13th November 2026

With respect, kindness and resilience, we flourish together.

Headteacher's Newsletter – Remembrance Day: Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future

As we mark Remembrance Day, we take time as a school community to pause, reflect and remember all those who have served, sacrificed and given so much in the pursuit of peace and freedom.

Remembrance is about more than looking back at history. It is about recognising the courage, resilience and selflessness of others, understanding the importance of peace, and considering the role we all have to play in creating a better future.

During our commemorations, our pupils have had the opportunity to reflect on the significance of this important day and to consider what remembrance means to them. The two minutes' silence provides a powerful opportunity for us all to show respect, gratitude and appreciation. This year's reflections also lead us to an important message: **greatness is not simply about what we achieve as individuals, but what we contribute to the lives of others.**

We all have a part to play in making a difference. Greatness can be found in the kindness we show, the respect we give, the courage to stand up for what is right, and the determination to support those around us. It is demonstrated in the small, everyday actions that help to build stronger communities and a more positive society.

As a school, we want our children to understand that they do not need to do extraordinary things to make an extraordinary difference. A kind word, an act of compassion, a willingness to help, or the courage to include someone who feels left out can all have a lasting impact.

The sacrifices we remember remind us not to take our freedoms, opportunities and relationships for granted. They also challenge us to consider how we can honour the past through the choices we make today.

Let us encourage our children to be ambitious in their aspirations, generous in their actions and courageous in their beliefs. Let us teach them that greatness is not measured by status or recognition, but by character, contribution and the positive difference they make to the world around them.

We remember those who gave so much. We honour their legacy through how we live, how we treat others and how we contribute to the future.

Lest we forget.

With best wishes,
Gabby Stevens
Acting Headteacher

From the Classrooms...

Year 1/2



This week in Year 1/2, we have been incredibly busy! The children have been working hard on their Autumn term assessments. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and progress shining through. We have also spent time learning about Remembrance Day, exploring why it is such an important event and reflecting on its meaning. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating some beautiful Remembrance-themed crafts, including poppy artwork, and approached these activities with care and thoughtfulness. Well done to everyone for a fantastic week of learning and creativity! 🌟 🍠 🌺

Year 3







Wow! What a week we have had!

This week Year 3 have been completing on-line assessments for Maths and SPAG and their resilience has been brilliant, giving every question a go.

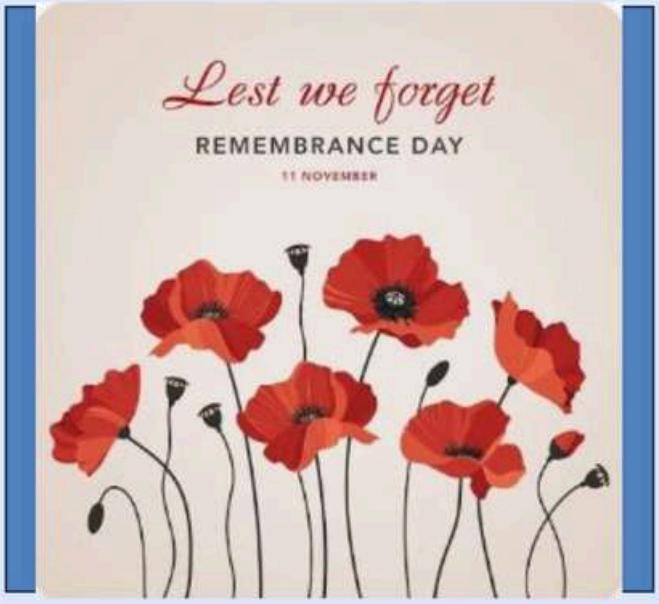
On Tuesday we attended a Mental Health workshop. We discussed what might make us feel anxious, how that can affect us and what strategies we can use to support us.

On Wednesday, we showed our respect by completing 2 minutes of silence and discussed why this was important.

On Thursday, Oli Adams came to visit and inspire us. He shared his passion for surfing, entering contests around the world and how his battle with Crohn's disease hasn't stopped him doing what he loves!

From the Classrooms...

Year 4



Year 4 been reflecting on what Remembrance Day means for them – taking part in poppy crafts and class discussions about why they are proud to live in Britain!

