

News Hub



OCTOBER 2024

Update from Senior Leadership

We have had an amazing first half term at OTS, the energy and enthusiasm has been relentless throughout from both staff and pupils.

I would like to give my thanks to all the staff and pupils and to the parents and carers who have supported us, trusted us and started or continued your journey with us.

It has been a joy to see happy pupils everyday, achieving and meeting challenges and growing with us. The sense of community and belonging was captured on the last day with the efforts and involvement with our Halloween day which pupils felt happy and confident to engage and contribute to.

We wish the best to staff leaving us and thank them for their commitment to the school and the determination to make sure your child has the very best access to education.

On behalf of Oak Tree School, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable Half term and we look forward to seeing you all on the 6th November for the new term.

Regards,
Mal

October has been a truly lively month at Oak Tree School, filled with connections, celebrations, and a lot of fun!

Community

Our Parent Coffee Mornings kicked things off brilliantly, giving parents and staff a chance to relax and chat, building those all-important community ties. The Harvest Festival was a highlight, too, with inspiring an guest speaker sharing what this season is all about – gratitude, growth, and togetherness. World Mental Health Day saw everyone coming together to focus on kindness and looking after each other as well as raising £90 for Young Minds!

Police Visit

Students were buzzing with excitement when the local Police came by for a visit. They loved getting a peek inside the police van and had a great time chatting with the officers, who were so generous with their time.

School Photos

Our first Oak Tree School Photos were a hit – it was lovely to capture all those smiles and memories.

Halloween

We ended the half-term on a spooky high with a Halloween Day packed full of costumes, games, and laughter. What a fantastic October!

Parents Evening

When we return in November, we will be having Parents Evening which will run across two days - 11th and 14th November. Your child's class teacher will be in contact with all you to arrange a date and timeslot.

Have a wonderful break half term break!
Gregg, Cass, Emma & Kerri

Maple Class

This month, Maple Class has been exploring various materials in science, including metals, plastics, and wood. They also went on a rock hunt in the primary playground, where they identified rocks based on size and texture, noting which were big, small, smooth, and rough. The students had the exciting opportunity to enter a police car and ask officers numerous questions. Continuing with our theme on ancient civilizations, they created pyramids out of sand. To conclude our first half term leading up to Halloween, Maple Class designed their own pumpkins and learned how to scoop them out.

Birch Class:

We have been looking at Ancient Greek monsters in the lead up to Halloween. We have worked hard on describing and using adjectives. In the end we made our own monsters and described them with the same adjectives. After this we wrote sentences about monsters! In Art we have also made sculptures using white clay, just like in Ancient Greece and then painted them! We will take them home before half term. In Cooking we have been practicing making preferred snacks such as sandwiches, hot chocolates and milkshakes.

Yum yum!

Pine Class

Pine Class have been working on their social and communication skills, practising lots of role play, simulating the experience of going shopping, posting and delivering letters, and going on a train journey to Wokingham. In addition, we practised sitting in the minibus and crossing the road. This is all in preparation for our community visits which will commence after the half term. As well as this, we have been practising our fine motor skills daily, learning to pinch, grip and roll. In maths, we have been working on place value, concentrating on the concept of one more and one less, as well as representing the numbers using concrete resources and pictorials. Lastly, we have concluded a great half term with a week of Halloween fun. The children have loved exploring pumpkins, making split pin skeletons and playing Halloween games. Have an amazing half term!

Cherry Class:

October has been a busy month for Cherry class. We have made lots of progress with our circle time and have increased our participation in lessons. We have read our new sensory story 'The Smeds and the Smoos'. The children particularly enjoyed splashing around in the pink milk, just like The Smeds. In PSHE, we have been learning how to play alongside each other with the support of an adult. Cherry class have been using Proloquo2go to communicate their needs in a lesson. We have been choosing which fruits to cut using a knife. With the police visiting us recently, the children seemed to really enjoy sitting in the back of the police car. In the last week of term, we have been taking part in some Halloween activities, such as painting ghosts and decorating some yummy Halloween cakes.

Pictures Shared From Primary Around the School



Pictures Shared From Secondary Around the School



Beech Class:

Beech class have had a really good first half term and I cannot believe how quickly it has gone! The children have continued with their Ancient Civilisations topic, where we have looked at Ancient Rome and the Ancient Egyptians. We have had lots of cross-curricular links, including PE, where we trained like a Roman soldier, and Science, where we mummified a tomato! We have been looking at addition and subtraction in Maths, and the children have showed brilliant growth mindset as we have touched on more abstract concepts such as borrowing and exchanging with column method. In English, we have continued to look at traditional tales, this time looking at rewriting 'The Magic Porridge Pot'. The children have also loved our cooking over the last couple of weeks, where we have been creating Halloween-themed treats, such as jelly cups and Halloween pizza! The children were also surprised with a visit from the police and the children loved going in the van and trying on their jackets!

