



SEPTEMBER 2024

News Hub

Update from Senior Leadership

I hope you all had a great Summer break. It was fantastic to see the smiling faces at the start of term, as we welcomed back our current students and said hello to all our new pupils, parents and staff who joined our Oak Tree community this year.

The start of term has been met with a high level of energy and enthusiasm. All the new faces have been a welcomed addition and are already contributing to the rich culture within our school.

I am confident that the positive and energetic start that pupils and staff have made will be carried through the year and I look forward to updating you on all the activities and positive contributions from the Oak tree Community.

Mal

We had a very successful cake sale last week, which raised over £200 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone for your donations for this amazing charity.



As we settle into the new school year for only the second time, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic start we've had here at Oak Tree School. It has been a period of growth and positive change, and I am happy to share some exciting updates with you.

A Growing Community

This year, we have doubled in the number of students attending Oak Tree School. It's been truly wonderful to welcome so many new faces into our community, and we have been impressed with how quickly everyone has settled into the new setting and routine. The staff and I are delighted to see the positive energy that comes with such growth.

Building Relationships

It has been heart-warming to see our new students forming meaningful relationships already, not only with our staff but also with their peers. These connections are vital to the nurturing, supportive environment we pride ourselves on at Oak Tree, and it's clear that the students are feeling secure and valued in their new surroundings.

Open Evening

This week, we hosted our first Open Evening of the year, which was a fantastic opportunity to meet prospective families as we prepare for another exciting increase in capacity next September. Thank you to everyone who attended, and we look forward to continuing our growth in the coming months.

Jeans for Genes Day

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to Jeans for Genes Day last week. Your generous donations will go a long way in supporting children with genetic disorders. We raised £111.72 for the cause! So thank you all for your donations.

Once again, thank you for your cooperation and commitment to Oak Tree School. We are excited for what the rest of the year will bring and look forward to continuing this journey together.

Gregg

OAK TREE
SCHOOL

WWW.OAKTREESCHOOL.ORG



0118 216 0040



OTS@MAIDENERLEGHTRUST.ORG

Primary Update

Maple Class

Over the past few weeks, Maple Class has been exploring ancient civilizations through both English and art. In art, they created pyramids using sand and glue to explore various textures. In Maths, the class has been working on counting skills by using number sentences and concrete resources like number lines, bean bags and cubes. During cooking, they practiced spreading by making sandwiches with strawberry jam and butter. Lastly, Maple Class has been developing their sharing and turn-taking skills through structured play activities.

Cherry Class:

Cherry class have settled in well to their routines, getting to know their new adults and children in their class! We started by reading our sensory story 'Zoom to the Moon', where we bounced up and down on a trampoline like we were on the moon. We have investigated different environmental and instrumental sounds in phonics.

Cherry class have taken part in lots of sensory and messy play with paint, cornflour, shaving foam and coloured ice cubes. The pupils took part in cooking for our physical development lesson baking some delicious cookies!

Birch Class:

Birch class have settled back into school well. We have got to know the new faces in the class, and welcomed the new faces we have seen around the school. We have been taking weekly trips to Poppie's Farm, exploring how animals live on a farm and feeding them. We have seen sheep, goats, pigs and quail. In school we have been exploring Ancient Civilisations, first looking at the Stone Age and then Ancient Egypt. Well done Birch class!

Palm Class:

Palm class have been able to settle well into a good routine through the school day, in maths we have been exploring shape and the children have enjoyed completing mark making and other activities centred around this. Some of us have been exploring sentence building in literacy and others have been building their recognition of sounds. We have also enjoyed exploring different books during our quiet times.

Pine Class

Pine Class have settled in brilliantly to their new setting and are forming positive relationships with the class team. The children have been hands on with their learning, exploring a range of sensory and messy play opportunities. They have delved into tubs of Gellibaff searching for keys and locks, created block structures using 'cement' and painted 'puff paint' pictures centred around our termly theme - space. As well as this, the children have engaged positively with peers in outside play, began learning about different job roles in the community and started learning elements of road safety in preparation for future outings. More recently, the children have started transitioning into phonics groups, matched to their ability - they have been following their stage appropriate Read Write Inc sessions and have immersed themselves fully. We look forward to all of the fun in weeks to come!

