



Oakley Infant School



Newsletter
Autumn Term: Issue 5
7 Oct 2025



Strive, thrive and achieve together



Dear Parents,

A huge THANK YOU for your donations for the Basingstoke Food Bank during our Harvest week last week. Thank you to Mrs Mears who took the food over, she reports that we collected and donated 40kgs of food.

We are still collecting for the Christmas Rotary boxes and hope to start making the boxes up with the children later this week. If you would like to donate any items please hand to any teacher at the classroom door or the office.

Last Thursday night I attended the Friends AGM. This year the AGM served as an opportunity to celebrate the fundraising and events over the last year. It was also a time to say goodbye to the outgoing committee and I would like to say Thank You to Sarah Peltohaka, Sam Holt and Aideen Woods for their hard work on Friends over the last few years. Together they leave Friends in great shape.

I would like to welcome a new committee of faces led by Sammy Clacy with support from Clare Burden, Nicola Sherwood and Alexis Suckling. I am very grateful that you have stepped forward to carry the baton and I am looking forward to working with you this year. Everyone is a member of Friends, being part of the Oakley community, and I hope that you continue to support the efforts of the committee who give back to the school and the children.

This week is Mental Health week and Friends will be funding visits from Relax Kids and Silly Scott to complete fun sessions with the children.

Niamh Hutchings **Headteacher**



INSET Days 2025-2026

24 Oct 2025

5 Jan 2026

13 Feb 2026

26 June 2026

Article 28

A right to an education.

Open Afternoon- 10 October

On Friday 10 October we will holding the first Open Afternoon of the school year. This is an opportunity to come into school to complete activities with your child.

Unfortunately we do not have the space to accommodate siblings, either younger or older, but encourage one adult to come and join with each child. This does not need to be a parent and could be a grandparent, aunty, uncle or anyone your child would be glad to see.

We will open the school gates on the Year 1 and Office side of the school just before 2pm so that you can enter through the classroom door. If you have two children in the school we will make sure your older child is with the youngest so please go to your youngest child's classroom.

There will be no Celebration Assembly on 10 October.

Parents' Evening

Please make sure you have booked your parents' evening appointment on Arbor. There are still 53 children without appointments. Again if you are finding it difficult to book please come into the office so that they can assist you.

Reading

Last week Harvey, the reading bear, was won by Sycamore class. This means that Sycamore class had the highest number of children who read at least 4 times a week. Please remember to sign the reading diary each time you read at home so that your child counts in the count! When reading starts in Apple and Cherry class you will also be included in the Harvey Bear prize when you join celebration assembly.

Inset Day Cover

Please remember there is cover for the INSET day which is being provided by Active Me on 24 October. Please use the QR code on the poster to book a space.

Year R Information Evening

Thank you to the parents who attending last week's Information Evening for the new children in Year R. The details from the evening will be coming out to you with the newsletter. Of course there is no substitute for being there in person.

PE Swap Day

This week Year 1 and Year 2 will swap their PE days with Year 1 doing PE on Wednesday afternoon and Year 2 on Thursday afternoon. Please make sure earrings have been removed.

New Year R Intake- September 2026

Well, unbelievably it is that time of year again where we start to look towards the admissions process for Year R in September 2026. 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 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.

Cooking Money

Please continue to send in your child's cooking contribution so we are able to start purchasing ingredients so we can get going. We ask for a donation of £1 in a named envelope for the children to take part
Thank you.

Nearly New Uniform

Friends are looking for a new volunteer to take on nearly new uniform. If you are interested in supporting this, please contact Friends directly for further details.

Individual Photos

The children will all have their individual school photo taken on Wednesday 8 October during the school day. Please make sure they have a school jumper or cardigan with them.

If you have more than one child at the infant school they will also have a photo taken with their sibling. Unfortunately it is not practical to take photos of infants with junior siblings during the school day.

However, there is an opportunity to have sibling photos taken with children at the Junior school or with pre-school children before school on Wednesday 10 October.

The photographer should be ready from 8.15am. Please come into school via the Office for the photos to be taken in the hall before school starts.

Home Items in School

A gentle reminder that children should not bring items from home into school. There has been an influx of toys and other items making their way into school. Unfortunately these items are often lost, get dirty or break resulting in upset so please do not allow your child to bring things into school.

Friends Events

This half term there are two Friends events taking place; Movie Night and the Bake Off.

Movie Night

Movie Night will take place after school on Thursday 16 October. The children can stay after school to watch a movie with their friends ready to be collected at 5pm. This event can be paid for via Arbor.

Please make sure you have signed your child up by the end of the week so that Friends can make sure the correct shopping is done. So that the register is accurate booking can only be made via Arbor. Please ask at the office if you are struggling with the Arbor shop.

Bake Off- 20 October

Friends are running a Halloween Bake Off competition. There are prizes on offer for Spookiest treat, Most Creative and Future Star Baker. Please bring your entries into school on the morning of 20 October. Judging will take place during the day and you are invited to buy the competition entries after school on 20 October. There will be an opportunity to buy a tea or coffee to go with your cake. The sale will take place in the library and hall.

Raffle prizes

Friends have already started to think about the Christmas Fair. If you or anyone you know would be able to donate any raffle prizes for the Christmas Fair, Friends would love to hear from you.

If you work for a company who provide match funding, again Friends would love to hear from you and support the process with your employer.

Christmas Shopping

Later in the autumn term the children's Christmas shopping event will take place, If you are having a clear out over half term please consider donating anything that could be used as gifts for the children to purchase for parents, grandparents or siblings.

Bags 2 School- 13 October

Don't forget you can donate unwanted clothes and textiles for collection next Monday, 13 October.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
8 October	Deadline for Rotary Shoebox Collection Donations
8 October	Individual Photos and sibling photos- details will follow
10 October	Open Afternoon- Book Focus (NO CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY)
13 October	Bags 2 School collection – from 8-9am at the bottom of the school drive.
16 October	Movie Night
20 October	Bikeability- YR- details to follow
20 October	Friends Bake Off- details to follow
21 October	Book Fair in school- sale after school
21 and 23 October	Parents' Evening- appointments will follow via Arbor (Apple class will have separate arrangements)
24 October	INSET Day
27-31 October	Half Term
3 November	Start of new half term

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.

We do not need anything to be donated before 22 September so please have a think about what you would like to donate, there is no hurry.

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- 8 October 2025