

PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

Friday 28th November 2025

A MESSAGE FROM MRS WELBOURNE

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy and productive few weeks at Oakley, filled with events that have highlighted the dedication of our growing school community.

Anti-Bullying Week saw us celebrating kindness, with pupils from our secondary phase joining in activities that promoted empathy and positive relationships. Inter-Faith Week was equally valuable, giving pupils the chance to learn from visitors and deepen their understanding of different faiths—reflecting the inclusivity we are so proud of.

Our 'Come and Learn' sessions were a real highlight, welcoming families into school to experience our phonics learning firsthand. It was fantastic to see so many of you engaging in activities and celebrating the children's achievements.

We have also hosted three of our four Open Events for prospective parents, and it has been a pleasure to showcase everything Oakley School has to offer. The positive feedback we received has made me incredibly proud of how much has been achieved in one year.

Our value for this half term is 'Confidence', and we look forward to seeing this shine through in the upcoming Nativity performances and Christmas shows. As we move through this exciting time of year, there is a wonderful sense of anticipation across the school. With a range of festive activities organised by both the school and our PTA, there is much to look forward to. We have included a 'Christmas Events' page later in this newsletter to help you keep track of all the celebrations planned.

My sincere thanks go to our dedicated PTA, the Friends of Oakley School, for their tireless work in creating memorable experiences for our pupils. Their first newsletter is included at the end of this edition, and your support—where possible—is always greatly appreciated.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Welbourne
Assistant Headteacher



READING AMBASSADORS

We are delighted to have launched our Reading Ambassador programme again this year. Twice a week, secondary pupils join us to support our primary children with practising their reading before sharing a high-quality children's book aloud to model the very best reading skills. This paired activity is not only hugely beneficial for pupils' reading progress, but also a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our whole-school community and make the most of the valuable skills pupils can learn from one another.



COME AND LEARN EVENTS

Our recent Come and Learn event was a wonderful success, as we welcomed family members into school to see our Phonics lessons in action. Pupils demonstrated our value of Ready to Learn, proudly showcasing the fantastic progress they have made so far this term. It was great to then see the range of activities taking place across classrooms, including labelling mammals in Science, creating tissue-paper poppies, building caves for animals, and even testing parents' knowledge of Phase 5 digraphs. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event so special.

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME - ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

We recently enjoyed celebrating Anti-Bullying Week with this year's theme, Power of Good. To showcase the importance of kindness, pupils from our Secondary, Primary and Nursery came together for a shared activity 'You've Got a Friend in Me'. Pupils made new friends and enjoyed chatting and getting to know one another whilst engaging in lots of fun activities. It was wonderful to see our younger learners having the confidence to interact with older friends and our Secondary pupils were incredibly kind and gentle with them. It was an excellent opportunity to strengthen connections and celebrate the joy of being an all-through school.



READING BOOKS AND DIARIES

You may have already spotted our brand-new, beautifully designed reading diaries, personalised to our school and our phonics scheme.

We kindly ask for your help in keeping these diaries in excellent condition. One helpful idea is to place the diary and your child's phonics reading book inside a plastic wallet within their bookbag to protect them from any accidental damage. We also gently remind parents to return reading books to bookbags after each use. All books are issued on a Thursday and collected on a Monday. If books are not returned on time, it can limit our ability to run group reading sessions, as we currently have a restricted number of copies. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us make the most of our reading provision.

CLIMB AND ROLL TASTER SESSION

Last week, Mr Vonzo, who leads our Wraparound Club, delivered an exciting taster session of one of the after-school clubs Onside Coaching offer: ***Climb and Roll***.

Children had the chance to try out some fantastic apparatus and take part in a range of gymnastics-themed activities under Mr Vonzo's expert guidance.

There are still spaces available for this club on Wednesdays from 3:15–4:30pm.

If you would like your child to take part, simply create an account at oakley.onsidelive.co.uk and select the club you wish to book.



AUTHOR VISIT - HOLLY SWAIN

Buttercups and Snowdrops classes enjoyed a wonderful, immersive workshop with visiting author Holly Swain! The children loved listening to her storytelling from Colin's Castle—the fun-filled tale of Colin, a vegetarian vampire who thinks he's found his perfect castle... until he realises it comes with a duck!

Children enthusiastically joined in with the story and then took part in an illustration workshop, learning how to bring Holly's characters to life. Holly was incredibly engaging and we loved being about to further inspire our young readers!



