

# News Hub



November 2023

## Headteacher Update



I hope this newsletter finds you all in good spirits. It is with great pleasure that I will now share some great news following the start of the second Autumn half term.

### Settling Back In:

The transition back to school has been remarkably smooth, and it warms my heart to witness the resilience and adaptability of our students. The pupils are now not only settling in but feeling comfortable to learn in the environment.

### Christmas Preparations:

Excitement is building as our students are busy preparing for their upcoming Christmas performances. The creative enjoyment during the rehearsals are a testament to the talent and dedication of both our students and the fantastic staff supporting them. We can't wait to showcase their hard work and spread the festive cheer.

### Lunch Clubs and Friendships:

Our commitment to fostering a sense of community is evident in the success of our lunch clubs. Students are actively participating, creating meaningful connections, and enjoying shared experiences. It's heartening to see the bonds forming and the positive impact this is having on the overall school atmosphere.

### Primary Sensory Circuits:

The implementation of sensory circuits every morning in the primary section has proven to be highly beneficial. Students are starting their days with focus and readiness to engage in their learning activities. This practice has become an essential part of our routine, contributing to a positive and conducive learning environment.

### Secondary Well-Being Support:

In the secondary section, our students have been working closely with their trusted adults and therapists to support their emotional well-being. The progress made is commendable, with many students now expressing their emotions through the strategies provided. We will also be bringing in a trained councillor and resilience worker to work closely with the students to help as they navigate their emotional landscapes.

### Football Triumph at Addington:

I am delighted to announce that Oak Tree School recently participated in a football match at Addington and emerged victorious! This success not only highlights the sporting talent within our school but also reinforces the importance of teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship. We look forward to our next football match next week!

### Understanding Structures and Routines:

As the weeks progress, our students are becoming more familiar with the structures and routines of the school day. The comfort and joy they derive from these familiar patterns contribute to a positive and conducive learning environment. It's truly heartwarming to see our students embracing the school experience with enthusiasm and enjoyment.

In closing, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and, of course, our incredible students for making Oak Tree School a place of growth, learning, and community. Your ongoing commitment and collaboration are what make our school such a special place.

**Abi Davis**  
Headteacher

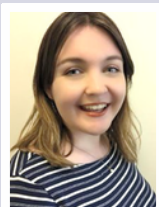


**OAK TREE**  
SCHOOL





## Speech and Language Therapist Update



Dear Families,

As the 2nd half of Autumn term reaches us, I am really excited to begin delivering enhanced Speech and Language Therapy groups and lessons to the classes.

All classes have weekly 'Word of the Week' sessions to develop their understanding of maths vocabulary - be sure to ask them what their word is!

Sapling and Elm class have been focusing on developing their use of symbols and signing to communicate. Sensory stories are a messy but enjoyable way for them to engage and understand stories too!

Next week, Ash class will be starting 'Storytelling', where the children will enjoy acting out stories to develop their understanding of the plot and say what is happening.

Chestnut, Willow, Maple and Beech are developing their understanding and management of their emotions in weekly Emotional Literacy lessons. We are also rolling out 'Points of View' lessons, where the students can discuss, share their opinions and engage in debate about current affairs.

If you do have any questions about your child's clinical input, please do not hesitate to direct your queries to me at [c.jenner@maidenerleghttrust.org](mailto:c.jenner@maidenerleghttrust.org)



Chloe Jenner  
Speech and Language Therapist



## Family Support Worker Update



Welcome back! We had a spooktacular start to the half term with children (and staff!) dressing up on Halloween and joining in on a variety of Halloween activities throughout the day. Lots of fun was had by all!

Next week, I have arranged for Claire, a librarian from Wokingham Library, to come visit Saplings class and share some stories and rhymes with the children.

With this half term being as busy as it is, I have decided to hold coffee mornings in the new year. I will send out dates and times once we return after the Christmas break.

### **Below are some links that you might find useful:**

Parenting Special Children have organised a support group for dads and male carers of children and young people with special needs. They meet on the first Monday on the month from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

- <https://www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/courses/dads-and-male-carers-support-group/>

SENDIASS will be holding drop-in sessions every fortnight at Wokingham Youth Centre in the Spring term 2023.

- <https://www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk/>

Dates for upcoming drop-in sessions:

- Monday 13th November at 10.30 -12.30
- Friday 1st December at 10.30 -12.30

Family Intervention Resources & Support Team (FIRST) are able to support with sleep and behavioural issues. Parents are able to self-refer, the link is available on the website.

- <https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=xuJ8M237bPA>

### **Looking After Your Mental Health:**

And with the darker nights drawing in, it's important to remember to look after your own mental health. In school I have an open-door policy and I will always try to be available for you to pop in and have a chat and a cup of something warm to drink or a telephone call if that's easier. I might not always have the answers, but I will listen without judgement, and I can signpost you for further support if that is what you need.

