



Oakley Infant School



Newsletter

Summer Term: Issue 11

08 July 2025



Strive, thrive and achieve together



Dear Parents,

At the end of last week the children had the opportunity to visit their new classrooms and meet the staff they will be working with in September. It was a successful afternoon with smiles on everybody's faces when I went to visit them all around the school. They all reported back to their current teachers enthusiastically about the time spent with their new teachers.

It is with enormous sadness that I inform you that we will be losing two long standing members of staff in the summer. Mrs Knight has decided to hang up her whistle on her teaching career after over 25 years in the education sector. As I am sure you are all very aware teaching has changed significantly particularly over the last 5 years and she has decided that this is the time for her to go and do something different. Mrs Knight has been part of the Oakley school community for 15 years, she came to help us plug a sickness gap all those years ago and never left! She has been an amazing and supportive colleague and we are all rather sad to see her go but wish her luck for her new chapter.

We will also bid farewell to Mrs Miller (Miss Saunders for those of you who have been with us for a while) who has also been a significant driving force in our school. In happier news she is relocating to Devon in the summer to be nearer to her family who all live there. Mrs Miller joined us as a newly qualified teacher and has been with us at Oakley for 8 years where we have seen her through a new baby and a wedding! She embraced the SENCo role a number of years ago gaining her masters as she studied the National Qualification for Special Educational Needs Coordination. As staff we cannot thank her enough for her support to our staff team but wish her well as she starts a very exciting new chapter with her family.

Niamh Hutchings Headteacher

INSET Days 2025-2026

3 Sept 2025

24 Oct 2025

5 Jan 2026

13 Feb 2026

26 June 2026

Further dates on final page

Article 28

A right to an education.



September 2025

As I am sure you have realised from your children there is going to be a bit of change in September as there are most years and with the changes to staff we have also taken the opportunity to have a bit of a change around. The teachers will be organised as follows-

Class	Teacher/s	Teaching Assistant/s
Apple	Miss Moody	Mrs Ware
Cherry	Miss Knight	Mrs Gosden and Mrs Chippett
Sycamore	Mrs Barrett	Mrs Robson
Hazel	Mrs Moss and Miss Fretwell	Mrs Meyer
Holly	Miss Milne	Miss Wheeler
Willow	Miss Fawcett	Mrs Crawford

New Year R

The Year R classes for September 2025 were also communicated by email on Friday evening. If you have not seen an email please check your junk folder. We have printed out some postcards and left them with the pre-school library so if you would like a physical copy please pick one up the next time you are in.

The eagle eyed among you will notice that Mrs Clarke is not in the class structure for September 2025 as she will be taking on the SENCo role alongside her Leadership role.

My secondment to Manor Infant School will continue into the autumn term in a reduced capacity. As the school moves towards a more sustainable leadership structure I will be supporting them in a transitional phase for two days during autumn 1 reducing to 1 day after October half term. This will make the arrangement more balanced for our school and for me personally.

Summer Event- Oak-Fest

A huge THANK YOU to those of you who helped make Oak-Fest a success on Saturday. It was reassuring that so many people answered my call for support and help on the day of the event.

As you know our school budget is not in great shape despite all efforts to try and close spending gaps it is an impossible task. So, fundraising via Friends, helps us to provide events and activities for the children in school to support the curriculum and ensure they do not miss out.

Over the next fortnight each year group will have a special visitor/s to enhance the curriculum starting with a visit from Rockpool School for Year R today, a Pirate workshop to enhance the Year 1 special day and a special end of infant school experience for the Year 2s during the final 2 days of school. Thanks to the fundraising efforts you all take part in these are fully financed by Friends and the staff team and I are very grateful for the support.

I will let you know the event total shortly.

That is the final event of the year hosted by Friends and I would like to extend my thanks to Sarah Peltohaka who has been steering the Friends ship for the last few years. Over this period of time she has been instrumental in raising a record breaking amount for the school, the most I have ever seen raised and this has been due to her tenacity and ambition to try a few new things and they have paid off. I know she has been assisted by a core group and as they prepare to step down, please be thinking about how Friends can continue to go from strength to strength in the Autumn.

Bags

Over the next week please provide a named bag for your child so that the staff can start to organise all their learning resources from the year ready to take home at the end of term.

