



Oaklands School

"The best for all, the best from all"

Montgomery Way, Winsford
Cheshire, CW7 1NU
Telephone: 01606 551048

Head Teacher: Neil Oxley

12th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteachers Newsletter

I hope you have had a nice Christmas break and your child has enjoyed their return to school.

Let's hope we have had the worst weather of the winter and the school and travel won't be affected like it was last week.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a belated Happy New Year and inform you of upcoming events for this term.

Spring Term 2026

Transport:

If parents have any issues regarding transport to and from school please contact the relevant authority on the following numbers:

- Cheshire West – 01244 973637
- Cheshire East – 01270 371485

Pupil Absence:

Parents are required to phone school on the first day of absence before 9.15am on 01606 551048 and select option 2 – to report a pupil absence. Alternatively, the absence can be reported by emailing office@oaklandsschool.org by 9.15am. Please state your child's name, form, your relationship to the child and the reason for absence when emailing.

Important Update: Managing School Payments via ParentPay:

As we continue to settle into our new ParentPay system, we would like to thank the many families who have transitioned seamlessly to this digital platform. Despite a few initial teething problems, it has already proven to be a safer and more efficient way to manage the school accounts.



An OFSTED Outstanding School 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2019/2020 and 2024/2025
www.oaklandsschool.org



Our Payment Policy

To ensure the school can continue to provide the best resources and meal services for our pupils, we would like to take this opportunity to clarify our payment policy.

Please be advised that the school **does not provide a credit facility**. Our budget is allocated directly to educational resources and staffing, which means we are unable to subsidize personal debt. We kindly ask that all items—including school meals, trips, and uniform—are paid for in advance.

How You Can Help

Monitor Your Balance: We recommend checking your ParentPay account weekly to ensure your child has sufficient funds.

Set Up Alerts: ParentPay allows you to set up automated low-balance email alerts to help you stay on top of payments.

Book Ahead: For trips and extra-curricular activities, please ensure payment is made by the stated deadline to secure your child's place.

Feedback: Please do let us know if you are experiencing problems accessing ParentPay or using the functions within it. You can also find lots of useful 'how to' videos at www.parentpay.com

We understand that family circumstances can change. If you are experiencing genuine financial difficulty, please contact our school business manager for a confidential conversation. We are always here to listen and support where we can.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in helping us keep our school finances healthy and focused on our children's learning.

EHCP Annual Reviews:

Annual reviews for this term will take place as displayed in the table below. Further information will be sent out individually.

Annual Review Timetable 2025/2026	
Year 7	Summer term
Year 8	Spring/Summer term
Year 9	Spring term
Year 10	Autumn/Spring term

Charity support:

For this term, the charities we will be supporting are:

- National Society for the Protection of Cruelty against Children (NSPCC)
www.nspcc.org.uk
- World Down Syndrome Day

www.worlddownsyndromeday.org

- Red Nose Day /Comic Relief
www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday

We will provide you with further information of charity events as required.

Assembly Focus / information provided to students:

Alongside our weekly reward and celebration assemblies, each term we provide additional information to students during assemblies, to encourage discussion around key themes. This term we are looking at:

- Careers
- NSPCC Number Day
- Safer Internet Day
- World Book Day
- LGBT History Month
- Easter

Parent/Carer Coffee Morning – save the date: Thursday 26th February – 10.00am to 11.15am

We would like to invite you to our upcoming coffee morning. This will be a relaxed opportunity to meet with staff, enjoy a drink, and hear about some important aspects of school life.

During the morning, we will be covering the following topics:

- The importance of **reading at home** and how this supports your child's learning and progress
- How we **inform you about your child's progress**, including assessments, reports, and communication between home and school
- What we are doing to make our school more **sustainable**, and how we are helping pupils develop an understanding of caring for the environment
- **Safeguarding updates**, including how school is working to support digital safeguarding

We hope this session will provide useful information, as well as an opportunity for discussion and questions. We would love for you to join us.

Residential/Day visits:

Please ensure any paperwork and medical consent forms are signed and returned to the school office promptly. It is a real shame when students are not permitted to attend trips due to parents/carers not completing and returning reply slips, so please support with this when requested.

