

Oak Meadow Primary School Weekly Newsletter - Friday 4th July 2025: Issue 37



A message from Mr. Lane...

What a wonderful week it has been! As I write, all staff and children are making final arrangements for the Summer Fair with classrooms and corridors full of enthusiastic energy for what is to come. This follows our magnificent Sports Day where the children showed how amazing they are, competing with an exemplary sporting attitude and a desire to see one another succeed as much as themselves. This typifies our wonderful children and the 'family' we have built – it was lovely to see so many of you present to enjoy a celebration of sport as well as witness our formidable children working so cohesively together, well done all! With fitness in mind, next week the children will learn all about the importance of staying healthy within their classrooms. Our Year 6 children will also enjoy their 3-day residential to Condover with end of year reports being issued next Friday. The fast approach of the end of the school year is upon us and I hope you have all received my 'September staffing' letter this week detailing the children's new class teachers and support staff. Transitioning to new classes is an inevitable part of every child's school journey and I am aware of how challenging this may feel for some. Have my assurance though that the door is always 'open' to every classroom and existing or new teachers are available for you to make contact with when needed. We will also have an open afternoon on Monday 14th July where you are welcome to pop into children's new classes to say hello to their new teacher. Take care everyone and have a lovely weekend.

Stars of the Week

The next scheduled celebration assembly will take place when we return for the new school year in September.



Upcoming dates for the diary

7th – 11th July – Health Week
 7th July – New September Reception cohort, Transition Day 4 - Children's Welcome Morning from 10.30am until 12pm
 8th July – Y3 visit to Twycross Zoo
 9th – 11th July – Y6 Condover Residential
 11th July – Year 1 Assembly for Parents/Carers at 2.30pm
 11th July – End of year reports to parents/carers
 14th July – Meet the teacher transition morning for children
 14th July – Parent/Carer open afternoon (3.30pm – 5.30pm)
 17th July – Y6 Leavers Assembly and Awards at 8.50am

Communication

Our doors are always open whenever you need us and the main office number is 01902 558517.

The school email address is oakmeadowprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Also remember to check the school website and follow us on 'X' [@oakmeadow12](https://twitter.com/oakmeadow12)

Safeguarding Information

If you have any concerns about a child, please contact one of our designated safeguarding leaders (DSL):

Mr. Lane (Head of School).

Miss. Billingsley (Deputy Headteacher).
 Mr. Hawkins (Assistant Headteacher).
 Mrs. Worrallo (Assistant Headteacher).
 Miss. Tomlinson (EYFS/KS1 SENDCo).
 Mrs. Parker-Thornton (Home/ School Liaison Officer).

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



Attendance and Punctuality

Everyday
COUNTS!

Thank you for making sure your child is in school every day and on time. Remember that our minimum attendance target for all children is **96%**.

Everyday
COUNTS!

Attending school **every day** impacts significantly on your child's learning and their attainment. Please see the table below that shows the number of lessons missed as the attendance rate falls.

Every day counts over the school year:

Attendance during the school year	Equals this number of days absent	Meaning that approximately this number of lessons have been missed
95%	9 days	50 lessons!
90%	19 days	100 lessons!
85%	29 days	150 lessons!

Make sure your child is an **Oak Meadow attendance H.E.R.O** (Here, Every day, Ready and On Time) by arriving between 8:35 and 8:45am each morning.

Every minute counts over the school year:

5 minutes late each day = **3 days lost!**
 10 minutes late each day = **6.5 days lost!**
 15 minutes late each day = **10 days lost!**
 20 minutes late each day = **13 days lost!**
 30 minutes late each day = **19 days lost!**

Class Attendance for this week

Reception and Key Stage 1

RB	87.3%
RT	82%
1B	90%
1E	100%
2B	95.3%
2H	93.3%

Attendance HERO bear winners are class 1E – well done!



Key Stage 2

3H	98%
3J	91.4%
4B	95.6%
4N	92.7%
5CH	98%
5T	96.1%
6H	94.5%
6W	99.4%

Attendance HERO bear winners are class 6W – well done!



Our combined whole school attendance for this week was...

94%

Everyday
COUNTS!

From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...



**Summer Fair Cake Design Winners (Thank you to everyone who sent in an entry):
A huge well done to: Maximilian, Elliana, Harry, Harvey, Freddie, Poppy and Finlay!**



From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the lock which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

The
National
College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2023>

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From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



WILLENHALL RUGBY CLUB

U9s TEAM



**ARE RECRUITING BOYS AND GIRLS
IN YEAR 4 IN SEPTEMBER 2025**



**TRAINING:
WEDNESDAY 6-7PM**

**MATCHES:
SUNDAY
MORNINGS**



Willenhall RFC
Elfyn Pugh Memorial Ground, Bognop Road
Essington, WV11 2BA

**COME AND TRY IT
OUT!**

From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...

