



Oakfield Schools

20th February 2025



Dear all

We just wanted to take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable half term holiday and to thank you for your support over the last half term.

We also wanted to thank you for your support in the schools' tweaks to our attendance policy. As you will be aware schools are directed on many things by the DFE and you must have seen the heightened focus on attendance and punctuality that the DFE and Ofsted have launched this academic year. Since the Covid 19 pandemic national attendance rates have fallen from an average of 96% to an average of 93.5%. The DFE are also, quite rightly, very concerned about the increase in Emotionally School Based Avoidance which evidence suggests is significantly on the rise. In response to this, to enable children to receive the education they deserve and are entitled to, they have upped the rigour in which they expect schools to monitor and respond to attendance in general. This includes all school attendance data being automatically shared with their national attendance data base, more stringent rules surrounding holidays taken during school term time, what codes schools can use to log absences in addition to being vigilant in monitoring punctuality.

This last tweak to our policy is one which some parents have found difficult to understand and we apologise if this has caused any families any upset. We have not introduced this to be difficult, we have introduced this because it is expected of us by the DFE. We would ask that you see this in the spirit it is intended, to support our young people to get the very most out of their primary school experience. We understand also, that not every school day begins in the way we might hope and that sometimes things happen which mean our children find it difficult to get into school on time. If this is the case, if it is an isolated incident just pop in and let the office know and if it is a longer standing issue we have a team of people in school who can help and support. We can offer some flexibilities in our policy which can implement adaptations which will help our children to access school with greater ease. We already have a number of children successfully accessing these adaptations. If this is something you feel would help please let us know and we would be very keen to support you as we understand that life isn't always simple.

Thank you again and if you have any questions or need any clarifications please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks and have a fantastic half term - Miss Chisholm

Diary Dates for 2024-2025		
New / amended events added are highlighted in yellow after week 1		
KS1 = Year 1 & 2 / KS2 = Junior school		
Date	Event	Time
22/02/25	Spring Half Term	
12/3/24	Year One visit to Cromer Church	
	Spring 2 Term Start	
04/03/25	Year 4 trip – Discovery museum	
06/03/25	World Book Day- Witches, Wizards and Muggles	
21/3/24	Comic Relief	
22/03/25	Friends of Oakfield - Quiz night Gold medal	19.00
w/b 07/04/25	Year R – 5 Parents’ evenings (face to face)	
11/04/25	Year 5 trip – Centre for Life	
	Easter Holidays	
	Start of Summer 1 term	
30/04/25	Year 4 trip – Jarrow Hall	
05/05/25	Spring Bank Holiday	
w/b 12/05/25	SATS week	All week
w/b 19/05/25	Sports Week	All week
19/05/25	Year 3 Trip - Segedunum	
23/5/25	Saltwell Park Fun Run	
	Whit Half Term	
	Start of Summer 2 term	
3/6/25	Year 1 trip to Gibside	
5/6/25	Year 2 trip to Washington Wetlands	
June 2025 (TBC)	Year 1 / 2 phonics check	All week
17/06/25	Summer Fayre	15.30 – 17.00
2-3/ 07/25	Transition days	
10/7/25	Reception trip to Wallington Hall	
10/7/25	Year 3 trip – Oriental Museum	
11/07/25	Reports out to parents	
15/07/25	Year 6 leavers concert	17.30
16-17/07/25	Infant Summer Picnics	tbc
17/07/25	Last day of term	
18/07/25	Occasional day – School closed	

2024 - 2025 Term Dates	
Term	Dates
Autumn 1	04/09/24 – 25/10/24
Autumn 2	04/11/24 – 20/12/24
Spring 1	06/01/25 – 20/02/25
Spring 2	03/03/25 – 11/04/25
Summer 1	28/04/25 – 23/05/25
Summer 2	02/06/25 – 17/07/25
PD days for the year	02/09/24 03/09/24 25/10/24 21/02/25

PE Days	
Reception	Tuesday and Friday
Year One	Monday and Thursday
Year Two	Wednesday and Friday
Year Three	Wednesday and Thursday
Year Four	Wednesday and Friday
Year Five	Monday and Wednesday (Swimming)
Year Six	Tuesday and Friday

Change to parent communication app.

