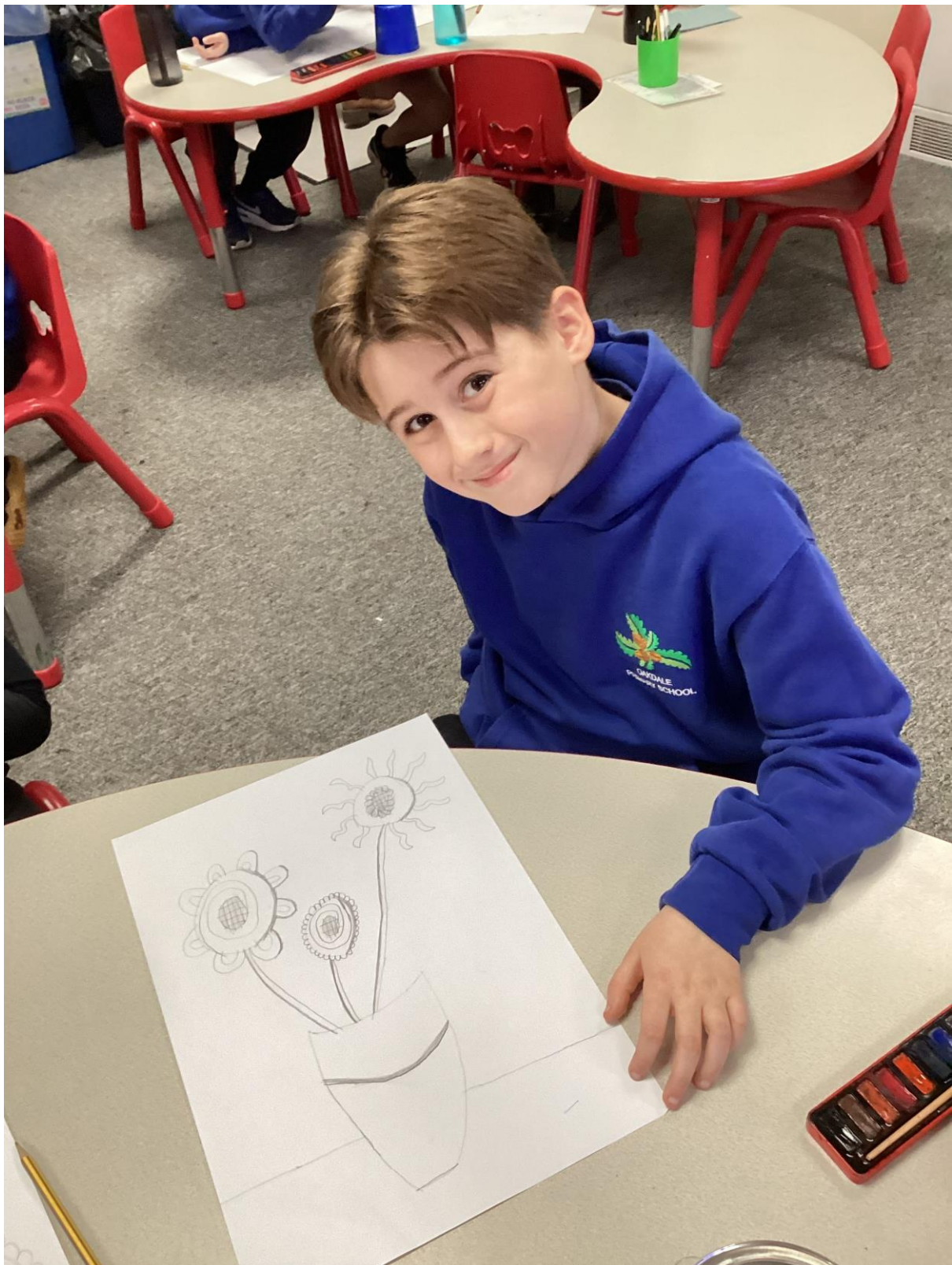








Year 4



In our Chocolate topic we learned all about the Maya civilisation in our history lessons and through our science investigations we discovered that different kinds of chocolate melt at different temperatures. Moving into the 2nd half of the Spring term we focused on our

Eurovision topic and learned all about Europe, we even got to be travel writers and write our own travel brochures which we presented using Chrome Books. The highlight of the term was our residential trip to Grafham Water. Everyone showed great resilience and perseverance, pushing out of their comfort zones and developing new skills. The children's behaviour was fantastic for whole trip, and it was a pleasure to spend time with them. Learning multiplication tables has been a focus for us again this term and all children are making great progress, many are now able to demonstrate instant recall of all tables up to 12x12.

Next term we are looking forward to a term of science with our Dazzling Digestion and Classifying Critters topics. We will also have a trip to Stanwick Lakes for some minibeast hunting and geography fieldwork.

















'The children's learning behaviours have shown real improvement this term, collaboration is a big strength, and children work well with partners and in small groups. It has been fantastic to see how well they apply this in our more active maths problem solving lessons.'

