



Summer Term Newsletter 2025

We have arrived at the end of the school year and as usual it has been a busy term. The children have been in the transition phase this half term to prepare them for the changes ahead. We hope that these endeavours will ensure a positive start to the new academic year. We have mixed some classes this year in order to best support learning. As previously communicated, this is considered every year and if your child's year group is to be mixed we consult parents to gain all views before deciding the classes.

The summer term is associated with all the traditional events that happen in schools: sports day, leavers production, transition and the summer fete. We are proud to share our children's learning. These events along with regular class assemblies are important to us. We have also continued to build upon the parent workshop opportunities such as Reception maths and a visit from the NSPCC to talk about online safety. During Culture Week the children also enjoyed visits from some parents to share their cultures and beliefs. It has been delightful to see these events so well attended, thank you for your support.

Parental Feedback

Our sincere appreciation to those of you who (141) have recently taken the time to offer your feedback and thoughts on our parent questionnaire. We are pleased to share that the results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive. Working in a school is intense, emotionally charged, and constantly changing and we strive to continuously review our practice to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils. This is what you told us:

- 96% of parents agree their child feels safe in school
- 90% agree that their child enjoys school and 31% feel strongly that the school has a positive culture where children feels cared for
- 91% would recommend the school

Of course, there was some constructive feedback in certain areas, and we know there will always be things we can improve or decisions you may not always agree with. All feedback is valued, taken seriously, and helps us grow. There were also many kind and supportive comments. I can't overstate how much something as simple as a "thank you" means to our staff.

'I feel the school is safe and teaching and learning standards are high'

'My child feels liked and loved and her interests are listened to.'

'Family feel, most teachers are super kind and genuinely care which is lovely.'

'They are happy, healthy and thriving here.'

One aspect of the feedback was in regards to communication. The majority of parents felt that our communication is good but there was also some feedback in relation to this. We send the termly planner at the start of each term to provide parents with as much notice as possible. Reminders are sent nearer events. However, we can see from our data that a lot of our communication is unread. We agree that another source of information could be added to support all parents to access communication. This year we will trial the use of Class Dojo to develop communication further and we will ask for feedback following this. We will also review our communication policy and send this out to parents.

We agree that it is important for parents to feel involved in their child's learning. We have added a number of events in school to support this and we aim to continue to develop opportunities for parents to come into school to see how we teach your children. We also acknowledge that parents would like more information to help them to make a decision about residential trips. These have already been organised for next year but we will revisit parents meetings in the summer term 2026.

Another area to respond to was in relation to community events and the request for more. Our small but committed Friends of Oakdale parents work very hard to organise additional events for the children. When extra support was requested this was not forthcoming. It is very unusual for all staff to stay and support such events at other schools and we are fortunate that all our staff are happy to give their time to help in order for these to go ahead. Please contact Friends if you are willing to support, they would be most grateful.

Results

Congratulations to all the children who have taken part in statutory tests this term. The results are testament to the hard work, determination and commitment from the staff, parents and most importantly the children involved. We are consistently above or in line with National data at all points. These are detailed in the relevant year group sections.

Once again, there is much to share with you from another busy term in school and we hope that you enjoy reading all about it. For this newsletter the children were asked about their highlights of the year. Enjoy!

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Reception



Reception have been learning about 'Creatures Great and Small' and 'Land and Sea' this term. They were very lucky to be able to watch chicks hatch and to see them grow and were very excited about this. Texts have continued to link to the topics to enhance the children's understanding of the topic.

This term Reception went to Hamerton Zoo for a day out. They were very well behaved and loved their day visiting the different animals. They were keen to share this with others when they returned. As part of the Land and Sea topic the children have learned about different habitats and explored floating and sinking in science.

73% of the children achieved their Early Learning Goal. This is above National results.

'In Reception I liked learning about Jack and the Beanstalk and growing one in my garden.'

Freddie A

'I liked drawing. My favourite things to draw are flowers and rainbows.' Willow

'My favourite thing in Reception has been playing with toys and Lego.' Ilinca

'I love drawing club.' Katy

'I liked the zoo because it was fun.' Riley

'I liked making friends.' Bella







Year 1



Year 1 started this term learning about 'Our Wonderful World' and their second topic was 'Beside the Seaside'. The first topic was a science and geography topic but a much loved aspect was making smoothies after learning about fruits and vegetables. This was linked to their class text and helped them to produce some excellent written work.

