

OCTOBER 2017

Newsletter



Oak Tree
School



Headteachers Message

Oak Tree school is delighted to be able to offer an outreach service to work with our children and families beginning after half term. The programme will ensure that we are able to help our children access a range of facilities and clubs in their local area out of school hours and during the holidays. We will be able to support children in a range of settings including cadets, cubs, scouts, sports clubs, surf life-saving, outdoor adventure, music, horse riding, swimming, drama, youth clubs and much more.

Our vision for the outreach team is simple "to help facilitate the best opportunities for each of our children out of school hours". Our staff team will be able to take children to local events and support them whilst they are there. Staff who have already built up positive relationships with our young people and know the best behaviour strategies to support them will be able to help them integrate more successfully with activities in their locality. This will then better enable our youngsters to build positive, long lasting relationships with other children living nearby.

Please contact Michelle Pascoe or Richard Gilling if you are interested in learning more.

Part of the Acorn Group



Information Autumn Term 2017

Educational Psychology support at Oak Tree School: 2017-2018

The EP team at Oak Tree School has expanded and both Dr Sarah Canavan-King and Dr Wendy Thomas will be working with the school from September 2017. Wendy will be in school on Tuesdays and Sarah on Thursdays.

We will continue to work with any new students joining the school to help identify their strengths and needs.

We will also be working with some students where there may be some concerns about their emotional well-being or their progress generally in school.

Sarah and Wendy provide a programme of training for staff and will be available for parent/carer workshops through the year so do look out for these dates.

Should you wish to discuss anything with the EP team please email them on:

Wendy Thomas: wthomas@cornwall.gov.uk

Sarah Canavan-King: scanavan-king@cornwall.gov.uk

Alternatively telephone the school on a Tuesday or Thursday.



Wendy



Sarah



Fistral

It has been a hectic start back for Fistral class with lots of changes now they are following a new secondary timetable. The boys have settled back well though and making the most of the majority of the wide range of subjects on the curriculum.

Outdoor Ed and swimming remain the most popular lessons for the students. In Outdoor Ed they went to a local beach and did some beach safety and exploring a cave and swimming through some gullies. Most recently the class have been doing the very popular surfing.

In English the students have been learning about comparative writing by first looking at extreme sports and the reasons behind why people do it. They then had to explain whether they would like to have a go at the sport. In the last few lessons the students have begun to compare the different equipment, locations and requirements of each extreme sport.

We are lucky enough to be starting horse riding again which the students are looking forward to. This will be on a Tuesday afternoon for the remainder of the term whilst the students work towards a recognised award.

Great start back everyone, well done.

Godrevy Class

Godrevy are a new class for Oak Tree this year and our new students are enjoying every minute.

One of our Godrevy boys states that 'Sailing is Amazing'. He told us that he is really enjoying it and is now working towards his RYA Sailabilty award. Harry also likes sailing and 'changing direction'.

They are also thoroughly enjoying working on the farm, and taking part in all the science experiments. Well done for a great start Godrevy!





Art and Design

Students have had a great start back to Oak Tree – they have been looking at the abstract artist, Patrick Heron. Heron uses bright colours and shapes; they have then been creating their own designs and using a range of materials. The outcome will be a whole school display in the school so watch this space!



Tolcarne Class

Tolcarne have seen some changes to the start of the new school year with the addition of a student and changes in the teaching staff. The boys in Tolcarne have settled very well and are always interacting with each other and massively using their imaginations in the games they play. In Tolcarne we have started to learn about the Amazon Rainforest in our Topic lessons with some fantastic drawings and general excitement with seeing what weird and wonderful animals live in the rainforest. Tolcarne have been combining their Topic and English lessons together. In Outdoor Ed the boys have been Blackberry picking and this resulted in making apple and blackberry crumble in catering using the blackberries. The Tolcarne boys have been tackling Rugby in their PE lessons down at the local park; luckily so far the weather has been kind whilst down there. In maths, the boys have been understanding and rounding numbers to the nearest 10,100 and even 1,000 with brilliant progress being made all the time.





