

News Hub



NOVEMBER 2024

Update from the Headteacher and The Senior Leadership



We are all excited about the festive period and pupils are working hard to prepare for the nativity and our Christmas market day. It has been great to see so many shepherds and angels with smiles on their faces at Oak Tree.

Staff and pupils appear to be having a great end to a positive year, and we look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Events.



This month at Oak Tree School has been a busy and rewarding time as we prepare for the festive season. Our pupils were enthralled by the visit from reindeer, a sensory-rich experience that brought excitement and engagement for many.

In the primary phase, nativity rehearsals are underway, with staff providing personalised support to ensure our pupils can participate in a way that is meaningful to them.

Fridays have become a highlight with the launch of our school choir, offering a structured and enjoyable creative outlet.

Parents' evening was a valuable opportunity to connect with families, and the Children in Need bake sale allowed pupils to develop key life skills while raising money for a worthy cause.

The countdown to Christmas is in full swing, and the festive spirit is being celebrated in ways that suit the needs of all our pupils.

Our newsletters will be changing after December with a termly update rather than a monthly one. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled on X (formerly twitter) for regular updates on there. We can be found by the username @oaktreeschool1.



www.oaktreeschool.org



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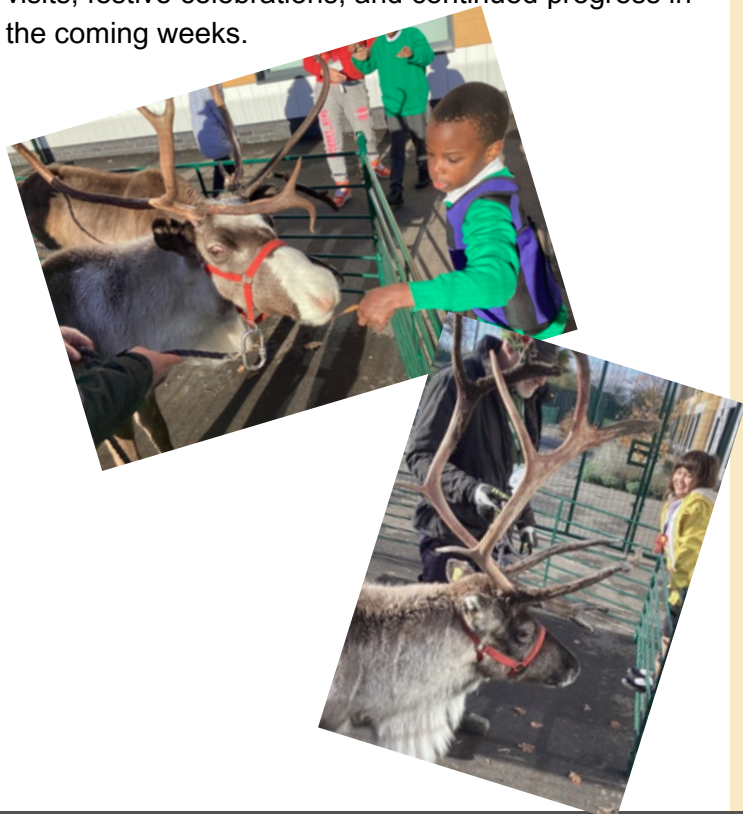
Primary Update

This term, our students have been engaging in activities designed to support their learning, development, and sensory needs. A key focus has been exploring Autumn, where children have learned about seasonal changes, including why some trees lose their leaves while others stay green. This theme has been integrated across the curriculum, with Autumn songs and sensory stories helping to build language and comprehension skills in a fun, engaging way.

Creative activities have been a highlight, including leaf art, handprint dinosaurs, and mark-making. These hands-on projects encourage self-expression and fine motor skills. Anti-Bullying Week provided opportunities for students to build social connections, with activities like creating a friendship tree and supported play sessions promoting positive interactions.

In Maths, students have been working on foundational concepts like place value, shapes, and early division using practical, visual methods to make learning accessible. Life skills lessons have focused on essential routines such as washing hands, dressing for cold weather, and practicing for trips on the minibus.

A particularly memorable moment was meeting real reindeer, where children had the chance to touch and feed the animals, supporting sensory exploration and confidence. We look forward to more community visits, festive celebrations, and continued progress in the coming weeks.



Secondary Update

It's been a very busy month for 8L! Lots of extra activities on our timetable such as Santa's reindeer coming to visit the school, raising money for Children in Need with the bake sale, and highlighting anti-bullying week by wearing our odd socks. We've also been busy in our timetabled lessons. In PE, the children have been learning the rules and skills to play Handball. In Science, they have been learning how to safely use Bunsen Burners. In English, we have almost finished our class reader and have been working on our summarising and inference skills. In Drama, we have been working on our scene for the Secondary Christmas Play, 'A Christmas Carol'. This half-term, 8L have ventured outside the school grounds as part of their Community Visits. Sadly, our trip this week to Dinton Pastures was postponed due to school transport being in repair, however the children were not left disappointed as they visited Starbucks instead! Great fun was had by all with one young person commenting, "We do have a laugh, don't we?"

