



Date: 27th February 2026

Dear Oakbank School Community,

We have been delighted with the fantastic start to the term! The recent spell of spring sunshine has brought a wonderful energy to the school. This term promises to be fast-paced but incredibly purposeful, with key events including:

- **NGRT testing W/B 2nd March**
- **Year 9 Choices Evening 26th March:** Supporting vital decisions for the future.
- **Year 11 Academic Review Evening 24th March:** Providing focused guidance during a critical year.
- **Rewards Week: W/B 23rd March** Celebrating the hard work and dedication of all students.

Though the term is one of our shortest, it is a vital part of the school year. We remain dedicated to supporting every student as they climb their own personal mountains to the best universities, apprenticeships and careers.

Inset Days

Please access our school website at <https://www.oakbankschool.co.uk/> to see any updates. You will also notice the new school photos and the updated sections which is an ongoing project. We have an Inset day on the 13th April after the Easter holidays and it will be Year 11 only on the 14th April with all students to return on the 15th April. We thank you for your support with this as Year 11 enters their final term before exams.

Attendance Swap Shop

We are also extremely excited to announce that the Oakbank Swap Shop will be operational from the week beginning 2nd March 2026. . Each week students with 100% attendance for the previous week will be able to “swap” their attendance for an item from the shop. This will include everything from pens and pencils, to keyrings and teddy bears, all branded with the Oakbank School logo. The only cost to the student? 100% attendance!

Mr Rob Gerrard, Headteacher

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

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Building work

A reminder that Greenshaw Learning Trust will be investing £4million in the capital project spent on the building and facilities over the course of the next academic year. Phase 1 of the £4 million investment from Greenshaw Learning Trust started on the 26th February with additional work starting on the 9th March. This will be a £300000 investment in new student toilets, new staff toilets and some essential safeguarding including new fencing. This is all very exciting and we appreciate the cooperation of families and students as with alternative toilet facilities until this work is completed.

We are writing to draw your attention to the following areas of our behaviour and uniform policy, specifically regarding mobile phones and conduct within the community.

Mobile Phone Policy and Sanctions

We understand that mobile phones are a vital tool for safety during the commute to and from school. However, to maintain a focused and social learning environment, mobile phones must be switched off and stored away in bags from the moment students enter the school gates.

This is in line with the latest Department for Education guidance which states that all schools should be phone free, link is [here](#).

Please note the following procedure for any student who breaches this rule:

- If a mobile phone is seen or heard during school hours, **including if it is seen in a pocket**, it will be confiscated immediately by a member of staff.
- **Any student who has their phone confiscated will automatically receive a 30-minute detention to be served that afternoon / the following day if issued after 12.30pm.**
- The device will be stored securely in the school office and can be collected at the end of the school day by the student. If this is a repeated issue parents will be asked to collect the phone.

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- Students caught actively using a phone will have the phone confiscated and this will need to be collected by parents / guardians.
- If a student is sent to RFL they will be expected to hand this in and it will be locked in a secure safe.

Free School Meals

To apply for free school meals, please complete the application form using the link below.

[Free School Meals Application](#)

World Book Day

As we celebrate World Book Day and embrace our Year of Reading, we are encouraging all students and parents to log onto SORA, our fantastic digital library platform. SORA gives students free access to thousands of eBooks and audiobooks anytime, anywhere — perfect for reading at home or on the go. To help families get started, you can watch this helpful guide: [here](#)

As part of our celebrations, every student will receive a World Book Day voucher which can be exchanged for a free World Book Day book or used as a £1 discount towards another title at participating booksellers. We encourage families to visit their local bookshop and enjoy choosing a book together.

We are also delighted that our Year 7 students and Book Club members will have the exciting opportunity to meet author David Barker, who will be speaking about his work, creative writing, and the journey to becoming a published author.

The Library is open to students during lunchtime on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Students wishing to attend should collect a pass from Ms Korporowicz in the morning before school.

We look forward to celebrating a year filled with stories, imagination and a lifelong love of reading!

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Gerrard
Headteacher

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