Science

Students have had quite a messy start to their learning journey in the Constantine Lab, all in the name of scientific exploration!

Primary scientists are using different types of scientific enquiry and using straightforward scientific evidence to answer physics based questions about the states of matter. They reported findings using simple scientific language, drawings and labelled diagrams. Best of all, they got 'hands on' to: explore the properties of Oobleck, carbonated drinks, a squeaky pop test for the presence of hydrogen gas and how temperature affects white, milk and dark chocolate.

Lower secondary scientists have begun the Autumn Term with a learning journey entitled: Energy, forces and the structure of matter. Students have investigated: changes in energy storage in a range of toys and recognised that not all the changes are useful. While carrying out an investigation into factors affecting the rate of cooling, students recorded differences of energy transfer and described some energy as 'wasted'. We have looked at energy resources, identifying them as renewable or non-renewable. Students took part in 'The wind power challenge' and designed a simple wind turbine capable of lifting a cup off the floor up to the bench height. It was apparent that each student was transferring skills developed in DT to solve this 'quick fire' challenge, as everyone was successful.

Upper secondary scientists are resuming their learning journey with ideas they have met before and developing their knowledge and understanding of key concepts. Students are learning about genetics, how our cells contain genetic information and how our characteristics are inherited and passed on. Their learning has been supported by: modelling the stages of meiosis, extracting DNA from kiwi fruit and discussing the use of the human genome to better understand human migration patterns.

Our, after school, Science Club has been extremely popular with students. They have enjoyed a range of practical investigations for example: testing for acids, bases and their neutralisation, refraction of light, separation techniques using chromatography, the 'brilliant' oxidation of magnesium through combustion and the 'noisy' squeaky pop test for hydrogen gas. We are developing out links with secondary schools in the area and are delighted that their hospitality extends to utilising some of their materials and equipment available in their department. The Club has an excursion to Richard Lander, which we are all very excited about. What an adventure, more news to follow!





Polly Joke Class

PE

During PE this term Polly Joke has been learning the rules and the fundamentals of playing rugby. The children have learned how to pass and catch the ball as well as how to put the ball down correctly in order to score a try. All the children have really enjoyed their PE lessons and they have all given 100% during their lessons.

Ask the children to show you how to pass the ball correctly and If you want to test your child ask him how they should hold their hands ready to catch the rugby ball correctly.

Outdoor Education

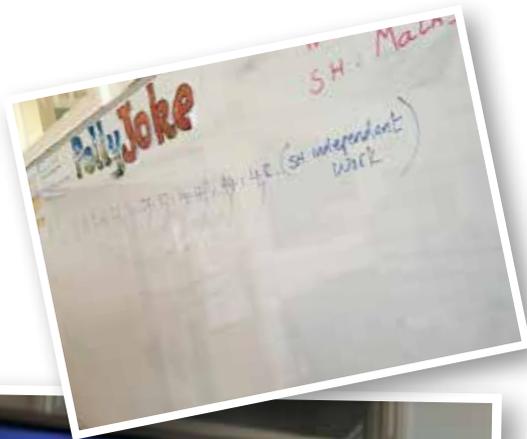
During outdoor education the children have been visiting local beaches and learning about beach safety. On one of their beach visits they visited the lifeguard hut and were allowed to see the Portuguese Man of War that had washed up on the beaches.

The Children have linked their outdoor education lessons to their science lessons. They have been asked to collect different stones that they have used during their science lessons. They have used these stones and other things to help them understand how fossils are created and also how soil is created. The children have also created their own fossils and compost heaps during their science lessons.

Here are some questions you might want to ask your children, just for fun.

