

News Hub



October 2023

Headteacher Update



As we reach the halfway point of this term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable successes and growth we've seen in our school. One of the most heartwarming achievements I'd like to share is the transformation we've witnessed in our students.

Many of them are now feeling comfortable expressing themselves, which is a testament to the welcoming and inclusive environment we strive to provide. This is crucial for our children's development, and it's truly inspiring to see them flourish.

We've also introduced effective strategies to support our students in their lessons, ensuring that they have the tools and guidance they need to overcome challenges. These strategies have already made a significant difference, and we will continue to refine and expand our approach to best serve the unique needs of every child.

I am continually impressed by the dedication and passion of our exceptional staff. Their unwavering commitment to the well-being and education of our students shines through in everything they do. Their hard work is truly the foundation upon which our success is built, and I'm immensely proud to be part of this incredible team.

As we look ahead to the next half term, we're excited to announce that we are planning to begin simple trips out into the community. These outings will provide valuable opportunities for our students to generalise their learning and apply the skills they've acquired in the classroom to real-life situations. These experiences will not only enhance their education but also encourage a sense of independence and confidence.

We will keep you informed of the details as we finalise our plans. Our school's success is a reflection of our strong partnership with you, our parents and guardians. We have been responsive to your requests and feedback, and we are committed to nurturing a trusting relationship between us. It's essential that we work together to ensure the best possible educational experience for your child.

As we move forward, we want to keep the lines of communication open and transparent. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any concerns, suggestions, or simply wish to celebrate your child's achievements with us. Together, we can make sure that every child in our school reaches their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in our school. The successes we've celebrated in this first half of the term are just the beginning of what we can achieve together. I look forward to more great moments and growth in the coming months.

Abi Davis
Headteacher



Halloween at Oak Tree School!

Oak Tree School would like to invite pupils and staff members to celebrate a Halloween themed day by dressing up on October 31st in Halloween costumes!

We look forward to seeing you in your costumes!



Below are some links to places that offer SEN specific activities. If you know of any other places that are worth a visit, please let me know and I will keep the information updated.

→ t.crandon@maidenerleghttrust.org



Local Activity Ideas!

- [Cantley Park Playground | Wokingham Rocks](#) (Cantley Park, Wokingham) - No cost.
- [Opening Times & Day Information | Thames Valley Adventure Playground](#) (tvap.co.uk) (Taplow) - Booking is essential - Children with Special Needs. Two sessions a day (10:00-13:00 & 13:00-16:00) on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- [Reading Directory | Reading Toy Library](#) (Reading) - Open for two hours on Thursday mornings. (10am-12:00pm)
- [Reading's Ultimate Trampoline Park | RedKangaroo](#) (Reading) Kanga Calm sessions on Wednesdays and Sundays (17:00-18:00) - £7.95
- [Home | Camp Mohawk](#) (Wargrave)
- [What we do | Swings & Smiles](#) (swingsandsmiles.co.uk) (Thatcham) All sessions must be booked in advance. See website for different costs for each activity.
- [About us | Create Hope](#) (Bracknell)



Cantley Park, Wokingham

Reading's Ultimate Trampoline Park, Reading



Swings & Smiles, Thatcham

Family Support Worker Update



This week I visited Wokingham Library. Not only do they have wide selection of books for children but also books to help support families with daily experiences such as visiting the dentist, potty/toilet training, feelings etc.

If families are unsure about visiting the library, they can call ahead and speak to Rachael Burrows who is the Library Area Manager on 0118 978 1368. Rachael will try and arrange a time for you to visit when the library is less busy and if possible, have a room available for you to use if being in the main library becomes a bit overwhelming. There are no guaranteed times the library will be quiet, but they can let you know when events are scheduled, or this can be checked on the website. [Library website](#)

I hope this will make a visit to the library an enjoyable experience for the whole family.

A great website with lots of activities and book related fun with authors can be found at BookTrust Home Time- [Have some fun | BookTrust](#)

Teresa Crandon
Family support worker



More Local Activity Ideas!

