



# WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 3

w/C 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025



## Messages from Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Harrington

We can hardly believe we are already at our seventh week this half term! Time certainly flies when you're having fun!

We hope you have been enjoying sharing your child's learning journey through the Dojo app. If you haven't already signed up, we can recommend that you do as it is a fantastic way to keep up to date with events in your child's class.

We were very impressed with year 5s Harvest assembly in St Nicholas Church and here at school. The children gave their all to the performance and we had many positive comments from the audience members.

Year 4 have recently completed their first mock multiplication tables check ahead of the real thing in June. The children have been practising hard in school, and we would request that you support your child with this at home too so that they can achieve the best possible outcome. Once they have secure knowledge of the multiplication tables, many aspects of maths become much easier for the children, so it is an important skill for them to learn.

Year 3 have just completed their first My Happy Minds module, 'Meet Your Brain,' learning what happens to their brain when they are worried, anxious or dysregulated. This morning, they were practising their happy breathing which is a great way to feel calm and regulated and so relaxing. There are many helpful videos and blogs on the Parents My Happy Minds app offering advice around 'Coping with separation anxiety,' 'Managing Big Emotions' and much more. If you would like to sign up, just ask your child's class teacher for the code or see the poster in reception.

This week, year 6 have been amazing us with their retelling of well-known fairy tales in the style of a newspaper article. They have kept us entertained by cleverly injecting humour into their writing and their use of vocabulary has been impressive.

Year 3 and 5 have had the opportunity to explore through VR workshops recently and the feedback has been very positive. We are excited to learn through this use of technology in the future.

We look forward to what the next couple of weeks bring...

### KEY DATES

16/10/25	Non Uniform Day – Cereal Donation
16/10/25	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2.15pm-3.15pm
20/10/25	PTA Pumpkin Competition - £1 Donation
21/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening – 3.30pm-5.30pm
23/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening – 3.30pm-7.00pm
24/10/25	NON-PUPIL DAY
27/10/25 - 31/10/25	HALF TERM
4/11/25	3 Peru Class Lunch
5/11/25	Year 2 Parent Tour – 2.30pm
14/11/25	Children In Need – Wear Something Spotty - £1 Donation
25/11/25	4 Egypt Class Lunch



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# This Week's Awards



## Stars of the Week

Each week, children will be celebrated for demonstrating one or more of the five key character strengths

### TEAMWORK & FRIENDSHIP

Owen – 5K  
Harper – 6C  
Elliot – 5T  
Jake – 4E  
Macie – 6C  
Luca – 3B

### EXPLORING & LEARNING

Freddie – 4K  
Teddy – 3A  
Albie – 5K  
Jessica – 4Z  
Jamie – 4Z  
Alice – 3A  
Lily-Ava – 5T

Pippa – 3P  
Laeland – 6J  
Olivia – 4K

### BRAVERY & HONESTY

Ming 0 6J  
Sienna – 6I  
Frankie – 3B

### LOVE & KINDNESS

Mason – 4E  
Jacob – 4E  
Summer – 6I  
Charlie – 3P  
Bobby – 5S

### LOVE OF LIFE AND OUR WORLD

Josh – 5S



Week 1  
w/b 13/10/25

## Sports Personality of the Week

Alice E,  
Bradley D



## Celebration Corner

We love to celebrate the amazing things our students accomplish both in and out of school! Please send us photographs and a brief description of their achievement, so we can feature it in here in our **Celebration Corner**. It's a great way to celebrate their hard work and dedication, and to share their success with our school community!

You can email your photos and information to [adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk](mailto:adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk)

# In Other News...



## Parent/Carer Survey

In our bid to both highlight the schools success and continually improve, we would like as many of you as possible to complete the attached survey. These questions are ones which would be provided by Ofsted during an inspection and will inform our school development plan.



There is an option for you to add your child's name if you would like to do so.

## PE DAYS

Children need to come into school on PE days in their PE kit. Children will need an outdoor PE kit i.e., plain black tracksuit bottoms (or shorts in warmer weather), white T-shirt and a plain black hoodie. No cycling shorts please.

3 Argentina 	Monday & Tuesday
3 Brazil 	Tuesday & Wednesday
3 Peru 	Tuesday & Wednesday
4 Egypt 	Tuesday & Wednesday
4 Kenya 	Wednesday & Thursday
4 Zimbabwe 	Wednesday & Thursday

5 Korea 	Monday & Friday
5 Singapore 	Monday & Friday
5 Thailand 	Monday & Friday
6 China 	Thursday & Friday
6 India 	Thursday & Friday
6 Japan 	Tuesday & Thursday

Halloween is coming...  
Enter the PTA Pumpkin Carving  
Competition - £1 per entry  
Judging takes place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup>  
October.  
All entries must be in by Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
October



**As part of Essex County Council's Health and Safety policy, all jewellery must be removed for PE, including earrings. Children must not wear earrings or other jewellery during the school day, unless for religious reasons.**

**• Sleeper studs must be removed before PE/Games – they can no longer be covered with tape or plasters.**

**• To help, please ensure earrings are removed before school on PE days. Thank you for supporting us to keep children safe.**