A reminder of the residential visit dates for this year.

Year Group	Location	Date
7	Glan Llyn https://www.urdd.cymru/en/residential-centres/glan-llyn/	18 th – 20 th March 2026 Wednesday to Friday
9	Red Ridge https://www.redridgecentre.co.uk/	24 th - 27 th March 2026 Tuesday to Friday
10	YMCA Lakeside https://lakesideymca.co.uk/	30 th March – 1 st April 2026 Monday to Wednesday

Parking/Collecting children:

Please can we ask if you are collecting a student that you are courteous to our local residents and, where possible, park your vehicle in the shop car park near the school to ease congestion. Please do not park in a way that blocks driveways or pedestrian crossing points as this causes frustration for our neighbours.

Uniform Policy:

I would like to thank you for your support with ensuring the students at Oaklands look smart and represent the school well. However, there are a few students who need extra guidance to ensure they wear the correct uniform and do not let the school community down. Please ensure you support your child to attend school in the correct and full uniform.

Allergen Information:

We are an allergen aware school.

We continue to be an allergen aware school, and our approach means that we will allow some cooking ingredients that state they may contain nuts in classes where no students have a known nut allergy.

We will continue to support any student with a known allergy, as explained in our Pupil Allergen Policy published on our website. If you have any feedback on the approach we take in the policy, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss any concerns or queries with you.

To continue to keep students safe, we ask that you ensure that your child does not bring food/snacks into school that contain or may contain nuts, as we can't monitor the food that all students bring into school. We therefore ask that you continue to have no nut products in your child's lunch boxes.

For example:

Peanut butter sandwiches

Chocolate spreads

Cereal bars

Some granola bars

Cakes that contain nuts

Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts

Peanut butter cakes

Some Asian food, including satay

Sauces that contain nuts

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely.

We appreciate that this is an additional thing for you to check, and that you may need to buy different food products. However, I am sure you recognise the importance and that we must work together to care for all the children who attend Oaklands.

To ensure the children are safe we continue to ask that you do not provide any cakes or treats for your child to give out to their peers on such occasions as birthdays, as we cannot guarantee that ingredients are safe for all children.

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter, as always, it is very much appreciated.

Spring Term Diary Events:

Please find below some diary events for the Spring Term. Please be aware that more information and timings will be provided closer to the event. We will inform you of other events when appropriate.

- Monday 19th to Friday 23rd January - Year 12 Work Experience week
- Wednesday 21st January – Manchester City Boys Football trip
- Tuesday 27th January – Year 7 visit to Safety Central
- Wednesday 4th February – Year 9 Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, and Meningococcal ACWY (DTP/MenACWY) vaccinations
- Friday 6th February – NSPCC Number day
- Monday 9th to Friday 13th February – Year 11 Work Experience week
- Tuesday 10th February – Cricket competition
- Thursday 12th February – Reward Afternoon
- Thursday 26th February – Coffee Morning
- Tuesday 3rd March – Year 11 and Year 12 Parents Evening – In school event
- Friday 6th March – Inset day - School closed to students
- Wednesday 11th March – Manchester City Girls Football trip
- Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th March – Year 7 residential to Glan Llyn, Wales
- Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th March – Year 9 residential to Red Ridge
- Monday 30th to Wednesday 1st April – Year 10 residential to YMCA Lakeside

- Tuesday 31st March – Reward Day
- Wednesday 1st April – School closes at 12.30pm for Easter holidays

2025-2026 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

SPRING TERM 2026

School re-opens	Monday 5 th January 2026
Break up for half term	Friday 13 th February 2026
School re-opens	Monday 23 rd February 2026
School closes	Wednesday 1 st April 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

School re-opens	Monday 20 th April 2026
School closes	Friday 22 nd May 2026
School re-opens	Monday 1 st June 2026
School closes	Tuesday 21 st July 2026

INSET DAYS – School closed to students

Friday 6th March 2026
 Friday 1st May 2026
 Wednesday 22nd July 2026

I appreciate the time you have taken to read this letter, and as always if you have any queries or require further information please do not hesitate to contact school.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Oxley
 Headteacher