



23rd October 2026



With respect, kindness and resilience, we flourish together.

Celebrating Everyone in Our School Community

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful school community for the warm welcome and support I have received during my time as Acting Headteacher. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of you, working alongside our dedicated staff, and most importantly supporting our children as they learn, grow and thrive.

I am looking forward to the term ahead and to continuing to build strong relationships with families. Thank you to everyone who completed our parent survey. We value your feedback greatly and are carefully listening to your views as we consider how we can continue to develop and improve our school for all children. The term ahead promises to be a busy and rewarding one. We hope it will be filled with celebration, high-quality learning and meaningful steps forward in our school improvement journey. Together, we will continue striving to provide the best possible experience for every child in our care.

Ms Gabby Stevens
Acting Headteacher



From the Classrooms...

Nursery/Reception



This week, we have had a great last week of term! We have been enjoying the stories *Chapatti Moon* and *The Colour Monster*, which have inspired lots of our learning and discussions.

The children have had many opportunities to develop their fine motor skills through activities such as threading beads onto pipe cleaners to help strengthen their hand and finger muscles. They have also enjoyed making their own chapatti dough, which provided a wonderful sensory experience. Our nursery children have been exploring emotions and discussing what makes them feel happy, sad, and angry. Through our learning, the children have been developing their understanding of feelings and how to express them.

The children were very proud of making their own chapattis and talked enthusiastically about what they could smell, taste, and feel throughout the process.

Thank you for a wonderful half term. We hope you all have a lovely and relaxing break, and we look forward to seeing you after the holidays!

Year 1/2



This week in Year 1 and 2, we have enjoyed reading *Room on the Broom* and using the story as inspiration for our writing. The children have been working hard to write descriptive sentences, thinking carefully about their vocabulary to make their writing more interesting and exciting. In art, we have been creating hedgehog picture holders from clay, which are currently drying, ready for us to paint after half term. We have also been busy producing beautiful autumn-themed artwork using the colours and textures of the season. Keep an eye on our classroom windows, as some of these wonderful creations may soon be on display for everyone to enjoy!



From the Classrooms...

Year 3



Year 3 performed their first Parent's assembly this week. A fantastic turn out of parents, carers and grandparents meant a little bit of a delay as we scurried to put out more benches but was genuinely heart warming to see so many. A little bit of stage fright set in but the children absolutely loved it! We hope those who came enjoyed it just as much as we did!

Year 5



Year 5 had a very exciting start to the week with a visit from the police! He went over laws and responsibilities with the children.

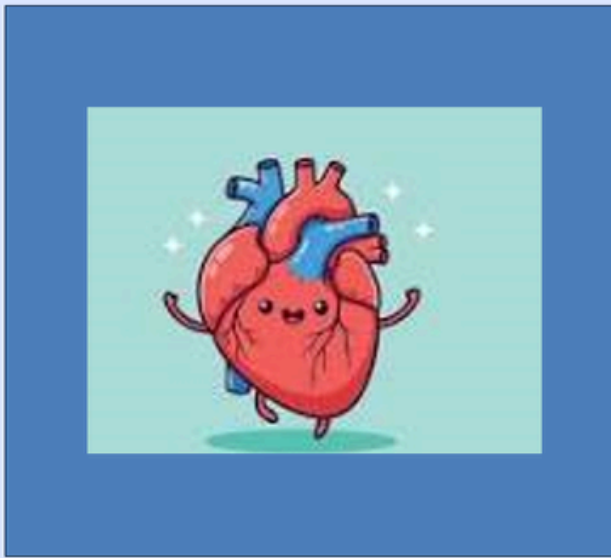
We then had a visit from 'Food for Thought'. Angela brought in lots of different Ugandan artefacts for the children to explore.



From the Classrooms...



Year 6



Year 6 are now coming to the end of our "Human Body" Biology unit. We have learnt all about how to keep healthy and have focused on the circulatory system including components of blood, blood vessels and the heart.

We have also worked hard to get our art installation complete and to complete some Newspaper Reports as we have been investigating fairytale characters. Not everyone is as innocent as they seem!



Explorers



This week the Explorers have been thinking about their senses and what they like about the Autumn season. They wrote about things they like to see, smell, hear, eat and touch in the Autumn.