• NEWS FROM OUR CLASSES

BUTTERCUPS

This half term, the 'Illuminate and Celebrate' topic has inspired wonderful learning in Buttercups class. The children have confidently shared show-and-tell speeches about the celebrations their families enjoy, giving us a lovely insight into different cultures and religions. In Drawing Club, they've explored celebration-themed stories and are growing in confidence with letter formation and CVC words. In Maths, we've focused on number composition, exploring 'wholes' and 'parts', and in Oracy we've practised using our voices to show different emotions. We're now very excited for the final weeks of term and our Christmas Nativity performance.



SNOWDROPS

This half term, our theme 'Through the Deep, Dark Woods' has been inspiring learning across the Y1 curriculum. In writing, we've explored much-loved Julia Donaldson stories during our Curious Quests. In Geography, children have learned about our local area, identifying nearby towns like Warwick and Leamington and locating England on a simple UK map. Science has seen lots of excitement as pupils sorted animals into groups and began exploring what herbivores, omnivores and carnivores eat. In Design and Technology, we're practising safe cutting skills to create a fruit crumble fit for a Gruffalo! Throughout provision time, children have been choosing fantastic themed activities which enable autonomy, choice, repeated practice and joy for our learners!



THE MEADOW

So far this half term, The Meadow class have been busy learners across the curriculum. In Maths, the children have enjoyed exploring one more and one less, applying their skills with growing confidence. They have also created some wonderful art masterpieces using a range of different media. In PSHE, the class have been learning about emotions and even designed their own Zones of Regulation display to help them recognise and talk about their feelings. They are also absolutely loving their Forest School sessions, where their curiosity and independence continue to shine.





FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

The latest edition of the Family Information Service newsletter available to read at: [FIS Newsletter](#)



ETHNICITY INFORMATION

To ensure our records are up to date, please ensure you have completed all information on your child's MCaS profile - this includes ethnicity and home language. Please ensure this is completed as soon as possible,

CONNECT FOR HEALTH

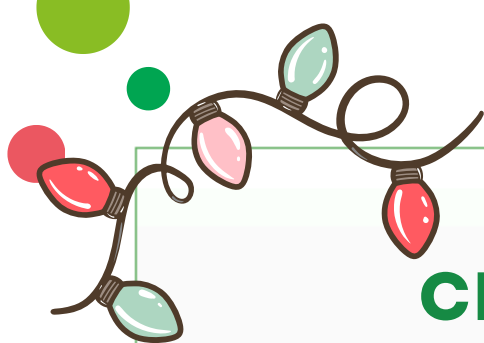


Connect for Health is the Warwickshire School Nursing Service, who work closely with schools to support children's health and wellbeing. We'd like to remind parents of the importance of keeping up with regular health checks. Please ensure your child is registered with an optician and has regular eye tests, as well as routine dental check-ups. If you are finding it difficult to register with an NHS dentist, you can now call NHS 111, who have an up-to-date list of dentists with available spaces.

ATTENDANCE

We have recently noticed a significant increase in requests for term-time holidays. At Oakley School, and across our academy trust, attendance is a top priority because it plays a vital role in children's long-term success. In the early years especially, regular attendance helps children build strong friendships, develop essential life skills and make consistent academic progress. Request for leave can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and we kindly remind parents that term-time holidays are not permitted. Wherever possible, please ensure any family holidays are booked during the 13 weeks of school holidays throughout the year.

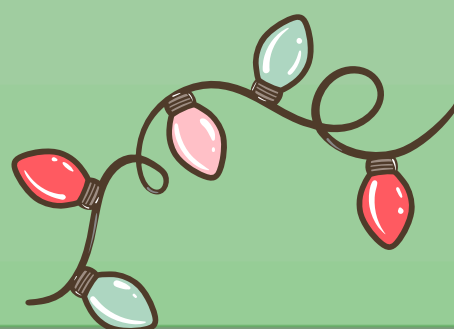




CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Reception Christmas Show	Tuesday 9th December 9am
Year 1 Christmas Show	Wednesday 10th December 9am
Secondary Christmas Concert	Tuesday 11th December 6pm
Christmas Theatre Trip	Friday 12th December (PM)
Cosy Jumper Day (PTA Event)	Friday 12th December all day
PTA Bake Sale	Friday 12th December 3.15
Reception Breakfast with Santa – PTA Event	Tuesday 16th December (AM)
Year 1 Story Time with Santa – PTA Event	Tuesday 16th December (AM)
Class Christmas Parties	Thursday 18th December (PM)
End of term	Friday 19th December 1pm