Beech Class:

It has been wonderful to get to know the children in Beech class over the last few weeks. We have been busy with getting into our new routine and learning new things with each other. We have been learning about Ancient Civilisations, looking at the Stone Age and the Ancient Egyptians so far. The children have enjoyed creating Stone Age cave drawings and Ancient Greek mosaics, alongside key life skills such as tying our shoelaces and the importance of washing our hands. We have been working hard on acknowledging our feelings around the change of a new class and a new school, and the children have been responding well and talking when they need it. We are so happy in Beech class to see the children begin to feel safe and comfortable within the classroom and cannot wait to see what the next academic year holds!

Rowan Class:

Rowan Class has had a brilliant start to the year! We have been exploring our first topic, space! We have experienced lots of space themed textures, sounds and experiences during our sensory story 'Zoom to the Moon'. This included pretending to jump on the moon! In maths, we have just begun our next topic, measure. This week we have been identifying different capacities using water play. The children showed their creative skills and worked together as a class team to create a huge rocket painting and decorate colourful space theme biscuits.

Pictures Shared From Primary Around the School



Pictures Shared From Secondary Around the School



Secondary Update

7V

Year 7 students have adapted to Oak Tree quite well. Writing directions and compelling newspaper articles are among the skills we have mastered so far in English. Mathematical sequences and the term-to-term rule have been our main areas of focus within maths. During our lessons on community visits, we have covered safe crossing techniques and things to watch out for while venturing outside.

Friendships between Year 7 students and their classmates are starting to form. As we investigate the various types of forces and engage in the hands-on activities, 7V is thoroughly enjoying science. I'm happy to report that 7V is making excellent development so far.

8L

8L have returned to school with a bang and I have been so impressed with how quickly they have settled back into the school routine and how keenly they are applying themselves in lessons. In English, we have been reading 'Stone Age Boy' and learning how to use command words to write instructions and time conjunctions to add detail to our sentences; I have seen evidence of some beautiful handwriting! We have welcomed back external theatre company 'Make Sense Theatre' who have been coming in on Thursdays to play some fun drama games with us.

We have been preparing for our upcoming community visits this year by discussing how people help us in the community and what our rights are in the community. All in all, a really successful first few weeks!

8G

This term 8G have been settling in to secondary school life. They have managed transitioning between lessons extremely well as well as having different teachers. The class are becoming more independent as the weeks go by and they are taking more responsibility for being in the right place at the right time. During our community visit lessons, we have been looking at being active citizens. It was great to see the class going around the school and tidying up in order to improve the school community.

8H

8H has had an excellent start to the term, settling in smoothly and transitioning well between lessons. Timetabled sessions have been going well, with students staying focused and actively engaging in each class. They've also begun forming positive friendships with one another and building trusting relationships with the class team. Additionally, we've introduced a focus on the Oak Tree values, with a new value highlighted each week, encouraging students to demonstrate it throughout their daily activities.

8R

8R have settled back into their school routine well since returning from the summer break. They have embraced the new timetabled lessons and transition well around the building. We have enjoyed getting to know each other and working together to solve problems during tutor sessions. All students have responded well to any reflective conversations and taken ownership for their learning and behaviour.

Pictures Shared From Primary Around the School

Pictures Shared From Secondary Around the School



PE

All secondary students have made a fantastic start to the PE curriculum. We have begun a unit of multi skills and fundamentals in a variation of different sports. We have focused on agility and team work in conditioned games and explored different methods of communication. Students have excelled in adopting the conditioned rules of Handball in most recent lessons and have made huge progress.

A reminder for all students to bring a full PE kit into school to change into and a roll on deodorant. Students will wash their PE kit weekly in their life skills lessons.

