Oak Meadow Primary School Weekly Newsletter – Friday 20th November: Issue 10



With November seemingly passing us by in the blink of an eye, it has been another wonderfully busy and productive week at Oak Meadow. The children are so focused, settled and working hard in their lessons as they prepare for our whole-school assessment week next week. I am always immensely proud of the commitment and enthusiasm our children show in their learning and I know they will approach the week ahead with their usual determination and positive spirit. Whilst I am always delighted to see our children striving to achieve their best academically, it is their kindness, empathy and compassion that make them so special. These qualities are woven into the fabric of our Oak Meadow family with consistent thoughtful and generous actions. Last week, our Year 6 children presented an incredible **£282.25** to the Poppy Appeal, raised through the generosity of our school community - thank you. I have also enjoyed conversations this week with our Year 5 and Year 6 children about their plans for stalls at our forthcoming Christmas Fair. Thank you as well for the toiletry donations sent in today; your contributions are hugely appreciated. Before we turn our attention fully to the festive excitement of December, we have another event to look forward to next Friday, when our School Parliament will be hosting our Children's Charity Day in support of DEBRA - *The Butterfly Skin Charity*. I have included the letter sent home last month below as a helpful reminder of the arrangements for the day. You will also see a photograph of our Giant Oak Meadow Butterfly! We are hoping to make its wings truly *sparkle* by the end of next week and we are grateful for any spare coins you are able to donate towards this initiative. Coins can either be sent into school with your child or brought directly to the school office for our final fundraising total. Every little contribution will help - I know our Oak Meadow family will do everything it can to make those butterfly wings shine! Take care everyone and have a lovely weekend.

Stars of the Week

1AB:	Jacob H-G & Blair M
1CB:	Harry J & Oscar S
2B:	Tegbir B & Jack S
2H:	Arabella D-D & Kyron H
3H:	Anaiya B-H & Harper J
3J:	Elijah L & Elsie Mas
4V:	Zayn B, Oliver-James L & Annabella P
4J:	Ruby R
5H:	Logan C & Sarina C
5T:	Gursanj K-S & Ava C
6B:	Jack B
6W:	Ellie S

We hope the parents/ carers of the above children can join us for this Monday's assembly at **8.50am** to celebrate their award.

Upcoming dates for the diary

23rd – 27th Nov – Whole school assessment week and UK Parliament Week

27th Nov – **Children's Charity Day** (please see the Oak Meadow Parliament letter emailed on 19th Oct)

30th Nov – **Non-uniform Day** for the Christmas Fair – ***Bring a Bottle***

30th Nov – St Andrew's Day

30th Nov – Class RT Grandparents' Lunch at 12pm

1st Dec – Class RE Grandparents' Lunch at 12pm

2nd Dec – Class 1AB Grandparents' Lunch at 12pm

3rd Dec – Class 1CB Grandparent's Lunch at 12pm

3rd Dec – Y5 & Y6 Christmas Disco (3.15pm – 4.15pm)

4th Dec – Reception Christmas Production (times to be confirmed)

4th Dec – Culture Day – Celebration of Hanukkah (children to wear **blue**, white silver and/or **gold**)

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*

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).

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...

Attendance and Punctuality

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%.**

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*** (**H**ere, **E**very day, **R**eady and **O**n 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		
RT	95.6%	Attendance HERO bear winners are class 1AB – well done!
RE	93.2%	
1AB	96.6%	
1CB	92.1%	
2B	95.3%	
2H	91.7%	

Key Stage 2		
3H	93%	Attendance HERO bear winners are class 6B – well done!
3J	96.5%	
4V	95.3%	
4J	86.3%	
5H	98%	
5T	95%	
6B	98.6%	
6W	96.1%	



Our combined whole school attendance for this week was…

94.5%

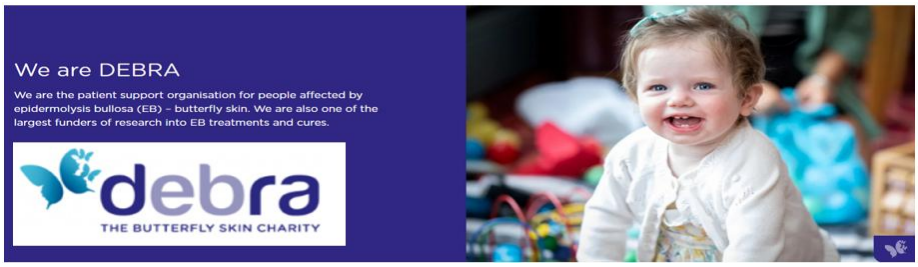
From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed a lovely weekend. I am delighted to be writing to you today on behalf of our wonderful **Oak Meadow Parliament**, who met last week to discuss, debate and democratically decide upon the arrangements for this term's Children's Charity Day. I must begin by saying just how incredibly proud I am of them. The children approached their discussions with maturity, thoughtfulness and genuine compassion, taking the time to listen to the views of others before reaching their final decision. They have demonstrated everything we hope to nurture in our Oak Meadow children: empathy, kindness, a sense of responsibility and the belief we can collaborate together to make a real difference in the world around us.

Their chosen charity is one that has particularly touched their hearts and they have devised some wonderfully creative ways for our whole school community to come together in support of it. They have also kept a few ideas up their sleeves for the spring and summer terms, so there is plenty more to look forward to… watch this space! For now, I am delighted to share the children's plans for **Friday 27th November 2026**, and the special reason behind them.

Our chosen charity: DEBRA - *The Butterfly Skin Charity*



The Oak Meadow Parliament has chosen to support **DEBRA UK**, the national charity supporting people and families affected by *epidermolysis bullosa (EB)*, a rare and extremely painful condition that causes the skin to become fragile and blister easily. Often described as *butterfly skin*, because of the delicate nature of the skin, EB can make everyday activities that many of us take for granted incredibly challenging. For children living with EB and the families who care for them, ordinary moments can require extraordinary courage, patience and resilience.

Behind every donation is an opportunity to make a difference: helping DEBRA provide practical and emotional support to families, improve access to specialist care and fund vital research towards better treatments and a future where EB no longer causes such pain and suffering. Our Parliament felt strongly that this was a cause worthy of our support. They wanted to do something that would not only raise money but also help our children understand the importance of looking beyond their own experiences, recognising the challenges faced by others and discovering just how powerful kindness can be. With that wonderful Oak Meadow spirit in mind, our children have come up with innovative ways for us to spread our wings and a little love!

1. The Giant Oak Meadow Butterfly — let's fill its wings!



Following the half-term holiday, the Oak Meadow Parliament will create a giant butterfly outline, which will take pride of place in our main school office throughout November. The challenge? **To fill its beautiful wings with sparkling coins!** From the day children return on Tuesday 3rd November, they are invited to bring in any spare coins they may have at home and add them to our growing butterfly. A donation bucket will also be available in our main school office for anyone wishing to make a voluntary contribution to be added to our Giant Oak Meadow Butterfly.

Just imagine how wonderful it will be to watch our butterfly grow, coin by coin, as a visible reminder of what can happen when lots of little acts of kindness come together to create something truly special! Each contribution will help our butterfly spread its wings a little further and we will keep track of its progress across November, right up to (and including) our Children's Charity Day when our Parliament will gather the donations from the butterfly's wings and add them to the grand total raised for DEBRA.

2. Children's Charity Day — spread your wings and show your colours!

Friday 27th November 2026 will be a day for our whole Oak Meadow family to celebrate individuality, creativity, kindness and the beauty of being ourselves! The Parliament would love everyone in our school community — children and adults alike — to come to school dressed in **expressive colours**, taking inspiration from the beautiful colours and delicate wings of a butterfly. Think bright colours, bold combinations, colourful accessories, beautiful butterfly wings, face paint and even a splash of colour in your hair! The children are invited to express themselves, have fun and bring a little extra colour to our school day.

There is just one golden rule: **let your imagination take flight!** Our Parliament wants to emphasise that this day is for having fun and raising money for a good cause. There is no expectation for families to purchase costumes or special accessories. Please do not spend any additional money on outfits for the day; children can be just as wonderfully expressive

using clothes and items they already have at home. A favourite colourful top, a bright pair of socks or a little homemade butterfly decoration or wings will be every bit as welcome.

The children are asking for a **minimum voluntary donation of £1** on the day that should be given directly to their class teacher during morning registration. Any additional amount given is entirely at your discretion with the additional donation bucket available in the main school office for anyone who would like to contribute more. We hope the day will be full of laughter, colour, creativity and the wonderful feeling that comes from knowing we are doing something meaningful together.

Although we are planning a day full of colour and fun, our Parliament are equally keen that we remember *why* we are doing this. Throughout the day, pupils will have opportunities to learn more about DEBRA and the lives of children and families affected by EB. They will also reflect on the idea of *'Butterfly Heroes'* - the special people in our own lives who help us, care for us and make the world feel brighter. At Oak Meadow, we know how important carers are. We see the dedication, selflessness and love that so many families give, often without a second thought for themselves. We want our children to recognise and appreciate this, not only in families affected by EB, but in the many carers across our wider community who make such an extraordinary difference to the lives of others.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our Oak Meadow Parliament. Children, you have made me incredibly proud. Your willingness to listen, consider the needs of others and use your voices to make a positive difference is something to be celebrated. You are a reminder that kindness has no minimum amount, compassion knows no age and even the smallest act of generosity can help make a meaningful difference. To all our children, parents, carers and staff, thank you, as always, for being part of such a wonderful school community. It is a privilege to see our children growing, not only in knowledge and confidence, but also in their understanding of others and their desire to make the world a better place. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to seeing our school take flight!

With my very best wishes and heartfelt thanks,

Mr. Lane - ***On behalf of the Oak Meadow Parliament.***

School Parliament

Children's Christmas Lunch – 16/12/26





Bookings for the **Christmas HAF Programme** are now open. Parents and carers can book places by visiting **www.yowolves.co.uk**.

During the Christmas school holidays, **26 Providers** will be delivering activities across Wolverhampton. Each session lasts a minimum of four hours and includes a nutritious meal alongside a range of enriching activities, such as:

- Multi-sports
- Music and video creation
- Arts and crafts
- Theatre activities
- Educational trips
- Nerf games
- Snooker coaching
- SEND specific provision provided by Let us Play
- And much more

Free HAF places are available for:

- Children eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals (Targeted FSM)
- Children supported by a social worker or family support worker
- Children with SEND needs


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.
What Parents & Educators Need to Know about
GROUP CHATS
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.
TEASING AND BULLYING
Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.
INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
CENSORED
Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.
UNKNOWN MEMBERS
Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.
EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION
Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.
PEER PRESSURE
Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.
VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS
Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.
Advice for Parents & Educators
CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS
Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.
SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES
Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.
BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE
If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT
Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.
PRACTISE SAFE SHARING
It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.
SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS
Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.
Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.
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