Have a wonderful half term break everyone!

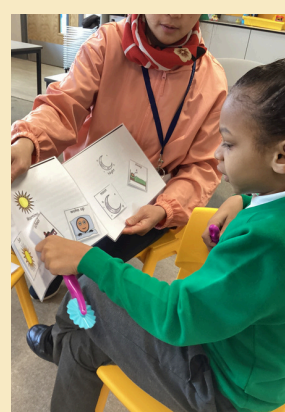
Rowan Class:

In Rowan Class this month, we have continued to explore our space theme! We began a new sensory story 'The Smeds and the Smoos'. We have practiced using the communication devices to describe the colours, shapes and features of the aliens in the story. In maths, we have been practicing our counting and number formation. In our life skills lessons, we have been practicing our independent skills. This has included teeth brushing and hand washing. In our cooking lessons, we used pouring, mixing and sprinkling skills to create spooky, Halloween theme, monster cornflake cakes. We have practiced our teamwork skills during our PE lessons, whilst playing parachute games. Rowan class have learnt the rules of the 'popcorn game', working together to shake all the foam balls off the parachute before the countdown ends!

Palm Class:

The last few weeks palm class have been able to engage really well in their maths and literacy. Some have been working on matching symbols and others have been constructing sentences using colourful semantics. The class have also been working on their sharing of space and objects and have been doing well in this. We also had an exciting police visit this half term and some of the children were able to wear the police uniform and explore the car they drive, all seemed to enjoy this very much!

Pictures Shared From Primary Around the School

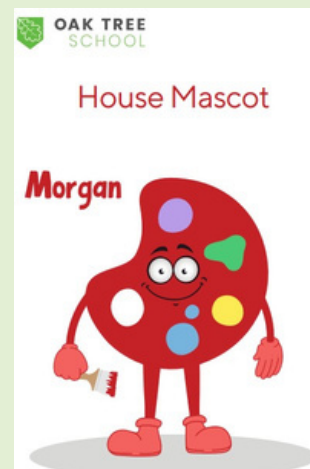


Pictures Shared From Primary Around the School



PE - Students have now completed their unit of multi skills and have worked on a range of fundamental skills and applied these into a variety of game play situations. We will continue to develop these in more detailed units as we move through the year. Students have been set a challenge to participate in something active over the half term break at least once (e.g. going for a walk, scoot, bike ride, swim etc...)

Careers - Students have continued to look at their dream jobs, role models (a lot of parents featured with some lovely explanations as to why) and entrepreneurs, what they do and what they could do to become one in the future. We have also completed the initial log on for unifrog which is our online careers platform. Students completed the interests quiz which highlighted some interesting areas of strengths for our young people and links to new potential career opportunities that they had not considered.



7V

Year 7 has put in a lot of effort this term in all of their subjects, and I am pleased with the progress they are making individually. For year 7, scheduled lessons have been going smoothly, and they have been adjusting to their environment at school with ease. We have been planning our own community trips this year and focusing on community members within our lessons who can assist us when we are out in the community. Once more, Year 7 has experienced science investigations, this time focussing on water resistance. They were able to determine which way water resistance flows. Within Drama, Year 7 have started to exhibit greater independence and creativity in their activities. In art we have concentrated on sketching self-portraits and utilising colour in a portrait inspired by Pablo Picasso. Additionally, year 7 students made Halloween projects that they loved making, and we put their creations on the classroom display board.

8H

8H has had a positive half term, continuing to transition smoothly and adapting well to their timetables. They have formed good relationships with both their subject teachers and the class team. Several students are looking forward to joining the Oak Tree choir and are excited about resuming community visits next half term. Throughout the school day, 8H students consistently demonstrate the Oak Tree Values, and having a value of the Week has been effective in motivating them further

Pictures Shared From Secondary Around the School



Pictures Shared From Secondary Around the School



8G

It has been an eventful month with a lot going on around the school. The students have approached everything with a positive attitude and have managed the number of changes in 8G exceptionally well while Sophie has been away.

The students are showing a lot more independence as they establish themselves in secondary school and are navigating their way around the school to various teachers and lessons during the day. We are looking forward to the next half term to see what is in store!

