

News Hub



JULY
2026

Update from the Headteacher and The Senior Leadership Team



As we come to the end of another successful school year, we would like to share a few updates to our leadership team.

Firstly, Abi has now begun her maternity leave. We would like to wish Abi and her family every happiness as they prepare to welcome their new arrival. We know many of our families will join us in sending our very best wishes during this exciting time.

From September, Claire will be overseeing Oak Tree School and will continue to work closely with staff, pupils and families to ensure a positive and successful start to the new academic year.

We would also like to let you know that Gregg will be leaving Oak Tree School in January to take up his first Headship. Whilst we are naturally sad to see him move on, this is a wonderful and well-deserved opportunity. Over the coming months, Gregg will continue to support the school and ensure a smooth transition. Please be assured that we are already working to recruit a suitable replacement to join the school for the Spring Term, ensuring continuity for our pupils, staff and families. We will support the students in the Autumn Term appropriately with this news.

Finally, Kerri has accepted a new role within Maiden Erlegh Trust and, as a result, will no longer be based at Oak Tree School. Since the school opened, Kerri has played an important part in helping to establish and develop our provision, and we would like to thank her for her dedication, support and commitment. We wish her every success in her new role within the Trust.

As always, our priority remains providing the very best education, care and support for every child. We are confident that these changes will be managed carefully, and we look forward to seeing you all after a lovely break. Take care from the Senior Leadership Team



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Primary and Secondary Update

Primary

What a fantastic end to the school year it has been for our Primary pupils!

Our transition sessions have been a great success, helping pupils become familiar with their new classes and staff ahead of September. We also enjoyed a wonderful Eid Cultural Day, where pupils celebrated and learned about different cultures through a range of engaging activities.

Activity Week was a real highlight, with almost every pupil accessing at least one educational visit this year. It was fantastic to see so many pupils enjoying new experiences and developing their confidence and independence and transferring skills from the classroom to out in the community.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who joined us for Market Day. Your support helped make the event such a positive experience, and our pupils loved sharing the products they had worked so hard to create.

We wish all of our families a safe, happy and relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing you in September.

Secondary

What a fantastic end to the academic year it has been for our secondary department!

This term saw our first ever residential trip to Ufton Court, which was an outstanding success. Our students embraced every opportunity, demonstrating resilience, independence and teamwork whilst creating memories that will last a lifetime. We are incredibly proud of every student who took part.

Activity Week was another highlight of the term, with students enjoying a wide range of exciting experiences both in and out of school. We also had not one, but two fantastic trips to Chessington World of Adventures, giving many of our students the opportunity to challenge themselves, build confidence and enjoy a fun-filled day with their peers. Secondary had 3 wonderful sports days with great parent participation! Thank you for being a part of what we do.

Our sporting achievements have continued to grow, with students proudly representing Oak Tree School at both interschool sports competitions and interschool cricket fixtures. Their enthusiasm, resilience and excellent sportsmanship were a credit to the school.

To help prepare for the new academic year, students have also taken part in successful transition sessions with their new classes and staff. These sessions have helped everyone feel confident and excited about September.

Finally, we enjoyed a wonderful Eid Cultural Day, where students explored the significance of Eid through a variety of engaging activities, learning more about different cultures and traditions whilst celebrating our inclusive school community.

It has been a busy, exciting and rewarding term, and we are incredibly proud of everything our secondary students have achieved. We wish all of our families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.



Family Support Worker

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that the summer break is already here; this term seems to have whizzed by! I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year here at Oak Tree and getting to know you and your lovely children. I have still not managed to meet everyone, so if ever you want a chat or need some help, please call into school to see me, send me an email or give me a call.

Although summer brings a well-earned rest from school for our children, it can also present with challenges. I emailed information about summer holiday provision earlier this month but if you would like more information about services like Short Breaks, please get in touch. Here is some guidance that may help you through summer challenges:

Summer Transitions for Autistic Children: Tips That Help

Ideas for summer savings for days out can be found here:

Find your family's summer offer — Summer Savings

Our informal get togethers for parents will continue and will be supported by Wokingham ASSIST who can offer 'Top Tips' sessions on issues such as sleep and behaviour. If there are other topics that are interest to you, please let me know and we can try and accommodate this. Dates for CONNECT@OTS:

Thurs 5th Nov, Thurs 11th March, Thurs 10th June (9.15 - 10 Primary, 2.15 - 3 Secondary). A reminder and further details will be sent out in September.

