

Nov 2018

OVERSTONE COMBINED SCHOOL

Bumper Catch-up Edition

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Mr.Bowskill's bit It's all about the C.H.A.R.M.

With our revised school values it has been brilliant to see the children talking about these and celebrating these in the classroom and through our weekly celebration assemblies. As we look to embed the values of C.H.A.R.M. further in to our school and community, we will be linking this with one of our school development plan areas: writing. We want to continue to recognise the strengths of our children both within school and outside of school, which is why we will be approaching this in a different way. I will write with a more detailed explanation of this shortly, which will also explain why some of our children can be seen starting to wear our new C.H.A.R.M. badges. *(Can't remember what C.H.A.R.M. represents ... please click [here](#).)*

Since the last edition, you will have received a letter with the sad news of 2 members of the team leaving: Mr McArthur & Mrs Westall. However there has also been good news on the staffing front, as Mrs Glover has recently had her new baby, both Miss Krzeminski and Mrs Wilson-Evans are both well and healthy and cuddles with their baby girls have already been shared amongst the staff. We also have two new TA's who have joined the team: Mrs S Bazell and Miss L Sullivan, and a new Midday Supervisor: Miss K Woods.

Our new library is almost complete and after a delayed start, we have the finish line in sight. I am very excited that we have almost completed the project and look forward to the children taking pride in using it. The PTA has been a tremendous support with this and has dedicated a lot of time to getting it right for our children, along with supporting the direction of the funds you have raised to ensure it meets the needs of the school. We will be looking to get the children using it as soon as possible and will be aiming for an official "Grand Opening" in the Spring term.

With the launch of the new library, it has coincided with a key area of our School's Development Plan: Reading. The Governors and I have made the School's Development Plan available on our website and would encourage you to feedback to the school with any thoughts or views towards the outcomes from this.

Your views and feedback are an important part of our school's development and, as such, would like to invite you to an informal discussion around the review and development of the school's curriculum on Wednesday 5th December. This evening will be hosted in the hall between 6.30-7.30pm and will be an opportunity for the school to share information on why we need a review, the steps to implementing any changes and to share your views on what should be in our school's curriculum. This is an opportunity to work in partnership to ensure that our curriculum targets the needs of our children.

A BIG thank you to everyone who has signed up for MySchoolApp and, now that we have got the initial teething problems out the way, we can start using this more effectively to share information with you. So if you haven't downloaded this yet please do so!

As this is a bumper edition, I'll stop writing for now and pick up after you've read a few other parts....

Go green Friday for Macmillan on Friday 9th November 2018

Patrick in Y5 asked Mr Bowskill a few weeks ago if we could “Go green” for Macmillan and we tied it in nicely with the Saturday charity event organised by his Mum. She has raised a staggering £7350.05 for Macmillan this year, with £237.62 coming from our Overstone donations. Thank you to all of you who kindly contributed. Do have a look online at the Bucks Herald too!

