

# THE OAKS CE LEARNING FEDERATION

# NEWSLETTER

March  
2026



## Our School Vision

*Connected through the values of love, respect and compassion. Three separate schools, we journey together to grow physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, so that everyone can fulfil their potential. We strive to preserve the wonder of childhood, whilst ensuring our children are future ready.*

### A Message from Mrs Flynn

We are already in March and heading towards Easter no doubt singing 'Spring Chicken'. The weather has been a bit of a rollercoaster this term but the sunshine is on its way I'm sure!

We have had a fantastic Spring Term the children Key stage 1 have learned about the Great Fire of London and from their home learning sheet some brought in amazing Tudor houses that they made at home.

Year R this term have been learning about many things including Lunar new year, nocturnal animals and spring. Presently they are learning about traditional tales. I saw some fantastic year R writing this week, holding their pencil correctly and sounding out the words they wanted to write and looking so proud of themselves when they had finished their work.

The year 1 and 2 children also enjoyed their dodgeball tournament up at Bartley. They really enjoyed this sporting experience and the opportunity to see each other from across the Federation.

Thank you to you as parents and carers for supporting the children in their wonderful outfits for Number Day and World Book Day. Both of these events were good fun in school and helped to promote the fun of number and joy of reading.

We really value your partnership in supporting your child's learning.

### Courageous Advocacy

This term, we have supported some national events, including Number Day, where we raised over £300 for the NSPCC. Thank you for helping us support such an important cause. We would also like to thank those who have already donated to Comic Relief, for which we raised £133. If you would still like to donate, please click [here](#).

St Michaels also visited Hartwood House care home where the children sang to the residents and handed out Easter cards. It has been great to forge this local connection between our young and older residents in the village.



### Easter Celebrations

In the season of Lent we have been building up to our Easter celebrations. The children have learned why we have pancakes and of course some participated in pancake races energised by eating a pancake! For those who were able to attend the Church services we hope that you have enjoyed seeing your children engage in these services. Thank you to Rev John and presently Pastor Paul for supporting us with these and the 'Open the Book' teams that visit the schools to run some worships.



### Federation Improvement Plan

On our INSET day the staff focussed on learning more about The Empowerment Approach. From this day the staff in each school have focussed on a particular area to work on with the children empowering the children to understand that working together changes things for the better for everyone. We will be holding an information meeting about the approach in the Summer term.

As I stated in the last newsletter we had implemented retrieval in KS1 at the start of our maths lessons to help children to consolidate their prior learning. This term we have continued this and introduced it to our science lessons. We aim to continue this in our history and Geography lessons next term.

Over the Spring term we have continued to develop our maths offer by explicitly teaching mathematical vocabulary and selected stem sentences to support the children's mathematical understanding. The use of sentence stems has allowed us to continue to support the children's oracy in maths.

Support from NCETM and Hampshire maths advisors has given opportunities for CPD for teachers across the Federation, including some training on problem solving on our INSET day in Spring 1.

Mrs Day planned spirituality into a few of our worships to help children understand about thinking about themselves and also thinking about those around them.

### Staffing

We would like to thank Mrs Thomas who returned from retirement to stand in as SenCo this term. We have appreciated her support across the three schools. You may still see her if she returns to do supply cover.

Next term we welcome Miss Allinson as our new SenCo. She is very experienced in this role and has been in for a couple of visits to start to get to know the children she will be supporting. Miss Allinson will also be sharing the role of class teacher with Miss Langton at Copythorne.

Miss Langton will resume in teaching the Hedgehog class from Monday to Wednesday and Miss Allinson will teach the class on Thursday and Friday.

We sadly have said goodbye at St Michaels to our teaching assistant Mrs McIntyre who has worked with us for a couple of years. She has returned to be with family in Mauritius. We will be welcoming new teaching assistant called Mrs Garner. who will start after Easter.

We have also said goodbye to Mrs Holmes our cover supervisor at St Michaels. We wish her luck in her new career. We are currently interviewing to fill this post and will let you know in due course who will be joining.



### A Message from Miss Scotland

We have recently had a few questions about our reading procedures across the Federation and therefore thought it might be useful to clarify our practices and expectations. We follow the phonics scheme, Little Wandle. As part of this scheme, the children read their reading book 2-3 times weekly at school with a trained adult. When your child brings their book home on a Friday, they should already be very familiar with their book and therefore their reading with you is to 'show off' and show you the skills they have learned. Hopefully this should be a relatively quick and enjoyable experience. Whilst we understand that some parents may feel frustration that only one book per week comes home, this is recommended by Little Wandle in order to develop fluency and word reading automaticity. We would love for you at home to continue to develop a love for reading by visiting the library, sharing stories and in fact any other kind of print or storytelling experience, be this comic books, non-fiction or even audio books. We continue to strive to support every child to be a confident and fluent reader who enjoys entering the world of stories and from this, finds comfort, joy and a belief that quite anything is possible.

### PTA

A big thankyou to all the PTAs for the huge amount of time and dedication they put towards all the fantastic events. All three schools have had a disco. Children were particularly bemused at the Copythorne disco watching the teachers and PTA members dancing so well to the Macarena!

We have had events this terms such as bake sales, Easter bonnet competitions, and a very lively quiz night. It has been lots of fun for everyone who has got involved and are a great way often to catch up with each other in the community.

### Volunteering in School

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in school already! Volunteering is a great way to learn about our teaching strategies and make a big difference for our learners. If you're interested in becoming a regular volunteer, please visit our website, where you'll find information on how to get started, including the required safeguarding training:  
[Volunteering](#)

### A Message from the Governors

As we reach the end of the spring term, the Governing Body would like to thank all our families for their support and partnership. Our role as governors is to help set the school's strategic direction, uphold its vision and values, and work with leaders to ensure every child has the best possible experience and experiences the wonder of childhood. This term, governors have been in school carrying out monitoring in several key areas, including maths, spirituality, health and safety, and safeguarding. These visits help us see how the school's vision is lived out each day. We encountered many instances of the children journeying together in love and respect through joint Federation events such as Dodgeball and Hockey Tournaments. We were also proud to see how staff are committed to preserving the wonder of childhood while preparing children to be confident and future-ready.

We wish all our pupils, parents and carers a restful, joyful Easter break.

### Parent and Carer Questionnaire

On Monday, we shared a questionnaire about communication. We would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few moments to complete it, as your feedback will help us ensure we're communicating as effectively as possible. If you haven't already completed it, please follow this link:

[Communication Questionnaire](#)

### School Clubs

We hope that you are enjoying the after-school clubs at the schools. The Superstar Sports teams will be running holiday sports clubs at Netley Marsh in the May half term and summer holidays.

Private piano lessons have started this term at St Michael and All Angels and the children I have spoken to have been really enjoying this experience.

Next Term these lessons will be available at Copythorne. Please contact [pianobysabrina@hotmail.com](mailto:pianobysabrina@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

*"Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid nor be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"*  
Joshua 1:9



**[Click here to stay up to date with our upcoming events.](#)**

### 2026/2027 Inset Days

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June