# In Other News...



## Autumn Dates 2025-26

17/9/25	Year 6 Live Performance "During the War"
17/9/25	Lift Maltings Open Evening 5.00pm-8.00pm
18/9/25	Year 2 Parent Tour 10am
18/9/25	Lift New Rickstones Open Evening 6.00pm-8.00pm
22/9/25	Individual Photographs
23/9/25	Flu Immunisations
23/9/25	3 Argentina Class Lunch
25/9/25	Year 2 Parent Tour 2.30pm
30/9/25	Year 5 Space VR Day
8/10/25	Year 5 Autumn Assembly 2.30pm & 5.30pm
9/10/25	3 Brazil Class Lunch
16/10/25	Non-Uniform Day for Cereal
16/10/25	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2.15pm - 3.15pm
20/10/25	PTA Pumpkin Competition – Judging Day (£1 Donation)
21/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm-5.30pm
23/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening .30pm-7.00pm
<b>24/10/25</b>	<b>NON-PUPIL DAY</b>
<b>27/10/25 - 31/10/25</b>	<b>– HALF TERM</b>
4/11/25	3 Peru Class Lunch
5/11/25	Year 2 Parent Tour – 2.30pm
6/11/25	Yr 4 Trip Museum of Power
14/11/25	Children in Need – Wear Something spotty ( £1 Donation)
25/11/25	4 Egypt Class Lunch
27/11/25	Winter Fayre – 3.45pm
9/12/25	Dick Whittington Pantomime
10/12/25	Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
16/12/25	Year 3 Christmas Assembly – 2.30pm and 5.30pm
18/12/25	PTA Christmas Character Dress Up (£1 Donation)
<b>22/12/25–2/12/25</b>	<b>– CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>



## Term Dates:

Please see term dates for the remainder of the school year listed below. Ensure any holidays are booked during the period of times highlighted in red:

Autumn 1	<b>2/9/25</b>	<b>23/10/25</b>
Autumn Half Term	<b>27/10/25</b>	<b>31/10/25</b>
Autumn 2	<b>3/11/25</b>	<b>19/12/25</b>
Christmas Holiday	<b>22/12/26</b>	<b>2/1/26</b>
Spring 1	<b>6/1/26</b>	<b>13/2/26</b>
Spring Half Term	<b>16/2/26</b>	<b>20/2/26</b>
Spring 2	<b>23/2/26</b>	<b>27/3/26</b>
Easter Holiday	<b>30/3/26</b>	<b>10/4/26</b>
Summer 1	<b>13/4/26</b>	<b>22/5/26</b>
Summer Half term	<b>25/5/26</b>	<b>29/5/26</b>
Summer 2	<b>2/6/25</b>	<b>17/7/26</b>

Inset Days

**1/9/25 24/10/25 5/1/26 1/6/26**  
**20/7/26**

Please may we remind you that we do not authorise any holiday during term time.

# In Other News...



## Spring Dates 2025-26

<b>5/1/26</b>	<b>NON-PUPIL DAY</b>
12/1/26	Year 3 Barleylands Trip
13/1/26	4 Kenya Class Lunch
21/1/26	Young Voices at the O2
27/1/26	4 Zimbabwe Class Lunch
5/2/26	6 China Class Lunch
6/2/26	Number Day - £1 donation
11/2/26	Valentine Disco
	Years 3 & 4 4-5.30pm
	Years 5 & 6 6-7.30pm
<b>16/2/26 – 20/2/26</b>	<b>- HALF TERM</b>
24/2/26	6 Japan Class Lunch
24/2/26	Parent Consultation Evening
	3.30pm – 5.30pm
26/2/26	Parent Consultation Evening
	3.30pm – 7.00pm
3/3/26	6 India Class Lunch
5/3/26	World Book day
16/3/26	Class Photographs
17/3/26	Ladies Day Lunch
24/3/26	Year 4 Easter Assembly
26/6/26	PTA Easter Trail
	£2 Entry (3.30pm)
<b>30/3/26 – 10/4/26</b>	<b>- EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>



## Summer Dates 2025-26

14/4/26	Non-uniform Day for Cereal
<b>4/5/26</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
19/5/26	5 Korea Class Lunch
<b>25/5/26 – 29/5/26</b>	<b>- HALF TERM</b>
<b>1/6/26</b>	<b>NON-PUPIL DAY</b>
1/6/26-12/6/26	- Year 4 Multiplication checks
9/6/26	5 Singapore Class Lunch
16/6/26	Year 3 & 4 Sports Day (AM)
16/6/26	5 Thailand Class Lunch
17/6/26	Year 5 & 6 Sports Day (AM)
18/6/26	Gentleman's Day Lunch
25/6/26	Year 6 Lift Maltings & Lift New Rickstones Academy
	Induction Day
25/6/26	Year 2 Transition Visit (all day) & Parent Picnic
25/6/26	Year 2 Parent Meetings 1.30pm & 5pm
3/7/26	Summer Fete 2.30pm
6/7/26-8/7/26	Year 6 Residential
9/7/26	End of Year Disco
	Years 3 & 4 4-5.30pm
	Years 5 & 6 6-7.30pm
10/7/26	Year 6 Play Dress Rehearsal
15/7/26	Annual Progress Reports sent out
15/7/26	Year 6 Performance to Parents 1.30pm & 5.30pm
16/7/26	Year 6 Leaver's Lunch
17/7/26	Year 6 Leaver's Ceremony (details to be confirmed)

## Year 6 to 7 admissions

Applications for Year 7 children starting in September 2026 opened on Friday 12th September. To apply for a place please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)  
The closing date for applications is Friday 31st October 2025.