



April 2026

Whole School News

Dear Oakthorpe Families and Community,

As we welcome the month of April, I would like to take this opportunity to send my warmest wishes to all of our families. I hope that those who celebrated Eid had a wonderful and joyful time with family and friends, and I would also like to wish all those celebrating Easter a happy and peaceful time.

March was an incredibly busy and exciting month for our school community and April is already shaping up to be just as eventful. Our children have enjoyed a wonderful range of experiences over the past few weeks, from the excitement of watching our ducks hatch to taking part in the dance festival. We were also immensely proud of our choir for attending Voice in a Million, and World Book Day was a particular highlight, with the children showing fantastic creativity by coming dressed as a word.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and carers who attended our parent consultation meetings. We were extremely pleased with the turnout and hope that you found the meetings valuable, giving you the opportunity to look through your child's books and speak with teachers about their learning journey and progress.

It continues to be a pleasure to see the remarkable progress the children have made so far this academic year. Their hard work, enthusiasm and achievements make us incredibly proud, and we are all looking forward to seeing what they will accomplish during the summer term.

As we move into Summer 1, which is a long half term, and with the weather beginning to warm up, please remember to send your child to school with a sun hat, sun cream and a water bottle, all clearly named.



Warm regards,
Mr J Wheeler

April

Dates for your diary

- 13th April - Children back to school - 8.50am start
- 14th April - Moment of Calm workshop with Success Club
- 17th April (every Friday) Year 4 Swimming
- 23rd April - 4F at Guildhall Gallery and Amphitheatre
- 27th April - Class photos (Full uniform on this day!)

Staffing update:

We are welcoming Mrs Martin back after the Easter Break! She will be teaching in Year 4 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Reception on Thursdays and Fridays - she has already been in spending lots of time with the children.

Mrs Sesto had a wonderful send off before we broke up for the holidays! Any absence request forms should be given to the main office for authorisation. Mr Wheeler will now be working on attendance and supporting families to reach our target of 96% attendance!



Attendance



At Oakthorpe, we want all children to maximise their learning time by having 96%+ attendance! Currently our whole school attendance has dipped slightly to 94.5%.



A huge thank you to our families who made an effort to walk, cycle or scoot to school in the last week of term. Our Eco-council logged a total of 1991 journeys with 61% being active journeys to school!

Well done to 3N who had the most active journeys to school!

Punctuality

We continue to see lots of children being brought into school late each morning. This has a massive impact on their learning as they are missing a key part of the morning settling in routine. Please aim to get to school for 8.50am when the gates open!



Lateness adds up!

5 minutes late each day	3 school days lost
10 minutes late each day	6.5 school days lost
15 minutes late each day	10 school days lost
20 minutes late each day	13 school days lost
30 minutes late each day	19 school days lost



WhatsApp

Instant Messaging, Group Chats, Voice & Video Calls, Media Sharing 13+

WhatsApp is a messaging app for texts, media, and calls using Wi-Fi or data. It connects users by phone number for private and group chats, is popular with young people, and has safety risks; the minimum age is 13 but can be bypassed.

Platform Overview

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta that allows users to communicate using text messages, voice calls, video calls, and multimedia sharing.

Users must sign up with a mobile phone number and can automatically connect with contacts who also use the app. It supports private chats, large group chats, broadcast messages, and status updates similar to social media stories. WhatsApp uses end-to-end encryption, meaning messages are designed so that only the sender and recipient can read them.

Core Features

- One-to-one messaging and group chats
- Voice and video calls
- Sharing photos, videos, documents and voice notes
- "Status" feature to share updates that disappear after 24 hours
- Group chats which may include many participants
- Disappearing messages and media options
- Contact-based messaging using phone numbers
- Channels and communities for following updates and large discussions

Potential Risks

Contact from strangers if a phone number is shared or added to groups

- Cyberbullying or peer pressure within group chats
- Inappropriate content such as explicit images, videos, or harmful messages
- Scams, spam messages, or phishing links
- Privacy concerns if children share personal information, images, or location details
- Large group chats where adults or unknown users may be present
- Limited parental oversight, as there are no built-in parental controls and chats are encrypted.

