



Oaklands School

"The best for all, the best from all"

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

Head Teacher: Neil Oxley

11th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteachers Newsletter

I hope you have had a nice summer and your child has enjoyed their return to school. It has been great to welcome the students back and in particular our new year 7 as they start their journey at Oaklands.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the new academic year and inform you of the changes to staffing and upcoming events for this term.

Autumn Term 2026

New Appointments:

This year, we welcome,

Mrs Jones joins us as a teacher in the Science department and takes responsibility for a Year 9 form group.

Ms Shepherd joins us in the Business Support Team as Personnel Officer and Office Manager.

Autumn Term Diary Events and term Dates 2026:

Please find below some diary events for the Autumn Term. Please be aware that more information and timings will be provided closer to the event.

- **Wednesday 16th September – School photographs**
Tempest photography will be in school to take individual school photographs.
- **Thursday 17th September - Year 7 Coffee Morning**
This will be a chance for year 7 parents and carers to meet their child's form tutor and year group teaching assistants to hear about what the students have been learning and how they have transitioned during the start of year 7.
- **Friday 25th September – Macmillan Coffee morning**
Join us for our annual coffee morning and to have a leisurely catch-up with other parents/carers. The Key Stage 4 Hospitality and Catering Group will be running the event for you. The Early Help Navigator Service will also be attending to offer support from their service.
- **Thursday 1st October – Oaklands Careers Fayre**



An OFSTED Outstanding School 2010/2011, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2019/2020
www.oaklandsschool.org



We are delighted to be holding our Careers Fair for young people in Years 9–12, and we warmly invite parents and carers to come along and join us. This will be taking place in the school hall.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people and their families to meet a range of local Post-16 education and training providers, find out more about the different pathways available and ask questions about what each provision can offer.

- **Wednesday 7th – Friday 9th October – Year 8 Residential**

Our year 8 students will be going on their two night outdoor education residential to the Conwy Centre on the Isle of Anglesey.

- **Thursday 8th October – Parent/Carer Coffee Morning**

Our termly coffee morning will focus on the curriculum, an update on safeguarding and information on the sustainability work we have completed.

The Early Help Navigator Service will also be attending to offer support from their service.

- **Tuesday 10th November – Virtual Parents/Carers Evening**

This will be the first parent/carers evening of the year. Parents/carers will be given an 8 minute virtual meeting slot with their child's form tutor to discuss how they are making progress in school.

- **Tuesday 15th December – Pantomime visit**

We are looking forward to going back to the Grange Theatre in Hartford to watch this year's performance of A Christmas Carol

School Website - www.oaklandsschool.org

I would like to remind parents to use the school website to find key information, including curriculum plans and school policies. The website also includes copies of letters that are sent which can be found under Parents/Carers/Letters.

Each curriculum subject area provides a long-term learning plan explaining what students learn throughout the year. This is the first point of access to viewing the content of the curriculum and what your child will be learning this year

Parent/Carer Communication:

Please take a moment to download our Parent communication app (if you haven't already) and ensure that your notifications are turned on so you don't miss any important updates or messages. You can also update contact information directly via this app.

If you need any assistance with setting up the app, our school office will be happy to help.



Reach More Parents by Weduc

Weduc Uk Ltd



Payments for items such as School Meals, Trips & Residential can be made via ParentPay www.parentpay.com If you haven't yet received a login for this, please let the school office know so that one can be arranged for you.



School Meals:

The cost of a school dinner for this academic year will rise to £3.30 per day/£16.50 per week. The rise in cost is due to the increased charge from our catering provider. We have managed to subsidise some of the cost, but unfortunately we haven't been able to cover it all.

Meals must be paid for in advance and payments can be made via our on-line payment system ParentPay. Please contact the school office if you are unable to access this system.

Sample menus can be found on our school website to give you ideas of what choices could be available. Please note the menus cover a sample three week period and are subject to change as and when required. Allowances are made for seasonal alterations – e.g. Christmas lunch, themed days, new foods becoming available and special days.

Free School Meals:

Expanded Free School Meal eligibility from September 2026

From September 2026, all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit will become entitled to free school meals (FSM).

Pupils who already qualify because their household earnings are £7,400 or less will continue to qualify. The change will extend entitlement to more families, meaning more children will be able to apply to receive Free School Meals.

To find out more, visit:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

Pupil Absence:

Parents/Carers are required to notify school on the first day of absence this can be done via the 'Reach More Parents App messaging' or by calling the school on 01606 551048 and selecting option

1. 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.