For play areas/parks in and around Wokingham and Reading:

- Play Areas and Playgrounds in Wokingham | Outdoor Fun (wokinghamrocks.co.uk)
- Playgrounds, play areas and play parks near Reading - freeparks.co.uk

Joel Park, Wokingham



Cintra Park, Reading

There are a few cards available to help families with children with SEN access the concessions available. Below are the links to a few:

- The CAN Card - <https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=yMqtWsyMkuE>
“If you are a parent or carer of a child, young person or young adult aged 0-25 years, with a diagnosed disability, you also have the option to join the Wokingham Borough Council Children with Disabilities Register and apply for a CAN card. The CAN card is recognised by many local leisure attractions and may enable some concessions.”
- The Max Card - <https://mymaxcard.co.uk/>
“The Max Card is the UK’s leading discount card for cared for and looked after children. Families can use their Max Card at venues across the UK to get free or discounted admission.”
- The CEA Card - <https://www.ceacard.co.uk/>
“The Card enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema. The Card is also one way for cinemas to make sure they look after their disabled guests.”
- The Access Card - <https://www.accesscard.org.uk/>
“The Access Card (sometimes referred to as the CredAbility Card or a Nimbus Card) is a card like no other; we translate your disability/impairment into symbols that highlight the barriers you face and the reasonable adjustments you might need.”

Thames Valley Autism Alert Card

The Thames Valley Autism Alert Card provides a simple way for autistic people of all ages and their parents or carers to quickly and easily explain the condition to others, giving cardholders and their families more confidence to go out and about.

Autism Berkshire issues the Thames Valley Autism Alert Card free of charge to anyone living in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes who has an autism diagnosis. More than 3,000 cards are now in use.



The card is intended to be shown if the cardholder finds themselves in a situation where they need assistance or cannot easily explain their behaviour to people around them or to the emergency services.

Please [click here](#) for further information

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Monday 23rd October

Badgemore Primary School, Henley
The Heights Primary School, Caversham

09:30 - 11:30

14:30 - 16:30

Tuesday 24th October

Sonning Common Village Hall

09:30 - 11:30

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Primary Update

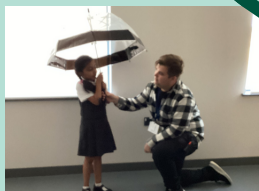
Children in Saplings, Elm and Ash have had a very busy couple of weeks. The children are continuing to come into school happily and ready and eager to learn.

Saplings Class: All of Sapling class engaged in a sensory story 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and tried all the fruits that the caterpillar ate in the story. They also made caterpillar/butterfly masks and feed the hungry caterpillar within a tuff tray. On Thursday, Sapling class had U-sports and learned how to kick and roll a football.

Elm Class: Over the last week we have been looking at our new sensory 'The Oak Tree' and have themed the activities around our new story. In drama we acted out the weather in the story as well as the camp fire which the children appeared to really enjoy. Over this half term the children have done really well to settle into class and have developed their understanding of sharing space and making good use of their communication boards.

Ash Class: In Maths, we have been working on representing numbers with real objects and the place value of numbers. Students have been working with number lines, and manipulating items to make numbers that are greater and smaller. In My Communication/Literacy, we have been communicating our likes and dislikes as well as being supported to make choices. Some of the students have been encouraged to expand their communication by justifying their answers using the word 'because'.

Pictures Shared From Primary Around The School



Secondary Update

Our secondary classes have enjoyed lots of baking. They enjoyed a visit from the local police this week and have been eagerly working hard in class.

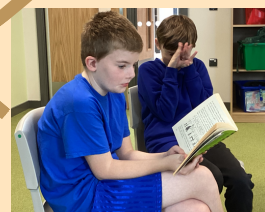
Chestnut Class: Chestnut class have been using 'Inside Out' as an inspiration in English, writing expanded noun phrases and similes to describe our emotions. In Maths, we have been finding more or less, ordering numbers and rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. In Science, Chestnut class have been learning how to record our data on a table and a bar chart. We also had a visit from the Police to discuss their job and we were able to sit inside the police car.

Willow Class: Willow Class have had a fantastic week. All of the children have been settled on their learning and have produced some excellent pieces of writing centred around describing an emotion. In cooking, the children cooperated brilliantly to create some chocolate chip cookies without any adult instruction. The children also enjoyed their weekly interaction with Saplings class for our community visit. Have a well earned half term rest!

Beech Class: Beech class has been focusing on writing accurately, fluently and effectively during English. For Maths, children are showing good understanding when using place values for decimals and recapping the topics covered in this half term. Our focus this week for science has been the functions of the respiratory system and students have made their own models to show how the respiratory systems work.

Maple Class: Maple have been continuing with our streamed core lessons - we have been working through our text and analysing key sections and characters. We have been exploring place value of decimals, medians and range with maths and continuing to learn about the human body in science. We completed a variety of other activities including, art, cooking, geography, black history month, RE, play writing, life skills, yoga, gardening, police visits, mental health and wellbeing sessions and a lot more. Maple class have had a really positive first half term and we are all really proud of how they have settled into Oak Tree School.

Pictures Shared From Secondary Around The School



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



@OakTreeSchool1



@MaidenErleghTrust



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Where to find us?



www.oaktreeschool.org



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