



# Oakwood News

Respect, Believe, Achieve

March 2026

## End of Term Message

It's hard to believe we are two thirds of the way through this academic year. Although I can't deny it is a relief to finally be seeing some warmer, sunnier days after what feels like one of the wettest spring terms I can remember!



This half term has been a particularly short one, with only 5 weeks since the February half term break - but all the staff seem to agree that it's felt like one of the busiest too. We've had geography linked trips to Bolton's Bench for Year 3 and Southampton City Centre for Year 2, Year 1 visited Manor farm and of course we had our residential trip to Stubbington for Year 4. We also continue to visit the local multigenerational friendship club, 'Cuppas' with some of our Year 4 pupils every few weeks.



We've also had visitors in school - Jude and Theo (from Jude's ice-cream - yes, the very one!) came, as they have done for the past 9 years, to judge our Year 5 mini enterprise project presentations, Lordshill Church supported us with our Easter Service, and Open Box Theatre brought history to life for our Key Stage 1 children.



Visitors aren't limited to curriculum and enrichment opportunities for children, though. We welcome visitors to support us with our ongoing school improvement journey and to maintain positive links with the Local Authority. This half term alone, we had:

- A Governors week in school, where our Governors spend time in school to provide support and challenge;
- A visit from Donna Tandy, the new Director for Education for Southampton, as part of her work to get to know the schools she is going to be working with;
- A learning walk and follow up training from the Solent Maths Hub, who we work closely with to continually improve our maths provision and teaching across the school;
- A visit from the Local Authority School Improvement Officers, as part of our ongoing commitment to school improvement.

It's also been lovely to see some many families in school, both for our first Year Group assembly of the year (Year 4 treated us to a Roman extravaganza!), and for our Parents' Evenings too. Hopefully lots of you managed to find 5 minutes for our parent survey - if not, here is the QR code which takes you to a quick Google form.



Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us help your children to thrive!

Mrs Whitmarsh

## Gas works and KidzPlay update

The gas works continue, and should be complete by the time we return from the Easter break. We will continue to ask KidzPlay attendees to enter through the pedestrian gate by the main office, up the KS2 playground and through the external Rainbow Room door, from now onwards. This increases safety by avoiding having to walk through the carpark, and it also means that children can be dropped directly at the door to KidzPlay.

If you do ever need to walk through the carpark, please try to follow the designated paths and use the zebra crossing. If you need to collect your child during the school day for an appointment, please park in the road and use the pedestrian gate entrance. Thank you.

## Attendance and Punctuality Matters!

A big thank you for getting your children to school every day and on time. Our current attendance is **95.6%**, making us 11th out of 54 schools in the Local Authority and in the top 30-40% of schools nationally.

Punctuality is just as important, and regularly missing the beginning of the school day can be very unsettling. The missed minutes soon add up too:



If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality, please get in touch with Mrs Rogers who will be happy to help.

We now have our 2026 - 2027 Term Dates which are published on our website and can be found directly by clicking [this link](#).

### Summer Menu

City Catering will be rolling out their Summer Menu from 13 April onwards. You can find out more by clicking [here](#), or by visiting our website which has links to the menu both on the [home page](#) and also on the [school dinners](#) page.



School meals are **free** for children in Years R, 1 and 2 under the Universal Infant Free School meal scheme. However, if you think that your circumstances might also make you eligible for free school meals, even if your child is still only in EYFS or KS1, we urge you to [check and apply](#). This means more funding for the school, and also means that you may also be able to get support with things like school uniform. The checking process is quick, easy and confidential.

### Staffing Update

You may be aware that Alena Thomas, one of our admin assistants, is expecting a baby. She is leaving for her maternity leave on Friday 27 March. We wish her all the very best with her new arrival.

I'm pleased to let you know that, in the meantime, Gemma Apark will be taking on Alena's responsibilities. We have also welcomed Bharati Acharjee and Paula Evans to the lunchtime team. We are sure you will join us in giving them all a warm welcome to the Oakwood Team!

### Safeguarding

The protection of children is of the highest priority for Oakwood Primary School.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of **everyone**.

If you are worried or have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of anyone in school, please speak to one of the following people:

Becky Vanes - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Maria Whitmarsh - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Zita Rogers - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Becky Wilson - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Important Dates

### 2026 - 2027 Term Dates

Monday 30 March - Friday 10 April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 April	First day of Summer Term
Thursday 30 April	Year 4 Blashford Lakes Trip
Monday 4 May	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 May	Year 2 Hilliers Gardens
Wednesday 6 May	SEN Coffee afternoon with MHST (Introduction to Anxiety)
Monday 11 - Thursday 14 May	SATs week for Year 6
Tuesday 19 May	KS2 Sports Day (morning)
Wednesday 20 May	EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (morning)
Monday 25 - Friday 29 May	Half term
Friday 26 June	INSET day
Wednesday 22 July	Last day of term