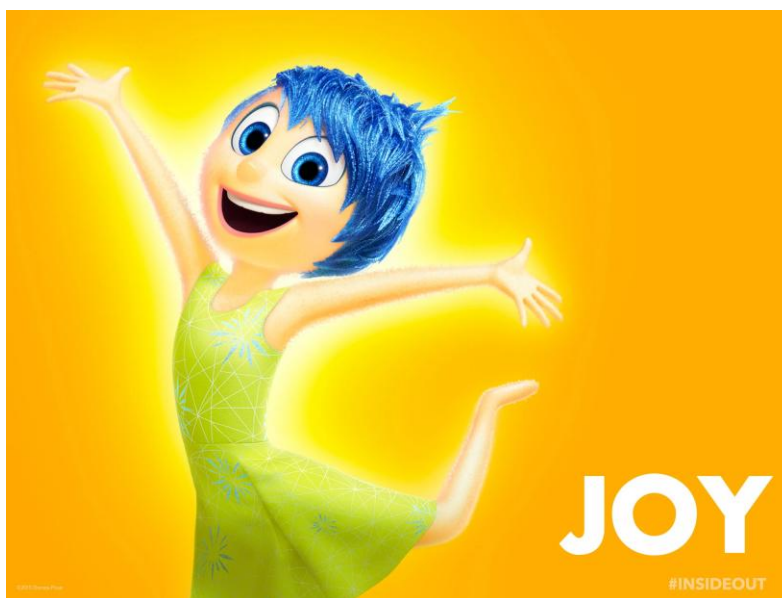




# Oakfield Schools

5<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Dear all

We are delighted to welcome everyone back after what appears to have been fantastic summer holidays for us all. The children have come back to school refreshed, full of energy and eager to dive back into school life.

We would also like to welcome our new Reception children and parents into our school and staff thoroughly enjoyed meeting them this week. Welcome to Oakfield!

This year we are continuing our emotional literacy curriculum and have introduced 'Joy!' In this day and age it is very easy for people to be surrounded by negativity and pessimism. Whether this is on the news, on devices, amongst friends, advertising, programmes on the television, there appears to be much focus around what is wrong with the world and this is proving (according to the EEF and other bodies of research) to be impacting children and young peoples mental health and bouyancy. As a result we have lauched 'project joy!'. This is a simple concept where at the end of each school day the staff in schools will be asking their classes to identify 1 thing that has brought them joy and they will share this with their peers.

In focussing on the the things that bring them joy, we hope that children can form a habit of positivity and looking for the joy in every day life, thus supporting good mental health in our schools.

I wonder if they will share some of their experiences with you at home!

