



Oakfield Schools

23rd January 2026

Family learning



Over the past two weeks, we have had a fantastic opportunity to welcome families into school and share the learning taking place each day. The turnout from parents has been the best to date, and the children thoroughly enjoyed showcasing their work and talking with pride about what they do in school. We are sure you were impressed by the depth and breadth of their learning.

Thank you for your continuous support with this, it means so much to the children and staff.

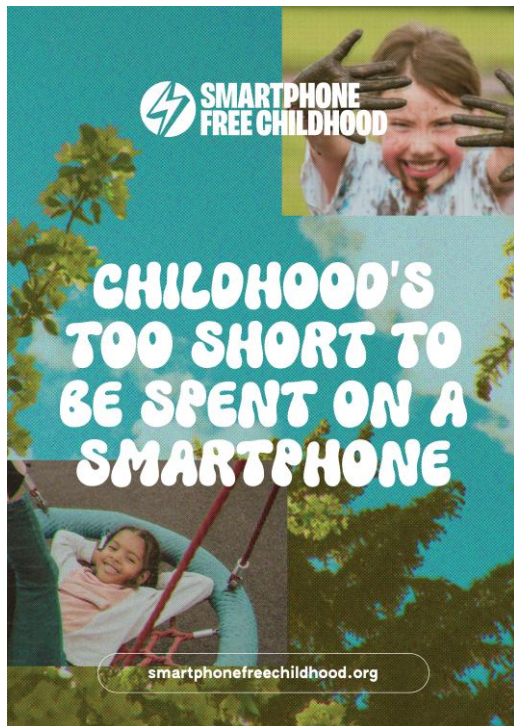
Diary Dates for 2025-2026		
New / amended events added are highlighted in yellow after week 1		
w/b 9/02/26	Science week	
w/b 16/02/26	Parents evenings – learning plan reviews	tbc
20/2/26	Wear Red for CHUF day	
w/b 23/02/26	Half term	
02/03/26	Spring 2 term begins	
03/03/26	Year 1 trip to Cromer Church	
03/03/26	Year 5 Residential Visit Parent Information Evening	15:45 & 17:15
05/03/26	World book day	
03/04/26	Easter Holidays (<i>note: Good Friday at start of holidays</i>)	
20/04/26	Summer 1 term begins	
w/b 11/05/26	SATS week	
w/b 18/05/26	Sports week	
22/05/26	Gateshead Saltwell Park fun run	
w/b 01/06/26	Learning plan review week	tbc
w/b 08/06/26	KS1 Phonics check week	
15/06/26	Class photographs day	
01/07/26	Summer Fair	15.30
08/07/26	Reports out to parents	
13/07/26	Year 6 leavers concert	17.30
14/07/26	Reception summer picnic	pm
	South shields leavers trip	
15/07/26	Year1/2 summer picnic	pm
17/07/25	Occasional day – School closed	
18/07/26	Start of Summer holidays	

Curricula enrichment activities throughout the year		
Year group	Destination	Date
R	Northern Stage Theatre	11/12/25
	Tynemouth Aquarium	9/07/26
	Trip to the library	tbc
1 / 2	Centre for Life	05/11/25
	Washington Wetlands	2/07/26
	Church and Library	tbc
	Fun run	22/05/26
3	Panto	11/12/25
	Laing Art Gallery – Sketching	21/01/26
	Fun run	22/05/26
	Jewish Community local walk	tbc
	Durham University Oriental Museum– Egypt	03/06/26
4	Sunderland winter Gardens Geography Trip	21/10/25
	Panto	11/12/25
	Jarrow Hall – history trip	20/04/26
	Fun run	22/05/26
5	Panto	11/12/25
	Shipcote Art Gallery – in school workshop	tbc
	Centre for life – Science day	27/01/26
	Shipcote art gallery – Art (awaiting booking window to open)	tbc
	Fun run	22/05/26
6	Lockerbie Manor residential	26-28/11/25
	Panto	11/12/25
	Fun run	22/05/26
	Field work enquiry	tbc
	Trip to South Shields – Leaver's celebration	tbc

2025 – 2026 Term Dates	
Term	Dates
Autumn 1	02/09/25 – 23/10/25
Autumn 2	03/11/25 – 19/12/25
Spring 1	06/01/26 - 20/02/26
Spring 2	02/03/26 – 02/04/26
Summer 1	20/04/26 – 22/05/26
Summer 2	01/06/26 – 16/07/26
PD days & other non-school days	01/09/25 24/10/25 05/01/26 04/05/26 – bank holiday 17/07/26 - occasional day

PE Days	
Reception	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Year One / Two KM	Mondays and Wednesdays
Year One / Two CR	Mondays and Fridays
Year One / Two BG	Wednesdays and Fridays
Year Three	Wednesday (Outdoors) Friday (indoor)
Year Four	Tuesday (Outdoors) Thursday (indoor)
Year Five	Monday (Outdoors) Wednesday, 5B Swimming / 5R (indoor) (This will swap during the Spring term)
Year Six	Monday (indoor / outdoors mix) - Friday (outdoors)

Smartphone free childhood campaign



Smartphones have reshaped childhood.