1. How are fossils created?
2. What is a trace fossil?
3. What things did they use to create their compost heaps?

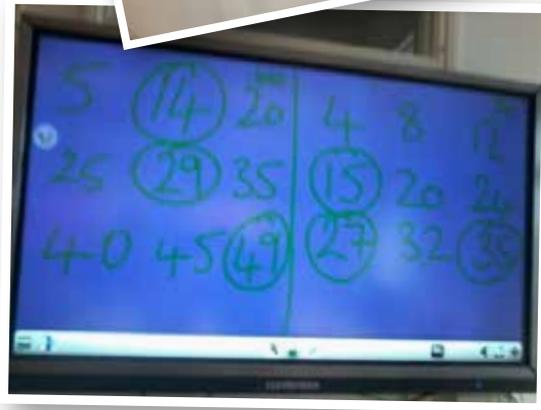




Maths

The children have been concentrating on number during maths this term, in particular multiplication and also identifying 10 or 100 more or less than a given number. The children have really enjoyed the group work during the maths lessons.

The children have also been asked to use the interactive board during the lessons to teach the other children patterns they have identified, especially when working with tens and multiplication.



English

The children have been working hard on pre fixes, suffixes and also homophones during their English lessons. All the children have worked very hard during these lessons and have created some very good pieces of work. The children have been using peer assessment during their English lessons. This involves the children marking each other's work at some point during the lessons. The children have begun to enjoy doing this and it is something that we will be using more of in other lessons.



Sports

The start of the new academic year has been great for the sports department. Students have been learning new skills and pushing their abilities to the max!

With students such as Olly, that have been storming the Rugby pitch connecting with enormous tackles and Kane who has been the king of the badminton court. KS4 have also begun their BTEC in sport and many other student achieving awards in AQA UAS.

Healthy Schools

Keeping your child's smile gleaming.....

It's teach your children about the importance of dental hygiene by building a fun brushing routine together.

Encouraging your children to take responsibility for their own oral care and instilling healthy habits not only helps prevent cavities, but also boosts your child's self-esteem.

Dental experts recommend that you and your child:

- Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, always before bedtime and on one other occasion.
- Remember to brush all of your top and bottom teeth.
- Just spit after tooth brushing, rinsing washes the fluoride protection away.
- Limit the number of times you eat sugary snacks and drinks.
- Have a regular dental check-up.
- Oral health in an important part of overall health.

Music

This term the students have been focusing on the composing elements of music. The students now know what the music symbols look like and have started to look at how many beats a music has in each bar, which is a section of the music. The students have been creating there own songs that we have been performing on percussion instruments in class. The students have also been listening to a wide variety of music to try and work out how many beats are in each bar of music.



Out Reach

Oak Tree School is proud to now offer our Out Reach program. It will be based on a referral system, parents/carers, tutors and support staff can make referrals, Staff will then look at what has been suggested what the aims are and if they will benefit the student.



We will be offering support for students to engage in clubs and social events outside of school hours, our staff will be there to offer support and guidance. The aim of this is to support our students will social skills and encourage independence. If you think this is something that your child would be interested in please ask for a referral form from Michelle or Richard.

Terrorism advice for young people

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) has launched a safety campaign designed to teach 11-16 year olds how to act if they are caught up in a gun or knife attack. The campaign teaches children and young people to: RUN if they are able to; HIDE if they are not; and TELL police of the threat only when it is safe to do so. They are also advised to warn others about an on-going threat, and told not to stop and use their mobile phones until they are safely away from danger. The first phase of the campaign includes the creation of a Run, Hide, Tell emoji, and a short video. NaCTSO have also teamed up with key partners including the NSPCC, Childline and Educate Against Hate, to help and support parents who are anxious about discussing such a topic with their children.

Further information: Run, hide tell: terrorism advice for young people
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3y51Vd4kJ4&feature=youtu.be>



New team heads up School Student Council

Ben Livermore has been elected as the new chairman of Oak Tree School Student Council. Ben was voted in on a very imaginative mandate that included the introduction of a separate uniform for secondary and primary students. Ben would also be keen to introduce a healthier selection of food at lunchtimes. These are just a couple of the great ideas that led Ben to his landslide victory. Ben will be ably assisted by the old stool wart of Student Council, Olly Parry who was also elected with a handsome majority.