Please contact me directly with any feedback about support that you would like from school. I am very much looking forward to beginning the new academic year with you all in September.

Best wishes,

Joanna



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Curriculum at OTS

At Oak Tree School, we recognise that our students have a wide range of individual needs, which is common in a setting that supports young people with autism and associated complex needs. To best meet these needs, we offer a number of tailored curriculum pathways designed to support each student's unique strengths, abilities, and learning styles. As students progress into Key Stage 4, we will introduce additional pathways that focus on preparing them for adulthood and their next steps beyond school. These options will be refined and explained to parents of Year 9 students before being shared with all families.

This approach reflects what all Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools strive to do, ensuring that students are not set up to fail, but are instead supported through pathways that are carefully matched to their individual needs, interests, and future aspirations. Our overarching aim is to nurture independence and equip our students with the skills they need for later life. We are deeply committed to supporting the whole child - focusing not only on academic progress, but equally on personal, social, emotional, and life skills development to help each student thrive both in and beyond the classroom

Curriculum at OTS		
Immersive/ Meadow	Flexible/ Emerald	Concrete/ Forest
Meadow learners have complex learning needs. This curriculum is designed to enable students to learn functional skills and experience a range of activities through meeting students' sensory needs. The focus is on developing key skills of communication, cognition, independence and personal care in an engaging and stimulating environment. Immersive/ Meadow learners are unlikely to go on to further education or a workplace. <u>Therapeutic Input may be significant in order for them to meet their goals.</u> Teaching and learning <u>is sensory based</u> with opportunities for practice and repetition. The progress is evidenced through engagement and participation in the process of learning.	Emerald <u>follow a flexible curriculum</u>. Students have significant learning difficulties, and some may have a complexity of needs and emergent communication, social and interaction skills. The focus on this pathway is a narrower selection of options which may be linked to employability. Flexible/ Emerald learners have an Inconsistent profile and learn best through a combination of experiential learning and a topic-based approach. Life skills permeate the <u>curriculum</u> and it focuses on real life experiences and application in engaging and stimulating environments. Students <u>have the opportunity to pursue accreditation in Entry Levels, Functional Skills and Level 1 courses</u> at KS4. Some	Forest learners have developing communication, social and interaction skills. They have a more consistent learning profile and <u>are able to access a range of subjects for their key stage, at age related expectations</u>. It aims to develop higher order thinking skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving as well as functional skills, employability and independence skills. Concrete/ Forest learners are able to access lessons delivered in a more traditional format. Students <u>have the opportunity to pursue formal level 2 qualifications at KS4 such as GCSEs, IGCSEs and AimVoc courses</u>.



PTA at OTS

The PTA has a small selection of preloved uniform for sale £1 an item. Parents/Carers can email OTSADMIN@maidenerlegghtrust.org for a list of what they have.

Also donations can be dropped off at the office.



Shannon: Our newly appointed chairman of the PTA and also serves as a parent representative on the school board. With a professional background in resource management in the private pensions sector, she contributes skills in strategic planning and operational support. As the parent of a child with profound autism, she is particularly passionate about inclusion, communication and ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed. She looks forward to working with the school community to support ongoing improvements and strengthen collaboration between families and staff.

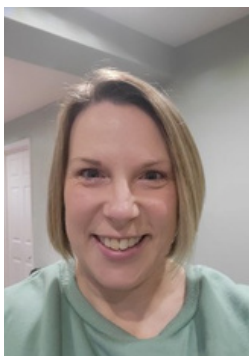


Grace: Hi, I'm a mum of two girls, including one in Year 2 at Oak Tree. I've been part of a PTA before and loved seeing the joy it brought to the children and the difference it made to the school. I work as an EA and do lots of event planning! So, I'm really excited to get involved, support the team and help make great things happen for our school community.

