

THE OAKS CE LEARNING FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

October
2025

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

I can't believe the first half term is already over. The children have all settled into school really well. Our Year R children have learned their new routines and how to explore and manage their new environment - including becoming experts at tidying up, of course!

They have also formed some lovely new friendships during their first few weeks. I am equally proud of the children in Key Stage One, who have shown our values of love, respect, and compassion towards the new Year R pupils by supporting them throughout this half term, especially at playtimes.

Learning Opportunities - Living Our Vision

Across the Federation, the children in Key Stage One visited Testwood Lakes for two days. This provided a wonderful opportunity for them to get to know one another while taking part in a range of team-building games. They enjoyed pond dipping, exploring and recognising different types of trees, and even learned how to cook popcorn over an open fire. The children also developed important life skills, learning how to stay safe near water and fire. There were many moments of wonder as they used nature to create things such as leaf prints on fabric and little people made from sticks.

I have particularly enjoyed watching the Year R children develop their physical strength by working on their fine motor skills, preparing them for writing. They take part in a daily Disco Playdough session - a fun activity where they manipulate their own pots of playdough to music, following the teacher's instructions. Holding a pencil correctly is hard work, and this process helps build the muscles needed for writing. So, any extra playdough time at home will really support this development!

Inter-Federation Hockey

Year One pupils took part in this term's inter-Federation sports event. We are thrilled to announce that St Michael and All Angels won the tournament - congratulations to them, and well done to all the children who took part!

Sadly, the torrential rain got the better of us for the Year Two tournament. We will update you with the rescheduled date for Year Two as soon as possible.

Communication

If your child is in Year R, you can see the wonderful learning opportunities they're experiencing by checking your Tapestry account.

After the half term break, please look out for the class weekly learning highlights from your child's teacher. These will be sent via Arbor.

You may also have noticed that we now have an Oaks Learning Federation Facebook page, which will share updates from each school.

Please remember that class teachers are always available at drop-off and pick-up times, so you can speak to them then if needed. We suggest arriving closer to 8:30am, as the gates close promptly at 8:45am and learning begins straight away.

Parish Activities

Reverend David Potterton and Reverend John Reeve have enjoyed meeting the new Year R children at their Welcome Services. It was lovely to see so many parents attending, and I think we all enjoyed listening to the Reverends reading the picture book *Bible Story of the Builders* to the children. We hope you've enjoyed reading the book with them at home too.

A big thank you to all of you for your generous donations for our Harvest Services. It was a wonderful celebration of thanksgiving, helping the children to appreciate the importance of thanking farmers for their food and understanding where food comes from. Your donations will be given to local food bank charities and will truly benefit many families in need. I think we all enjoyed the fabulous singing - it was great to see so many family members joining in with the classic song 'Cauliflowers Fluffy!' I'm sure both Reverend David and Reverend John were also impressed by those very well-behaved scarecrows who sang and danced so enthusiastically.

School Tours

We are currently running lots of school tours for families looking for school places for September starters. As many of you know, we continue to welcome children from outside our catchment areas. If you know anyone who is looking for a school place for September, please do let them know and help spread the word that tours are currently taking place across all our schools!

Is my child too ill for school?

All children become unwell from time to time as they grow and develop. If we feel that your child is too poorly to be at school, we will phone you to let you know. The NHS has produced some helpful guidance to support parents in deciding when to send children to school:

[Is my child too ill for school? \(NHS\)](#).

"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

Staffing

This half term, we have welcomed several new members of staff to the Federation. Mrs Wendy Rees has joined as the new full-time Admin Assistant at St Michael and All Angels. Mrs Laura Darling is the new Admin Assistant at Copythorne. She will work in the office on Wednesday mornings, Thursdays, and Fridays. Miss Jodie Matthews will work from Monday through to Wednesday at Copythorne. Mrs Karen McLeod has joined Netley Marsh as our new Lunchtime Supervisor. This half term, Mrs Maddams has been teaching in Butterfly Class (KS1) at Netley Marsh alongside Mrs Maclaurin. We thank Mrs Maddams for her hard work and wish her all the best in her future ventures. After half term, we welcome Mr Warren, who will be teaching full time in Butterfly Class and will also lead Year 2 across the Federation. Mrs Maclaurin will continue her SENCo role (Monday to Wednesday) and will return to Copythorne to teach in Hedgehogs Class (KS1) on Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Langton will continue teaching in Hedgehogs on a part-time basis (Monday to Wednesday). Finally, we welcome Mr Bartholomew as a new Teaching Assistant at Netley Marsh. He will be supporting across the school during mornings only.

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

Parent Forums

Our first Parent Forum of the year provides an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and feedback about your child's experience at school. These sessions are a great way to discuss what's going well and identify areas for development. If you have specific concerns about your child, please speak to their class teacher first.

All parents are welcome to attend any of the following forums:
Tuesday 4th November, 2:30pm – St Michael and All Angels
Wednesday 5th November, 2:30pm – Netley Marsh
Tuesday 11th November, 8:45am – Copythorne

Thank You

Thank you to all the adults who have supported us on trips this half term and to those who have volunteered to hear readers or help in our schools. A big thank you also goes to all our PTAs for their incredible work during the first eight weeks of term. Lots of money has already been raised, and it's been wonderful to see so many new parents attending the PTA AGMs. As Christmas approaches, our PTAs are busy planning exciting events to help the children experience the sense of wonder that makes this such a special celebration.

We are very proud of how the children are settling in. They have been doing some super learning about place value in maths, really focusing on forming their numbers correctly. In literacy, we have explored a number of texts, including Oliver and Patch and Six Dinner Sid. Everyone has loved creating their own story books with their own house on the front. We can't wait for the children to finish these and bring them home to share with you. They are so proud! We have also enjoyed getting out around the village to photograph and map our local area and two fabulous days at Testwood Lakes. Thank you to everyone who has supported our children to make such a super start to the school year.



We have been thrilled with how well the Reception children have settled into school, learning their new routines and making new friendships along the way. We have covered a lot in our first half term, learning lots of letter sounds in our phonics sessions, finding out about the Harvest Festival and enjoying exploring our classroom environment. We were so proud to see the children sing and dance so brilliantly during our Harvest Service, we hope you were too! Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have helped the children to come into school independently and have helped to ensure the children are ready for school each day!