



Oakfield Primary School Newsletter

Scott Drive, Wickford, Essex SS12 9PW
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17/01/2025

Weekly News

- **Year 1 Toys workshop:** On Monday 13th January, Year 1 took part in a Toy Workshop. Our visitor Lily came in with her toy museum where the children investigated and explored toys throughout the years. Next, children were archaeologists and discovered parts of toys hidden in the soil and used a paintbrush to identify what they were before sorting them into different groups. In the afternoon, children had lots of fun creating and making some of the toys which they explored in the morning. It was a brilliant day with the children extending their understanding on toys from the past.



- **Year 6 trip to Duxford:** Year 6 had a wonderful time at Duxford on Wednesday. The children had the opportunity to talk with veterans who had been linked to conflict and both classes asked such insightful and thoughtful questions throughout. The children were also extremely impressed by the variety of aircraft Duxford had on show. They especially loved seeing the WW2 aircraft up close, as well stepping on board the Concord.



- This week key stage 1 and 2 have participated in the **My Future My Basildon** sessions. The theme for this one was 'special deliveries'. The children learnt about different deliveries including warehouses, festivals and blood. The delivery workers talked about their jobs and shared photographs and videos.
- **Sport:** The cross-country team have been working hard with their training and are well prepared for the event next Thursday. For those children who are going to this event during the school day, please ensure you have read the letter about the event and what the children need to bring. On Monday they have their last training session.

Our 3 school rules: Be safe. Be ready. Be respectful.

Dates for your diary

23/01/2025

Cross Country at
Wickford Primary School

24/01/25

EYFS Multiply Maths
Course for Parents
9-11am

Lunch Menu

Week commencing:
20/01/2025
Week 3 Menu

Please remember to
pre-order your child/
ren's meals on the
MCAS App

Achievement Certificates

A big congratulations to all the children that were awarded with a certificate in Friday's celebration assembly.

Class 1	Lily-Aurora A, Rosie V & Rayaan A	Class 8	Teddy A & Oscar D
Class 2	Malek A & Kadesh A	Class 9	Mason AC & Jesse O
Class 3	Arthur K & Harley P	Class 10	Ollie J & Lily K
Class 4	Charlie G, Dominic A & All Class 4	Class 11	Aria H & Maria H
Class 5	Sophie-Marie M & Marshall P-C	Class 12	Ollie R & Janaya Y-M
Class 6	Alfie K & Daisy S	Class 13	Darcey J & Benjamin S
Class 7	Oliver M & Holly P	Class 14	Denny H & Jessica W

Attendance

Congratulations to the classes who achieved or exceeded our school attendance target of 96%

EYFS & KS1	KS2	Whole School
Class 4 - 96% Classes 3 & 6 —100%	Class 13 - 96% Class 11—97% Class 9 - 98% Classes 7, 10, 12—100%	96.9%

House Points

Romans	Vikings	Saxons	Normans
36	38	36	37

School Dinners

A reminder that **ALL** school dinners must be booked and paid for in advance on the MCAS App.

Please ensure you have let your child know what the meal choices are as there are too many children coming to the office to change the meal choice on the day.

Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.



Eco-Council News



The Big Hog Friendly Litter Pick Competition News!

Last term Mrs Pinchback entered Oakfield Primary into the Big Hog Friendly Litter Pick Competition, and we are pleased to announce we came 12th out of 31; this included universities, secondary and primary schools across the UK. We collected 25.5 bags of litter between September 16th and 28th November 2024 with the help of the Wickford Wombles, our local community litter picking group.



We even got a special mention on the Hog Friendly Campus blog page for having over 400 volunteers participate in our litter pick!

