

OAKRIDGE TIMES

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new term.

One of the highlights since we returned has been our recent pantomime experience. It was truly delightful to see the children fully immersed in the performance of Aladdin. Their enthusiasm was infectious as they joined in with the singing and laughed heartily at the jokes.

I would also like to take a moment to remind all parents about our school start times. For our infant children, the school day begins at 8.45am, and for our junior children, it's 8.50am. Punctuality is crucial - arriving on time allows our pupils to settle into their learning environment and be fully prepared for their first lesson. We understand mornings can be busy, but ensuring your child arrives promptly makes a significant difference to their daily learning experience.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Diane Charman

DIARY DATES

FEB

- 3rd Yr 4 Trip to Winchester
- 10th Safer Internet Day
- 13th Mad Hair Day—non school uniform day for £1
Last day of term
- 23rd Return to School



SPORTS & TEACHER-LED AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS RESUME

MAR

- 2nd **TEACHER-LED CLUBS CANCELLED ALL WEEK—
Sports clubs will continue**
- 2nd Parents Evening 3:30pm—6:00pm—details to follow
- 4th Parents Evening 3:30pm—6:00pm—details to follow
- 5th Yr 5 Trip to The Living Rainforest—details to follow
- 6th World Book Day—details to follow

Attendance Winners

	w/e 09/01/26 Class	w/e 16/01/26 Class	w/e 23/01/26 Class	w/e 30/01/26 Class
Infant	4 & 5	1	5	3
Junior	5, 10 & 11	6	7	8

ATTENDANCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

What **YOU** must do if your child is absent from school:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in letters or show communication.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What **WE** will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

MAD HAIR DAY—13th February 2026



The school will be taking part in St Michael's Hospice 'Mad Hair Day' on Friday 13th February.

This will be a non-school uniform day and we ask that the children come into school with 'mad' hair in exchange of £1 donation



Last day of term is Friday 16th Feb (normal finish time)

Infant Stars of the Week



	Week ending 9 January	Week ending 16 January	Week ending 23 January	Week ending 30 January
Class 1	Deveshi S	Emiya E-I	Lyla J	Tommy T
Class 2	Isabella G	Nehemiah M	Arha A	Aneni T
Class 3	Cas H	Pramisa G	Nate B	Arlo F
Class 4	Lucas L	Freddy K	Noah H-H	Aarohi K
Class 5	Julian N	Maverick T	Jasmine B	Teresa C
Class 6	Saad B	Rithish M	Taha M	Meghan C
Class 7	Emily M	Melissa J	Jaxon N	Jesper W
Class 8	Marshall S	James Y	Luna H	Sonny E
Class 9	Max C	Ishana K	Arlo A	Zander R-L
Cabin	Sahana P	Willow F	Viha P	-

Junior Stars of the Week



Class 1	Ayaan D	Rosie S	Eliyh H-B	Khadija M
Class 2	Bobby S	Macy C	George A	Liz L-D-P
Class 3	Kingsley W	Rai-Nayah B-B	George D	Jasvitha R
Class 4	Callista A	Jai R	Thisali G	Kamile B
Class 5	Albert C	Isabella-May E	Freya C	Aurelia O
Class 6	Natasha P	Freddie K	Coby M	Aydan A
Class 7	Freja R	Dhairya S	Aari S	Harris S
Class 8	Melody D	Caleb C	Darunn M	Sophia R
Class 9	Minna K	Paisley A-C	Lyla N	Talia M
Class 10	Arlo G	Jenif P	Maisie I	Arlo G
Class 11	Harry Y	Theo S	Sophie S	Yishen H
Class 12	Samraj S	Poppy M	Isobella S-H	Brayden R
Cabin	Oscar M	Noah F-C	Max D	Adam P

COACH JORDAN'S SPORTS ROUND-UP

As we approach the end of this half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to say how well all of the children have done with their dance routines over the last few weeks. We know that dance is not for everyone but the effort, enthusiasm and desire to learn all the moves has been fantastic throughout the school!

The infant children have loved dancing to 'Under the Sea' and so many of the children have said that they have been practicing at home as well as showing their siblings and parents.

The junior children have also taken really well to 'Waka Waka' and there have been many occasions where I have seen or heard the children practicing the dance or even just singing the song around school at break or lunchtime.

Apologies to all parents at home if you have been made to play it over and over again, if it's any consolation, my daughter is now in year R so we have also been treated to 'Under the Sea' numerous times!

COMPETITION UPDATE

On Monday 26th January, a team of 12 children were taken to The Costello School for an indoor athletics competition where we came in sixth place. This was the first time that the team took part and they all did fantastically well and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



You can now follow us on Twitter @OakridgeFed

Year 6—Special Announcement

We promise that more information will follow for our year 6 parents but for now, please make sure to keep the date free in your diary

Friday 17th July 2026!

Tickets will go on sale on Friday 6th March, and we will share the booking link with you as soon as they go live.

A hint of
SNOW WHITE
THE MUSICAL

OAKRIDGE
PRESENTS

“A leavers
extraordinaire”

FRIDAY 17TH JULY 2026

TICKETS: £13

SMARTPHONE FREE BASINGSTOKE

In June 2026, the 'Smartphone Free' initiative was launched in Basingstoke. 33 schools are taking part, representing the vast majority of Basingstoke children. This came from a place of deep concern around recent research and statistics which show the negative impact that tech and smartphones can have at all ages.

On the back of this, there are free webinars for parents, which cover:

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology

Dates for your diary! The dates are:

Tuesday 3rd Feb 7:30pm - 8:15pm - [Link here](#)

Thursday 26th Feb 6pm - 6:45pm - [Link here](#)

Each webinar is the same, so you only need to attend one and there is no need to pre-register. Basingstoke Smartphone-Free Schools

PAPAYA BASINGSTOKE & DEANE PARENTS

Let's talk about our kids and their tech

ONLINE PARENT TALKS—REGISTER HERE:

TUESDAY 20 th JANUARY 2026	
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM — LINK	
TUESDAY 3 rd FEBRUARY 2026	
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM — LINK	
THURSDAY 26 th FEBRUARY 2026	
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM — LINK	



Hannah Verney Lloyd

Hannah is a qualified teacher with over ten years of experience and, most recently, served as an Assistant Head Pastoral at a London prep school. She is passionate about mental health and wellbeing and cares deeply about empowering parents, children, and teenagers as they navigate managing their online lives to achieve the best possible mental health and happiness.

She joined PAPAYA through her voluntary work with Smartphone-Free Childhood, and after hearing a talk by Jonathan Haidt, she became more convinced than ever that the safest space for children is one where they are free to be themselves.

PAPAYA

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Parenting in the **digital age** has never been more complex, with issues surrounding screen time, social media use, and gaming.

Many parents are concerned about their children's mental health, especially the impact of screens on it.

In this interactive talk, Hannah unpacks some of the **complex issues** surrounding smartphone use and, in a **non-judgmental** manner, aims to help you find solutions that work for your family.

Topics

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PAPAYA VISIT:

papayatalks.com

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Better Swim School

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BETTER