

Attendance

The Government are continuing to place a high importance of improving attendance across all schools. Ministers have now published new guidance on managing school attendance that will become mandatory from this September. This includes the daily sharing of our school attendance data with the Government.

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and poor attendance.
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically.
- Regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with.
- Regular attenders find learning more satisfying.
- Regular attenders settle into Secondary school more easily.

From September, schools will have to consider a fine if a pupil misses 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. The threshold can be met with "any combination of unauthorised absence". For example, four sessions in term time plus six instances of arriving late.

Absence fines charged to parents will rise from £60 to £80, or £160 if not paid within 21 days. From Autumn term 2024, only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. Any notice thereafter will automatically be charged at £160.

Parents will also receive "improvement notices", where they are informed that this is their last opportunity to engage with education and improve their child's attendance before a fine is issued.

Absences should be reported via the ParentMail app, as early as possible, but before the start of the school day at 8.45am.



Oakridge Primary School

Why?

We believe in making our children world-class learners, developing in them a confidence and thirst for knowledge, enabling them to realise their talents and create their future.

How?

By tenaciously challenging and developing our own understanding of learning, as well as providing for them a 'Disney Land' curriculum with a fantastic range of curricular and extra curricular opportunities, which engage, enrich and excite them as learners.

Meet the Teacher

2024-2025

Year 6

Mr Lockley



Reaching for the stars

Introduction

Welcome to Year 6! This year sees the children entering their final year at Oakridge. It is possibly the most challenging year but also the most rewarding—packed with many opportunities to build confidence.

Curriculum Overviews

Below is a brief summary of the topic areas that your child will study. You can view the curriculum on the school's website.

Subject	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Science	Living things and their habitats Animals including humans	Electricity Light	Evolution and inheritance
History	Why do we call the Maya mysterious?	The story of migration to Britain?	Why is Ireland divided?
Geography	What is life like in Brazil?	Where does our energy come from?	Why is Ireland divided?
RE	Belief and Practices - Islam Christmas - Incarnation	Beliefs and Meaning - Salvation and eternity Easter - Gospel	Beliefs and Moral Values—Islam
PSHE	Being Me in my World Celebrating Difference	Dreams and Goals Healthy Me	Relationships Changing Me
Music	A new Year Carol What a performance	You've got a friend Music and Me	A showstopping performance
Art	Amazon Rainforest	Fish: Japanese Art	Celtic inspired print and design
DT	Car Challenge	Control and Programming: We Do Lego	Production Marketing

Art and D and T Mrs Holland will teach art/D&T on a Friday afternoon: this will cover the PPA requirement.

PE

For Year 6 PE will take place on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. Please can you ensure that your child comes to school in their PE kit on these days.

Other Key dates for your diary

Autumn Term

Parents evening - Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd October

Spring Term

Y4 Whitemoor lakes—2nd to 4th of April

Y5 Standon Bowers - Week beginning March 31st

Summer Term

Y6 SATS—12th to 15th May

Y6 Ireland week - May 19th - May 23rd 2025 (Proposed)

Communication

If you wish to speak to us then do not hesitate to do so, either by coming to the school office before the day begins at 8:45, or after the day has ended. You can also make communication through our contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk email address.

Tuck Shop

At morning break, the children will still have the opportunity to eat a piece of fruit. However, they also have the opportunity, if they want, to purchase items such as toast, a daily special (eg oatcake or flapjack) or a breakfast pot from the tuck shop. A menu and price list are available to view on our website. All items are ordered on ParentPay.



Dates for 2024–2025

In the Newsletter in September we will be providing a full date list for the year. However, we have included some important dates for your diary for next year.



Term dates

Autumn Term 2024

Inset days: Monday 2nd September and
Tuesday 3rd September
Term starts: Wednesday 4th September
Holiday: Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November
Term ends: Friday 20th December
Holiday: Monday 23rd December - Monday 3rd January

Spring Term 2025

Inset: Monday 6th January
Term starts: Tuesday 9th January
Holiday: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February
Term ends: Friday 11th April
Holiday: Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April

Summer Term 2025

Term starts: Monday 28th April
May Day: Monday 5th May
Holiday: Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May
Inset: Monday 2nd June
Term ends: Friday 18th July
Inset: Monday 21st July
Holiday: Tuesday 22nd July - Friday 29th August



The Oakridge Way

In addition to the national curriculum, we will also continue to develop the children's understanding of themselves as learners. We will continue to do this through our 'Oakridge Way' which exemplifies both the learning mindframes and associated behaviours, as well as the personal attributes, we promote as part of our whole school ethos.

The roots of the tree are the personal attributes we promote both around school and outside. These are: being kind, well-mannered, trustworthy and respectful.



The canopy of the tree displays the four over-arching learning mindframes. On the following two pages you can see the learning mindframes and the associated behaviours that we use with the children throughout their learning.