We must also contact on subsequent days of absence to inform of your child's progress. Appointment cards/letters will also be required for any medical appointment your child attends during the school day.

School email address for parents and carers to contact us:

You can contact the school through the office@oaklandsschool.org email to ask questions or provide information about your child. The office staff will forward to email to the relevant person who will get back to you.

Medical Tracker:

We use a secure online system that helps us record and manage all first aid incidents and medication given to pupils.

This system allows us to:

- Record any first aid treatment your child receives in school.
- Track the administration of prescribed medication.
- Notify you promptly by email if your child has received treatment or medication during the school day.

Using Medical Tracker means you will be kept fully informed in real time, while also ensuring our records are accurate, consistent, and safely stored. You will receive all relevant information to your email so you do not need to do anything to sign up to the service. Please ensure your email details you have provided to us are correct.

In previous academic years, we have emailed one parent, but moving forward, **both priority one and priority two contacts** will receive the email alerts.

If you have any questions about how Medical Tracker works, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Safeguarding:

Early Help Navigator Service:



Early Help Navigator Service

We know life isn't always easy. Sometimes you don't know where to go for help. You may need a bit of advice or support, or simply a friendly face to chat to about something that's bothering you.

**Early Help Navigators
are here to help**



Scan this QR code for details of drop-in sessions in your area, or to request an appointment.

We can:

**Provide help,
support and
advice with
family life**

Be a listening ear

**Signpost you to
local and
national support**

**Help you fill out
forms**

**Attend GP
appointments
with your family**

**Provide food
and baby bank
referrals**

Visit: [www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
/services/5751](http://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/services/5751)

or phone 0151 556 8378



**Cheshire West
and Chester**

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

EHCP Annual Reviews:

Annual reviews will take place for year 11 and 12 students this term. Further information will be sent out individually. Annual reviews for other year groups will be completed as displayed in the table below:

Annual Review Timetable 2026/27	
Year 7	Summer term
Year 8	Spring/Summer term
Year 9	Spring term
Year 10	Autumn/Spring term
Year 11	Autumn term
Year 12	Autumn term

Please note - The review timetable in the table above has been agreed with the required local authorities and is set for the year.

Charity support:

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

- Macmillan
- World Mental Health Day
- The Mid-Cheshire Foodbank (for the Harvest Festival celebrations)
- The British Legion
- Children in Need
- Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day)

We will provide further information of charity events as required.

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/	22 nd – 24 th March 2027 Wednesday to Friday
8	The Conway Centre https://conwaycentres.co.uk/anglesey	7 th – 9 th October 2027 Wednesday to Friday

9	Red Ridge https://www.redridgecentre.co.uk/	9 th – 12 th March 2027 Tuesday to Friday
10	YMCA Lakeside https://lakesideymca.co.uk/	15 th – 17 th March 2027 Monday to Wednesday

At Oaklands we encourage our Children to partake in as many of our enrichment opportunities as possible but understand the financial pressures families are facing currently. As a result, Information relating to available payment plans for school residentials will be released next week

Parking/Collecting children:

Please note that when collecting a student, you are courteous to our local residents and, where possible, park your vehicle in the shop car park opposite 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.

If you collect your child from the school gate, please be considerate of our neighbours. I kindly request that you refrain from leaning on residents' walls, as we will receive complaints if you do so.

Uniform Policy:

Please continue to support your child and provide the full school uniform for them to wear. This includes ensuring that they wear plain black shoes or trainers, with no other colour included in the design. We will ask parents/carers to purchase additional shoes/trainers if their child does not have plain black footwear. Uniform requirements are stated in the Uniform policy that can be found in the policies section of the school website (link below).

<https://oaklandsschool.org.uk/school-info/policies/>

I would like to remind you that no jewellery (including watches) is allowed to be worn for PE lessons and sporting activities. This is to keep the students safe from any physical harm.

Expectations for the school uniform

Our School Uniform includes

Coat

A suitable coat or jacket for wearing at break/lunchtime during cold, wet weather to be removed when in school

The option of either a Black Blazer, or a V Neck Jumper (both options are branded wear)

Black Blazer with school badge



V Neck Jumper with school badge



The option of wearing a school tie (please note this is not a compulsory item, and students can choose not to wear it)

Green and gold narrow stripe.