Many thanks  
Miss Chisholm

| Diary Dates for 2025-2026                                         |                                                          |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| New / amended events added are highlighted in yellow after week 1 |                                                          |          |
| Date                                                              | Event                                                    | Time     |
| 01/09/25                                                          | PD day – School closed to children                       | All day  |
| 02/09/25                                                          | Autumn 1 begins                                          |          |
| 24/09/25                                                          | Flu vaccinations                                         |          |
| 07/10/25                                                          | Family learning year 6                                   |          |
| 08/10/25                                                          | Family learning year 5                                   |          |
| 08/10/25                                                          | Phonics parents meeting – Reception parents              | 16.30    |
| 09/10/25                                                          | Family learning year 4                                   |          |
| 10/10/25                                                          | Family learning year 3                                   |          |
| 13/10/25                                                          | Family learning Year 1                                   | am       |
| 14/10/25                                                          | Family Learning Year 2                                   | am       |
| 15/10/25                                                          | Family Learning Reception                                | am       |
| 20/10/25                                                          | Individual school photographs                            |          |
| w/b 20/10/25                                                      | Parents evenings                                         | tbc      |
| 24/10/25                                                          | PD day – school closed to children                       | All day  |
| w/b 27/10/25                                                      | Half term                                                |          |
| 03/11/25                                                          | Autumn 2 term begins                                     |          |
| 03/11/25                                                          | Year 1/2 parents meeting – review new grouping           | 16.30 pm |
| 13/11/25-20/11/25                                                 | Scholastic Book Fair                                     |          |
| 26/11/25 – 28/11/25                                               | Year 6 residential                                       |          |
| 03/12/25                                                          | School Christmas Fayre                                   | 15.30    |
| 8/12/25                                                           | Year 1/2 Christmas sing – Year 1 parents viewing         |          |
| 9/12/25                                                           | Year 1/2 Christmas sing - Year 2 parents viewing         |          |
| 10/12/25                                                          | Reception Nativity                                       | tbc      |
| 15/12/25                                                          | Year 4 Christmas party                                   |          |
| 16/12/25                                                          | Year 5 Christmas party                                   |          |
| 17/12/25                                                          | Year 3 Christmas party                                   |          |
| 17/12/25                                                          | Reception Christmas party                                |          |
| 18/12/25                                                          | Year 1/2 Christmas party                                 |          |
| 18/12/25                                                          | Year 6 Christmas party                                   |          |
| 19/12/25                                                          | Carols under the veranda (KS2)                           | 13.45    |
| 20/12/25                                                          | Christmas Holidays                                       |          |
| 05/01/26                                                          | PD day – school closed for children                      |          |
| 06/01/26                                                          | Start of Spring Term                                     |          |
| 13/01/26                                                          | Family learning – year 6                                 | am       |
| 14/01/26                                                          | Family learning – year 5                                 | am       |
| 15/01/26                                                          | Family learning – year 4                                 | am       |
| 16/01/26                                                          | Family learning – year 3                                 | am       |
| 19/01/26                                                          | Family learning – year 1                                 | am       |
| 20/01/26                                                          | Family learning- year 2                                  | am       |
| 21/01/26                                                          | Family learning – reception                              | am       |
| w/b 9/02/26                                                       | Science week                                             |          |
| w/b 16/02/26                                                      | Parents evenings – learning plan reviews                 | tbc      |
| w/b 23/02/26                                                      | Half term                                                |          |
| 02/03/26                                                          | Spring 2 term begins                                     |          |
| 05/03/26                                                          | World book day                                           |          |
| 03/04/26                                                          | Easter Holidays (note: Good Friday at start of holidays) |          |

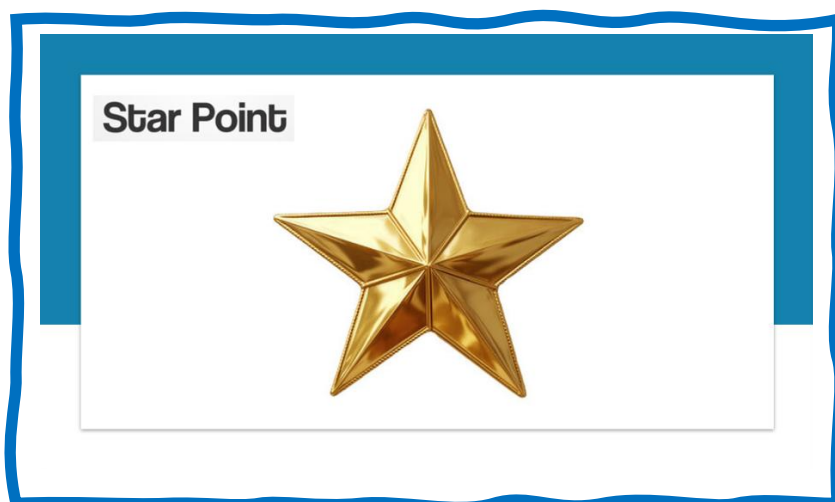
|              |                                 |       |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 20/04/26     | Summer 1 term begins            |       |
| w/b 11/05/26 | SATS week                       |       |
| w/b 18/05/26 | Sports week                     |       |
| 22/05/26     | Gateshead Saltwell Park fun run |       |
| w/b 01/06/26 | Learning plan review week       | tbc   |
| 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    |
| 15/07/26     | Year1/2 summer picnic           | pm    |
| 17/07/25     | Occasional day – School closed  |       |
| 18/07/26     | Start of Summer holidays        |       |

| 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 – 02/04/25                                                                      |
| 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<br>24/10/25<br>05/01/26<br>04/05/26 – bank holiday<br>17/07/26 - occasional day |

