Friday 13th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful week of celebrations and hands-on learning across the school.

We began the week by marking Diwali, which fell on Sunday. The children loved learning about why Hindus and Sikhs celebrate the festival, and Year 1 made some beautiful Diva lamps out of dough.

On Wednesday, we held a special assembly to observe Armistice Day. We talked about why we remember and the significance of the poppy. It was wonderful to see so many children wearing their Squirrels, Beavers, and Rainbows uniforms. They proudly led the school in a two-minute silence before parading around the hall. A big thank you to the School Council, who also did a fantastic job selling poppies earlier in the week.

Reception had a brilliant time during their very first Forest School experience since joining Oatlands. They were lucky enough to have crisp, dry, and sunny weather. Mrs Willemse was so impressed with their behaviour—and the fact that they were able to use saws! The children crafted lovely poppies from sawn branches, along with firework sticks and Diwali lanterns. Gathering around the fire to make s'mores was a definite highlight. Thank you so much to the parents who volunteered to help.

Reception also had an exciting visit from the fire brigade and loved exploring the fire engine in the playground—though it did prove to be a slight distraction for Year 1, who were trying to concentrate on their phonics!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 2 maths workshops this week. It was a fantastic turnout, and as always, the children loved working alongside you to solve tricky problems.

Finally, a huge thank you to Miss Lawford and Mr Copsey for delivering an informative session introducing Reception parents to early reading and writing. We were thrilled with the attendance, and the staff were very grateful for the warmth, enthusiasm, and thoughtful questions from everyone who joined us.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Tanya Mooney

Key Dates for Next 2 Weeks

Wednesday 18th November	Year 1 & Year 2 Mini First Aid workshops
Thursday 19th November	9.00-12.00 whole school flu vaccinations & Reception height & weight checks
Wednesday 25th November	4.30-6.00 International Evening-all welcome
Thursday 26th November	Year 2 Fire Safety workshop

Maths Workshops

Tuesday 17th November	9.15-10.00 Butterfly Class
Wednesday 18th November	9.15-10.00 Ladybird Class
Thursday 19th November	9.15-10.00 Bumblebee Class

Forest School

Monday 23rd November	Seahorse Class
Tuesday 24th November	Starfish Class
Thursday 26th November	Jellyfish Class

You can also see a full list of key dates for the year so far, on the Term Dates & Calendar pages of the school website **HERE**