Despite not winning we are proud of our children for helping make Oakfield a safer and litter-free environment for our prickly friends and other wildlife we have visiting our school grounds.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US IN KEEPING OUR SCHOOL FREE OF LITTER BY USING THE BINS ON THE PLAYGROUND AND/OR TAKING YOUR LITTER HOME WITH YOU.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Eco-Council



2024 – 2025 Diary Dates



Spring Term (6 th January – 4 th April)		
Date	Event	Details
W/C 20.01.2025		
Thursday 23rd January 2025	Cross Country at Wickford Primary School	9.30-11.30am
Friday 24 th January 2025	EYFS Multiply Maths Course for Parents	Small Hall 9-11am
W/C 29.01.2025		
Wednesday 29 th January 2025	National Child Measurement Programme Reception - Height, Weight & Vision Checks	In School AM
Thursday 30 th January 2025	National Child Measurement Programme Reception - Height, Weight & Vision Checks	In School AM
W/C 03.02.2025	Children's Mental Health Week	
Monday 3 rd February 2025	KS2 Choir – Young Voices	O2
Wednesday 5 th February 2025	National Child Measurement Programme Year 6 – Height & Weight Checks	In School AM
Friday 7 th February 2025	KS1 Multiply Maths Course for Parents	Small Hall 9-11am
W/C 10.02.2025		
Tuesday 11 th February 2025	Whole School Book Look	3:30pm – 4:15pm Enter classrooms through pod doors
Wednesday 12 th February 2025	Year 5 Greek Workshop	In School Event
Friday 14 th February 2025	Break the Rules Day	FOO Event
	KS1 Multiply Maths Course for Parents	Small Hall 9-11am
W/C 17.02.2025	February Half Term	
W/C 24.02.2025		
Tuesday 25 th February 2025	Writing Workshop (Writing approach, handwriting and spelling)	9am-10am
Friday 28 th February 2025	KS1 Multiply Maths Course for Parents	Small Hall 9-11am
W/C 03.03.2025		
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day Pre-loved Book Sale	FOO Event
W/C 10.03.2025		
Thursday 13 th March 2025	KS2 Multiply Maths Course for Parents	Small Hall 9-11am
Friday 14 th March 2025	Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)	Organised by the School Council – more information to follow
W/C 17.03.2025		
Thursday 20 th March 2025	KS2 Multiply Maths Course for Parents	Small Hall 9-11am
W/C 24.03.2025		
Thursday 27 th March 2025	Year 1 Trip – Call of the Wild KS2 Multiply Maths Course for Parents	Small Hall 9-11am
Friday 28 th March 2025	Mother's Day Wish Room	FOO Event
W/C 31.03.2025		
Monday 31st March	Transition Yr6-Yr7 Multiply Maths Course for Parents	Small Hall 9-11am
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Parent Consultation Meetings	4pm – 6:30pm
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Parent Consultation Meetings	4pm - 7pm
Friday 4 th April 2025	Oakfield's Got Talent Last Day of Term	In school event

Summer Term (21 st April – 22 nd July)		
Date	Event	Details
W/C 07.04.2025	Easter Half Term	
W/C 14.04.2025		
W/C 21.04.2025		
Monday 21 st April 2025	Easter Monday	
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Earth Day	Organised by the Eco-Council – more information to follow
	Year 4 Trip – Layer Marney Towers	
Friday 25 th April 2025	Spring Disco	FOO Event
W/C 28.04.2025		
W/C 05.05.2025		
Monday 5 th May 2025	May Bank Holiday	
W/C 12.05.2025	Year 6 SATS Week	
Wednesday 14 th May 2025	Reception Journey Around the Curriculum	2:30pm Large Hall Reception parents
Thursday 15 th May 2025	Year 1 Journey Around the Curriculum	2:30pm Large Hall Year 1 parents
Friday 16 th May 2025	Year 2 Journey Around the Curriculum FOO Event TBC	2:30pm Large Hall Year 2 parents FOO Event
W/C 19.05.2025		
Monday 19 th May 2025	Year 3 Journey Around the Curriculum	2:30pm Large Hall Year 3 parents
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	Year 4 Journey Around the Curriculum	2:30pm Large Hall Year 4 parents
Wednesday 21 st May 2025	Year 5 Journey Around the Curriculum	2:30pm Large Hall Year 5 parents
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Year 6 Journey Around the Curriculum	2:30pm Large Hall Year 6 parents
Friday 23 rd May 2025	Stay and Play Coffee Morning – New Reception Intake 2025	9:00am-10:00am Reception Intake Parents 2025
W/C 26.05.2025	May Half Term	
W/C 02.06.2025		
Monday 2 nd June 2025	INSET DAY	
Saturday 7 th June 2025	Summer Fete	FOO Event 12pm - 3pm
W/C 09.06.2025	Phonics Screening Week	
Friday 13 th June 2025	Father's Day Wish Room First Aid Road Show	FOO Event Year 6 – in school event
W/C 16.06.2025		
Monday 16 th June 2025	Class Photographs	In School
Friday 20 th June 2025	Sports Day and Picnic	KS2: 9:00am-11:30am