LEARNING LEGENDS

*Well,
Done!*



*Well,
Done!*



*Well,
Done!*



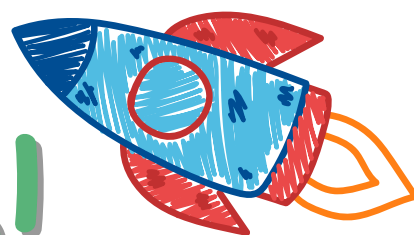
ROCKET READER



*A huge well done to our super star
Rocket Reader this week!*



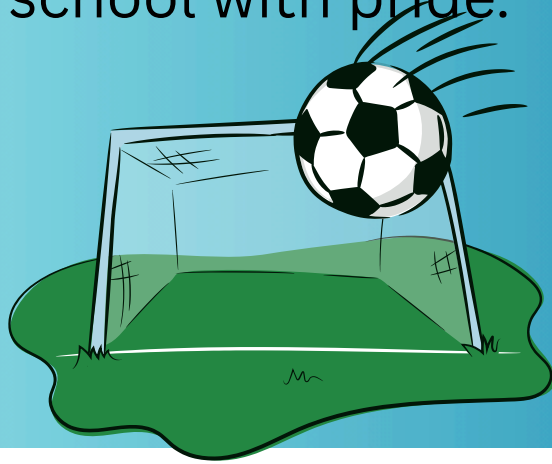
25
READS!

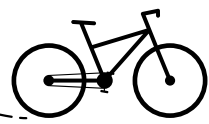


OCRA GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



Year 4, 5 and 6 girls took part in the OCRA Girls' Football Tournament at Okehampton College on Monday, 19th October. Competing against schools from across the area, the team showed fantastic resilience, teamwork and determination. Despite the challenging wet and windy weather, the girls played with enthusiasm and represented the school with pride.





YEAR 6 BIKEABILITY



Over recent weeks, our Year 6 pupils have been taking part in Bikeability training delivered by the Plymouth School Sports Partnership. Children were divided into smaller groups each week, enabling them to develop their cycling skills and confidence in a supportive environment.

During the programme, pupils learned key Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 skills, including safe cycling on local roads and navigating traffic. They also enjoyed using balance bikes to improve their balance and control.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience, and road safety awareness shown by all of our Year 6 cyclists throughout the course. Well done, everyone



Year 3 Harvest performance

After the buzz of performing our Nativity as Year 2's , now they're KS2, Year 3 decided they didn't want to let their dramatic tendencies slide...

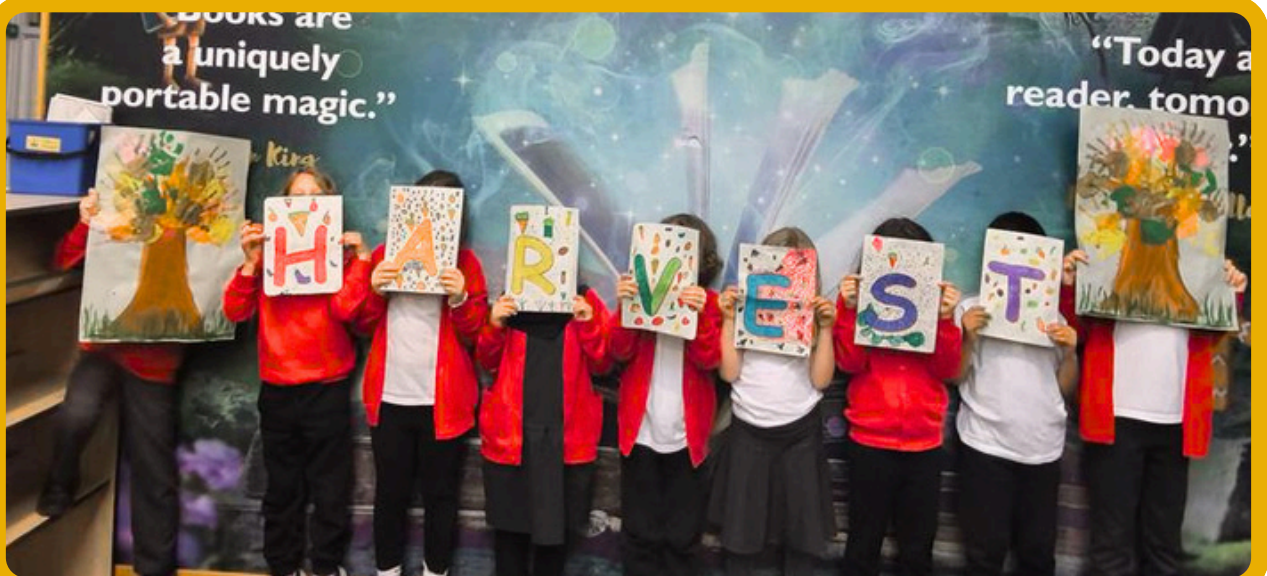
So, this year we have decided to put together little assemblies to perform for our Parents.

