

Sept 2017



# OVERSTONE COMBINED SCHOOL

Telephone 01296 688799 e-mail: [admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk)

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to you all after the long summer holiday. It has been brilliant to see all the children return looking smart and smiling and keen to present themselves well to both myself and their class teachers.

Thank you to everyone who has come to say 'hello' to me at the school door in the morning and I look forward to meeting more of you as the term progresses. I am keen to meet as many of you as possible, so if there is something you would like to share or offer a view to developing the school further, then please arrange an appointment via the office, where I will be happy to discuss this with you.

The staff and I have already been working hard over the holidays to prepare the children's learning environments and planning for their next learning opportunities – the autumn term already looks set to engage and develop the children. When it comes to your child's learning we, as a school, want to make sure that we provide the best opportunities that we can. I therefore encourage you to help us support your child, by using the information available via the website or alternatively, speaking directly with your child's class teacher; working as a partnership is key to helping your child do their best.

As the year progresses, I am sure there will be plenty of opportunities for you, as parents and guardians, to get involved with the school and your child's learning. The school's leadership team are currently looking at ways to further develop this, so we can share the excellent provision here at Overstone with you, along with opportunities for you to learn with us. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to how we can make this process better, then please send me your suggestions via: [admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk) (please use 'Suggestions for Mr Bowskill' as the subject line, to make it easier for the office team to filter).

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new parents and I hope that, as a school community, we can make you feel as welcome as we have done your children.

Mr. K. Bowskill

**Headteacher**

## 'Meet the teacher' sessions

You are invited to come into school to meet your child's class teacher on the following days:-

Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Y 1/ 2 and Y4	2.30 pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Y3 and Y6	2.30 pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Y5	2.30 pm

Please do come if you are able.

## Toe by Toe

Sessions are starting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

## After School Activities this term

If you completed requests for after school clubs this term, you should have received a Parentmail message on the 5<sup>th</sup> September confirming the start dates next week. If not, please contact us in the office. There are more spaces in Choir on Monday and in year 5/6 sports club Thursday – forms available from the office.

## Chess club

We hope to offer a Chess club shortly to children at the school. Before we purchase chess sets, however, we would like to check to see if anyone could kindly donate any unwanted and intact chess sets to us. Please leave them with us in the school office. Thank you.

## PE and Forest School sessions

These were sent by Parentmail yesterday. If you did not receive them, hard copies are available from the school office.

## Parents of year 6

Please note that the window for applications for secondary school is open from next Tuesday. The deadline is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**. Unless you were new to the school this year, you will receive a personalised letter today or tomorrow from County, with a special login number to help you with your online application. Please be warned that if lost, BCC will not reissue you with another login.

If you are unable to do this online, a few hard-copy forms are available from the office.

## Music lessons

Drum and Guitar lessons are starting on Tuesday next week and violin lessons on Thursday.

Mr Stroud is in on Mondays only this academic year. Please note that payment for his lessons is now due.

## Flu vaccination consent forms

Most of you returned these to us in July. If you are not sure if you did or are new to the school and would like your child (in years R, 1, 2, 3 and 4 only) to receive the nasal vaccination on 17<sup>th</sup> October in school, please check with and/or collect a form from the school office and complete and return it asap.

## Snacks

Children in KS1 are given fruit at school each morning. KS2 children can bring a piece of fruit / dried fruit or healthy granary bar to eat during morning break should they wish. No sugary snacks or anything containing chocolate are permitted.

All children should still be bringing a bottle of water to school with them. These must have a sports top. Hydration throughout the day is important to aid concentration.

***Please DO NOT send your child into school with nuts or food containing nuts. Please help us to make Overstone a nut free school.No NUTELLA or PEANUT BUTTER sandwiches please therefore.***

## Message from the PTA

Ice-cream Friday is continuing until half term. To those of you who are new to the school, this means ice lollies and ice-creams will be sold for 50p/£1 outside Y1/2 Fir class after school on Friday.

## After school pick up arrangements

Please would all parents let their child's teacher know in writing who is going to pick up their children each day.

**Reception staff in particular would like your urgent cooperation with this, particularly while they are getting to know you all.**

Please will you also let your class teacher know in writing, by the morning of the day concerned, about changes to after school 'pick-ups'. Phoning or e-mailing the school during the day itself should be for real emergencies only.

## Data Collection & Parental Consent Forms for trips this year

Next week, we will be sending home your child's data collection sheet, which we would ask you to carefully check and return as soon as possible, so that our records can be updated accordingly. Please also sign and return the Parental Consent forms.