Potential Benefits

- Easy way for children to stay connected with family and friends
- Can support group communication for school or clubs
- Free messaging using Wi-Fi or data instead of text credit
- Allows sharing of photos, homework files, and information quickly
- End-to-end encryption provides privacy and security for conversations

Tips for Caregivers

Talk regularly with your child about who they communicate with and what they share online. Check their privacy settings together, such as who can see their profile photo, status, or add them to groups.

Encourage them to only chat with people they know in real life, leave groups that make them uncomfortable, and report or block anyone who behaves inappropriately. Keeping communication open is one of the most effective ways to support safe messaging habits.

WhatsApp is introducing parent managed accounts! A great tool to keep children safe.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

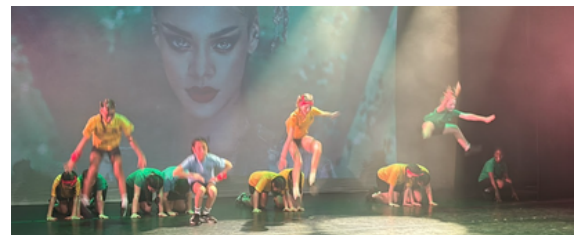


Scan for more information

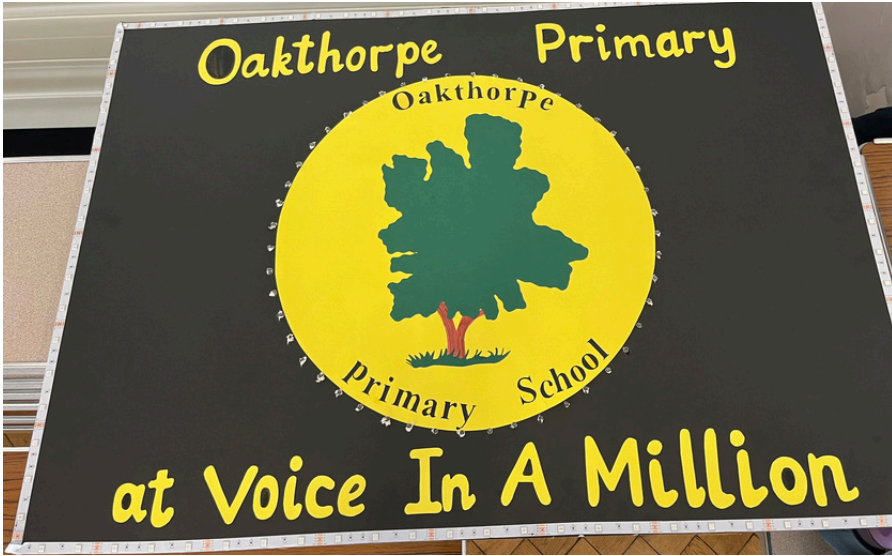


**Our KS2 Dance Team absolutely smashed the Enfield Dance Festival! What a privilege it was to watch them perform with such confidence!
A huge thank you to Miss Vainella for all of her hard work and dedication to the dance team!**

Check out Instagram page to



Our KS2 choir had a fantastic time at Voice in a Million! A huge thank you to Miss Pierce and Mrs Wood for organising such a fantastic opportunity and to Mrs Iacovides and our fantastic parent helpers for supporting on the night!



Year 6 Trent Park Secret Listeners workshop!

We found out about the Trent Park Secret Listeners through a brilliant workshop. We used drama to bring the work of Eric Marks to life and found out how Enfield (and in particular Cockfosters) played a vital role within the war!



In the winter of 1939/1940, Trent Park house and grounds were transformed into a surveillance centre. Interrogation blocks and administrative offices were quickly constructed within the main house, which was itself installed with a complex network of miniaturised bugging devices hidden in every corner – in walls and skirtings, light fittings, plant pots, window ledges, the billiard table, even the garden benches.



Measles

Measles is a serious disease caused by a very infectious virus. It can be dangerous, especially for babies, young children and pregnant women.

Catching measles

Measles spreads easily when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes.

The virus can stay in the air and on surfaces for up to 2 hours. You can catch measles just by being in a room where an infected person has been, even up to 2 hours after they have left.

A person with measles can spread the infection in the 4 days before they get the rash until 4 days after the rash appears.

Symptoms of measles



rash



fever



loss of appetite



sore, red eyes



cough

Other early symptoms include sneezing and a runny or blocked nose. A person with measles will feel very unwell. They will have to spend about five days in bed and will be off school or work for around 2 weeks. There is no treatment or cure for measles.

