

Growing together, shining forever

Oakwood Infant and Nursery School Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026



Upcoming dates

October—Black History Month (see attached overview)

7th October F2 (Reception) Introduction to Phonics for parents 2:45—3pm (more information to follow)

13th and 15th October—Nursery Craft Afternoon (more information to follow)

14th October 2026—school photos

16th October—Mayor of Derby in for assembly (morning)

16th October—Year 1 Family Craft Afternoon (more details to follow)

19h October 2026—flu vaccinations

20th and 22nd October KS1 Parent's Evenings

23rd October—Spooky Fun Run!

23rd October 2026—last day in school before half term break

2nd November 2026—Back to school

13th November—School and Nursery closed to children for INSET

27th November—School and Nursery closed to children for INSET

Please be aware that the dates above are subject to change and new events may be added—please do keep an eye on Dojo where these things will be communicated.

Thank you for signing up to Dojo—please do check in regularly as we share key updates on this platform.



Highlights of the week

Nursery: 'The children have been developing their fine motor skills through role play in our pop-up play dough bakery'

Reception: The children have been very creative, making houses!

Year 1: Working together in PE!

Year 2: They carefully observed the fish and explored the different features that help it survive in its underwater environment. The children discovered that **gills help fish to breathe underwater** and that **fins help them to swim and move through the water**.

Greenfinches: Greenfinches are developing their choice

Open Days!

New to F2 (Reception) September 2027

Thursday 8th September

4—5:30pm

Saturday 10th September

9—10:30am

Come and visit our site, meet our staff and let us share our school with you and your child. **Oakwood Junior School will also be open to visit.**

Parents of Reception and KS1 children should have received an email about your children's flu vaccine in school—please do respond to the email by the deadline given.

Attendance

Our attendance across school this week

is: **96.7%**



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We regularly have visitors in school, from professional partners, advisors, health and safety visits, other school professionals to share our good practice with and parents. It has been such a proud week for me as Headteacher of our school to have comments such as “your children look so happy”, “everyone is so friendly and welcoming”, “your children look so smart”, “the relationships between families and staff are so respectful and positive”. **I cannot tell you how proud this makes me of our school community—thank you for letting us work with you and your children—we really are so proud of them all!**

PE Days

Reception: Monday and Wednesday

Year 1: Wednesday and Thursday

Year 2: Tuesday and Friday

Greenfinches: Thursday

If for any reason these days are changed (school trips/photos etc), this will be communicated via Dojo.

Message from Derby City:

We are pleased to share Derby City's **Public Health 5-19's Health Prospectus for Schools** (you may hear this referred to as the purple book), a comprehensive resource designed to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people aged 5-19 years. The prospectus brings together a wide range of health and wellbeing topics, alongside up-to-date guidance, local services, resources and support available to children, families and schools. It has been developed to help parents and carers access reliable information to support their child's health, while also providing schools with a valuable reference tool to inform practice and enhance the delivery of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) and wider health and wellbeing initiatives. The prospectus includes information on topics such as the importance of registering with a GP and dentist, emotional wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, vaccinations and accessing healthcare services.

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/your-childs-health-welbeing/>

A guide to your child's health – 2026/27

Designed for children in Derby aged 5-19



Little Acorns:

Our play session for children age 0—4 has now started!

Please join us for a fun session weekly every **Tuesday** in our Small Hall. **9:00—10:00am.**

Assembly in school

We have an assembly each day. This weeks themes have been:

Monday— Harvest Festival Assembly with Philipa from Boulton St Mary's Church

Tuesday—singing

Wednesday— Maths—Miss Walker

Thursday—Picture News assembly

Friday—Celebration assembly

Handwriting at Oakwood Infant and Nursery School

At school, we are helping children develop the early skills needed for successful handwriting.

Handwriting is much more than putting pencil to paper. Before children can form letters, they need strong muscles in their hands, fingers, shoulders, and arms, as well as good coordination and control.

Your child will have opportunities to take part in dough disco, squiggle and many fine and gross motor activities.



We will be teaching the children by grouping the letters into 'Letter families'. These are:

'Curly' letters: c a o d g q e f s

'Down' letters: l i t j u y

'Bouncy' letters: r m n h b p

'Zig-zag' letters: v w x z k

Ready to Write Rules

Before the children pick up a pencil, they will learn the ready to write rules. These are:

Bottom back in chair (BBC)

Tummy near table (TNT)

Six feet on the floor



Pinchy Parrot

We will be teaching the children the 'pinchy parrot' technique to help them develop their pencil grip.

Joins

The children will learn to join letters together

Developmental Stages of Pencil grip.

Palmar Supinate Grip (Fist Grip)

Typical age: 12–18 months

Whole hand wrapped around the crayon

Movement comes from shoulder and elbow

Early mark-making only



Digital Pronate Grip

Typical age: 2–3 years

Palm faces downwards

Fingers start to point towards the tip

Movement still large and from the elbow



Four-Finger (Quadrupod) Grip

Typical age: 3–4 years

Four fingers hold the pencil, thumb stabilises

Wrist begins to rotate

Common transitional grip in Nursery/F2



Static Tripod Grip

Typical age: 4–5 years

Thumb + index + middle finger

Fingers placed correctly but movement still stiff

Used in early Reception handwriting



Dynamic Tripod Grip (Mature Grip)

Typical age: 5–7 years

Thumb + index + middle finger move independently

Smooth, controlled writing

Expected by end of Year 2

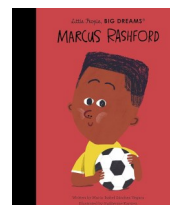


Celebrating Black History Month at Oakwood Infant and Nursery School



The month presents an opportunity for children and young people to learn more about Black history and to celebrate the contributions Black people have made to society.

Each class will complete different activities—please speak to your child about which activities they have been involved in from the selection below.

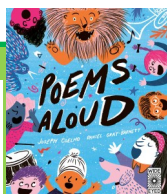


During assembly times:

- Mrs Habgood shared an assembly on Black History Heroes and speak about Marcus Rashford—her recent Black History Hero for his work to feed children during the pandemic, school closures and school holidays.
- We will share the book 'Coming to England'. This shares Floella Benjamin's experience of moving to England from Trinidad when she was a child.
- In classes, children will share 'Picture News' with articles that link to Black History Month.



Black History Month connects directly to our learning on core British Values—such as **individual liberty**, **democracy**, **rule of law**, and **respect and tolerance**—by exploring fairness and inclusion.



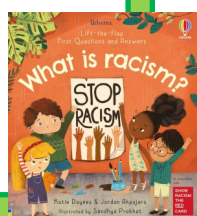
In classes, we have shared different books in different classes (these will be in our library to borrow if you would like to). Some examples are:

- Poems Aloud by Joseph Coelho
- What is Racism? - Usbourne Books
- Nelson Mandela—Little People, Big Dreams



We have spoken about some key people who have contributed to our lives. These have included:

- Harriett Tubman
- Martin Luther King
- Marcus Rashford



Friday 16th October—Show Racism the Red Card Day

On this day, children will take part in a variety of tasks. Some children will complete art work based on hands and skin colour. Some will share stories and books to promote discussion around racism in an age appropriate way.

SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD