



Headteacher: Mr T Hassan
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S Morgan

Oaklands Primary School

Great North Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 OPX

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Newsletter September 26th, 2026

Head Teacher's Message

It has been a very successful and positive start to the academic year. It has been wonderful to welcome our new Reception children and their families to Oaklands, alongside pupils who have joined us through in-year admissions. We are also delighted to welcome our new members of staff, who have already made a valuable contribution to school life. The children have settled quickly into their new classes and have approached the term with enthusiasm, confidence and a real readiness to learn.

We have already enjoyed some notable events and achievements. Year 6 did a fantastic job of organising and running our Macmillan Coffee Morning, which was very well attended by families and members of our school community. We are extremely proud of the maturity, teamwork and hospitality shown by the children, and we will share the total amount raised very soon.

Congratulations also go to our Year 6 basketball team, who won their competition at Monks Walk School and have qualified for the District Finals—an excellent achievement!

Exciting news about school meals

After careful consideration, we are delighted to share that Oaklands will be moving from HCL to Apetito as our school meals provider from January. This marks an exciting new chapter for our school, and we look forward to working in partnership with a company committed to providing nutritious, high-quality meals for children. As part of our decision-making process, I visited another Hertfordshire school that already uses Apetito. Seeing the quality and variety of the meals, the smooth running of the service and the positive response from pupils gave us great confidence that this is the right choice for Oaklands.

Our governors also attended a tasting session and presentation, giving them the opportunity to sample the food, ask questions and play an active part in the decision-making process.

We are particularly excited by the range of meal options available and the opportunity for children to enjoy healthy, balanced lunches that are both delicious and nutritious. To support the launch, Apetito will provide samples for families to taste at our Parent Consultation Meetings in November. We warmly encourage parents and carers to come along with their children, try some of the dishes, learn more about the new menu and share their feedback with us.

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](#) [Maple](#)



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Attendance

Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that children of compulsory school age receive a suitable full-time education. Where attendance begins to cause concern, the school will work with families to understand any barriers and offer support as early as possible.

When must a Fixed Penalty Notice be considered? Under the national framework, the school and local authority must consider a Fixed Penalty Notice when a child has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling period of 10 school weeks. Ten sessions are usually equal to five school days. The sessions may be consecutive, such as an unauthorised term-time holiday, or may build up through repeated absence. Reaching the threshold does not mean that a fine is automatic: each case must be considered individually, including whether suitable support has been offered and whether a notice is appropriate.

What may be considered exceptional? The DfE does not provide a fixed list; the headteacher must consider each request individually. Exceptional circumstances are normally rare, significant and unavoidable. Depending on the facts and evidence provided, examples might include a serious family emergency, the funeral of a close family member, or a sudden crisis that requires the child to be absent. Where possible, leave must be requested in advance.

What is not normally exceptional? Term-time holidays, cheaper travel, work commitments, birthdays, family celebrations, visiting relatives, extending a weekend or school holiday, and travel arrangements are not normally considered exceptional circumstances. Illness and necessary medical or dental appointments may be authorised under the relevant attendance rules. Routine appointments should be arranged outside school hours wherever possible, however we understand this can be challenging.

Note from the office

School Census Day – Thursday 1st October

Next Thursday, the school will complete the October census. On census day, we record which children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a school lunch. This information is used by the Department for Education when calculating the funding the school receives for universal infant free school meals. In simple terms, each eligible meal recorded helps to secure funding for our school meals provision. We therefore encourage all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to enjoy a free school dinner on Thursday 1st October, even if they usually bring a packed lunch. Thank you for your support.

Eco Note

We received our new certificate, plaque and Eco-Schools flag in recognition of the hard work undertaken at Oaklands to make our school as environmentally friendly as possible. The flag is proudly flying once more!

June and July saw a significant increase in the number of batteries collected for recycling, with a total of 582 across the two months. Thank you to Miss Bayford for transporting the batteries to the recycling point.

Litter-picking equipment is now available to borrow and is located next to lost property. Litter pickers and hoops are ready for action and will be available throughout the year, free of charge. All you need to provide is your own bin bags. The equipment has already been used by pupils to improve the surrounding areas. It was lovely to see pictures of the children and their families enjoying looking after our world. Well done!



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OPAL

The OPAL Stay and Play session was a great success. Thank you to everyone who was able to join in the morning's celebrations. It was lovely to see parents interacting with their children and friends, with no screens in sight. The joy of simply having space to run around, along with bushes, bubbles, a little chalk, or a few crates and wheels to spark the imagination, was wonderful to see.

Upcoming Autumn Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 1st October	Reception parent phonics information session 14:30 - 15:10
Friday 2nd October	PTA Non-uniform day
Monday 5th October - Friday 16th October	SEN Review meetings
Friday 9th October	PTA Halloween costume shop
Friday 16th October	Year 4 Class assembly at 9am
Monday 19th October - Friday 23rd October	Mental health and wellbeing week
Wednesday 21st October	Pret a Portrait - individual and sibling photos
Friday 23rd October	Year 6 class assembly at 9am
Half term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October	
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school
Wednesday 4th November	Year 1 and 2 Parents reading meeting 14:30 - 15:10
Monday 9th November	Flu vaccinations AM
Tuesday 10th November	Parents Evening: 15:30 - 18:00
Thursday 12th November	Parents Evening: 16:00 - 19:00
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Friday 20th November	Year 5 class assembly at 9am PTA Christmas Jumper shop
Friday 27th November	Year 3 class assembly at 9am
Thursday 10th December	Christmas jumper Day
Friday 11th December	Reception nativity 9:00 - 9:30am



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Monday 14th December	Whole school Panto trip - Gordon Craig Theatre
Thursday 17th December	PTA Christmas event - after school
Friday 18th December	Whole school Christmas sing-a-long @ 13:30 End of term 14:00