It has been a busy month for 7V. The entire class thoroughly loved our two community trips! 7V is especially enjoying our focus on The Stone Age Boy in English since we have incorporated the Stone Age into our art lessons and are now studying more about animals, people, and the environment they live in. We have introduced humanities, where we are once again looking at the Stone Age, because year 7 are so eager to learn more about it. One of our community visits this month focused on the solar system, which has been our primary scientific emphasis. After studying about the many planets and the moon's orbital period, year 7 was able to determine which planet was at the heart of the solar system and finally, recognising that the moon is a satellite, and the sun is a star. In ICT year 7 have been focusing on their typing skills with more independence. 7v have also had great successful drama sessions!

November has been an exciting and busy month in 8G. We all thoroughly enjoyed meeting the reindeer and we had our first Community Visit to Sainsbury's and Starbucks. The class were fantastic and found all the ingredients they needed to make Spaghetti Bolognese with Saania in Catering. They managed to work the self-service machines and then order some snacks in Starbucks.



Family Support Worker Update



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the November edition of our newsletter finds you all well. We have had a very busy start to the new half term and Christmas is fast approaching. Our school Christmas performance rehearsals are well under way and after a visit from Flash and Jet the Reindeer we are starting to feel Christmassy!

By now you will all have received my email letting you know I will be leaving Oak Tree School at the end of this term. My last day will be Wednesday 18th December. As always, if there is anything I can help you with before I leave, please get in touch in the usual way.

Please remember...

If your child has been sick and/or had diarrhea they cannot return for 48 hours after the last bout of illness. If you are unsure, you can call the school for advice or look at the NHS guidelines by following the link [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

Thank you...

For your continued support at school drop-off and collection times!

Phone 0118 216 0040

Email t.crandon@maidenerleghtrust.org

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

ASSIST

2017 finalist
AUTISM PROFESSIONALS AWARDS

Autism Professionals Awards Winner 2019

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Woodley Airfield Centre,
Hurricane Way, Woodley
RG4 4UX

Mobile only switched on during clubs
assistclubs@wokingham.gov.uk

I am aged over 12 and under my 18th birthday

I am autistic

I live in the Wokingham Borough

You might be interested in joining the
ASSIST clubs for autistic young people

WHEN? Saturday or a Sunday usually from 11am to 2.30pm. We don't normally meet in August as many people have a summer holiday away, but we do try to arrange a catch up or an activity.

We have lots of activities such as crafts; playing pool, cards; board games; cooking; chatting etc. Sometimes we go out, like shopping or a meal out, but we are mostly based at the Woodley airfield centre. We like it when you tell us your ideas of what we could do at club - we enjoy having lots of different things to do!

We ask that you pay a donation of £1.50 when you come to club as this helps with the cost of buying equipment and ingredients for cooking. We usually walk to the Tesco shop to buy our own lunch - which you will need to bring money for, or you can bring your own.

Email! We will keep in touch with you directly by email to let you know our plans for the sessions so that you know what is happening. We will also let your parents know what we are doing.

We hope that you think the ASSIST clubs are fun, and that you will really want to come to every session! If we don't see you for two sessions, we will contact you and your parents to ask if you are OK if coming back to club - if you don't want to come to club, that's OK, and we will ask someone else from the waiting list to join in your place. If you decide later that you would like to come to club again, get in touch and we will let you know when a space becomes available.

FUN!

Members of the ASSIST team plus adult volunteers help at the ASSIST clubs. You will need to be able to attend safely and independently. We will ask you some questions before you join - what things you are interested in, what might be difficult for you and how we can help. We will arrange for you to visit the Airfield Centre before a club session so that you can see the rooms and know what it looks like. Some people might need some help to be able to come to club regularly - that's OK, we will work out a plan that everyone is OK with!

SATURDAY CLUB

Building for the Future
Wokingham Borough Council

14th, 28th September
12th, 26th October
9th, 23rd November
14th December

11am - 1pm Children with Physical disabilities/Downs
3pm - 5pm Children with ASD and associated conditions
Put the dates in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you all soon.
Any queries email nicki@bfff.org.uk
No need to book Our House, Toutley Road, Wokingham. RG411QN

PE

Students have been learning different ways of defensive play within Handball and working effectively as a team. We have worked through multiple conditioned games and student have engaged really well within this unit of work. There has been a positive improvement in their fundamental movement skills and spatial awareness. Students have also learnt the importance of a warm up and have planned and started to deliver these fantastically within lessons. All students have responded well to being led by their peers.

Careers

Students have been exploring the concepts of entrepreneurship, work-life balance, and predicting future career opportunities. As part of this unit, they are also beginning to create their own "superhero CVs" in preparation for Christmas, combining creativity with practical career planning skills.

Year 7 Computing

In computing, the children have been focusing on their typing skills. They have been practising typing using the correct fingers in order to be able to build up to touch typing.

Year 8 Computing

The children are currently in the process of creating their own Stop-Frame Animations. So far, they have explored Flipbooks as well as the iMotion App on the iPads. They watched the 'Behind the Scenes of Wallace and Gromit' to get an understanding of the precision needed, and the time taken, to create animations. I am really looking forward to seeing their finish animation.

Where to find us?

Social Media

-  @Oak Tree School
-  @OakTreeSchool1
-  @MaidenErleghTrust
-  @MaidenErleghTrust

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