As you will recall we have changed our MIS system from Scholarpack to Arbor. This system has much greater capability and has enabled us to merge a number of systems into one place rather than have to procure them separately.

As a result of this, the way we communicate with parents and carers is changing. We will be phasing out School ping over the next few weeks and all school communications will be sent via **Arbor Parent Portal and App**.

Our new Parent Portal and Parent App allow parents to view all school communications, manage your child's school activities, consent for trips, monitor attendance and book parents evening slots.

No action is required at the moment until you receive your welcome email.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



World book Day



A reminder that it is World book Day on Thursday 6th March 2025. The children can come into school dressed as a Wizard, witch or a Muggle. Key Stage One events include making potions, wands and a woodland trail looking for Magical characters from books. There will be a World book Day menu available on that day as well (further details to follow.)

Key Stage Two children will be completing escape room challenges, a Harry Potter based quiz and Sorting Hat challenge. Can all children please bring in their favourite book to share with their friends in the classroom. During the day there will be lots of book activities in class. Reading Champions have decided that they would like to have a Wooden Spoon Book Character competition for each class. Children can design and decorate a wooden spoon as a book character and bring it to school on World Book Day. There are ideas on the image above to help.

The latest study by the Literacy Trust in 2024 shows that the percentage of children and young people who said they enjoyed reading was its lowest since they started the studies in 2005. We very much value your support with this to enable the children to reach their full potential with reading.

Scholastic Book Fair

We are looking forward to holding Scholastic book fairs at school from Wednesday 12th to Tuesday 18th March. Further details of opening times will follow after half term. There will be lots of interesting books, so we look forward to seeing you there.

Friends of Oakfield



One of the easiest ways to support the Friends of Oakfield is to sign up to easyfundraising! It is simple ... shop with 8,000+ online retailers and we will receive a free donation.

Until 28th February, with their Free £2 App-eal, if you register to support us via their app, we will get £2 (no spend necessary), plus when 10+ of you register we will unlock more bonus funding!

Get the app now and choose to support 'Friends Of Oakfield - Gateshead' once installed:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/>

Our popular Quiz Night is back at the Gold Medal on Saturday 22nd March, so come along and support us!

Get your tickets here ... friends-of-oakfield.sumupstore.com

We are also looking for donations of raffle prizes, so if anyone can help with this, please contact us.

Safeguarding



Potentially addictive online games are nothing new, but the specifics of this kind of media can vary enormously – and, consequently, the risks in each individual game are just as diverse. The city-builder Township is no exception: providing its legions of devotees with accessible, satisfying fun ... but exposing them to potential hazards at the same time.

However, any safeguarding issues that the game might have can (with a little knowhow) be neutralised – allowing young players to have some engrossing fun without adults needing to worry about children's data, their money, or their mental wellbeing. Our guide outlines how to help young gamers enjoy Township safely and responsibly.

School Attendance and Punctuality

School year	Spring 1		Year to Date	
	Attendance	% late	Attendance	% late
Junior Overall	96.7%	1.43%	96.6%	1.29%
Infant Overall	94.6%	0.65%	95.8%	0.66%
6	96.5%	1.33%	96.5%	0.99%
5	97.4%	1.57%	97.3%	1.62%
4	95.4%	1.45%	95.6%	1.35%
3	97.2%	1.36%	96.8%	1.22%
2	93.9%	0.76%	95.7%	0.79%
1	96.9%	0.64%	96.6%	0.49%
R	92.5%	0.89%	94.5%	0.7%

Thank you all for continuing to support with our attendance.

Miss Chisholm - Executive Head Teacher

Miss Hartness – Executive Deputy Head

Mr Thompson – Executive Deputy Head