| PE Days        |                                                                                                   |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reception      | Tuesdays and Thursdays                                                                            |
| Year One / Two | Wednesdays ( 1/2KM) and Fridays (1/2CR, 1/2 BG)                                                   |
| Year Three     | Wednesday (Outdoors) Friday (indoor)                                                              |
| Year Four      | Tuesday (Outdoors) Thursday (indoor)                                                              |
| Year Five      | Monday (Outdoors) Wednesday, 5B Swimming / 5R (indoor)<br>(This will swap during the Spring term) |
| Year Six       | Monday (indoor / outdoors mix) - Friday (outdoors)                                                |

### **Star points**

This year you will have seen a message from us to let you know that we are changing the way we are recognising positive choices in school. Up until this year we have used Marvellous Me. This has been successful in being able to recognise our children's successes. As we have moved on the Arbor MIS system, and after a number of parents have mentioned that they feel there are too many apps, we decided to move as much as we can onto Arbor to make things more straight forward for you all. So, we have moved positive recognition onto Arbor too!



All staff will be awarding star points to our children. As we do you will receive a notification on the Arbor app. This means that you will be able to discuss your children's successes and know what they have received their stars for. Each half term we will be recognising children's awards by awarding certificates for certain milestones.

The children have already been excitedly telling me of the number of stars they have received!

### **Forest School/Play**



This year we are broadening our offer to all children in school by ensuring that Year One to Year Six have the opportunity to have half a term of forest school. On the timetable for Year One and Two children this year we have called it Forest Play for the children's understanding. These are planned activities developing a range of skills focussing on balance, agility, and teamwork. It fits under the PE curriculum as it develops these skills and ensures they are applied in a range of activities. We are also keen to continue using activities such as Forest Play/School to support the children's mental, physical and emotional well-being.

For Key Stage One children this half term the two PE sessions have been incorporated into one afternoon so that the children can have quality time in the forest as they will need to put on wellies and possibly waterproofs. This is the same amount of time as would be spent having 2 PE sessions. After half term this will change back to two sessions of PE. Those days will come out in the Friday letter nearer to half term so parents will have advance notice of the change to days. We are aware that some parents have said they have provided uniform for 3 days so are happy for children to wear joggers/leggings for the 4th day until they start their 2 PE days after half term.

Key Stage 2 pupils will access forest school provision for half a term each during Autumn and Spring, with the summer term being a range of short outdoor learning activities. Details of which half term pupils will be participating and clothing they will need will follow shortly.

### Year 1/2 Classrooms.

Key Stage One staff were delighted to see many parents and carers who came into school on Tuesday this week to see the refreshed classrooms and to meet their teachers. Staff have worked hard during the Summer to ensure that the classroom environments mirrored resources and areas in each of the classrooms. We would like to thank parents for the positive comments the staff received.

### Little Acorns Toddler Group

Toddler group will be relaunching on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 9 am in the Infant School Hall. We would like to thank parents who have volunteered to run the group as well as the previous volunteers as it is very much valued by school. The group is for babies and toddlers and is from 9 am until 10.30am. It costs £1 so please come along and join in the fun and support the group.

### School grounds developments

In Key Stage One the yards have had new markings placed on them using the Sports Premium money that comes into school each year. The children were very excited to see these developments this week and have enjoyed playing on them and developing new games.

In Key Stage Two the development of the top of the yard continues and there have been volunteers painting, the path has been finished and the area for a picnic table has been completed. We are currently sourcing a company for artificial grass, and the planting area will be finished very soon. Planters are currently being planted up and placed in the area with sensory plants to continue the calm, relaxing environment we are developing. **We are very keen to hear from any parents who could help build the gazebo which is on site ready to build particularly anybody with joinery experience. This would involve volunteering for a few hours within a team preferably during a morning slot. Please contact the school office to volunteer.** Many thanks to Friends of Oakfield who are working so hard to develop these areas as well as their own work commitments. The time they dedicate to these projects is much appreciated.