TERM DATES 25-26

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October: Half Term Break

Friday 28th November: Teacher Training Day (children not in school)

Friday 19th December: Autumn term ends
(12:20pm Secondary / 1:00pm Primary)

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January: Teacher Training Day (children not in school)

Tuesday 6th January: start of Spring term

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February: Half Term Break

Friday 27th March: Spring term ends

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13th April: start of Summer term

Monday 4th May: Bank Holiday

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May: Half Term Break

Friday 26th June: Teacher Training Day (children not in school)

Friday 17th July: Summer term ends
(12:20pm Secondary / 1:00pm Primary)



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

Primary | December 2025

As Christmas approaches, many families are planning to surprise their children with a new phone, tablet, or gaming device under the tree. It's an exciting time - new technology opens doors to creativity, learning and connection. But it also brings a fresh set of questions about what apps and online spaces children might explore.

With so many options available, it's natural to wonder which apps are suitable for children and how to ensure they have positive experiences online. To help families navigate these decisions, here is a closer look at some of the most concerning apps and platforms.

In this issue:

- New devices, new apps
- New devices, safe starts



What is it?

Reddit is an extensive online discussion platform with 'Subreddits' on various topics.

What are the risks?

It features unmoderated or explicit content, including adult themes and misinformation. Users can privately chat with others through comments or direct messages.

Reddit



Kik

What it is?

A messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos and videos without linking to a phone number - only a username is needed.

What are the risks?

Kik has minimal age verification and a reputation for anonymous interactions. Children can be contacted by strangers and messages can't easily be monitored.



Telegram

What it is?

A messaging service known for encrypted chats and large group channels, often used for community discussions or file sharing.

What are the risks?

Telegram's 'secret chats' and disappearing messages make it difficult for parents to supervise activity. Some public groups share mature or illegal content.



Vault apps

What they are?

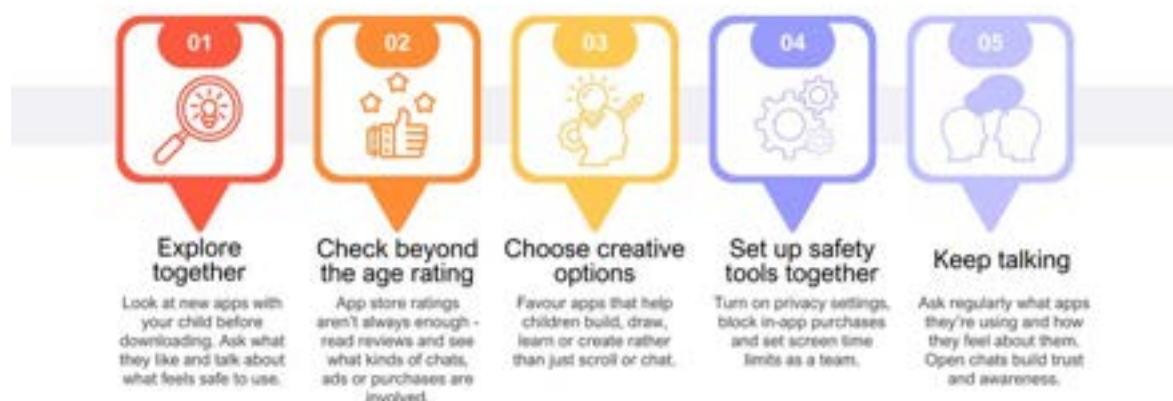
Apps designed to hide photos, videos or other apps behind a disguised icon or password. Some look like calculators or utilities.

What are the risks?

Used to conceal messages or content. If you notice one installed, it's worth having an open conversation rather than assuming wrongdoing - curiosity often drives their use.

Before your child dives into their new device, it's worth taking a moment to explore which apps are right for them. Here are a few simple ways to make sure the apps they use are age-appropriate and child-friendly.

How to choose child friendly apps:



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Giving devices safely this Christmas.

Getting a new device for Christmas is exciting - it can open a world of learning, creativity and connection. But it also introduces children to a digital world that isn't always designed with their safety in mind. Setting clear boundaries and protective measures early on helps children learn to use technology in healthy, balanced and age-appropriate ways.

Without guidance, young users can stumble into areas of concern: social media platforms that encourage comparison and oversharing gaming chats that expose them to strangers or apps that collect more personal data than you might expect. These risks don't mean children shouldn't enjoy their new devices - they simply mean they need structure and support to navigate them confidently.