Computing - Year 7

The focus of computing this half term is to explore how music can make us think and feel. We have been exploring patterns and using those patterns to make music with both percussion instruments and digital tools. We will also create different rhythms and tunes and will share our creations and compare creating music digitally and non-digitally.

Computing - Year 8

In Year 8, we will be developing our understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes, and outputs. We will also compare digital and non-digital devices. Next, we will be introduced to computer networks, including devices that make up a network's infrastructure, such as wireless access points and switches. Finally, we will discover the benefits of connecting devices in a network.





Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this new school year.

I would like to welcome you back to Oak Tree after the summer break. And a big, warm welcome to all our new Oak Tree families.

It's been a busy start to the new term. The students in school are settling well into their classes. They are engaged in their learning and are enjoying the school day.

Thank you for your continued support with transitions at drop off time in the mornings and pick up time in the afternoon. We appreciate your patience and support with this new way of doing things.

Website

We have recently updated the Family support page on the school website. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Details can be found here: [Oak Tree School - OUR FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER](#)

Save the dates!

Reminders of upcoming events at Oak Tree School:

Tuesday 1st October 9:30-10:30 coffee morning for year 4 & 6 parents

Tuesday 8th October 9:30-10:30 coffee morning for year 7 & 8 parents

Please confirm your attendance by email t.crandon@maidenerlegghtrust.org

We had our first coffee morning with parents of children in years 1,2 & 3 on Tuesday 24th. It was well attended with Pam Breslin from ASSIST joining us to talk about the support ASSIST can offer parents and their children.

My working days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30am-4pm.

You can get in touch by phone 0118 216 0040 or by email

t.crandon@maidenerlegghtrust.org

Teresa Crandon
Family support worker





Activities / Helpful links available :

What's on!

A parent of one of our students in year 8 has shared the following information about a youth club 'ASSIST' in Wokingham run. It is aimed at autistic 12yrs + young people, it is based in Woodley it runs once a month.

Parents of 12+ students will be able to speak to a member of the ASSIST team about the club at our secondary parent's coffee morning on 8th October.

Camp Mohawk: day centre for children with special needs

Camp Mohawk is primarily open to families in school holidays and on Saturdays in term time, with our Short Breaks service taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school in term time.

Groups and schools are welcome to contact us to make term time bookings.

Please get in touch or see our online [calendar](#) for details.

The RAFT Club (Reading Autism Families Together)

2nd & 4th Saturday of the month

Cost of living support-Reading

Please follow the link for cost-of-living support if you are a family living in Reading

[Money Matters: cost of living advice and support - Reading Borough Council](#)

Cost of living support-Bracknell

Please follow the link for cost-of-living support if you are a family living in Bracknell

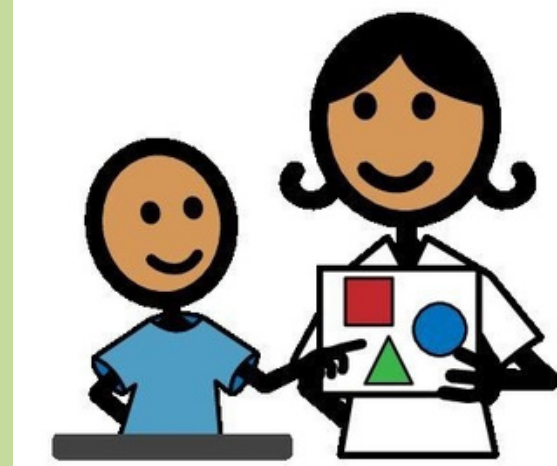
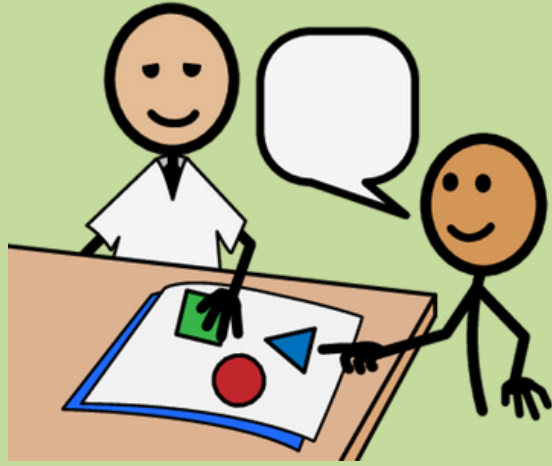
[Cost of living support | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#)