## Hot lunches

Please remember to continue to order your child's hot lunches by midnight on Wednesday of the week before, using ParentPay. Please remember to do this even if your child is in YR, Y1 or Y2 and is in receipt of Universal Free School meals. The staff at AIP still need to know which and how many meals to prepare each day. You can do this weekly, monthly or half termly. If you ever need to contact them, their number is 07805696164.

If your child is new to the school, you should have received a parentpay activation letter this week via your child's book bag. Please activate your account and order your child's hot meals from 18<sup>th</sup> September by midnight next Wednesday.

## Parking

Please remember to not park on or opposite the yellow road markings outside the school gates. It is also dangerous and inconsiderate to local residents to park on the bend opposite the gates. You are welcome to use our drop and go facility in the morning (observing the one-way system), but please do not leave your vehicle.

The car park is closed between 3.00 and 3.30 pm (the only exception being disabled access with prior arrangement). This is for the safety of all our children.

Car parking is strictly for staff only.

## Uniform

It is lovely to see everyone looking so smart, as we start this new school year. Children can continue to wear summer uniform until October half term. We have very high standards at Overstone and would like to stress the importance of all children having the correct uniform. PE kit should remain at school, until it is sent home for washing. **Please clearly name all items of clothing and equipment that your child brings to school.** This will make it considerably easier for 'lost' items to be returned. Children should also be urged to take responsibility for their belongings.

Whilst we have plenty of stock of school ties now, we are winding down our other uniform stocks and are currently investigating a more suitable way of purchasing uniform for you all.

## Nursery September 2017

We look forward to welcoming our new Nursery children starting from Monday of next week.

## School Milk



Schools in England are legally required to ensure milk is made available during the school day to all pupils. Currently children in Nursery and Reception classes have the opportunity to have a drink of milk every day. Their milk is free up to their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday **and school pay for the remainder until they leave Reception Class**. The milk provided is semi-skimmed. For children in Y1 – Y6 to have milk in school, you can **register and pay** for milk via: [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

If your child is currently eligible for benefits related Free School Meals (not the Universal Free School Meals for KS1) there will be no charge to you, but instead of applying online, you will need to contact the school in writing, so that we can arrange it for you.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals please contact Mrs Edwardson at the school office. (See attachment entitled 'Free School Meals and Pupil Premium'). This is a simple and completely confidential check.

If you have any questions relating to the scheme please contact the school office.

## Punctuality

We would like to remind everyone that the dining room door is locked at 8.45am each morning. Any children arriving after this time must report to the office before heading to their classroom. The adult with them should please sign them in. Late arrivals disrupt the start of the school day for the child and the rest of the class. Absences and late arrivals are monitored.

## Hedgehog rescue at Overstone

Mr Bradman found an incredibly cute and struggling baby hedgehog outside the year 4 classroom this week. It shouldn't have been out and about at this time of the year and St. Tiggywinkles, Haddenham were pleased to receive our call. We took care of it all afternoon (it enjoyed a dark cupboard, water, cat food and lots of attention) before Mrs Foy and her daughter drove it to Haddenham on Wednesday evening.



## Diary Dates:-

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sec Transfer Tests – Prep papers (am)	Y6
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Sec Transfer Tests – (am)	Y6
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Meet the teacher – Y 1/ 2 & Y4 2.30 pm	Y 1/ 2 & Y4
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Meet the teacher – Y3 & Y6 2.30 pm	Y3 & Y6
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Meet the teacher – Y5 2.30 pm	Y5
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival 9.15 am	Y3 & 4
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival Distribution	Y3
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu vaccination (for those who consent)	YR-4
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening	Y1-6
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening	Y1-6
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Reading Breakfast & Open Morning	
23 <sup>rd</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> October	HALF TERM	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Children's individual photo's	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Bonfire Night from 6pm at Overstone	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Space Trip to Leicester	Y5 & Y6
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas play	Y1 & 2
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas play	YR
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Pantomime at Overstone Last Day for Nursery children	All YN
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Church Service and Christmas Lunch and last day of term	
Inset Days 2018	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN

Finally – if your child is in Year R-Y6 and you do not receive this newsletter by parentmail (those starting in YN will receive it next week), then please let us know immediately in the school office, so that your e-mail address can be updated on our system.

I wish all our families a very happy and successful 2017-18.

**Mrs E Edwardson**