Our first one was Harvest themed which we performed on Wednesday afternoon, can I say to a packed hall??? 😊

Certainly, more than the 8-10 parents I was expecting!!!

We painted pictures, wrote and performed poems and sang some Harvest songs and can't wait to do another one. It was so lovely to see how supported we were with so many parents, carers and grandparents of the children turn up to support them.

We really hope you enjoyed our assembly and after half term we will start practising our Christmas performance, which we hope will be a bit different from the Nativity of last year and might tickle your funny bones -we've got glitter in our veins!!!



Farewell

Ms Nikki Hamel



Today we say a fond farewell to Nikki Hamel, a much-loved member of the Okehampton Primary School family.

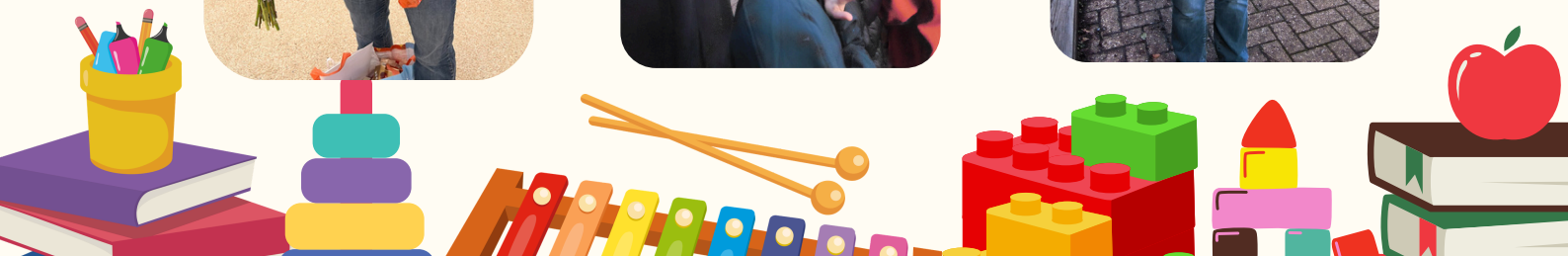
Since joining us in 2014 as a Mealtime Assistant, Nikki has been an amazing part of our lunchtime team, always showing kindness, dedication and care to the children and staff. She has also willingly stepped in to support Nursery and Early Years whenever needed, demonstrating her commitment and flexibility.

Nikki has been a tremendous asset to the school, and the children absolutely adore her. Her warmth, patience and positive attitude have made a lasting impact on so many children over the years, and she will be greatly missed by everyone.

As Nikki begins her retirement and embarks on new adventures, we would like to thank her for her many years of service, support and friendship. We wish her every happiness and success in this exciting new chapter.

Thank you, Nikki, for your amazing years at Okehampton Primary School. You will always be a part of our school family, and your contribution will never be forgotten.

With love, gratitude and best wishes from all at Okehampton Primary School





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 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.

in coats, especially when they have wet play during lunch times.



Photo Consents Reminder

You may have noticed that there have been fewer pupil photographs featured in recent school newsletters. This is because we are carefully adhering to the photo consent preferences recorded for each child.

As previously communicated, we recently updated our photo consent wording on Arbor to reflect developments in technology, including artificial intelligence (AI). While the way we use photographs in school has not changed, we ask all families to review and confirm their preferences to ensure our records are accurate and up to date.

If you have not yet reviewed your child's photo consents, please do so via Arbor at your earliest convenience.

For information on accessing Arbor, please visit:

<https://www.okehampton-pri.devon.sch.uk/Parents/Arbor-Schoolgateway/>

If you have any problems or cannot access Arbor we do have hardcopies available at the office.



SCHOOL NOTICE

We're really pleased to share some lovely news with you. After half term Mrs Jessica Phillips will be returning from her maternity leave and joining our EYFS team. Jess brings a calm, caring approach along with several years of teaching experience and we know she'll be a fantastic addition to the early years classroom. Jess will be working on a Wednesday and Thursday with Mrs Cathy Carey working Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

At the same time, Mrs Jasmine Gilkes will be moving back into her KS2 role, where she has already built strong relationships with the children and families. We're delighted to have her continuing the great work she does with our older children.

These changes bring a lovely sense of stability across the school, and we know the children will benefit from the strengths both Mrs Phillips and Mrs Gilkes bring.



