

Jan 2017

OVERSTONE COMBINED SCHOOL



Telephone 01296 688799 e-mail: admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk

Message from the Headteacher

Happy New year to you all! Welcome back to a very cold start to the Spring Term and a very special welcome to our new children in Nursery. It's been lovely catching up with the children and hearing all their news. They have enjoyed catching up with their friends and sharing their holiday stories too.

In assembly this morning, the children were keen to share their New Year's Resolutions, so I'm hoping with a little support we can all keep them for as long as possible. Good luck everyone!

N France
Headteacher

Applications for Reception September 2017

If you have a child who will be 4 by 31st August 2017, wanting to join our Reception class in September 2017, please remember to apply online by 16th January 2017 to your local County council. Please see the posters around the school or use the link below, if you live in Bucks. Please also to collect an application form from the office and return it to us as soon as possible, so that we can have a clear idea of numbers.

Hot lunches from AIP

Thank you to all of you who have activated your ParentPay accounts and are already choosing/paying for their child's food via ParentPay. Please ensure that you continue to order your child's lunches at least one week in advance and by midnight Wednesday each week, when the following week's menu will disappear. You need to do this even if your child is in years R – 2.

Please note that it is important that you select the main meal online but you can ignore the dessert, as your child will continue to have a selection of desserts to choose from each day. Therefore, we have asked ParentPay to remove the dessert choices when the next menu for next half term is uploaded.

Please may I urge you all to activate your ParentPay accounts now, even if you do not intend to order any hot lunches, as we will shortly start to use this facility for online payments generally, so as to make our school as cashless as possible. To help you with this, we will be reissuing the activation letters next week to those of you who have not yet made a start with this.

ParentPay 'drop-in' sessions

If you would like further information about ParentPay or would like help in activating your account, please pop into the school office next week on Monday (9th), Thursday (12th) or Friday (13th) between 10am and 11.00am and we will try to help you as best we can.

Special menu 19th January 2017

AIP is putting on a special menu on Thursday 19th January 2017 (of Roast Chicken or Cheese and Tomato Pizza) and we would like to encourage as many pupils as possible to partake of a hot meal on that day. Therefore, we are ordering a hot meal for every child in years R, 1 and 2 for that day only, even if you haven't selected one via ParentPay. For those whose parents have not selected a meal, we will be ordering the Cheese and Tomato Pizza option. However, if you really do not want your child to have a hot meal on that day, please let us know in the school office by e-mail to admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk

Free School Meal eligibility

If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meals and you have a child in year R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, it is worth reading the attached form. It is a very easy and confidential check to make. Please speak to me in the office in confidence (at a quiet time) or send me an e-mail, if you would like more information. It is worth checking even if you are in receipt of Universal Free School meals in Key Stage 1, because your child will benefit in other ways for the next 6 school years if you qualify. Please don't wait until your child is in Key Stage 2 to check this out, if you think you may qualify.

Signing-in lists for children arriving late to school

From now on there is a signing-in sheet in the school office for you to complete, if your child is late to school on any day in the future. Please accompany your child to the office and sign them in, whilst our staff accompany the younger children down to class. Thank you in advance for this.

After School Activities

Choir starts this week (tonight). Anyone who has returned their reply slip and wishes to sing for 'Echoes' at the Royal Albert Hall should start regularly attending after school Choir sessions from tonight onwards please.

Other after school clubs will be starting over the next two weeks. Please see table below for more information, as it currently stands:-

KS2 Cross Country on Monday – first one will be Monday 9 th January	Y2 Sports Club on Thursday – first one Thursday 19 th January
KS2 Homework club and Y6 Booster will start next Tuesday 10 th January	Y3 Craft club on Thursday – first one Thursday 19 th January for YEAR 3 ONLY
Y5/6 Football (boys/girls) - more information to follow next week	KS2 Choir on Friday – first one Friday 6 th January
There will be no general sports club with Mrs Glover	There will be no Eco Warriors Club this term

Year 1 and 2 Cooking with Mrs May

A reminder that Year 1 and 2 will be cooking with Mrs May this half term, instead of Forest School. Any more outstanding contributions to the school office as soon as possible please, to enable Mrs May to get started. (Year R will be continuing with Forest school – the first sessions for which will be next week. Please wrap up the children warmly).

Safeguarding

The children receiving electronic gadgets at Christmas time is very exciting for them, but it does throw up some safeguarding issues for us all. Part of the solution has to be educating all children from a young age about the dangers of the online world and equipping them with the skills to navigate some of these themselves. The NSPCC and O2 have some good advice and support for parents on their NetAware and ShareAware guides. Both are really useful resources and can be found at:

www.net-aware.org.uk

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware>

Absence from school

Please remember to ALWAYS phone or e-mail admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk before 8.30am (and leave a message) if your child is going to be absent from school for that day.

Diary Dates

Parents' Evening – 7th and 9th February 2017

Last day of half term – Friday 10th February 2017

Last day of term – Friday 31st March 2017