PTA at OTS



Michelle: Hi, I'm a mum of three, with one of my children currently attending Oak Tree School. He has autism and global developmental delay and he experiences significant sensory and selective needs around food, smells and textures. Through our journey, I've learned the importance of patience, understanding and strong home-school communication. I'm joining the PTA because I'm passionate about helping create an inclusive, supportive environment where all children and their families feel understood, welcomed and valued.



Cath: A mum to 3 autistic children with my middle daughter in Year 7 at Oak Tree. I am a Primary School Teacher in Woodley so have the experience of working within a school team. I am excited to join the PTA to help support our children by raising vital funds for resources to be used in school. I am looking forward to meeting more parents from the Oak Tree community and working together to achieve the very best for the children.



Sophie: A teacher with over 25 years experience, who now works in Higher Education, specialising in teacher training. As a parent to a Year 3 girl, she is passionate about neuro advocacy, education and Autism awareness, particularly in relation to female Autism. She has joined the PTA as she wants to contribute towards creating opportunities for all the students at Oak Tree. We look forward to working together to make great things happen for our children.

Great news, we now have a station for oak tree PTA at Tesco's in Wokingham.



When shopping in store, customers will receive a token at the checkout which can then be placed into the Oak Tree School voting station. The more tokens we receive, the greater the funding awarded to support our pupils and school community.

Any funding raised through this scheme will help provide enriching experiences, resources and opportunities for our pupils. We would really appreciate the support of our families and local community, so if you are visiting Tesco in Wokingham, please consider voting for Oak Tree School!

SAB at OTS

School Advisory Board Update

As we come to the end of another busy and successful academic year, I wanted to share a few updates regarding the School Advisory Board (SAB) and the leadership of Oak Tree School.

Firstly, I would like to thank and recognise two members of our School Advisory Board who are stepping down from their roles. Julia Bray and Jasmine Latchman have both given their time, commitment and expertise to supporting the school, and we are very grateful for their contribution. On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank them for everything they have done and wish them every success in the future.

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the SAB. Alan Draper joins us as a co-opted governor and parent, and Zoe Willows joins as our new Staff Governor. We look forward to the experience, insight and fresh perspectives they will bring as we continue to support the school's ongoing development.

Sadly, I've made the difficult decision to step down as Chair of the School Advisory Board, however, I am pleased to share that Chris Jones will take on the role from 1 September. Christine brings a wealth of experience through her roles as a Trustee at Maiden Erlegh Trust, Chair of the Education Standards and Culture Committee, and Chair of Hamilton School. I know the school and SAB will benefit greatly from her leadership and expertise. Many parents will already be aware that Claire Willmott, currently Headteacher of Cranbury College, will be joining Oak Tree School to provide maternity cover for Abi. Claire is a highly experienced and respected school leader, and we are delighted to welcome her to the school during this period.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, governors, parents and carers for their support during my time as Chair. It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated school community, all focused on achieving the very best outcomes for our pupils.

During the recent Ofsted visit I was able to come into school to meet the inspectors and highlight the good things that are happening from a governance perspective. I also had the opportunity to hear the Inspectors feedback at the end of day 2. Although we cannot talk about the recent Ofsted inspection, (we need to wait until they have submitted their full report) I think it's fair to say the school is making positive progress and there is much to be proud of. Oak Tree School has a strong foundation, a talented staff team and a clear sense of direction. I am confident that the school will continue to go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

I wish all our pupils, families and staff a wonderful summer break and every success for the new academic year.