Here are some ways to make sure your child's first steps with a new device are positive ones:



1.Set it up before it gets wrapped.

Before gifting the device, take time to install updates, set parental controls and review privacy settings. This includes switching on filters, limiting app store access and setting up family accounts. Doing this ahead of time keeps Christmas morning focused on joy rather than set up stress - and gives you peace of mind from the start.



2.Agree on clear expectations.

Talk as a family about when and where the device can be used. For example, no phones at the dinner table or gaming at bedtime. These routines help children learn balance and prevent screen time from creeping into every moment of the day.



3.Talk about social media early.

Many social platforms have age limits (typically 13+), but children often feel pressure to join sooner. Keep the conversation open about why these limits exist, what 'friends' really means online and how to handle content that feels uncomfortable or unkind.



4.Guide them through gaming safely.

Games are fun and social, but online play can include chats with strangers or in-game purchases. Encourage your child to only play with people they know, keep personal details private and tell you if something doesn't feel right. Use built-in parental settings on consoles and gaming apps to manage time and communication.



5.Keep passwords and downloads shared.

Agree that you'll know passwords and approve new apps or purchases, at least while your child is learning to manage their own digital choices. This helps you stay involved without needing to hover.



6.Encourage balance.

Screens are just one part of a child's world. Make sure there's time for outdoor play, reading and family time too. Children learn from what they see, so model healthy habits by unplugging together.

As technology becomes a bigger part of childhood, staying informed and involved makes all the difference. With a few clear boundaries and open conversations, you can help your child enjoy the best of their new device - safely, confidently and with balance. Small steps now set the foundation for healthy digital habits that will last well beyond the Christmas holiday.

Update from

Friends of Oakley School



Hello Everyone!

Friends of Oakley is made up of parents, carers, and staff who work together to support our school and enrich the experience of every child. Our main purpose is simple: to build a stronger school community while raising funds for resources, activities, and opportunities that directly benefit our students.

Over the past term, we've been busy organising events, supporting school initiatives, and bringing families together through activities such as fundraisers, themed events, and community get-togethers. Thanks to your incredible support, we plan to be able to contribute towards key projects and provide valuable extras that enhance learning and wellbeing across the school.

Looking ahead to the coming terms, we have an exciting calendar planned. From seasonal and community events to new fundraising ideas and school support, there will be plenty of ways for everyone to get involved. Whether you can volunteer regularly or just help out at the occasional event, every contribution makes a real difference.

Nov 2025

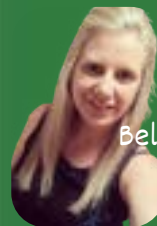
Meet the FOOS Committee



Rachael Escott
Primary Chair



Tom Jeskines
Treasurer

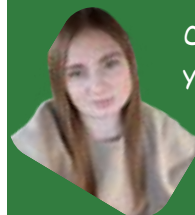


Bex Fort
Secretary

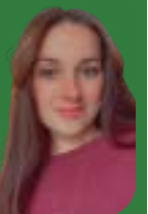


Alex Kittlety
Lotteries &
Raffles Officer

Bella Dela Cruz



Chloe Mae
Year 1 Class Rep



Nicola Shaddick
Reception Class Rep &
Stockroom Coordinator

Upcoming Events





Join us!

We are currently looking for new committee members to join our PTA team. This is a fantastic opportunity to have an active role in school life, help shape our events and initiatives, and make a lasting impact on our children's school experience. You don't need any prior experience — just enthusiasm, ideas, and a willingness to get involved.

We are currently looking to fill the following roles:

- Pre-loved uniform coordinator
- Grants officer

Roles vary in commitment and can be flexibly managed around work and family life. Whether you enjoy organising events, managing communications, or coordinating our pre-loved uniform sales, sourcing funding opportunities, or simply helping behind the scenes, there is a role for you.

If you'd like to find out more or express your interest, please get in touch via the school office, email Foos.chair@gmail.com, or speak to any current FOOS member. We'd love to welcome new faces and fresh ideas!

FOOS 24/25 Review

In 24/25, we proudly supported the school at a range of events including Open Days, Concerts and Sports Day, helping to make these occasions special for students, staff and families. We also hosted a fantastic programme of community events, including: Wreath Making Workshop, Breakfast with Santa, Reception Disco, Vaisakhi Extravaganza, Iftar Party, Grand Opening Summer Fair, Mother's and Father's Day Celebrations, and the Easter Bonnet Parade.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community, we raised over £2.4k, with total income of £9.1k and costs of £6.7k. These funds enabled us to purchase essential items to support FOOS operations and continue enhancing school events and initiatives.

