

Oakley Infant School



Newsletter

Autumn Term: Issue 3

22 Sept 2026

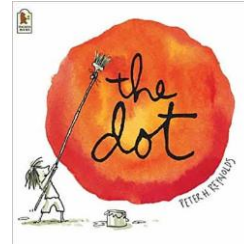


Thrive, strive and achieve together



Dear Parents,

This week at school in our assemblies we are thinking about one of our school Learning Values, **Creativity**. We started the week reading the story of “The Dot” by Peter Reynolds. It tells the encouraging story of Vashti, a young girl who believes she cannot draw until her teacher inspires her to simply "make a mark and see where it takes you". We learnt that we are all creative in different ways.



Thank you to the parents who joined us for the Key Stage 1 Information evenings last week. With the newsletter today Year 1 and Year 2 parents will receive the presentation and the support materials the staff spoke about during the meeting last week.

A reminder that Friends will be holding their AGM tomorrow, 23 September. The AGM is a statutory meeting to fulfil the charity obligations and is a short part of the meeting. If you are interested in joining Friends, finding out how important they are to the school or would just like to meet a few (very nice) people please come along and join us at 7pm.

This week on Thursday we have the Year R information evening in the hall at 7pm. Please come in through the main entrance. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jennie Clarke
Headteacher



INSET Days 2026-2027

We plan our INSET days with the junior school to minimise the disruption to parents with children at both schools.

23 Oct 2026
4 Jan 2027
12 Feb 2027
25 June 2027

Article 28
A right to an education.

Junk Modelling

Year R are busy being creative with their junk modelling. If you have any cardboard boxes, yogurt pots and tubs that they could use please pass them onto one of the Year R staff. Thank you.

Friends

Thank you to Friends and OJSA for organising the Bag2School collection yesterday morning. It looked busy, so hopefully lots of money raised. Once we have the total we'll let you know! Thank you for your support.

Tissues

Please keep your tissue donations coming in for the inevitable cold season which will be upon us soon. We are very grateful for donations and it really helps the school budget not to have to purchase tissues. Thank you.

New Year R Intake- September 2027

Well, unbelievably it is that time of year again where we start to look towards the admissions process for Year R in September 2027. The platform will open for applications on 1 November but we are now starting to book tours for parents to look around our lovely school. The dates are on the school website and I would ask everyone to remind family, friends and neighbours that if they have a child due to start next year that they must apply for a place. Unless you are in the school system it is sometimes missed by people.

I know that often if you are out of catchment and have a sibling to start this can be a source of anxiety so please catch me for a chat and I will talk you through it and hopefully reassure you.

Equally I would like to remind the Year 2 parents that you have to make an application for Key Stage 2. This is done on the same platform as Year R and it also opens on 1 November.

Harvest Collection

Next week we are thinking about Harvest time in assembly and would be grateful for any food donations for the foodbank. Please send any donations in with your child on Thursday 1 October.

Currently the food bank are particularly looking for long-life juice, long-life milk, tinned meats and multipacks of crisps and snacks. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

Caught Reading

If you have any 'Caught Reading' photographs from the summer Mrs Mears would love to see them. Please send them on with your child or email them to the office with the title Caught Reading so that we can print them.

Coats

Please make sure your child has a coat in school with them every day. The children go out to play even when it is a bit chilly and drizzly so please make sure your child is prepared with the right outdoor clothes.

School Census - 1 October 2026

We are fast approaching School Census day. This is an important day for setting a school budget. Many calculations are made based on this day in October including funding for the **Universal Free Infant Lunch**.

Of course you may think we are funded for each child but it is not that simple. We are funded for the year on whoever has a school dinner on 1 October. So, as you can see it is important that as many children as possible have a dinner on Census day, otherwise the school has to fund the 'Free Infant Lunch' from the normal budget next year.

As a result there will be a change to the menu to try to hit the highest number possible. Please complete the form going out today with your child's food option for census day.