Explorers



This week the Explorers have been learning about Remembrance. The phrase 'Lest We Forget' means 'it should not be forgotten'. The words remind us not to forget those who have lost their lives in war and conflicts while we live in peace. We will be supporting 'Children in Need' at the end of the week – let's hope we raise lots of money!

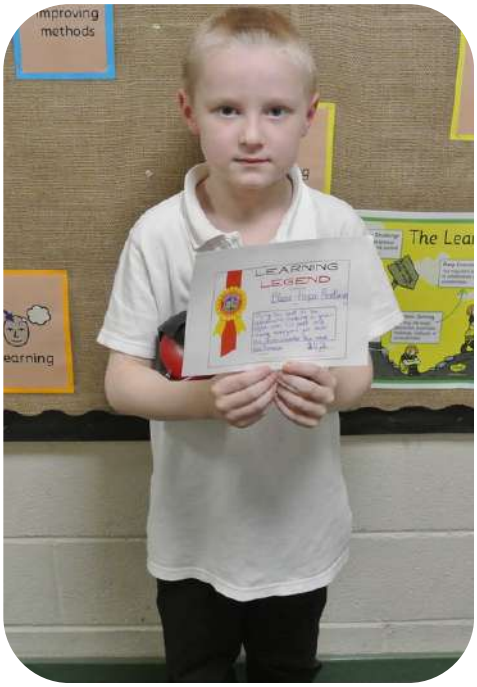
LEARNING LEGENDS



Well Done!

Well Done!





Well Done!



ABSENCE REPORTING, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS & OFFICE HOURS

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please ensure you notify the school office by email or telephone before **08:00am** on the day of absence.

PLEASE NOTE: Absences should be report to the new email address: **absence@okehamptonprimary.org.uk** or via telephone: **01837 52866**

For planned medical appointments, parents/carers must inform the office in advance by completing the S2 Absence/Holiday form, available on our website or at reception:

https://www.okehampton-pri.devon.sch.uk/Parents/Forms-and-Documents/

The completed form should be submitted either by hand or via email, and must include **evidence of the appointment where possible.**

We understand that emergency appointments can arise; however, the school office must still be notified as soon as possible.

Please note that the school office is open from 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday, during term time.



Weather Reminder

With the weather being very unpredictable at the moment, we encourage all children to bring a warm, waterproof coat to school every day. As we aim to get outside whenever possible, having a coat will help children stay comfortable and enjoy outdoor learning and play, whatever the weather.

Thank you for your support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16 NOV	**OCRA WEST DEVON FLAG FOOTBALL EVENT**	Okehampton College	10:00AM
27 NOV	**YEAR 3 TRIP**	Kents Cavern	9:00AM
30 NOV	**OCRA INDOOR ATHLETICS EVENT**	Okehampton College	10:00AM
01 DEC	**SINGING AT MEMORY CAFE**	Memory Cafe	AFTERNOON
02 DEC	**PANTOMIME - R, Y1, Y2, Y4, WINTER TOR**	Northcott Theatre	9:00AM
02 DEC	**BANDSTARS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	2:45PM
03 DEC	**EDWARDIAN EVENING - CHOIR SINGING**	Okehampton	5:00PM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

09 DEC	**PANTOMIME – Y3, Y5, WEST TOR, EXPLORERS**	Northcott Theatre	9:00AM
09 DEC	**YEAR 1 AND 2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	1:30PM
09 DEC	**YEAR 3 AND 4 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	5:00PM
10 DEC	**YEAR 1 AND 2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	10:00AM
10 DEC	**YEAR 3 AND 4 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	1:00PM
14 DEC	**PTFA CHRISTMAS SALE**	OPS	ALL DAY
15 DEC	**EYFS CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	2:30PM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16 DEC	**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**	OPS	11:45AM
17 DEC	**YEAR 5 CAROL PERFORMANCE**	OPS	2:00PM
18 DEC	**END OF TERM**	OPS	3:25PM
05 JAN	**FIRST DAY OF TERM**	OPS	8:45AM

Christmas Card Competition

Devon County Council have invited us to participate in a Christmas Card Competition.

Every year a picture drawn or painted by a student from a Devon school in is used by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Julian Brazil) as his printed Christmas card. The runner up pictures will be used as online/electronic Christmas cards sent out by the Chief Executive (Donna Manson) and the Children's Leadership Team.

Should you wish to participate in this competition, please design your card and pass to the office. We will compile the entries and send them off.