Smartphones were not designed with kids in mind – but they have reshaped childhood almost overnight. In the UK, 89% of 12-year-olds now own one, and so do a quarter of children aged 5 to 7. On average, kids get their first smartphone aged nine.

Instead of growing up slowly, children are being pulled into a digital world built to keep them hooked. The impact on their development, mental health and relationships runs deep – and we cannot afford to look away any longer.

Opportunity cost

Compared to any other generation in history, children growing up in the smartphone era spend less time outdoors, less time playing, less time reading, less time moving and more time scrolling, alone.

Harmful content

Smartphones mean explicit, violent, and extreme content is only ever a few clicks away, often served up by algorithms when kids are not looking for it. Once children see these things, they can never be unseen.

Mental health

Teenage anxiety, depression, and self-harm rates have skyrocketed since 2010 – when kids started getting smartphones. Evidence shows a direct link between early smartphone use and declining mental health.

Addiction

The tech giants' business model is simple: the longer kids stay on their platforms, the more money they make. That is why apps are packed with addictive features – and why kids find it so hard to put them down.

Attention

The average teen now receives over 200 notifications a day – fragmenting their focus and making it harder to concentrate on schoolwork, hobbies, or real-life friendships. Constant distraction is the new normal.

Family life

Smartphones' addictive design means they can quietly start to take centre stage in family life – causing arguments, battles over screen time, and making it harder to share real, uninterrupted time together.

Cyberbullying

Arguments and fallouts used to end at the school gate. Now they follow kids home, lingering on their screens day and night – with no safe space to switch off, process or recover.

Sleep

The blue light from screens disrupts melatonin, making it harder to fall asleep, while endless scrolling and late-night notifications keep kids wired when they should be resting.

Grooming

TikTok, Snapchat, and Roblox are not just playgrounds for kids – they are hunting grounds for predators. They are often used by sexual predators to target children with their first smartphones.

Together we are powerful.

Governments need to do more to protect children from addictive algorithms and harmful content. Much more. But, as parents today, we do not have time to wait for more studies, more debates or more delays for regulation to take hold.

Our children's futures are at stake, so we need change, right now.

And by working together, we are creating it.

It starts by delaying, together.

Smartphones are the gateway to social media and the Wild West of the internet.

If children don't have 24/7 access in their pockets, everything changes.

The longer we wait to give our children smartphones, the more time they have to learn, grow and develop away from addictive algorithms and the anxiety machine of social media.

That's why we say delay, delay, delay.



The Parent Pact makes it easy.

We know that being the lone parent saying no is hard. But when we delay together – as families and communities – it becomes easy.

That's the whole point of our Parent Pact – a collective agreement to delay getting our kids smartphones until at least 14, and social media 16.

It's organised around school communities – so the more of us who sign it in any area, the more powerful it becomes. Have a look at the link below for more information.

[The Solution](#)

Let's reclaim childhood



The 7 **SUPERPOWERS** of smartphone-free kids

01. More time

Based on UK kids' average usage, they could get over 35 hours a week back to use in the real world.



02. More freedom

More space to grow into themselves – without pressure from likes, trends, or group chats.



03. Real social skills

They build confidence and vital skills by talking, listening, and laughing together – face to face.



04. Better mental health

Less time scrolling means less anxiety, fewer comparisons, and more joy in the everyday.



05. Digital resilience

They learn to use tech intentionally – creating, thinking, questioning, not just scrolling endlessly.



06. Focused learning

Without constant distractions kids can focus, think clearly and get in the zone – in and out of school.



07. Proper sleep

No late-night scrolling means deeper rest, brighter moods, and a brain ready for tomorrow.



Join hundreds of thousands of families delaying smartphones and social media – together.



**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG

In terms of school policy, we understand that if children walk themselves to school a smartphone can be a reassurance to be able to track where your child is and that they can contact you should the need arise. Unfortunately, on occasion, the temptation can be too great to keep them switched on whilst they are waiting on the yard and showing other children content. We ask that you ensure your child understands that as they reach the school gate, their phones must be turned off and then handed to staff as soon as they enter the building.

There are other options if parents were looking for a non-smart phone solution:

- [GPS tracker for kids - Weenect Kids | 7-day battery life](#)
- [GPS Tracker for Kids - Order Now! - AngelSense](#)
- [AirTag - Apple \(UK\)](#)
- [Buy Vodafone Nokia 105 2nd Edition Mobile Phone - Charcoal | Pay as you go phones | Argos](#)

Many thanks for your support in keeping our children digitally safe.