SCHOOL NOTICE

I am writing to update you on the leadership arrangements at Okehampton Primary School. I am pleased to share that Dan Marshall will happily be commencing a phased return to work over the coming weeks following a period of absence. To support this, Dan Marshall will be continuing a temporary leadership role at St James before returning to his role as Headteacher of OPS. During this period, Gabby Stevens will continue her role as Acting Headteacher at OPS to provide continuity and leadership for the school.

We will keep staff informed of any future changes to these arrangements. In the meantime, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Phil Whittley

DATES FOR THE DIARY



23

OCT

HALF TERM

📍 Okehampton Primary



2

NOV

FIRST DAY BACK AFTER HALF TERM

📍 OPS

🕒 08:45 AM

5-6

NOV

YEAR 4 - RESIDENTIAL TRIP

📍 Adventure Okehampton

🕒 08:45AM

10

NOV

POPPY MAKING - YEAR 3 HART TOR

📍 Memory Cafe

🕒 10:00 AM

12

NOV

OCRA CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

📍 Castle Drago

🕒 10:00 AM

16

NOV

WEST DEVON FLAG FOOTBALL

📍 Okehampton College

🕒 10:00AM

12

NOV

GREAT ATHLETES - KS 2

📍 OPS

🕒 VARIOUS

27

NOV

YEAR 3 TRIP

📍 Kent Cavern

🕒 08:45 AM

01

DEC

SINGING AT MEMORY CAFE

📍 Memory Cafe

🕒 13:30 PM

Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust
...everyone in our Trust.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Make a
difference
in your
community!

The Green Box Project – at Okehampton Primary School is looking for more volunteers!



What's involved?

Volunteers are needed to
join a friendly team on
Thursdays, even if you only
have an hour to give on
occasional weeks.



The project

This is an environmental
project and an exciting
scheme to be part of.



What you'll be doing

Tasks are fun and can
involve receiving the food
delivery, stock taking,
making up the boxes with a
variety of foods, or selling
the boxes to families.



**EVERY
THURSDAY**



**OKEHAMPTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Volunteers: 12:30pm – 3:45pm
Help for part or all of the session,
your time is appreciated and valued.
Customers: 3pm – 3:45pm



Good food
=
Happy
families

All parents are welcome to come
and take advantage of this fantastic
deal for Okehampton families,
which also helps the environment!

For just £2.50, you can get a whole box
of good quality surplus food, valued
at over **£10!**

We look forward to seeing you there!



Please contact Melissa Trudgill at
mtrudgill@dmatschools.org.uk for more information –
we would love to hear from you!



Parents Power Up! How you can help your child stay safe while gaming online

Many children enjoy playing video games online. While gaming can be fun and educational, it's important to help children stay safe.

Ofcom's Power Up Parents campaign encourages families to Check, Chat, Change: check safety settings, chat about online experiences, and make changes where needed. Remember, you don't need to be a gaming expert to help keep your child safe online.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/parents-power-up-how-you-can-help-your-child-stay-safe-while-gaming-online>



OKEHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

PTFA
ENRICHING OUR CHILDREN'S 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

OKEHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

PTFA
ENRICHING OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES

Okehampton School Football Club

SE
sonic
FIREWORKS

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Sunday 1st Nov

On the football field outside the Pavilion

GATES OPEN 4.30 **DISPLAY 5.30** **FOOD VENDORS** **PAVILION CAFE OPEN**

NO SPARKLERS **£7** PREBOOKT **£8** ON THE NIGHT **UNDER 4's FREE**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
RED LION BAZAAR, DONALDS AND OCRA PAVILION

CASH ONLY

OKEHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

PTFA
ENRICHING OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES

AGM

**Wednesday Nov 4th
6pm**

at the London Inn

Everyone welcome

See how you can support your children on their primary school journey

Volunteers needed!

Help with our **Therapy Dog Sessions**

Okehampton Primary School

- Tuesdays and Thursdays mornings
- Collect children from class
- Support Sweep & Di with the sessions

Make a positive difference!

For more information contact
admin@okehamptonprimary.org.uk

Small paws... big impact!



RECEPTION OPEN AFTERNOONS

Meet our Teachers.

Explore our Classrooms.

Imagine your child's future with us.

Friday 23rd October 2026

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Email admin@okehamptonprimary.org.uk
to book your place.

OCRA

WHAT'S ON

OCTOBER

HOLIDAY CLUB • MONDAY-THURSDAY

MONDAY 26TH



Art

TUESDAY 27TH



Nerf

WEDNESDAY 28TH



Halloween Art

THURSDAY 29TH



Football Tournaments!

*Activities subject to change, other activities always available