



**Reminder - School returns Monday 26th February
at 8.50am**



Spring Term 2024

Happy holidays once again. This half term has been so quick and the next one is even shorter. The newsletter this week really shows the wide range of activities the children have had the opportunity to experience over the last 6 weeks. The O2, Young Voices, was amazing with over 9000 children all performing together. Hopefully a memory that will never leave those children.

Last week, the whole school took part in Wellbeing week, with a range of activities to support our children and for them to understand how to improve their mental health.

Please ensure you book your parents' evening slot for the beginning of March and we look forward you seeing on those two nights.

Have a good have half term.

Free School Meal Vouchers- February Half Term

Hertfordshire County Council through funding from the Department of Work and Pensions, Household Support Fund, will be providing supermarket vouchers for each child entitled to benefit related free school meals to cover the February Half Term 2024 holiday period.

Entitled families will receive a digital supermarket voucher to the value of £15, which you must redeem within 3 months (the expiry date will be included in the email that you receive from noreply@edenred.co.uk).

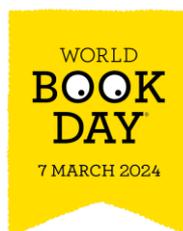
We would also like to inform you that the Department for Work and Pensions is not continuing the funding for these vouchers and so the scheme will END on 31st March 2024. You may be invited if funds allow, to access a last, smaller value voucher for the Easter holiday period, but the scheme will then close.

Parents Evening

Parents' evening takes place on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March. You should have received an email with the link to book your appointments. If you haven't, please follow this link to book to see your child's teacher.

<https://oakview.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

If you are still unable to log in, please contact the office. Link closes on Sunday 3rd March.



Thursday 7th March is World Book Day and to celebrate it the children are invited to dress up as a character from a book or wear non-uniform. This year, each year group has chosen a book to theme their activities around. The chosen books are as follows :-

- Nursery - **Three Little Pigs**
- Reception - **Q Pootle 5** by Nick Butterworth
- Year 1 - **Odd Dog Out** by Rob Biddulph
- Year 2 - **Elmer** by David McKee
- Year 3 - **Flooded** by Mariajo Ilustrajo
- Year 4 - **The Artist** by Ed Vere
- Year 5 - **The Last Bear** - Hannah Gold
- Year 6 - **The Singing Bones** by Shaun Tan

If you would like more information on World Book Day please look on this link <https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Why do we need World Book Day?

Reading for pleasure matters
Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.

Source: OECD

Fewer children are reading for fun
Nearly 1 million children in the UK do not have a book of their own.

Source: National Literacy Trust

World Book Day encourages more children into a life-long habit of reading for pleasure, and the improved life chances this brings.

These 6 principles help change attitudes to reading for pleasure – please share them through your social media and at your events.

How can we encourage reading for pleasure?



How does World Book Day make a difference?

With your support, World Book Day brings books and a love of reading to the children who need them most. We aim to:

- **Give every child a book of their own**
Every year we distribute over 50 million £1 and €1.50 book tokens for children and young people to exchange for a FREE brilliant book – or to get £1 or €1.50 off another book worth more than £2.99. For 1 in 5 children receiving free school meals, the book they chose to buy with their £1 book token is the first book of their own.
Source: 2023 National Literacy Trust, Annual Literacy Survey
- **Encourage more children to read for pleasure**
We provide resources and activities that inspire children to read for fun, helping to transform attitudes and behaviour among children and families.
- **Work with local communities to give more children access to books**
Our team works with community groups, libraries, schools, bookshops and charity partners to get books to the children and young people who need them most.



When planning your fundraising activities, please ensure that they are not connected to children exchanging their £1/€1.50 World Book Day book. The token exchange should be a universal offer open to all children and fundraising activity should be separate to this.



Young Voices

What an incredible musical adventure it was! Our pupils from Oak View recently took the stage at the legendary O2 Arena for the Young Voices Concert and they absolutely rocked it! From belting out their favourite tunes to dancing along with the crowd, our pupils had an unforgettable time showcasing their talent and sang their hearts out.

A huge round of applause to all the children who participated and made this experience one to remember.

We're incredibly proud of each and every one of you!