Cinderella Ice cream seller



Little Seeds Music presents.

Cinderella Ice Cream Seller

Written and composed by David Gibb.
Saturday 21 February 2026. 11am, & 2pm

£10 per person.
Babes in arms up to 12 months go free.

Suitable for 5+. Show 60 minutes in length with no interval.

Please check out our [terms and conditions](#) when buying tickets with us.

Buy tickets

Get your dessert spoons ready for a tale of perseverance, princes, palace balls, glass slippers and, um, ice cream?

Over the last four decades, Cinderella's has become the kingdom's most beloved ice cream company, with a parlour on every street corner. But how did a humble ice cream maker with not a penny to her name end up as a multimillionaire businesswoman with her own ice cream empire?

In this new musical for families and children, join Talvi and Caldwell, loyal employees of Cinderella's, as they share her rags to riches tale, and confront their own desires, hopes, and the magic that lies within each scoop of Cinderella's legendary ice cream.

Perfect for children and families alike, this exciting musical retelling of a fairytale classic promises a delightful blend of storytelling, stunning live music, and theatrical magic that will capture your heart and tickle your taste buds.

Wear Red for CHUF day for the Children's Heart Unit Fund.

Following a request from a parent we have agreed to support a Wear Red for CHUF day which is to support the Children's Heart Unit Fund. This is a wonderful local family who supports children with heart conditions. To support this, we will be asking children to wear red on Friday 20th February. The charity provides families of children on Ward 23 with items such as food vouchers, comfy chairs to sleep on by the bedside for children recovering, they also have a small refreshment shop outside of the ward to give parents respite without being too far from their sick child. The schools will open their payment systems on Monday 19th February and will close them on Monday 26th February for any charitable donations that parents would like to send. Thank you in advance for your support.

Reminder

We have had a case of a child bringing in a Smart Watch into school with the capacity to take photographs. Please do not send these into school with your children as this undermines our work around safeguarding for all children.

Letter to follow

Thank you to parents who have responded in the PAN reduction consultation we are currently undertaking. Additional information requested by parents will follow the Friday letter.

School site updates

Following academisation SMART academy trust have been actively improving the school sites. During the academic year 2024-2025 a total of over £90,000 was spent on building and site maintenance. This excludes staffing costs. Planned budget costs for 2025-2026 is £116,000 of which £44,000 has already been spent. There has been unexpected expenditure such as reflooring and flooding repairs in addition to the planned costs. Future developments planned for this academic year include the vehicle gate refurbishment and a CIF bid has been submitted to the DFE for further site improvements. As you can see SMART continue to be committed to the improvement and development of Oakfield school's site.

Year 5 Netball Competition



Last Friday, a mixed team of year 5 pupils took part in the Gateshead SSP netball tournament at Gateshead Stadium. They played 3 games within their group, two of which were very tight and a third against the runaway, overall champions. We are so proud of the whole squad who attended for their amazing teamwork and sportsmanship when congratulating the opposition. They supported each other with their positive attitude and enjoyed every moment of the event. Well done all!

Star points total per week			
	05/01/26	12/01/26	19/01/26
R	232	396	224
1	187	483	333

2	218	606	352
3	61	177	245
4	139	273	279
5	106	303	289
6	197	624	218

Safeguarding



From using them for communication, work, shopping and entertainment, devices such as smartphones, laptops and the rest are now deeply ingrained into modern society. Small wonder, then, that young people – who have grown up surrounded by such gadgets – can sometimes struggle to put them down, switch them off or keep themselves occupied without them.

While limiting our screen time may require a great deal of restraint, the effort can be rewarded with significant benefits to our physical and mental health. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide has simple tips for helping to manage the amount of screen time in your household – encouraging the whole family to spend more quality time together and live in the moment.

School Attendance and Punctuality

School year	Attendance					
	Spring 1					
	Week 1		Week 2		Week 3	
	Attendance	% late	Attendance	% late	Attendance	% late
Junior Overall	96.8	1.0	96.2	0.89	96.1	1.0
Infant Overall	95.3	0.94	96.0	0.71	96.3	0.85
6	98.6	1.0	97.2	1.12	98.2	1.2
5	90.2	0.8	93.9	0.58	94.2	1.1
4	97.7	0.3	96.6	1.57	97.2	1.2
3	99.6	1.6	96.6	0.31	94.7	0.4
2	94.4	0.4	94.3	0.73	95.6	0.36
1	98.9	2.22	96.4	1.26	97.4	1.0
R	94.4	0.48	97.6	0.22	96.3	1.3

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Chisholm - Executive Head Teacher

Miss Hartness – Executive Deputy Head

Mr Thompson – Executive Deputy Head