This term Year 1 went to Hunstanton to visit the Sea Life centre and to the beach to compare Hunstanton to Peterborough. They were lucky to have a nice day to visit the seaside and were able to conduct a field study to develop their understanding of human and physical features. The children really enjoyed the Sea Life Centre, especially the large fish tanks where they could see the fish swimming above them.

Year 1 also had their phonic screening test in May. **This year 83% of pupils passed the test (79% 2023 National Outcome). This underpins reading and writing development and phonics teaching continues into Year 2 and 3.**

'I liked the trip to Johnsons of Oldhurst. I saw a boy and a girl lion. In year 1 I have got better at drawing. I liked the Stanley story and writing my own.' Jack

'I like art in Year 1 because I like crafty things. I liked learning about the seaside best. We went to visit Hunstanton and saw baby sharks.' Freya

'I liked being with my friends and learning in Year 1. I am better at handwriting. I like learning about animals so Amazing Animals was my favourite topic.' Aria-Grace

'In Year 1 we learnt about full stops and capital letters. I liked going to the seaside to see the beach.' George





A message from Year 1 to Reception:

'We are sure you'll love Year 1 because the learning is fun.'

Year 2



The Year 2 topics for the summer term were 'Field to Fork' and 'Australian Adventure'. Field to fork includes growing vegetables and harvesting them. This includes scientific experiments to discover what plants need to grow. The children produced some amazing descriptions of a garden at the end of the topic.

This half term, to end the topic, the children had a visitor to learn about Aboriginal culture. Outdoor painting with natural materials was very popular with the children.

This year Year 2 tests were not statutory again. We continue to have the option to deliver these. In every year, except Reception, we use tests to inform teacher assessment judgement and therefore we will continue to use these materials to inform future planning. They will not be reported separately.

'My favourite thing in Year 2 was going on a trip to Shepreth Zoo. We saw lots of animals including bunnies and a lonely tiger. I wasn't very good at playing the didgeridoo but learning about Australia has been the best topic.' Noah

'I liked the special day we had to celebrate the scarecrow's wedding because we made tasty wraps and we got to eat them. I liked this topic the best too. I loved writing the wombat's diary, they are really funny because we had to pretend to be a naughty wombat and on one day he ate a burger!' Colette

'I loved scarecrow day because I had three teas: one at school, one at Care Club and one at home! In my wrap I put ham, cheese, chicken, ketchup and carrot. It was yummy! I liked the Great Fire of London topic the best. On the day we did lots of fun things. I wouldn't want to be poorly then because the medicines were not nice!' Alex

'My favourite thing about Year 2 was last week when we had digeridoo day. I liked to learn to play the digeridoo. I like learning about the animals in Australia and the different weather.'
Fatima







A message from Year 2 to Year 1:

'If you are worried, you can always talk to a trusted adult in school. You'll do lots of fun learning so there isn't anything to worry about.'

Year 3



'The Land of Hope and Glory' was the first topic for Year 3 this term. This is a geography based topic learning predominately about the United Kingdom. The children used their knowledge to write a persuasive leaflet to encourage people to visit.

This term the topic was 'Food Glorious Food.' Year 3 visited Sacrewell Farm to learn about where their food comes from. They saw the animals but also explored the food that is grown onsite and where our food comes from.

'I loved Egyptian day the best in Year 3. We made lots of things and learnt a lot about how the Egyptians lived and we wore costumes. It was also my favourite topic because of the gruesome bits we learnt.' Lola

'My favourite thing in Year 3 was this term. I really liked visiting Sacrewell Farm. We had to identify and pick our own vegetables. I like maths too and I've enjoyed learning how to tell the time.' Austin

'I love maths so that has been the best thing about Year 3 for me. I am more confident at division now. I also liked the trip to Sacrewell farm. My favourite topic was Ancient Egypt. Year 2 will love it too especially dressing up for the day.' Paisley

'I liked learning about time in Year 3. It has been tricky and I like a challenge. I also liked Ancient Egypt the best and finding out how to make a mummy. Sacrewell Farm was a brilliant trip and we even got to play in the park there!' Dominic





A message from Year 3 to Year 2:

'The teachers are friendly. It's just a different place to learn and you'll have fun!'

Year 4



The two topics this term for Year 4 were 'Dazzling Digestion' and 'Classifying Critters'. There were lots of 'disgusting' experiments linked to the first topic and the children worked collaboratively to create their own diagram of the digestive system. The learning this term was supported by a trip to Stanwick Lakes. There was a range of activities on offer there to explore the inhabitants of the area. When discussing this with the children, they all agreed that trips help to bring their learning to life and make the topics more memorable for them.