The deadline to send in your Christmas card designs is Friday 20th November 2026.

Good luck to everyone!

Year 4 Residential

Year 4 had an unforgettable time at Adventure Okehampton for their Residential Trip last week, taking part in a range of exciting outdoor activities that challenged them, built their confidence, and developed their teamwork skills.

Throughout the trip, the children enjoyed rock climbing, where they showed determination and courage as they scaled the climbing walls. They tested their aim and concentration in archery and axe throwing, and had lots of fun racing down the slopes during grass sledding.

The children also took part in a variety of team-building activities, working together to solve problems, support one another and develop their communication skills. In the evenings, everyone enjoyed singing songs around the campfire, toasting marshmallows, and sharing stories with friends. The trip ended with a fantastic disco, where the children danced, sang, and celebrated an amazing time together.

It was wonderful to see the children challenge themselves, make lasting memories, and demonstrate excellent behaviour throughout the visit.

Adventure Okehampton was a truly memorable experience for all involved!





Year 4 Residential









POPPY MAKING AT THE MEMORY CAFE

Hart Tor felt very privileged to be invited to the Memory Cafe to make poppy wreaths for Remembrance Day.

After a wet, soggy walk through town, where the children were a credit to our school, we spent the afternoon colouring, painting and making poppies, completing crosswords and wordsearches and having a wonderful time chatting to the guests at the Memory Cafe.

The guests got stuck right in with Hart Tor, joining in with the different creative activities and getting to know the children.
The children loved this interaction with the elder generation or "the old people" as they called them and can't wait to go again!



As their teacher, I cannot describe how proud I was of the children's good manners and respect they showed to the guests. Their behaviour was impeccable and the guests themselves commented on how well-behaved and smiley the class was! Well done Hart Tor!



GREAT ATHLETES VISIT FROM OLI ADAMS

We were excitied to welcome Team GB Surfer, Oli Adams this week.

KS2 children performed circuits with him and then he led an inspiring assembly where he explained about his sporting journey and how he hasn't let his Crohn's disease hold him back!

You can sponsor your child and help raise money for new sports equipment by visiting: www.greatathletes.org and clicking on the button "Set up a Fundraiser Page" and following the steps.

Please note that we are a cashless school so all sponsor money needs to be submitted online.

Please ensure that all money raised is donated by Thursday 19th November 2026.




IT'S BBC
CHILDREN
IN NEED
DAY!




"Books are
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We have really enjoyed celebrating Children in Need today!

Today we have dressed as Pudsey in yellow and spotty outfits and completed many activities and challenges to raise awareness of how this charity changes the lives of so many young people for the better.

With this in mind, we would be very grateful for any donations to Children in Need via our JustGiving page. We have set a target of £250, but we have often exceeded this in the past and are hoping, with your support, to do the same again!

Please follow the link below to make a donation.

Donate here!

NOTICES


OKEHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
PTFA
ENRICHING OUR CHILDRENS LIVES
Dates for Your Diary!
Christmas Family Bingo
Saturday 5th December
7pm
Charter Hall
Breakfast with Santa
Saturday 12th December
9.30am – 12 noon
Parish Church Hall
Christmas Sale
Monday 14th December
Time TBC
At School
Valentine's Discos
Tuesday 9th February
Times TBC
At School
We look forward to seeing lots of familiar faces and welcoming new ones too!
Thank you for supporting Okehampton Primary School PTFA!
Together we can enrich our children's lives.


OKEHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
PTFA
ENRICHING OUR CHILDRENS LIVES
CHRISTMAS
BINGO
Charter Hall
5th December
Doors open 6pm
Eyes down 7pm
£1 ENTRY TICKET
Game book £5
End flyer £1
Prize raffle
BINGO
BINGO
18
7
32


Bring a Friend to Rainbows
Bring a friend evening on
Thursday 26th November 6-7pm
Okehampton Parish Hall (next to CO-OP)


Rotary
Okehampton and District
Save the dates and help save the planet!
2027 dates
13th January
10th February
10th March
7th April
12th May
9th June
7th July
11th August
8th September
6th October
10th November
8th December
The Rotary Club of Okehampton and Devon and Cornwall Food Action are holding monthly food hubs at the Okehampton Rugby Club.
Visit the Rotary Club Okehampton website or scan the QR code below for full details and to book.
Everyone welcome!