If you think you might have measles, it's important to call your GP surgery. You will need to stay away from other people to avoid spreading the disease.

Treatment of measles

There is no treatment for measles. Doctors usually treat the fever and advise rest whilst your body fights the virus.

Possible long-term complications of measles



hearing loss



blindness



pneumonia



encephalitis



brain damage

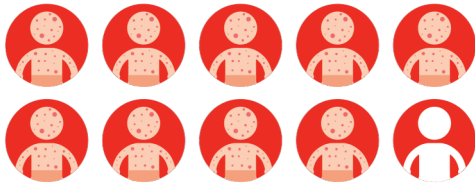


death

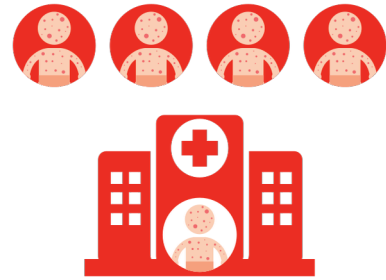
If you get measles when you're pregnant, it could harm your baby. It can cause miscarriage or stillbirth, premature birth, or your baby having a low birthweight.

Measles in numbers

9 out of 10 unvaccinated people will catch measles if they come into contact with an infected person.



1 in 5 people with measles will be admitted to hospital.



1 in 15 children with measles will get one or more complications.



1 in 5,000 people with measles is likely to die.



Preventing measles

The best way to prevent measles is by vaccination following the UK Routine Immunisation Schedule. If any doses from the schedule are missed, contact your GP practice who can advise you and book the necessary vaccine(s).

[NHS Measles Webpage](#)



[UKHSA Measles Guidelines Webpage](#)



[Oxford Vaccine Knowledge Measles Webpage](#)



DISCLAIMER: This document is not to be used as a tool for diagnosing a child or adult with measles. If you or your child have any of the above symptoms, contact your GP or call 111 right away.

Developed by NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board.



Donate a birthday book!

When it is your child's birthday, instead of cakes, why not consider donating a book to our wonderful school library! We will put a lovely sticker in the book to show who the birthday book has been donated by and a certificate will go up in the library! If you are going to bring in cakes for the class, please can these be pre-packaged to support us being allergy friendly!

Please see our [Birthday Book Wishlist](#), which has been carefully created by the children.

 LINK

Raise free donations for Oakthorpe Primary School when shopping online with easyfundraising. It won't cost you a penny extra. All you need to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oakthorpeprimaryschool/> and join for free.
2. Install the app and Donation Reminder extension.
3. Activate your donation before shopping online and the retailer will automatically donate to us for free!

Thank you for your support.

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them



TESCO

JOHN
LEWIS

ebay

JUST EAT



Plus, you'll get...



Exclusive retailer offers



Competitions



A warm feeling inside!

Over
£60m
raised for UK good causes

£0
extra cost to anyone



 Advertise with Us!

Would you like to promote your local business or community group to Oakthorpe families?

Our monthly school newsletter reaches a wide and engaged audience of parents, carers, and staff—making it a great opportunity to share your services or events.

To find out more or to book an advert, please contact the school office at:

 office@oakthorpe.enfield.sch.uk

 020 8807 4689

All proceeds go towards supporting enrichment activities for our pupils

Keep Your Child Safe Online



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C

H

TALK

Talk to your child about their internet use and safety

Have meaningful conversations about how they use the internet

Praise your child for safe online behaviours

Welcome your child if they want to ask you a question or tell you about a problem, even if they've done something unwise themselves

EDUCATE

Learn as much as you can about games, platforms, parental controls and the benefits and risks of online activity

Teach your child about specific issues and concerns

Teach your child about safe and unsafe relationships and how to repair friendships following disagreements online

CO-VIEW

Co-view your child's online activity at least 1x/week

Interact with your child online

Model appropriate online behaviour

Co-operate with each other to promote the well-being of all



HOUSE RULES

Set clear routines, rules and boundaries ("house rules")

Keep to age ratings and guidance for apps, games and devices

Restrict online activity to daytime and communal areas

Use filters and parental controls

Spend regular screen-free time with your child



AGE
11+

for a basic phone or highly restricted smart phone without internet access or social media

AGE
14+

for a smart phone with parental controls

*Agree a contract with your child to encourage responsible phone use

