Oaklands Primary School
Great North Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 OPX
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Headteacher: Mr T Hassan
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S Morgan

Newsletter November 20th 2026

Head Teacher's Message

At Oaklands, we receive regular visits from our School Effectiveness Advisor (SEA), who spends time in school looking at children's learning, wellbeing and wider experiences. Our latest visit, on 6th November, highlighted many positive aspects of life at Oaklands.

The report highlighted examples of well-organised learning spaces, clear explanations and opportunities for children to discuss and explain their thinking. In Early Years, it recognised inviting activities supporting early writing and thoughtfully chosen resources helping children with different needs to learn independently.

The visit also highlighted trips, clubs and visitors, alongside opportunities for children to take responsibility through roles such as Reading Champions, Digital Leaders and the Eco Council. Sporting opportunities included competitive events and inclusive activities for children with special educational needs and disabilities. It was particularly heartening that children spoke positively about school and that staff emphasised children's mental health, happiness and sense of safety.

Thank you to our whole school community for helping to make Oaklands a welcoming place to learn.

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

Williow Pine Birch Sycamore Hawthorne Oak Maple Eco-Council

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

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rules. Routine appointments should be arranged outside school hours wherever possible, however we understand this can be challenging.

Upcoming Autumn Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
Friday 27th November	Year 3 class assembly at 9am
Friday 27th November	Choir attending Welwyn Christmas Light Switch on in St Marys Church Welwyn 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Thursday 10th December	Christmas jumper Day
Friday 11th December	Reception nativity 9:00 - 9:30am
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