The children will continue to earn house points, golden book certificates, positive notes and Head and Deputy Headteacher stickers. Our house names are star constellations to support our motto of 'Reaching for the Stars'. They are:

- Red - Draco - The Dragon
- Yellow - Orion - The Hunter
- Blue - Pegasus - The Flying Horse
- Green - Ursa - The Great Bear



Resourceful

I make links in my learning

I am curious and can ask good questions

I use my imagination

I know when to think for myself and when to ask for help

I can select the resources I need to help me learn

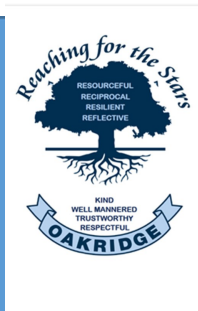
Resilient

I don't give up

I say 'I can'

I stay focussed and manage my distractions

When things go wrong I keep a positive attitude



Supporting pupils' emotional well-being



All children and young people have their ups and downs and experience all kinds of thoughts and feelings as they grow up. We have received training which has helped them to support children's mental health and well-being, by utilising emotion coaching. We will be encouraging children to ask for a listening ear if they are experiencing some emotional challenges. As parents, you can also let us know if you feel that your child needs some support.

School Uniform

At Oakridge the Governors and staff believe that the wearing of school uniform gives pupils confidence in themselves, pride in the school and helps to promote a feeling of belonging to the school community. It is both practical and economical and helps prevent needless comparisons in dress.

Recommended items of clothing are as follows:-

Boys

White shirt

School tie

Navy blue sweatshirt embroidered with the school logo

Grey school trousers

Black school shoes

Grey / black socks

Girls

White blouse

School tie

Navy blue sweatshirt / cardigan embroidered with the school logo

Grey skirt or grey pinafore dress

Grey school trousers

Black school shoes

Light blue / white gingham dress for the summer if desired

Navy blue tights / navy blue or white socks



PE Kit

School navy and sky blue embroidered shirt

School navy and sky blue shorts

Navy socks

Trainers



Reading

We ask the children to read every day. The importance of daily personalised reading practice cannot be overstated. Recent studies indicate that when children spend 30 minutes a day reading suitably challenging books which they successfully comprehend then they will achieve optimal reading age growth.

Spelling

Children will continue to be set weekly spelling assignments on spelling shed. These will be 10 words per week taken from the year 5/6 spelling list that all primary aged children should spell independently. Those children with areas of weakness in spelling may also be set additional or alternative spelling based on HFW that they misspell in their writing in class.

Enrichment

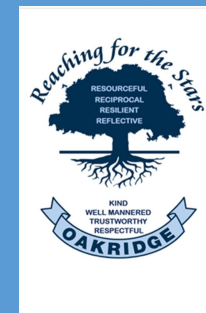
We continue to plan trips, visits and special themed days to support and enhance children's learning. Some of the proposed enrichment activities are shown below. These may be added to or amended as the year progresses.

Enrichment Activities	Subject	Term
World's leading Maya expert to visit school	History	Autumn
Renewable energy workshop	Geography	Spring
Lego innovation centre visit	DT/Computing	Summer
Ireland residential	History/Geography	Summer
Stage and theatre week	Music and Drama	Summer



Reciprocity

- I am respectful
- I can learn in a team
- I co-operate
- I listen, I think and respond
- I mag-pie ideas to make my learning the best it can be



Reflective

- I learn from mistakes
- I try to be better than the last time
- I use feedback to keep improving
- I compare myself to myself, not others
- I review my learning using my success criteria



What 'The Oakridge Way' means to our children



Year 4: 'It's about reaching for the stars and being the best person you can be, and being the best learner you can be.'

Reception: 'The way we learn and behave at Oakridge.'

Year 6: 'It's about who we are as a school. We all follow and reach new heights with learning and behaviour, linking the school together. It unites it.'

Year 2: 'The way we do things around here, it's the way Oakridge does things.'



Home Learning

We appreciate how important the links between home and school are, and the need for us to work together to ensure a good education for your child. For home learning we will continue to re-enforce the basic skills associated with English and Maths. Each week the children will therefore be expected to learn spellings, read daily and practice mental arithmetic or quick recall of number facts.

In KS2 home learning will be outlined on a document in each child's individual file on BGFL. Electronic learning conversations, which are attached to the document will be used for children and teachers to comment. The comments will be checked by Mr Lockley and responded to. Parents can also comment through this, or the contactus email if it is more appropriate.

Reading

Daily home reading - recommended 30 mins daily

Spelling

Spelling assignments of the key spellings set for upper key stage 2 will be set on spelling shed

Maths

On-going deliberate practice of mental and written strategies of arithmetic

Subject learning

As part of our wider curriculum we may ask children to undertake supplementary activities to support the topic

'Visible Learning' and deliberate practise in maths

My personal experience with year 6 classes over the previous years has shown me that the visible learning process has led to children making outstanding progress through:

- Increased self-responsibility and motivation
- Accepting mistakes more easily and valuing challenge
- Identifying where the next step in the learning journey will take them

The same patterns occur every year. Those with a better attitude, home support and encouragement and conversations at home concerning their targets outperform those with a better initial aptitude

Arithmetic /40	Baseline score September	Final SATs score May
Pupil 1	22	29 (+7)
Pupil 2	15	38 (+23)
Pupil 3	27	32 (+5)
Pupil 4	13	40 (+27)