8R

8R have had a great month of learning and embraced the responsibility and transitions around the school well. There have been some really positive new friendships formed and we are looking forward to taking on the community visits on a weekly basis after half term. They have showed maturity in their approaches to learning and have been open to learning in new ways across the curriculum. We have continued to explore our Oak Tree Values in tutor time and are looking forward to welcoming a new member to our class after half term.

8L

As we wind down towards the end of our first half-term, 8L can look back on the last seven weeks and give themselves a pat on the back! We have been incredibly busy; in Science, 8L have particularly enjoyed learning how to use microscopes and conducting practical experiments such as yeast-inflated balloons! In English, we have been watching *The Croods* to aid our understanding of similarities and differences between characters and using our sentence connectives (such as 'however' and 'so do') to write comparison sentences. We have also been learning some introductory drama techniques such as mime and freeze frames. In Life Skills, 8L enjoyed making their own snacks such as toast, wraps and fruit salad. During Friday afternoon reward time, 8L have been socialising with other tutor groups to play basketball, board games, computing or make simple foods. Well done 8L, enjoy a well-deserved break!

Pictures Shared From Secondary Around the School



Pictures Shared From Secondary Around the School



Family Support Worker Update



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our October edition of the Oak Tree Newsletter. This half term has gone by very quickly and the pupils are continuing to transition into new classes and routines very smoothly.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent coffee mornings. We had some great feedback from those of you who attended. We have included your feedback from the questions we asked, “**What’s gone well?**” and “**Even better if?**” If you were unable to attend one of the coffee mornings but would like to share feedback on the questions highlighted, please email Teresa at t.crandon@maidenerlegtrust.org

For those of you that were unable to attend but would like to know more about the courses the Wokingham ASSIST team are running or how they might support you and your family their email address is as follows: assisit@wokingham.gov.uk

Dr Jackie Perrin is the Autism Advisor at Brighter Futures for Children in Reading. Jackie is able to support families who live in the Reading post-code area *only*. You can contact Jackie by email jackie.perrin@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term holiday, and we look forward to seeing the students return to school on **Wednesday 6th November**.

My working days are **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30am-4:00pm**

You can get in touch the usual ways:

Phone 0118 216 0040 or

Email t.crandon@maidenerlegtrust.org

Teresa Crandon
Family support worker



Family Support Worker Update



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>



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

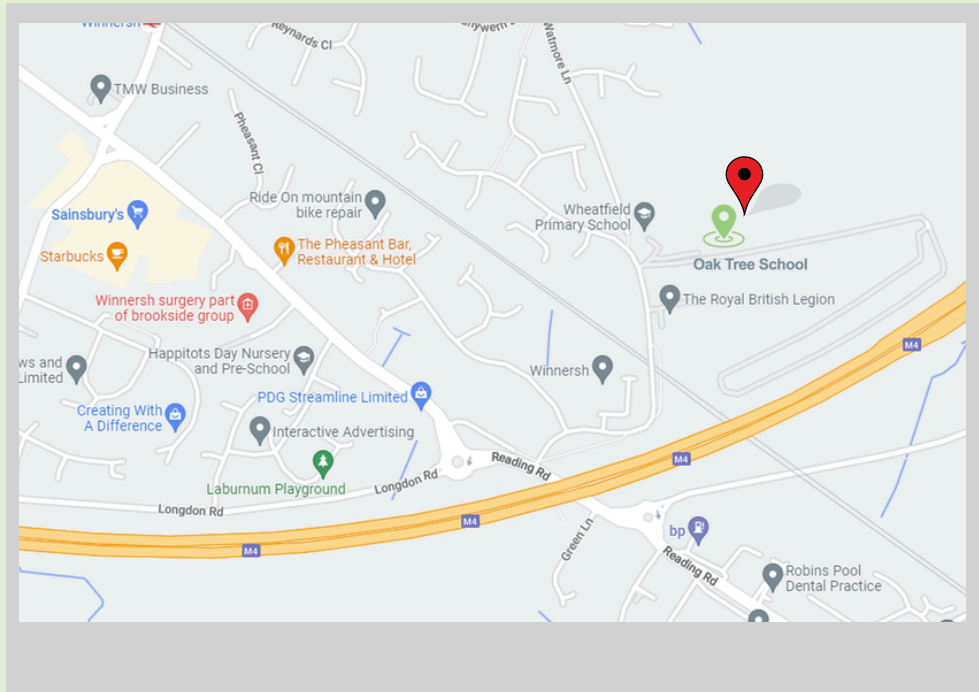
Football fun and games
in a supportive and
inclusive environment!

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

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](#)