Year 4 are also now a fully developed Samba band. Both classes have been lucky to have weekly lessons led by the Music Hub.

49% of Year 4 scored 25/25 in their Multiplication Times table Check, 38% was the National result.

'The best thing about Year 4 was the residential trip. It was a great experience and I loved all of the activities. My favourite topic was the Romans- it was the best!' Tina

'I like maths and I was very proud when I got 40/40 on my end of year test but I also loved the residential trip, especially the biking. My favourite topic was also the Romans. We went to Flag Fen and a man pretended to be a Roman to help us to learn about it.' Kobi

'I loved the bike ride and going on the boat for our residential trip. My favourite topic was Bright Sparks, I liked making a circuit and testing different things to make the lightbulb work.' Ennis

'I liked to learn about the Celts best but my favourite topic was Dazzling Digestion because we did a lot of fun activities- we even made our own poo and squished everything up like our digestive system does.' Eliza







A message from Year 4 to Year 3:

'You will have loads of fun and new experiences. There is nothing to worry about'

Year 5



'Our Green Planet' was the first topic for Year 5 this term. They have produced some very informative writing outcomes which share their passion for protecting our planet. They also linked this to a field study of the local area where they could identify more sustainable options in the local area.

This term they have been learning about space. A visit to the Space Centre supported this. The children loved the hands on exhibits and enjoyed a visit to the planetarium to see the solar system in all its glory.

'I enjoyed Fraction Fridays in Year 5. We had to cut up food into different amounts and the best bit was we could then eat it. I like donuts! My favourite topic in Year 5 was Mysterious Materials in the first term because we did lots of investigations.' Ashley

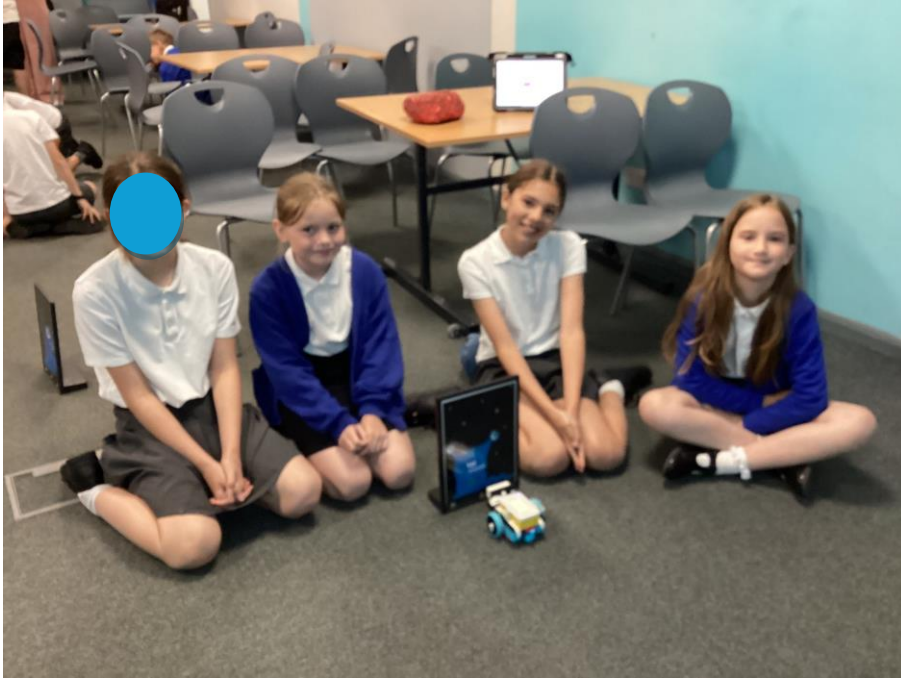
'PE has been my favourite subject this year as I like being active. Out of this World has been the best topic. It has been interesting to learn more about space.' Maddison

'My favourite topic this year was the Vikings as I like learning about the past. The best thing about Year 5 was going to Harry Potter Studios. I don't like Harry Potter especially but I loved learning about the film process. It was cool to see the sets.' Olivia

'I agree with Olivia, the Vikings were really interesting to learn about and I like learning about the past. I liked going to the Space Centre this term because it was interesting and we learnt a lot about space.' Charles







A message from Year 5 to Year 4:

'Don't be worried, it's perfectly fine!'