We are now working with the school to identify the best way to invest part of these funds for the benefit of the school and students — more exciting news to follow.

We are also extremely proud to share that, with the support of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), a defibrillator has been installed at the school. This vital addition strengthens the safety and wellbeing of our entire community, and we are grateful for their generosity and partnership.

The 25/26 year has already started strongly, with a Halloween bake sale, wreath-making sessions and support for open evening events. We are also looking forward to the upcoming Primary School Disco and Santa Experience! with many more exciting events in the year ahead in 2026 - a full calendar of events will be shared shortly.

Stay In The Know!

Keep an eye on the newsletter and the school communications for dates, details, and opportunities to take part.

Join our volunteer WhatsApp chat here
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CSZR8gpk7g0ITctBSz6rVS>

or our Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/share/19fNub6khp/?mibextid=>

Christmas

PRESENT DONATION APPEAL

Be a star!

As we fast approach Christmas, we are once again appealing to our wonderful school community. We will be partnering with the Salvation Army to support their Christmas Toy and Gift Appeal to help bring joy to local children and young people who might otherwise not receive this Christmas. Our school community is always so incredibly generous so if you are able to help, we would be very grateful.

What We're Collecting

The Salvation Army is asking for new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children aged 0-18 years.

Gift Suggestions include but are not limited to:

- 0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles
- 3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- 5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- 9-12: games and toys, stationery, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- 13-16: books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

Dates for Hand-in

Primary Families

Please bring donations to our Christmas Shows: Reception Nativity on December 9 at 9 AM, and Year 1 Show on December 10 at 9 AM. We aim to create a large hamper from the donations. If you can't donate on these dates, please submit your items to the office by December 12.

Secondary and Nursery Families

Please drop your donations at the secondary school or nursery office for collection. Alternatively, you can bring them to the Secondary Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 11, or the invite-only Celebration Assembly on Wednesday, December 10.

Thank You

The Oakley School Team

All donations stay local, supporting families in our area who have been referred to the Salvation Army. Every child receives a bag of brand-new gifts carefully wrapped by the Salvation Army teams.



AUTUMN TERM VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMMES

Workshop/ Programme	Date and Time	Venue
Understanding Children's Behaviour	18th November 09:30 - 11:30	Virtual
Boundaries and Rules	21st November 09:30 - 11:30	Virtual
Understanding your teenager	27th November 10:00-12:00	Virtual
Sleep and Routines	28th November 09:30 - 11: 30	virtual
Parenting Together	1st December 17:30 - 19:30	virtual
Understanding Children's Behaviour	9th December 10:00- 12:00	virtual



**Book your
free place**

**For Warwickshire
parents only.**

For further information about this programme please email
ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk



JINGLE

CHRISTMAS CAMP

JAM



PRIORS FIELD PRIMARY
KENILWORTH

EMSCOTE INFANT
WARWICK

HEATHCOTE PRIMARY
WARWICK GATES

BRIAR HILL INFANT
WHITNASH

CLOSED FOR THIS CAMP
FINHAM PARK SECONDARY
BUT BACK FOR FEB HALF TERM!!

GOGO
XTRA!

NORTH LEAMINGTON
SCHOOL
LEAMINGTON SPA

AWARD-WINNING, MULTI-ACTIVITY,
OFSTED APPROVED, HOLIDAY CAMPS



RATED 5 STARS ON GOOGLE



JINGLE

CHRISTMAS CAMP

JAM



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AWARD-WINNING, MULTI-ACTIVITY,
OFSTED APPROVED, HOLIDAY CAMPS



RATED 5 STARS ON GOOGLE



CAROLS AT WARWICK CASTLE

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENT!
SING ALONG TO FESTIVE CAROLS WITH THE CHOIR OF ST MARY'S,
ACCOMPANIED BY THE FANTASTIC ROYAL SPA BRASS

SAT 20.12.2025

GATES
OPEN

6.30 - 9 PM

EVENT LOCATION:

WARWICK CASTLE

WARWICK, WARWICKSHIRE, CV34 6AH

TICKET
PRICES

£10

ADULT

£5

CHILD

FOR MORE EVENT INFO AND TICKETS VISIT: WWW.CAROLSINWARWICK.ORG.UK

[@CAROLSINWARWICKCASTLE](https://www.instagram.com/carolsinwarwickcastle)