White long or short sleeve with collar

Top button fastened and shirt tucked in



Trousers, Shorts or a Skirt

Trousers

Black formal style - The trousers must be of standard length, without decorations, shorts must be formal.

Tight-fitting, cargo, low cut jeans or jean style trousers and sports shorts are unacceptable.



Shorts must be formal.



Skirt

Black knee-length - worn with black or white knee-high socks or tights

(No tight-fitting skirts or skirts with splits).



Footwear

All black low heeled shoes/pumps, enclosed at the heel and toe.

All footwear must be plain black and have no logos.



Additional items, as required.

Plain black tights

Black or white socks

Black plain belt (optional)

Watch (optional)

Stud earrings smaller than 5mm

Simple hair accessories, i.e. hairband, bobbles, clips

PE KIT

For health and safety reasons, pupils must be dressed appropriately for physical activity.

To ensure the safety of all students during Physical Education (PE) activities, the wearing of

jewellery (including pierced earrings of any kind) and watches is strictly prohibited.

The decision to prohibit all jewellery and watches during PE is based on a clear safety rationale:

- Earrings can cause injury to the wearer, including torn earlobes or puncture wounds if the post is pushed into the skin.
- Jewellery and watches can also pose a risk to other students during contact or group activities.

This policy is in line with guidance from the Association for Physical Education (afPE), which states that taping over earrings is not considered a safe alternative. Taping can create a false sense of security and does not eliminate the risk of injury. There have been reported incidents where earrings taped in place were forcibly removed during activities, causing significant injury to the ear.

Indoor

T-shirt (green or burgundy, depending on which house the student is in) – **These are branded T-Shirts**
Shorts (black)

Trainers - specifically for PE lessons



Outdoor

Sweatshirt (green or burgundy, depending on which house the student is in) – **These are branded Sweatshirts**

Black jogging bottoms/tracksuit trousers



Full bathing costume or swimming trunks

Towel and suitable toiletries, i.e. deodorant



Schoolbag

Pupils should have an appropriately sized bag for carrying a Home/School diary, books, equipment, and lunch/water bottle. A rucksack style bag is recommended.

Parents/Carers are asked to ensure that all uniform and PE kit items are marked with pupils' names and encourage their children to take responsibility for their belongings.

Unacceptable uniform – therefore NOT permitted

Unless Headteacher authorises change/exception:

Hoodies/Tracksuit Tops

Skinny or tapered trousers, leggings or jeans

Short skirts above the knee

PE Trainers with bold logos or colours

Coloured belts

Coats/scarves/hats/sunglasses whilst in the school building

Noticeable Make-up/Fake tan

Rings

Bangles, beads, necklaces, chokers and other fashion accessories inc. hair accessories

Hoop or diamante earrings and all other variations.

Stud, hoop or diamante earrings –and all other variations (for PE sessions)

If earrings are worn (outside of PE sessions) then only stud earrings are acceptable, that are less than 5mm in diameter.

All facial piercings, including tongue piercings

Naval piercings

Unnatural hair colouring

Tramlines, hair designs or shaven heads

Nail varnish or acrylic/gel nails

No false eyelashes

Second-Hand Uniform Donations & Support

We are always grateful for donations of good-quality, clean second-hand school uniform to help keep our uniform shop well stocked. If your child has left school this time or has outgrown any uniform items that are still in good condition, we would greatly appreciate your donations. We would also like to remind families that our second-hand uniform shop is available to support those who may need assistance with school uniform costs. Items are provided free of charge, subject to availability. If you would like to access this service, please don't hesitate to contact the school in confidence.

Allergen Information:

We are 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 us and we 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 ask that you do not bring in 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.

2025-2026 School Term and Holiday Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2025

School re-opens	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Break up for half term	Friday 24 th October 2025
School re-opens	Monday 3 rd November 2025
School closes	Friday 19 th December 2025
Autumn term 75 days	

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
Spring term 58 days	

SUMMER TERM 2026

School re-opens
School closes
School re-opens
School closes

Monday 20th April 2026
Friday 22nd May 2026
Monday 1st June 2026
Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Summer Term 62 days

INSET days 2026/2027:

The 5 allocated INSET days for 2026/27 when the school will be closed to students are:

INSET 1	Tuesday the 1 st of September 2026
INSET 2	Friday the 18 th of September 2026
INSET 3	Friday the 4 th of December 2026
INSET 4	Friday the 30 th of April 2027
INSET 5	Wednesday the 21 st of July 2027

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