Year 6



Year 6 started the year by learning about 'Amazing Americas'. This was linked to the text 'Holes' and the children produced some excellent writing using this as inspiration. They also felt that their class trip to Ferry Meadows helped to improve their descriptive writing although were quick to point out that the Amazon rainforest is very different to Ferry Meadows! This term has been 'Showtime'. They compared entertainment in the past to now and they starred in 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'. The children were incredible and worked so hard to learn their lines. This was our first two form entry cohort and it was great to see both classes working so well together. We all laughed along and it was great to see children being so brave and performing confidently in front of their friends and families.

Following SATs tests in May, in which the children demonstrated admirable learning behaviours and high levels of aspiration, they have been preparing for their next journey into secondary school. This has included resilience and change workshops, first aid training and level 3 Bikeability.

78% of our Year 6 children achieved the expected outcomes in reading, writing and maths. This is above the National result by 26%.

'I loved the residential trip in Year 6, it was super fun! The best topic was Amazing Americas because lots of our learning was based on the text 'Holes' and it really helped to develop our writing.' Alice

'It was my first residential in Year 6 and that was my favourite thing. It was fun to have a sleepover with my friends and the activities were all exciting. I liked learning about Ancient Greece. It was my favourite topic because back then they believed in the mythical Gods which was interesting to learn about.' Zachary

'My favourite thing in Year 6 was the enterprise topic to raise money for our leavers trip. We worked together and learnt how to advertise our stall. The best topic for me was Staying Alive as I found it interesting and we learnt about the heart and how it works.' Rebeca

'We had challenges to do when the others were on their trip. We worked together to try to build the tallest tower. I also liked the Ancient Greeks topic learning about the Spartans and the Athenians. I would have wanted to be an Athenian.' Nathan C





1 - Magistrates visit



2 - Italian Graduation



3 - First Aid training



4 - CROPS change support



5 - Kooth webinar



6 - Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies production

A message from Year 6 to Year 5:

'It's not as hard as you think it will be. It's little steps at a time. SATs weren't as hard as I thought they would be because of how much you will learn beforehand.'

Useful reminders and Information

Welcome to the **Oakdale Primary School Clothing Shop**

Simply click on the category on the left hand panel to start shopping



A caring family of
happy learners

**Orders for school delivery will be delivered
weekly into school on a Wednesday**

Last order date for school deliveries

Order by Sunday 30th June
for delivery into school w/c
Monday 8th July.

This option will recommence w/c
Monday 9th September for delivery
w/c Monday 16th September.



TOTAL
CLOTHING

Order Deadline

For delivery for back to
school please order by
Wednesday 14th August.

**Orders should be placed by this date
to ensure you have them in time for
the start of the term in September.**

Uniform and PE kit

As the term draws to an end please may we remind you about the importance of the correct uniform. Thank you the the vast majority of parents who support us in providing the correct school uniform.

Our uniform policy can be found on our website: [School Uniform - Oakdale Primary School](#)

We will take children outside to play regardless of the weather as the building provides shelter in extreme weather. Please ensure the children have suitable outdoor clothing for this.

The children will continue to wear PE kits on their designated days. These have been added to the termly planner.

Sports News and Special Weeks



Sports

Congratulations to Red House for winning sports day by collecting the most points. Great sportsmanship was shown throughout the day and the younger children were well supported by Year 6 and the students from Stanground Academy. Thank you to Mrs Johnson for organising the day.

We have also attended a variety of sporting events across the city this term. This included the football team who came second in the Peterborough league. Congratulations to all of the children involved. They always make us proud with their positive attitudes regardless of the outcome. To finish the year we took part in National Sports week.

Eco Council

Our Eco Warriors have worked hard to improve our school environment. This included work in the community during the big tidy up. Some of the council members visited the recycling centre this term to learn why Peterborough is a green city.

Culture Week

Thank you to the parents who visited the classes during our Culture week to share their beliefs and culture with the children. We concluded the week with a whole school assembly where each class presented their learning in various ways including poetry, art and dance.

Year 6 Enterprise

We were so proud of our Year 6 students. They worked incredibly hard to market, advertise and make things to raise money for their leavers trip. This was supported by Friends of Oakdale and a new initiative this year which went well and most importantly the children really enjoyed it.

Online Safety

The NSPCC delivered an online safety workshop for parents with lots of top tips and information. We have added this to our website if you were unable to attend.