CAN network

<https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=yMqtWsyMkuE>



Speech & Language Update



Dear Parents/Carers,

How exciting it is to be back! With the school doubling in size, the therapy team has been very busy.

With the beginning of this new school year, our therapy team has expanded. It is my pleasure to welcome Maddison Winspur (SaLT), Juliana Barros Carvalho (OT) and Lucy White (OT - 2 days a week) to the team and it is great to have them on board to be able to offer an even more comprehensive therapy provision at Oak Tree School.

This year we will be offering a 'Welcome to the Therapy Team' talk via TEAMS on Thursday the 17th of October from 4-5pm. During this talk, we will explain how the therapy team works at Oak Tree School and what we do to support your child to continue to achieve all they can. An invite will be sent out on Monday. Whilst we won't be answering specific questions about individual children's specific input, we will be talking about the provision as a whole. If you have any questions or information you'd like to know, please do ask and we will ensure this is part of the talk.

From Speech and Language Therapy, new starter assessments are now underway to ensure we identify the strengths and needs of our students. SaLT new starter reports will be with you by either the date of your child's annual Review or by the end of autumn 2, whichever date is earliest. We have conducted our first Communication Friendly Audit and are providing a high level of in-class help to ensure all of our students are receiving the right support to enable their communication to flourish. From Occupational Therapy, all students are being screened to identify any potential needs. We are undertaking a review of all the equipment in classes and are ordering more equipment, such as handwriting, sensory and self-regulation tools, in order to ensure all students are able to positively engage in their learning.

We look forward to continue working closely with all families this year and supporting your children to develop in both their communication and occupational performance.

We encourage you to contact us should you have any queries or concerns about your child's therapy provision. We are really excited to support you and your child's journey during their time at Oak Tree School.

Best wishes,
Chloe, Maddie & Juliana



www.oaktreeschool.org



0118 216 0040



OTS@maidenerlegtrust.org

ASD Family Help

For neurodiverse children
aged 5 to 18 years
in Finchampstead

Monday's 6-7pm
£4 per session

SPORTS CLUB

Active fun and games in a
supportive and inclusive
environment!

Contact us to
apply for a
space!

Children must
be able to
access the
session within
a ratio of 1
adult to 8
children