Here's to more musical adventures in the future!



NSPCC Number Day - Friday 2nd February



Thank you to everyone who took part in dressing up for the Number Day. Each class took part in fun activities using numbers.





Wellbeing Week Mon 5th - Fri 9th February

Last week, at Oak View we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. We launched the 5 ways to wellbeing and every day had a different focus.

On Monday, we were thinking about learning something new, Year 1 learnt a new song with actions, Year 4 learnt magic tricks and Year 6 learnt how to juggle.



On Tuesday, we had a let's connect day which was also Safer Internet Day. We learnt about different ways to stay safe online and Nursery made a feelings tree.



Wednesday was be active and years 1 to 6 had a special football session where they thought about how it felt to share as well as ways to use exercise to regulate when you are feeling angry or upset. Nursery practised some Yoga.



On Thursday we were noticing. Year 4 went for a walk around school and spotted lots of things that they had never noticed before. Year 1 had a shape hunt around their classroom and then they had to notice all the differences that had changed in their classroom.



Friday was giving day, each KS2 class was partnered with a younger year group and they shared a book with them as well as some playing and chatting time. The end to the week in Years 3 and 4 was a talent show where the children had a chance to share their wonderful skills.





Wellbeing week continued...

Overall, we had a really fun and exciting week. We will continue to use the 5 ways to wellbeing and these will be a focus for us on our mental health and wellbeing afternoons each half term. Below, are some of the 5 ways to wellbeing ideas that you can do in and around your home with your child.

(Primary School Aged Children)

Research from around the world tells us that there are 5 things we should all do more of to boost our wellbeing and improve our mood. Here are some things you can do in and around your home.

Have a think about what you are already doing, what you can consider doing more of and how many of these you can complete each day.

CONNECT

- If you're at home with your family, try to eat lunch or dinner at the same time - this can be much more fun than all eating separately and gives you an opportunity to chat.
- Stay in touch with your friends - you might not be able to see them right now, but you can still speak on the phone. Hearing someone's voice can be much nicer than just sending a message.
- Talk about your feelings. It is important you don't bottle your feelings up. Talking Shows Strength.
- Listen. If a friend or family member wants to talk to you. Make sure you listen and give them your full attention - remember to ask the question "How are you?"

GIVE

- Now is a great time to help around the house – you could tidy your room; help do the hoovering or pull out some weeds in the garden if you have one.
- Draw or paint a picture for someone in your family - everyone loves receiving a handmade picture, you'll be able to put a smile on their face.
- If you have a pet, spend some time with them - give them a fuss if they like being fussed.
- Write a poem for someone you love – you could then read it to them over the phone to brighten their day.
- Say something nice to someone you live with – perhaps they look nice today, or they've done something for you that you could thank them for.

NOTICE

- Draw a picture of something in your house or garden, or something you can see through your window.
- Do an online meditation – you could even do this as a whole family. Here are some to try - www.headspace.com/meditation/kids
- Listen to some music you enjoy – why not sing along too. Have a think about what it is you really like about each song you play.
- Write a diary or journal - this is an unusual time for everyone, so it can be useful to write about what we are doing and how we are feeling.
- If you're feeling anxious, try some deep breathing. Breathe in to the count of 3, hold for the count of 3, and then breath out to the count of 3. Repeat ten times. It can help to visualise each stage as one side of a triangle.

BE ACTIVE

- Dance to some music that you enjoy listening to – making up dance routines is fun and keeps you active.
- If you have a garden, play a game outside - skipping, star jumps, keepy- uppy's or if exercise is not your thing, why not start a little gardening project.
- Hoovering, sweeping up and housework is a great way to be active and to help out your family.
- There other physical activities you can do on line from home visit: <https://sportinherths.org.uk/physical-activity-for-wellbeing/workoutfromhome/>

LEARN

- Why not try a new hobby from home such as arts, crafts, knitting or photography.
- Carry on with your Schoolwork and try to create a timetable and stick to a routine.
- Read a book – every book will teach us something new and will improve wellbeing.
- If you're learning to play a musical instrument – challenge yourself to try to learn something new to play.
- Learn something new – it could be a magic trick, a new dance move, or even a few simple phrases like counting to ten in another language

#5wayshirts connect > be active > take notice > keep learning > give

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Year 1 Bus trip

Year 1 were treated to a bus ride around Hatfield courtesy of UNO buses. The trip was linked to their topic of Hatfield and shopping in the past and present. The children thoroughly enjoyed their ride around looking at all the local shopping sites.