### Health and Fitness classes for parents

We are keen to develop further our offer to the community around our school so are exploring whether there would be interest from parents and others in the community for any of the following classes in school:

- Pilates- General Mixed ability classes
- Pilates and Menopause
- Circuit Training/HIT
- Outdoor Bootcamp
- Boxercise
- Body Conditioning Classes

These would be held after school on a Monday from 5 pm to 6 pm or Wednesday at 5pm to 6pm. They would be provided by a person trained as a group exercise teacher and Personal Trainer. Please complete the form here to express interest in a particular class and we will collate the information to see if this is desirable for parents.

[Click Here For Form](#)

### Digital Reading Diaries (KS1 only)



As mentioned in the Summer term we have been offered the opportunity to trial digital reading logs through a charity Learning with Parents linking with our Phonics programme Little Wandle. Details about data is available on this link [Privacy policy - Learning with Parents](#). This will be added to Arbor for parents to give consent.

### **Primary School Admissions 2026/27**

Please find attached a copy of the 2026/27 Primary School Admission Booklet and a link below to the primary admissions page on the Council's website, for information. This is relevant for those parents with either preschool or Year 2 children who wish to apply for a place in Reception or Year 3 in September 2026.

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2796/Primary-school-admissions-September-2026>

### **End of Day Arrangements**

We take our duty of **safeguarding** seriously, as parents would expect. At the end of a school day, we can only allow your child to leave with the adults listed on the school contact form that you have completed. If there is a change of arrangements and a different adult is to collect, please can you inform the relevant office in advance, as staff cannot allow any child to leave the site with an adult not listed on the contact form. This way we can ensure that your children leave on time and that there is no delay in them enjoying their evenings.

Can we also ask those that are picking pupils up at the end of the day, wait in the correct designated area as this makes it easier for staff to keep eye contact on each child until they reach their parent.

### **Jewellery in School**

With the exception of a watch, jewellery is not part of school uniform. Can parents please make sure their child is not wearing rings, necklaces etc. for school. If a child arrives at school wearing earrings, they will not be permitted to take part in PE as there is a danger of a serious accident if the earring is caught by an item of equipment or another pupil during sporting activities. Staff are not allowed to help a child remove an earring and covering with a plaster does not minimise the risk. Thank you for your support in this.

### **Naming Items of clothing**

A gentle reminder to name all items of clothing and water bottles as staff have noticed there are a few jumpers, hoodies and cardigans that have not been named this week. This helps us to return any misplaced items to parents and children. If they are not named it is very difficult for staff to return them to the correct child.

### **Playtimes**

Wherever possible we try to get pupils outdoors at break time. This is easier in Key Stage 1 as there is an undercover yard. In the Junior school there is not that resource. Can pupils please carry a small waterproof in bags if they are not wearing a coat to school so on damp or drizzly days as we have had this week, we can get pupils outside. It is not possible to staff some pupils inside and some outside, and we do not want pupils to sit in damp clothing so an item of clothing to protect from the rain is important.

### **Safeguarding**



As infants, we all rely completely on adults to help us resolve situations that are causing us to become upset or stressed. This is known as co-regulation. The next phase, once autonomy has begun to develop, is called self-regulation: this is when children start to become capable of exercising more control over their impulses and behaviour and managing their own emotions.

This vital developmental milestone, however, is not reached spontaneously. Learning to self-regulate requires sensitive guidance from trusted adults – simply talking with children about their thoughts and feelings, for instance, can ease the route to self-regulation. This #WakeUpWednesday guide has some expert tips for supporting children to reach this goal.

## School Attendance and Punctuality

| School year    | Attendance |        |
|----------------|------------|--------|
|                | Autumn 1   |        |
|                | Week 1     |        |
|                | Attendance | % late |
| Junior Overall | 98.0       | 0.4    |
| Infant Overall | 96.0       | 0.1    |
| 6              | 98.0       | 0.25   |
| 5              | 97.0       | 0.9    |
| 4              | 99.0       | 0.0    |
| 3              | 98.0       | 0.5    |
| 2              | 98.0       | 0.4    |
| 1              | 100.0      | 0.0    |
| R              | -          | -      |

Thank you all for supporting our first week back at school 😊

Miss Chisholm - Executive Head Teacher  
Miss Hartness – Executive Deputy Head  
Mr Thompson – Executive Deputy Head

