



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan
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Oaklands Primary School

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Newsletter Friday 24th October 2025

Head Teacher's Message

A week has passed since the unrest at the school, caused by suspicions around the intentions of an unknown man seen walking near the school, and it feels like an appropriate time to reflect on events as a school community, especially as rumour and conjecture continue despite assurances from the police that there is no threat.

In the first instance, I would like to point out that those parents who raised initial concerns did exactly the right thing. I encourage any member of the community to let us know if something or someone causes suspicion around the school.

I would like to consider the way in which social media, particularly WhatsApp, was used to share information widely, without senders knowing it to be true, feeding into a sense of panic.

Many of you contacted the school to let us know about some of the content being shared, as you were concerned about its nature—that it was inflammatory and potentially dangerous.

Images of the man were taken and shared widely among the school community and further afield, with the clear intention of warning others. Sadly, many of the people who received these images will not have had access to the school communications keeping you informed, and so no doubt the information will have been further misrepresented.

The panic generated has also bled into school life, as I have had to speak very clearly to Year 6 this week about continuing to share untrue statements on their own social networks outside of school.

I would ask that everyone reconsiders the purpose of class WhatsApp groups. Over time, in some cases, they seem to have moved from being useful tools for sharing information to echo chambers for airing discontent and, in this case, panic.

This week, I held an assembly about sharing information in which the children were given three rules for checking whether they should share something. These are:

- Is it true? If you do not know something to be a fact, do not share it.
- Is it helpful? If what you want to share is fact, consider if it is helpful to share it and ask yourself what the intended outcome of sharing it is.
- Is it kind? If what you are sharing is unkind, consider if it needs to be sent at all.

Clearly, these rules are open to interpretation, especially by adults. However, as a rule of thumb, I think they would be a good way to reset expectations around class WhatsApp group communications.

Regarding site security, be assured that all entry points to the school are locked, any visitors must sign in and, if unknown to us (e.g., contractors), must provide ID. All visitors must wear visitor badges. Contractors are not left alone in areas where children are present. We have



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CCTV across the school. All staff must have enhanced criminal record checks. We are also in the process of auditing the site to ascertain where we can further strengthen security.

Some of you have asked about lockdown procedures. This is something we, and other local schools, are in the process of designing following the implementation of Martyn's Law. For more information, see [here](#). This will not become a statutory requirement for schools until April 2027; however, we plan to have a process agreed by the end of the Autumn Term.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that reporting something or someone that causes suspicion is always the right course of action; this should then be followed by allowing the school and any other external agencies, such as the police, to carry out whatever actions are deemed appropriate given the situation.

Thank you.

Class News – follow the links below to find out what has been happening in your children's classes. For Hazel class see Tapestry updates.

[Willow](#)

[Pine](#)

[Birch](#)

[Sycamore](#)

[Hawthorne](#)

[Oak](#)

Note from the Eco Committee

The current Eco Committee had a brief catch-up last week to review what we accomplished throughout the 2024/25 academic year and to share their own personal highlights. We condensed all these achievements into an assembly, which we presented to the children of Key Stage 2 this afternoon to inspire the next Eco Committee.

Children who would like to be part of the Eco Committee have been invited to apply, considering the following points:

Why would you like to become a member of our school's Eco Committee?

Why do you think you would be a good choice for our school's Eco Committee?

Briefly explain one idea you have for making our school more environmentally friendly.

Children who wish to be considered for the Eco Committee will have the chance to present themselves and their ideas to their class during the week we return after half term. Each class will elect 2 children to be part of the 2025/26 Eco Committee by Friday 7th November.

Battery Count

We are continuing to collect batteries for recycling and have already collected 216! Please remember that we are unable to recycle flat batteries such as those found in watches.

Travel Plan

We successfully retained a Good Travel Plan for 2024/25 from Modeshift Stars.

Walking Bus



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The Walking Bus will continue on Mondays as long as there is enough safe space to meet. We have already had an average of 22 children participating this half term, including some from Hazel Class.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

It was lovely to see so many grown-ups at our Parent Stay and Play, and we really appreciate all the generous donations that continue to come in. So far this term, we have introduced some big bean bags, Duplo, foam interconnecting road plates with cars, and the Oaklands Outside Office returned for a week. We have also offered crafts connected to Diwali and Halloween.

Reminders

- When we return from half-term, there will be a slight change to how we manage pick-up time. Rather than opening the vehicle gates onto the playground, we will only open the side gate. This will slow the exit time; however, it will allow staff on the gate to better safeguard children as they leave the school, ensuring younger ones are with their adults. We will review this after a couple of weeks.
- As the weather begins to turn, please ensure your child has wellies, a coat and a change of clothes in school to fully enjoy outdoor play in all conditions.
- Lost property is now located outside the main reception area in an outdoor storage cupboard. It is clearly marked and is not locked.
- Next to the lost property is a wheelie bin for pre-loved uniform donations.

Upcoming diary dates

Half term: 27th - 31st October	
Monday 3rd November	INSET school closed to pupils
Tuesday 4th November	Children return to school Flu vaccinations for children
Tuesday 11th November	Parents Evening: 15:30 - 18:00
Thursday 13th November	Parents Evening: 16:00 - 19:00
Friday 14th November	Children in Need
Thursday 20th November	Year 6 Tag Rugby @ Monks Walk 13:00-15:00
Friday 21st November	PTA Christmas Jumper shop
Thursday 27th November	Year 3 Football Festival @ Monks Walk 9:30-11:30
Friday 28th November	Year 6 class assembly
Monday 1st December	Flu vaccinations for children



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Friday 5th December	Year 4 class assembly
Saturday 6th December	PTA Parent's Christmas Quiz
Thursday 11th December	Whole school Panto trip - Gordon Craig Theatre
Wednesday 17th December	Whole school Christmas lunch day and Christmas jumper day
Thursday 18th December	Reception nativity 9:00 - 10:00 PTA Christmas event - after school
Friday 19th December	Whole school Christmas sing-a-long @ 13:30 End of term 14:00