Brian Poxon
Chair, School Advisory Board
Oak Tree School

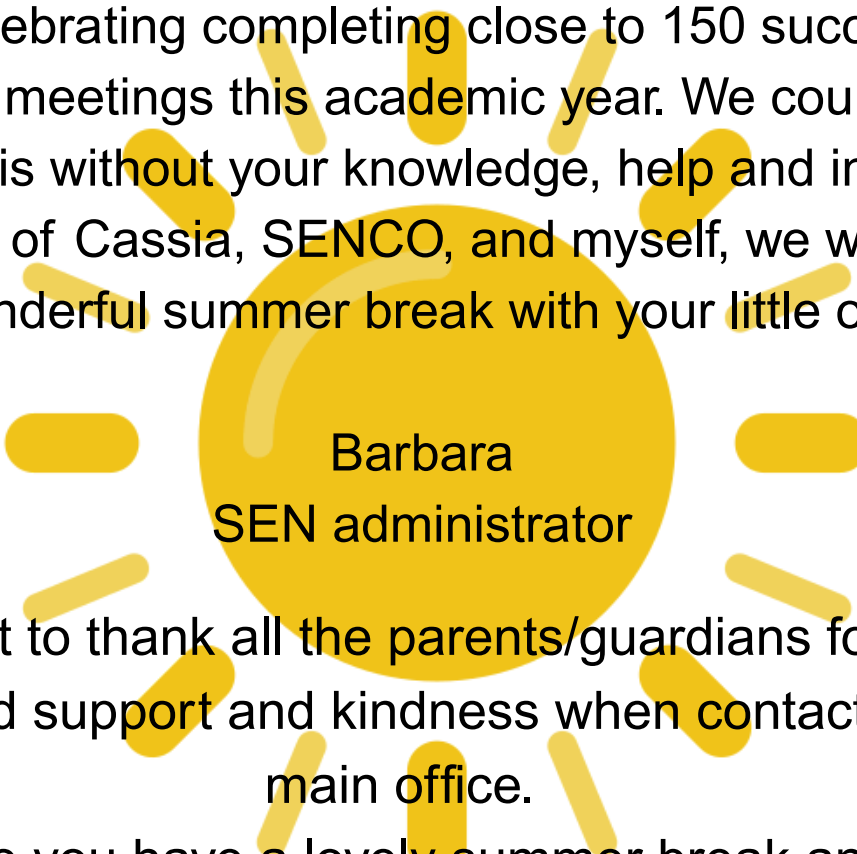
ADMIN NOTICES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you very much for your continued support and amazing input during our annual reviews!

We are celebrating completing close to 150 successful and productive meetings this academic year. We could not have done this without your knowledge, help and insights.

On behalf of Cassia, SENCO, and myself, we wish you all a wonderful summer break with your little ones!



Barbara
SEN administrator

We want to thank all the parents/guardians for your continued support and kindness when contacting the main office.

We hope you have a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Alia, Suzie, Barbara and Lisa



Dates For The Diary

September 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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October 2026						
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November 2026						
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December 2026						
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January 2027						
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31						

February 2027						
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28						

March 2027						
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April 2027						
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May 2027						
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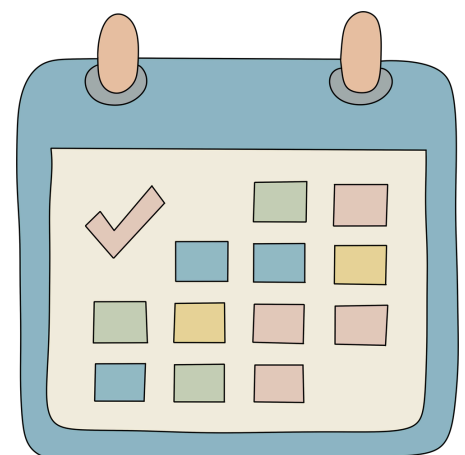
June 2027						
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July 2027						
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August 2027						
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29	30	31				

Calendar Key				Number of days	
	Term Time (first day for students/pupils 07/09)		Inset Day for all schools	Autumn Term	69
	Bank and Public Holidays		Inset Day for JRS and BHP only	Spring Term	54
	2026/27 School Holidays		Inset Day for all schools apart from JRS and BHP	Summer Term	67

Students will return to school on the 7th September 2026



The Term In Pictures



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A heartfelt thank you to all of the staff who are moving on from Oak Tree School this year. We are incredibly grateful for your dedication, hard work and support, and for everything you have contributed to our school community. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you every success and happiness in the future.

One of our Year 9 students independently organised a special 'goodbye tunnel' for the staff who are leaving, giving pupils and colleagues the opportunity to celebrate and say farewell. It was a thoughtful gesture that beautifully reflected the positive relationships our staff have built and the lasting impact they have had on our students.