7 - Girls' football team



8 - Netball



9 - Culture Week



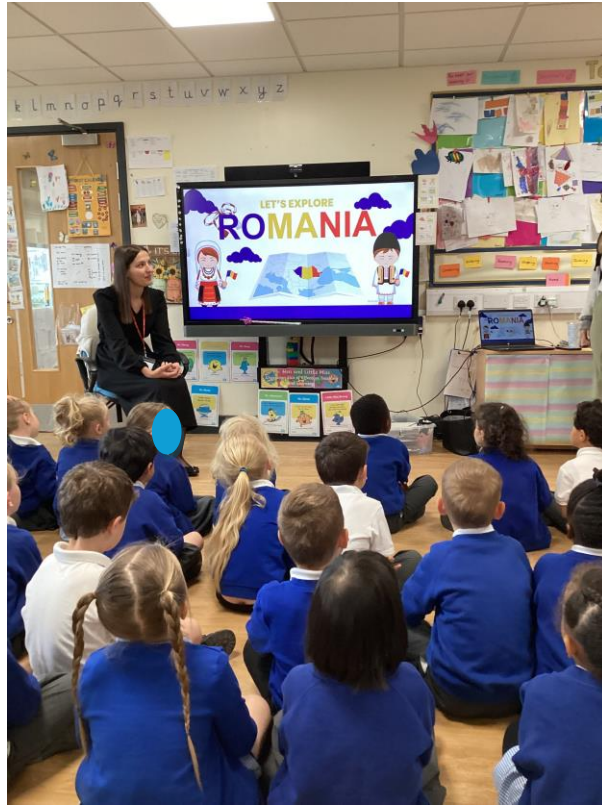
10 - Football Team



11 - Eco Council



12 - Bikeability



13 - Visitors were warmly invited during culture week



14 - Equipment provided due to taking part in National Sports Week



15 - Year 6 Enterprise

Friends of Oakdale



The Friends of Oakdale worked very hard to organise the summer fete this year with the support of the staff. A huge thank you to them for the hours of work put into this. Thank you for supporting these events and for your kind donations to support them. The grand total raised was **£1100**. The team are always looking for new members. Please contact them if you are able to offer support at future events.

Monies raised have been largely used to enhance the experiences of the children in school including events like the circus skills day earlier this term.



16 - Circus skills day

A fond farewell to Year 6



The term ends on Tuesday with a final farewell to Year 6 as they celebrate their journey through school in their leavers' assembly. When discussing with the children about their favourite experiences at Oakdale, they referred to the full breadth of the curriculum. Firm favourites included: clubs; residential visits; trips; PE; science and history. They are looking forward to making new friends, experiencing different teachers and 'discovering new talents'.

We wish them every success in their next steps and look forward to hearing about their future successes. Good luck Year 6!





Staffing



We employed a nurture teacher to support with pupils who need additional help to regulate their emotions. Mrs Cook started this term and has already built positive relationships with the children she works with. At the start of next term Mrs Allen will join the team as a nurture teaching assistant to support Mrs Cook.

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Carson who is leaving us at the end of the term to work in a school closer to her home. We wish her every happiness and thank her for her hard work and dedication to the role during her time at Oakdale. Mrs Hoppe and Miss Makepeace also leave us following the end of maternity covers. A big thank you and good luck in your new roles.

Mrs Mini left us to return to live in Italy. We are due to welcome a new Italian teacher in September.

Governor News



A message from the Chair of Governors, Mrs Diane Ward.

As we near the end of another academic year, I've taken some time to reflect on the many accomplishments our school community has achieved. From in-school events like assemblies, choir performances, parents' evenings, and class drop-ins, to the numerous trips and the dedicated efforts made to support your child's learning and exam preparation—this year has been full of meaningful moments.

Throughout the year, the Governing Body has continued to actively support and monitor the progress and wellbeing of both staff and pupils. It has been truly heartening to witness the collaboration and sense of community among the children as they grow and thrive together.

As we head towards the summer break, all Governors wish the year 6 children good luck as they progress to secondary school and the next phase of their educational journey.

Finally, we want to give a massive thank you to all the children at Oakdale for coming to school each day with enthusiasm and giving their best in the classroom. You've all worked incredibly hard and truly earned a well-deserved summer break—rest up, recharge, and get ready for an exciting new start in September!

New academic year 2025/6



Term dates for the forthcoming academic year can be found on our website: [Term Dates - Oakdale Primary School](#)

School starts on **Wednesday 3rd September** for all current children.

The termly calendar will be sent out at the start of the new academic year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their ongoing support. Oakdale is a very special place and we feel grateful to work together to continue to develop our 'caring family of happy learners'. The children's kindness and behaviour is second to none and we continue to be very proud of the progress they make. Thank you to our hard-working and committed staff and small but hardworking Governing Body who work tirelessly to ensure the best possible learning opportunities for our pupils.

We wish our school community a happy, healthy and enjoyable summer holidays.