Ms Mitchell

"Well done E2 for all your hard work, resilience and especially for supporting each other in your learning this term. You deserve a well-deserved break this Easter." Mrs Hoppe

Year 5



During Spring term, our topics have been 'The Lost Thing' and 'Anglo-Saxons and Vikings'. Our library became adorned with art installations inspired by real life installation art and electrical circuits. We wrote our own stories based on the ideas of Shaun Tan and explanation texts about our own lost things. While studying the Viking era, we became Viking villagers for the day for our History off the Page day. The studio was set up as a Viking market where the children learned Viking crafts such as: clay pots and moulds, weaving and intricate painting. A huge thank you goes out to the parent helpers who really do ensure these immersive days run smoothly.

Our Summer term topics will be 'Our Green Planet' and 'Out of this World'. We look forward to spending some time out in the local area as well as an exciting visit to Leicester Space Centre.

Miss Stones said, "The children had so much fun being creative with their installation art sculptures and many had very unique ideas and decorative pieces. At times, they found it tricky to include an electrical circuit, however they rose to the challenge brilliantly."















"The children became excellent archaeologists, carefully handling artefacts and classifying them. They explained what they told us about the Viking era." Miss Smith

Year 6



Year 6 have had a busy but enjoyable Spring Term. In Spring Term 1, the children learnt about Ancient Greece – their lifestyles and influence on our modern-day society. Their learning was enhanced by an informative and engaging visit from History off the Page. In Design and Technology, the children were challenged to build and create an automata toy. Although the skills involved were quite challenging, the children showed lots of resilience and collaborated well with their peers

In Spring Term 2, the students focused on science and understanding the circulatory system in 'Staying Alive'. The children had the opportunity to learn all about how the heart works and the importance of exercise. Using our text Pig Heart Boy, the children took part in a debate and wrote a detailed balanced argument. In addition, Year 6 represented their school with pride when they visited Stanground Academy, to watch Flik the Musical

After Easter, Year 6 will be focusing on studying and practising for their SATs, alongside learning about our new topic- Amazing Americas.

We would like to take this opportunity to praise the children for all their hard work and effort this term in preparation for their SATs.

'I am extremely proud of how much the children's arithmetic knowledge has improved and their confidence with answering maths reasoning questions. They have consistently faced challenges with a positive attitude – well done G2!' Miss Iqbal G2











'It has been a delight to watch the class learning how to debate; they have shown real maturity in their language choices and collaborated with each other to refine each child's oracy skills. These skills will help support them as they progress into secondary school. Well done G1.' Mrs Green G1

Special Events



Active January

Mrs Johnson, our PE lead, has continued to be very proactive in keeping us all active. Classes were given the challenge to stay active in January. We always have active 'brain breaks' throughout the day but this provided a wider range of activities.

Sporting Events

Congratulations to the children who have represented the school this term and demonstrated such great sportsmanship.

World Book Day

This year was pyjama themed. Many children donated a book for our book swap event. Thank you! We will be adding this service to our school library so children can bring any unwanted books and swap for another book they would like to read.

E-safety week

Safer Internet Day is celebrated around the world in February of each year. Use of the internet continues to evolve on a daily basis. It is vital that children start to learn about safe use of the Internet from an early age.

There is a lot of useful information available on: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#) to continue this learning at home.

Break the Rules Day

This was a new initiative developed by Friends of Oakdale. The children all enjoyed the day. Thank you for supporting this event.

The Big Great Big School Clean

We took part in this community event both within the school grounds and in the local area. The children really enjoyed supporting this and have made a difference to our environment.

House Captain Report

This term, we have been busy working on our Play Leaders project. In the first week of Spring, we picked and trialled some playground games to see which suited each year group. These went really well and all of the children enjoyed them. We then decided to continue playing and organising games for other year groups and decided to expand our team, putting applications out to year 5. This was a success and lots of children applied. Although these were all a pleasure to read, it was a tricky job trying to narrow them down to recruit only eight children. We are now in the process of expanding our team even more and including more games with equipment, especially in the summer term.

House Captains



1 - Break the Rules Day



2 - Year 2 World Book Day



3 - World Book Day in Reception



4 - Winner extra playtime



5 - Internet Safety Day- Year 5 joining a live event



6 - Get Set for January



7 - Play Leaders training



8 - Year 1 and 3 celebrate their win



9 - Year 2 Learn to Ride



10 - Year 1 Learn to Ride



11 - Year 6 School and Eco Council leading assembly

Staffing



Thank you to the adults who took the Year 4 children on their residential trip. Running these trips relies on staff giving up their time to take the children and we all appreciate this.

Mrs Mitchell-Fry and Mrs Benton have now commenced their maternity leave. Welcome to Miss Makepeace and Miss Galinato who are covering their leave. Also welcome to Mrs King who has joined the Reception team this term.

Farewell and good luck to Mrs Kaur who left us at half term to work in a larger local primary school. We wish her happiness in her new role and thank you for the difference she made to many children during her time at Oakdale.

We currently have a vacancy for Level 2 teaching assistants. Details are provided on our website for anyone who is interested in the role.

Parent View



We regularly seek your views and have made changes to the school following your feedback. We are proud to be part of the Oakdale family, working together to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils. Parent View is the Ofsted questionnaire to gain views about schools. We welcome your views on this forum: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Plans for next term



The annual planner for the summer term will be sent home at the start of the summer term. This includes assessment dates, assemblies, annual report date and the open evening, trips and sports day, we hope you will be able to join us for the community events.

Have a pleasant Easter break and we look forward to welcoming you back to school