		Picnic: 11:45am-12:45pm KS1: 1:00pm-3:00pm
W/C 23.06.2025		
Tuesday 24 th June 2025	Sports Day and Picnic reserve date in the event of inclement weather on 20.6.24	KS2: 9:00am-11:30am Picnic: 11:45am-12:45pm KS1: 1:00pm-3:00pm
Thursday 26 th June 2025	Year 6 Transition Day Beauchamps New Reception Intake Stay, Play and Storytime Session	9:30am-11:00am Reception Intake 2025 children and parents
Friday 27 th June 2025	Year 6 Transition Day Beauchamps New Reception Intake Stay, Play and Storytime Session Booklook and Meet the New Teacher	9:30am-11:00am Reception Intake 2025 children and parents 3:30pm-4:30pm – parents enter classrooms through pod door
W/C 30.06.2025		
Friday 4 th July	Year 5 Taster Day – Bromfords Reception Intake 2025 Meeting and Teddy Bear's Picnic Rainbow Run	Year 5 children 9:30am-11:15am – new reception intake parents 2025 FOO Event
W/C 07.07.2025		
Tuesday 8 th July 2025	Year 6 Play	5pm
Thursday 10 th July 2025	Year 5 Taster Day -Beauchamps	Year 5 Children
Friday 11 th July 2025	Reception End of Year Celebration assembly Reports out to parents Contingency Rainbow Run Date FOO Ice-cream Sales	9:00am - Large Hall FOO Event FOO Event
W/C 14.07.2025		
Monday 14 th July 2025	Year 1 End of Year Celebration assembly	9:00am - Large Hall
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	Year 2 End of Year Celebration assembly	9:00am - Large Hall
Wednesday 16 th July 2025	Year 3 End of Year Celebration assembly	9:00am - Large Hall
Thursday 17 th July 2025	Year 4 End of Year Celebration assembly First Aid Road Show	9:00am - Large Hall Year 6
Friday 18 th July 2025	Year 5 End of Year Celebration assembly FOO Ice-cream Sales	9:00am - Large Hall FOO Event
W/C 21.07.2025		

Monday 21 st July 2025	Year 6 Leavers Assembly	9:00am - Large Hall
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	Last Day of Term	

Please note that some dates may have to change – all new dates and changes will be made in red and will appear in the dates section of the weekly newsletter

Wilderness Foundation will be running a Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp on Friday 21st February from 10am-3pm for young people age between 9-14 at £80 per participant.

The Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp is for young people experiencing challenges with mental health, behaviour and neurodiversity needs. Many young people can present with all these challenges together and we are increasingly aware that we need to support those with neurodiversity in a more dedicated and focused way. We have traditionally organised holiday camps and, recognising increasing needs for families and young people, we are running a specialist camp for those with neurodivergent needs.

The camp aims to develop personal skills, resilience, communication, social skills and a lot more. We cook on an open fire, are creative, adventurous and accepting. A range of outdoor activities and skills including cooking, art, bushcraft, nature walks, and crafts. We will also encourage positive social engagement and group skills, using a strength-based approach which helps participants become more aware of what they do well.

It will be a small group with not more than 8 participants and advance bookings are required.

For more information and booking form, please visit <https://wildernessfoundation.org.uk/neurodiversity-holiday-camps/>

Kind Regards,

Jodie Burnett | Project Administrator [f](#) [@](#) [X](#)



WILDERNESS FOUNDATION UK

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>