Football week

On Monday 5th February, Oak View played against Howe Dell in a league match at home. Both teams played very well and there were some amazing saves from both goalies. At half time the score was 1-1 then with the change of ends and the final whistle the score was 2-1 to Howe Dell.

Well done to the team and good luck with our next match next week. Fingers crossed the rain stops and dries out the pitch.



For mental health week we had Welwyn U Sports in for the day to provide year 1-6 with a short session on football skills and linked in with mental health and how our actions affect others. All of the classes had an amazing session and they all went away with a sense of achievement, a better understanding of how a small action of help can really lift each other's feelings and how exercise can lift you when you are feeling low or down.





Reception - Balance bikes

Our Reception children have been learning how to use the balance bikes over the last week. Every Reception child will have the opportunity to use them over the coming weeks.



Year 6 Cycling

Our Year 6's had the opportunity to work with Herts Sports Disability Foundation. They helped the children to service their bikes and learn how to ride them safely. The foundation also, very kindly, gave some of the children bikes to take home. We are so grateful to them for their time and generosity towards our children. Thank you so much.





Year 4 Rock climbing

Some more of our Year 4 children had the opportunity to experience rock climbing. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and you can see from the pictures how much fun they are all having climbing to great heights!



Intra competition winners Spring Term 1

Intra competition Year 3 winners were Renoir

Intra competition Year 5 winners were Klimt



Meal ordering on School Grid

There are still a lot of children who are not ordering lunches at home via the School Grid. Please log on to the School Grid to order lunches for your children. This can be done for weeks in advance and is more convenient as you can make sure that what your child likes what they have chosen. If you know your child has an appointment and will be late for school, please order their lunch for them as if they arrive too late, we may not be able to give them their choice.

Dinner money should also be paid for in advance. Please make payments while ordering as this helps to stop large debts accumulating.

Please visit <https://schoolgrid.co.uk/products/menugrid/> to order or cancel lunches. If you are having any problems logging in, please contact the school office.

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**Please donate outgrown/unwanted uniform
so we can continue to help each other make**



Important allergy information

Despite our reminders and posters around school, we are still seeing children bringing in nuts or nut based products into school.

We have children and adults in school who have life threatening allergies.

Please do not include nuts or nut based products (i.e Nutella, peanut butter) and shellfish for either lunch or snack time.

Please make sure you check labels for hidden ingredients.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Peanut butter



Nutella



Nuts



Shellfish

Appointments during school time

We are seeing an increasing number of children being taken out during the school day to attend appointments. Whilst we understand that some appointments have to be attended and are unavoidable, please try and make your appointments after school has finished.

We will ask for proof of the appointment if you ask to take your child out of school early or bring them in late.

Thank you



From the Office

Attendance - If your child is going to be absent from school, please tell the school office before 9.30am. **If we do not hear from you, the absence may be noted as unauthorised.**

Lateness - We still have a number of late arrivals in the mornings. Please try to get your child in school by 8.50am and collect at 3.10pm KS1 & 3.15pm KS2.

Communication - Please make sure that all of your contact details are up to date and we have the correct ones on your child's records. It is important so we can keep you up to date.

Diary Dates

2024

Mon 19th Feb - Fri 23rd Feb
 Mon 4th & Tues 5th March
 Weds 6th March
 Mon 11th March

Fri 15th March
 Thurs 28th March
 Mon 15th April
 Mon 6th May
 Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May
 Fri 19th July

Spring half term - School closed
 Parents Evenings
 Year 4 Greek Day
 Great Big Dance Off audition at The Gordon
 Craig Theatre, Stevenage
Inset Day - School closed
Term ends 1pm
 Term starts 8.50am
 May Bank Holiday - School Closed
 Summer Half Term - School Closed
 Term ends 1pm