

# High Oaks Newsletter

## Dates for the Diary

Half term—17th February—21st February

24th February—students return

7th March 9.45—Occupational Therapy parents event

26th March 9.45—Speech and Language Therapy parents event

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well. We have had another very busy half term here at high Oaks! As you will see in this fortnights Newsletter students have been working hard across all areas of the curriculum.

We had a lovely day on Thursday welcoming our Governors into the school to spend time with students during lessons. They were all very impressed at the hard work and attitude to learning the students have here at Oaklands.



Hounslow have launched their new Local Offer website which I have attached more information about in the Newsletter. It is an excellent website with lost of useful information for families, please do take the time to take a look.

We have set our term dates for next year which are on the next page. They can also be found on our school website.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely half term break with your families.

Mairead

# Term Dates 2025/2026

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Inset Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Inset Day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Students Return
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Inset Day
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Inset Day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Students Return
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term 1.45 finish
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas Holidays
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Students Return
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Students return
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term 1.45 finish
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter holidays
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Students Return
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday/Half Term
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term 1.45 finish
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer holidays

# Trip to Pitzhanger Gallery



A group of students from Kew, Syon and Osterley classes visited Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery in Ealing. They enjoyed looking at the exhibition 'Pride of England', which had portraits of the England football team and sculptures of lions made from recycled footballs!



# Preparation for Adulthood: Enterprise

As part of our *Preparation for Adulthood* curriculum, students in Crane 5 and Crane 6 have been busy designing and selling handmade cards for all occasions! This exciting project has given them the opportunity to unleash their creativity, learn the process of designing, making, and selling a product, and develop important life skills along the way.

From Valentine's day to Mother's day and Easter, each card is unique and made with care by our students. We invite you to take a look at some of their fantastic designs and support their hard work by purchasing a card for just £1 each. Your support helps our students gain valuable real-world experience—thank you!



## Crane 6 Work Experience



Crane 6 students have been actively engaging in work experience at Heathrow Farm, gaining valuable skills while contributing to the community. They have been busy chopping feed, bagging bedding, and caring for the farm animals. Through hands-on activities, students are learning about different animals, their needs, and how to look after them. The experience is also helping them build tolerance to various sounds, smells, and textures, enhancing their sensory awareness. This opportunity has been both educational and rewarding, giving students a deeper appreciation for animal care and farm life.



## Kew 3

On January 31st, we celebrated the Chinese New Year. Each class studied and explored various aspects of this festival, learning about the Chinese calendar and the associated zodiac animals (this year is the Year of the Snake). Kew 3 students even got hands-on, making red envelopes and sweets with rice cake and sprinkles and practicing saying and singing "Happy New Year" in Chinese.



# PSHE with Syon 2

During PHCE lessons, Syon 2 have been focusing on Recognising Emotions. The class have thought out what different emotions feel like and how we can self regulate and be happy and ready to learn. More recently, we have been looking at the emotions 'excited and worried'. The class have explored relaxation using free painting, music, calming lights and have even created their own sensory toys. While making sensory toys, we have continued developing our reading skills, following written instructions, turn taking, and making choices. The class have enjoyed making Sensory Bottles and Squishy Toys.



# Osterley 1 Life Skills Household Shopping

This term, the students are focussing on Household Shopping, where they go to Tesco in Osterley to buy ingredients for their cooking sessions during the week. Students are also taking part in role play activities and identifying the different types of shops there are in the local community.



# Trip to Questors Theatre

A group of Sixth form students visited Questors Theatre in Ealing. They enjoyed a tour of the back-stage area, looking at sets, props and costumes



# Hounslow Local Offer

Hounslow have recently launched their brand-new Local Offer website. This website provides advice, guidance and support for professionals and families with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

This website has been produced with the help of the Hounslow Community, including young people, parents/carers and professionals, and is a vital resource for families and any professionals working with children and young people with SEND.

You can view it here: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer) . You can also find a link to this on our website.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the SEND Local Offer website. At the top, the logo 'SEND Local Offer' is displayed with a rainbow underline. Below the logo is a navigation menu with three options: 'I am a young person', 'I am a parent or carer', and 'I am a professional'. The main content area features a large image of two children, one smiling and one pointing. A call-to-action box titled 'What is SEND?' is overlaid on the image, with a 'Read more' button. Below the image, there are three sections: 'Getting support' with three options (SENDIASS, SEND surgeries, and Hounslow Parent Carer Forum), and 'All topics' with a grid of eight categories: Education, Neurodiversity, Health, Benefits and money, Social care, Transport, Preparation for adulthood, and Information, advice and support. Each category lists several sub-topics.

**SEND Local Offer**

Education, Health and Care Plans | Education | Neurodiversity | Health | Benefits and money | Social care | Transport | Preparation for adulthood | Information, advice and support

I am a young person > I am a parent or carer > I am a professional >

**What is SEND?**  
Get an understanding of special educational needs and disabilities.  
[Read more](#)

**Getting support**

- SENDIASS**  
Independent SEND advice and support.
- SEND surgeries: Let's talk SEND**  
Monthly drop-in sessions where you can talk to SEND professionals.
- Hounslow Parent Carer Forum**  
Monthly group discussing family issues such as health, education and employment.

**All topics**

<b>Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Early years</li><li>SEN support in schools</li><li>Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)</li></ul>	<b>Neurodiversity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>About neurodiversity</li><li>Autism</li><li>Telling your child about their condition</li></ul>	<b>Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Universal health services</li><li>Health services for SEND</li><li>Mental health and wellbeing</li></ul>	<b>Benefits and money</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Benefits</li><li>Loans and grants</li><li>Personal budgets and direct payments</li></ul>
<b>Social care</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Safeguarding</li><li>Early help</li><li>Children with disabilities social work team</li></ul>	<b>Transport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School travel assistance</li><li>Travel schemes and passes</li></ul>	<b>Preparation for adulthood</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Training for work</li><li>Education options</li><li>Where to live</li></ul>	<b>Information, advice and support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What is the Local Offer</li><li>What is SEND</li><li>SEND acronyms and terminology</li></ul>

# Attendance Reminders

**We have seen a significant improvement in students attendance across the school this academic year, which is excellent news.**

Please remember to phone the school reception in the morning if your child is unwell and not able to attend school.

If we cannot contact you by the second day of absence a home visit will be carried out by a member of the safeguarding team, a referral may be made to children's social care if we cannot make contact.

If your child has a medical appointment that can not be changed to outside school hours please send the appointment letter, text so we can log this alongside your child's attendance. They should attend school before and after the appointment where able.

If your child has had a disturbed nights sleep, please do bring them into school. It is much better for them to be at school and not sleeping during the day to encourage healthy sleeping patterns.

We understand that the mornings can be difficult for some students. If they are on borough transport and miss the bus, please do try and bring them in.

If you are requesting term time leave this must be done **before you leave**, using the term time leave application that can be found on the school website. You can also request a printed form from the school reception. This must be submitted before you travel to the Head teacher. If you take unauthorised term time leave a referral will be made to the Education Welfare Team.

It is essential that your child attends school regularly so they have access to the full curriculum and have the opportunity to continue to build on their skills.

If you are experiencing difficulty with getting your child to attend school, please do speak to your child's head of department who will be able to support you.

Thank you as always for your support.