Sadly for School Student Council Alex has stepped down as lead teacher to pursue other avenues at Oak Tree School. However Alex will still be available in a consultancy capacity. The School Council thanked Alex for all of the great work that she has done over the years and said she will be truly missed.

Alex has been replaced by Hayley and Phil. Hayley said that “she is very excited about her new appointment and is electrified and overjoyed to be working so closely with Phil”. Phil said “he was pleased to be part of the School Student Council”.

The Student Council has a very exciting year ahead and is planning on making a real difference to life at School for all students. Any students with a suggestion on improving our School please contact their class representative or speak to their teachers and TA’s.

School Holidays		
Bank Holidays		Autumn Term 2017 (73 days)
Christmas Day	25th December 2017	4th September – 20th December
Boxing Day	26th December 2017	(Half Term 23rd October – 27th October)
New Year’s day	1st January 2018	Spring Term 2018 (56 days)
Good Friday	30th March 2018	4th January – 29th March
Easter Monday	2nd April 2018	(Half Term 12th February – 16th February)
Early May Holiday	7th May 2018	Summer Term 2018 (66 days)
Spring Bank Holiday	28th May 2018	16th April – 24th July
Summer Bank Holiday	27th August 2018	(Half Term 29th May – 1st June)



In Service Training days

Further dates to be confirmed. Please check the school website.

School Meals – Oak Tree Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 - 30th October, 20th November, 11th December, 8th January, 29th January, 26th February, 19th March				
BBQ Chicken with Rice	Pasta Bolognese Bake with Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Gravy and Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato	Battered Fish Fillet with Chips
Veggie Chilli with Rice	Mushroom, Cheese and Tomato Calzone	Vegetable Loaf with Stuffing, Gravy and Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato	Roasted Vegetable Pizza with Chips
Sweetcorn	Green Beans	Carrots and Cabbage	Fillings	Baked Beans and Peas
Week 2 - 6th November, 27th November, 18th December, 15th January, 5th February, 5th March, 26th March				
Bacon and Mushroom Carbonara with Garlic Bread	Chicken Curry with Cool Mint Raita and Rice	Roast Beef with Gravy and Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato	Battered Fish Fillet with Chips
Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread	Vegetable Curry with Cool Mint Raita and Rice	Vegetable and Chickpea Wellington with Gravy and Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato	Vegetarian Sausage in a Roll with Chips
Peas	Sweetcorn	Carrots and Parsnips	Fillings	Baked Beans and Peas
Week 3 - 13th November, 4th December, 1st January, 22nd January, 19th February, 12th March				
Spicy Chicken Enchilada with Sweet Potato Wedges	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Roast Loin of Pork with Apple Sauce, Gravy and Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato	Battered Fish Fillet with Chips
Mexican Bean and Vegetable Enchilada with Sweet Potato Wedges	Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Vegetable Crumble with Gravy and Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato	Cheese and Onion Pasty with Chips
Sweetcorn	Green Beans	Carrots and Broccoli	Fillings	Baked Beans and Peas

Oak Tree School

Parent sessions, Coffee & Chat

Training in the Thrive Approach and relational play.

Thrive helps us understand the needs being signalled by your child's behaviour and gives us targeted strategies and activities to help them re-engage. We can support you through Thrive to help your child to concentrate, get interested, make friends and stay active.

Tuesday 21st November 12:30–2:30

Tuesday 28th November 12:30–2:30

Tuesday 5th december 12:30–2:30

Why not come along, you even get tea & cake!!

For more information give us a call; 01872 264221

How to get in touch

If you are interested in visiting Oak Tree School, or finding out more about the support we provide, please call **01872 264 221** or e-mail oaktreeschool@acorncare.co.uk