ASD Family Help

For neurodiverse children
aged 8 to 13 years
in Wokingham

4th Wednesday each
month 5pm to 6pm
£4 per session

FOOTBALL CLUB

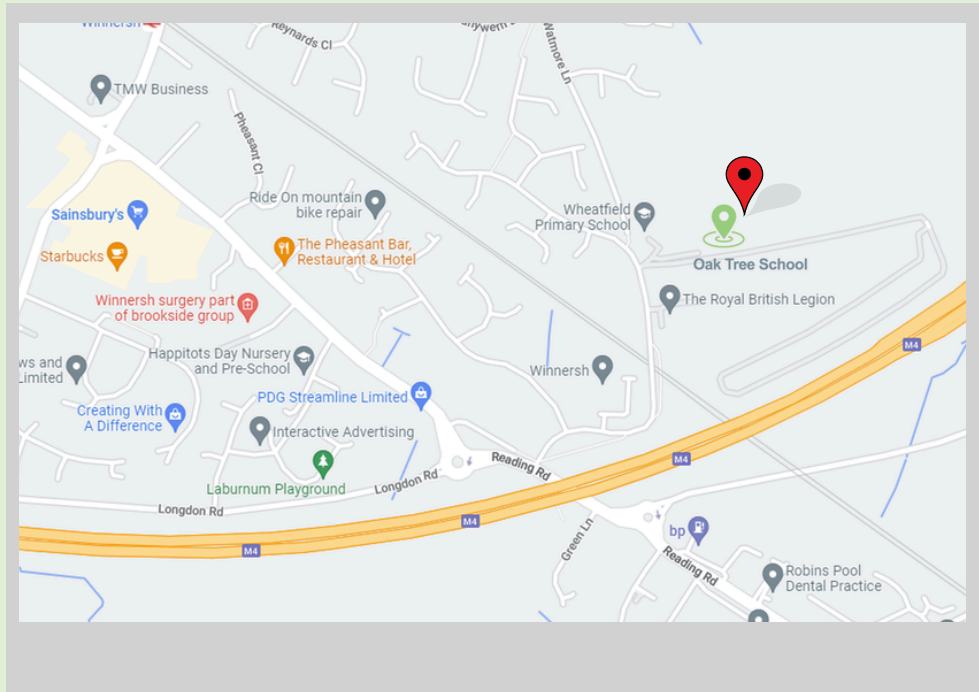
Football fun and games
in a supportive and
inclusive environment!

Apply for a space
here:
[www.tinyurl.com/
ASDFHFootball](http://www.tinyurl.com/ASDFHFootball)

Children must be able to
access the session within
a ratio of 1 adult to 8
children



Where to find us?



 @Oak Tree School

 @OakTreeSchool1

 @MaidenErleghTrust

 @MaidenErleghTrust

Social Media

If you would like to keep up to date with the progress being made at Oak Tree School, follow us on...

Oak Tree School
Woodward Close,
Winnersh, RG41 5LP



www.oaktreeschool.org



0118 216 0040



OTS@maidenerleghtrust.org

School Advisory Board annual update

September 2023 saw Oak Tree School opening with its brand-new facilities. The staff recruited from a variety of settings gelled together under the excellent leadership of Headteacher Abi Davis so that tailored courses for the different year groups were established for the intake of 52 students. Now our second year's student intake has started to settle in and the additional 36 staff are fitting into the established approach of meeting the diverse needs of different students. The excellent reputation being created by the school has meant that it is fully staffed.

The School Advisory Board has also been established. Its role is to monitor the progress being achieved in the variety of learning pathways for the different year groups as well as how important aspects like attendance and behaviour are managed. The school has, with a high level of parental support, achieved an exceptionally high level of attendance. Besides meeting formally once a term, the SAB meets informally, attends school events and is starting a series of visits. There are individual SAB members who take a particular interest in Safeguarding, SEND and Educational Provision. The SAB reports to the Maiden Erlegh Trust Board, like the other 8 schools within our Trust.

The Board much appreciates the support the staff receive from parents and is keen to increase links with the community so students can benefit from activities outside school. More information about the SAB can be found on the school website.

Mike Bellamy (Chair of the School Advisory Board)

SEN sessions

at Arborfield Green Leisure Centre

To ensure suitability for SEN participants, we have adapted our sessions and reduced capacity to create safe, quiet spaces to have fun!

SEN session information:



SEN Active Play & Bounce

Try our new SEN inclusive Active Play session. A fantastic way for your child to keep active, whilst having fun! This session includes play equipment, soft play & a bouncy castle

Fridays 5.00pm - 6.00pm

[Click here to find out more](#)



SEN Gym session

This session is not exclusive to SEN users, but during this hour the music will be turned off, and our team will monitor session to ensure the environment is friendly for all users

Fridays 4.00pm - 5.00pm

[Click here to find out more](#)

Additional details:

During both of these sessions, from 4.00pm - 6.00pm, Studio 2 will be available for all SEN families to use as a quiet space. We welcome you to use this quiet space to read books, crafts or however you see fit

[Click here to learn more about
Arborfield Green Leisure Centre](#)