Catering

Over many months I have been working with a group of schools in Basingstoke to procure a new catering company for our school. As you may know the funding for the Universal Free Infant Lunch does not match the price the school has to pay the current caterer so the school has to top this amount up significantly. As this is another pressure on the budget in the infant school we had to look for a better service. I am pleased to tell you that we have now completed the process and have appointed a company called ABM.

The timeline for changeover is tight but I am confident that they will be able to mobilise in time for September. I will now be working with them over the summer to ensure everything is in place.

If your child has an allergy I will be in touch shortly to ensure everything is in place, however while going through this process it was evident that most caterers now do not use the top 14 allergens in their ingredients so this should end most special menus as they will be included in the main menus.

Reading

Congratulations to Maple class who have smashed it this week with 80% of children reading at least 4 times a week which is more than double the number of children who read 4 times in Hazel class!

I will be unveiling the Reading Champions of 2024-2025 shortly but if you follow closely I think you may be able to guess the class who have run away with it.

As always thank you for supporting your children with home reading, I don't need to tell you that the most successful readers are the children who read consistently and often at home. Proficient reading then translates to good writing, spelling and even reasoning in maths.

W/C	Apple	Cherry	Sycamore	Maple	Willow	Hazel
30 June	66%	70%	75%	80%	56%	38%

Open Evening- 9 July 4-6.30pm

Tomorrow evening the school will be open for you to look at your child's books from the year in their current classroom, There is also an opportunity for your child to show you their new classroom at the same time. Please pop in at some time between 4-6.30pm.

End of Summer Term

This term ends on Tuesday 22 July at the usual time of 3.15pm.

Reports

Your child will be bringing home their annual report in their bookbag today. Please make sure you take a look. The Year 1 children will have the result of the phonic screening test they did in June and everyone will have an attendance report taken on 27 June.

School Readiness Workshop- 1 July

Thank you to the parents who attended the session last Tuesday evening. If you attended the evening please complete the feedback form for Suzanne.

Celebration Assemblies for the term

This week Celebration Assembly will be at 2.45pm and we will catch up on the celebrations we have missed over the last 2 weeks.

On Friday 18th July it will also be at 2.45pm.

There will be the final Celebration Assembly on the last day of term, 22 July, and it will take place after school drop off at **9.10am**. We will celebrate the birthdays that fall in the final week and in the holidays.

Ear Piercing

This is my annual reminder that if you are thinking of having your child's ears pierced this is the best time to do it, over the summer holidays.

Children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE and they must be removed either by the child or by the parent before school. As they take 6 weeks to heal if your child is still within the healing time they will not be able to take part in PE lessons.

In our vast experience we have found that even after 6 weeks of healing children are generally reluctant to remove earrings even with parent support so my advice would be wait until they are older.

If your child does wear earrings please make sure they are small and not of the hooped kind which can get caught when children are playing, they love to handstand, cartwheel and generally throw themselves around the Friends Trail so much better to do that safely and uninhibited.

Active Me

Wrap around care is open to book from September please use the link below to book your child's space

<https://bookings.activeme360.co.uk/project/56171>

Smartphone Free Childhood

There are two further parent workshops and I would recommend attending, I found it very interesting. By the time your children are old enough to own phones this will be policy at the local schools so worth finding out about the rationale. Please book using the links below:

Tuesday July 8th at 6:00 pm – [book online](#)

Wednesday July 16th at 7:30 pm – [book online](#)

Pirate Day- Year 1

Hopefully you have received your invitation to take part in all the fun of Pirate Day on 14 July. Please do not buy any special costume as it is always too hot for the bought pirate costumes, a pair of shorts is just fine! Message below-

In Year 1 we are about to start our final topic of the year – Pirates! On Monday 14th July, we will be holding our pirate day. Please make sure your child comes dressed for the occasion, but please do not feel the need to buy anything, shorts and T-shirts are fine.

Thank you for your help and support.

Date	Activity
8 July	Rock Pool School- Year R treat funded by Friends
9 July	Open Evening 4-6.30pm
14 July	Pirate Workshop - Year 1 treat funded by Friends
18 July	Year 2 Leaver's Assembly at 10am- all parents welcome for assembly and to stay for tea afterwards
21 July	Year 2 treat funded by Friends
22 July	Last day of term
23 July – 2 September	Summer Holidays
3 September	INSET Day- school closed to children

Library

After school on Thursday 10 July will be the last opportunity to visit the school library before the Summer holidays.

Oakley Village show