On this census there is also an audit of Pupil Premium children. Again if children go on at a later date we do not receive any funding. So I would urge everyone to follow the link to see if you are entitled to the payment.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

We are also grateful if you can make us aware if your child is from a military family. Please email the office to confirm or if there has been a change in your child's status, please let us know.

Rotary Club Christmas Boxes

This year we will be supporting the Rotary Club Christmas collection where gifts are collected for children less fortunate for distribution during the Christmas period. As there is a long customs process the gift boxes need to be completed by 6 October. We are going to repeat our collaborative effort from last year. On the next slide please take a look at what each year group can donate so that the School Voice can make up the boxes. Please start donating now! Please give any donations to your child's teacher. If you would like to fill your own gift box as a family please come and collect a box from the school Office.

Year R – Seesaw

Now that the Year R children are settling into school we have set up their Seesaw logins. In the Year R bookbags today you will find a QR code and instructions on how to access your child's Seesaw account. Seesaw is used in Year R to share pictures between school and home that show what your child has been up to in school. You can also use it to add photos from home that your child would like to share at school as a show and tell.

Volunteers

Please speak to your child's teacher if you or someone you know are able to help hear children read or would like to help with cooking in school. Thank you.

Reading

Harvey Bear is back! Harvey Bear is awarded on a Friday in Celebration Assembly to the class who has the highest percentage of children who have read **at least 4 times a** week at home. On a Friday morning children hand in their reading diary to their class adults, reads are then counted for the full week from the previous Friday.

I am pleased to announce we had our first count on Friday, with both Maple and Beech Classes having 70% of children reading 4 times at home! A brilliant start to the year. They will share Harvey Bear this week.

Year R are starting their phonics lesson and guided reading lessons this week and will start to bring home a reading book in their bookbags, these start as picture books. Once Year R have had their books for a few weeks we will start including them in the count for the Harvey Bear prize.

Rotary Christmas Shoebox Collection

Once again we will be taking part in the Christmas Appeal from the Rotary Club.

We have noticed that the number of boxes being completed has been reducing over the last few years and this year the deadline from the Rotary Club is early. So, we feel that a more collaborative approach is the way forwards so that more people can be included without feeling overwhelmed.

Therefore, we are going to ask year groups for donations of certain items which will be collated in school by the School Voice children and then sorted ready to be sent.

Year Group	Donations
Year R	Toothbrush and toothpaste, pencils, notebook, warm hat, small toy car, small doll.
Year 1	Soap and flannel/sponge, crayons, colouring book, socks, bouncy ball, yo-yo, small building or construction set/toy
Year 2	Hairbrush, hair accessories, felt tip pens, picture book, gloves, small soft toy, skipping rope

Please donate something from the selection for your child's year group so that we get a selection of things to make the boxes exciting for the children receiving them.

Please make sure that your item will fit in a shoebox and please do not donate any food items, things that require batteries, liquids, war related items, medicines, large toys or clothing items or anything sharp.

Donation Dates- 22 September - 6 October 2026

Dates for your Diary

Updated dates
in blue

Date	Event
Wednesday 23 rd September	Friends – AGM, Oakley Infant School, Room 2, 7pm
Thursday 24 th September	Year R – Information evening – School Hall, 7pm
Thursday 1 st October	Harvest – donations to school
	Census – form to complete for food choices
Wednesday 7 th October	Individual Photographs
	School Nurse meetings, Room 2, 9am
Friday 9 th October	World Mental Health Day – add something yellow to your outfit
Thursday 15 th October	Friends – Movie night, 3:15pm
Monday 19 th October	Friends – Bake off and cake sale – Library – 3:15pm
Tuesday 20 th October – Thursday 22 nd October	Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday 20 th October	Parents Evening , 4pm – 6:30pm
Thursday 22 nd October	Parents Evening , 5pm – 7:30pm
Friday 23 rd October	INSET DAY – school closed to children
	END OF HALF TERM
26th - 30th October	Half term break