Teresa Crandon  
Family support worker



## 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. They loved celebrating Halloween!

**Saplings Class:** Saplings class have started a new topic all around 'people who help us'. They have created their own lollipop sticks to use outside in the primary playground to help support our community visit to learn how to cross a zebra crossing safely. Sapling class have started to look at 'We're going on a bear hunt' in my communication and looked at prepositions such as, over, under and through.

**Elm Class:** Elm class have really enjoyed exploring are sensory story of 'One winter's day' where the children have explored various sensory inputs. The class have also really enjoyed looking at the different things we can wear to stay warm in cold weather. The class have also really enjoyed completing a sensory circuit in the mornings which has really helped them with engaging with their learning.

**Ash Class:** In Ash class we have been exploring events that happen in the dark such as camping, bonfires and fireworks. We have learnt about safety at events such as Fireworks Night and have sung a song to remember the rules. We have had some experience days to explore the food eaten at these events, and to experience the world around us in a safe environment. We threw a Bonfire and Firework party and will be indoor camping this week!

### Pictures Shared From Primary Around The School



## Secondary Update

Our secondary classes have enjoyed a variety of activities this week. They are all busy preparing for their Christmas plays for parents to enjoy!

**Chestnut Class:** Chestnut class started off the half term with a Halloween party. They worked together to wrap their friends and teachers up as mummies. We designed and carved our own pumpkins, which were judged by Cass, who announced our winner! In English, we started reading our new book 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. We have been writing letters from Lila's point of view to help us think about other people's emotions. In Maths, we have begun adding two 4-digit numbers with exchange using place value charts, column method and applying this to reasoning problems.

**Willow Class:** This week, Willow class have had a fantastic week. Everybody has been focused and on task. We have been getting to grips with our new English text 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' and have written letters from Lila's perspective, exploring character voice and emotion. On Wednesday, we were treated to a visit from Miriam who brought her tools along. The children were excellently behaved and acted safely and appropriately at all times, whilst productively acquiring new DIY skills.

**Beech Class:** Beech Class have had a good week! They enjoyed dressing up for Halloween and got involved with the Halloween activities. The boys are excited to play for the Oak Tree School football team. Beech Class have been choosing their characters and writing a script for the Christmas play and they cannot wait for the parents to come and watch it.

**Maple Class:** Maple class have continued with their positive engagement in learning. We have explored the world around us and the impact of plastic on the environment in Geography which has sparked a class environmental project for the school. We have continued to develop our fundamental skills within English, Maths and Science. Within Dance, PE and yoga students have worked on core strength, basic fitness and core skills which they have embraced. They have continued to enjoy the wider curriculum and Maple are looking forward to their class Christmas performance and have lots of fun ideas for this.

### 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

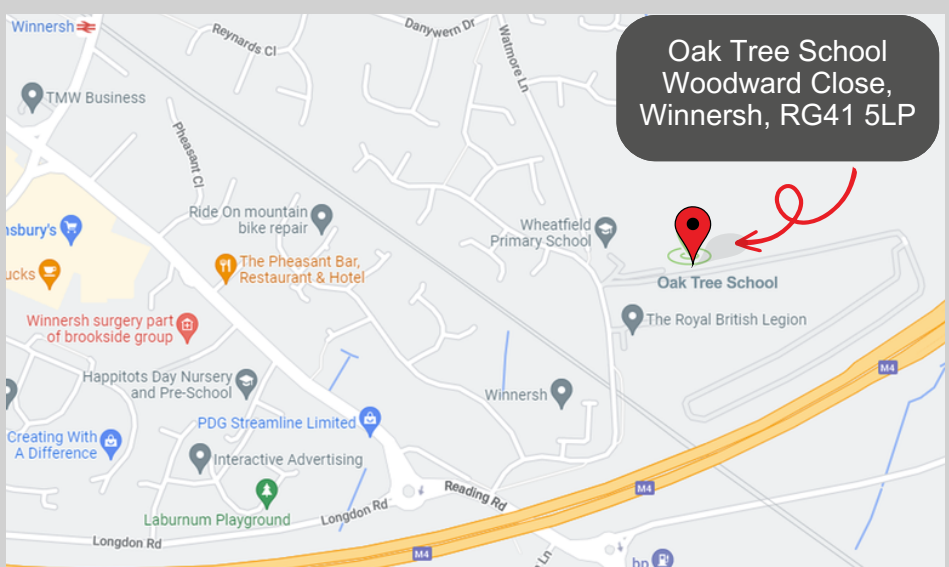


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## Where to find us?



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