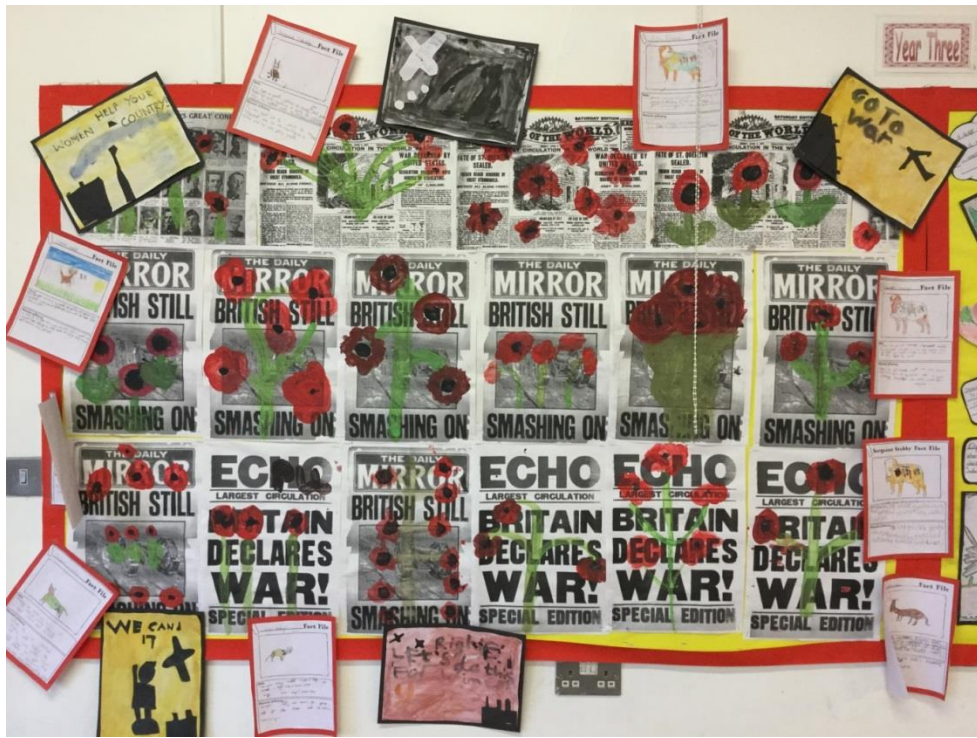


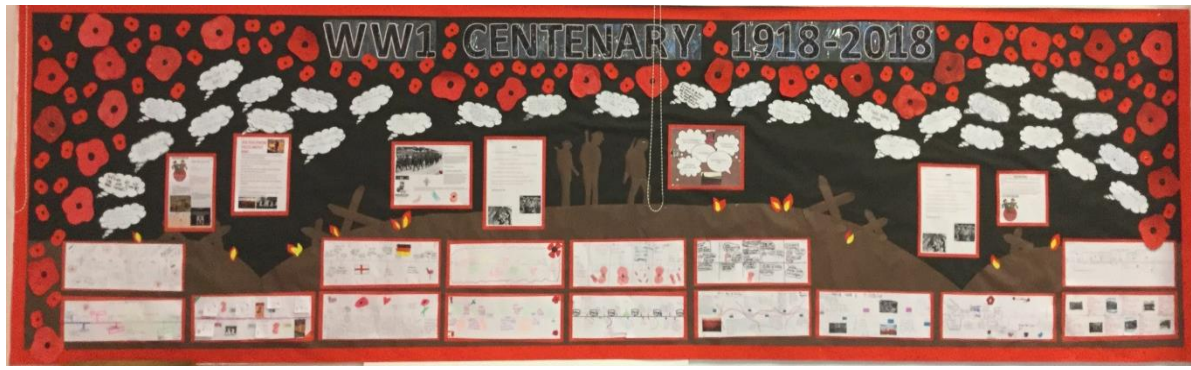
Remembrance Day Service Sunday 11th November 2018

Thank you to Ruby and Josh for representing the school so well in front of a huge crowd on Sunday, when they placed our wreath in commemoration of those who died in past wars.

As part of our special Remembrance Day studies, here is some of the children's work (the lovely displays are currently in the hall).







Forest School sessions

Some end of term Forest School sessions will be affected by the various 'end of year' events. Please note the following.

Last Forest School session this term for Mr Bradman's class – 11th December

Last Forest School session this term for Miss Booth's class – 12th December

YR – Forest school in the morning for YR on 13th December but not in the afternoon

Y3 Holly – No Forest School due to Pantomime – 14th December

Last Forest School session this term for Mr Williams' class – 18th December

Netball success

Our amazing Y6 team took part in the netball festival at Thomas Freemantle School on 16th October. They didn't lose a game or let any goals in at all, winning 4 matches and drawing 3. We came 2nd place, earning a place in the grand finals next June. The team was Tilly, Lilly, Bryce, Francesca, Sam, Danny and Matthew. Thanks to all the parents also for their support.

Parents of children who will be 4 by 31st August 2019

The window is now open for you to apply to the County Council in which you live for a place in Reception in the school of your choosing for September 2019. You have until mid-January to apply online.

Road Safety

As the darker nights draw in, please make sure you are having the conversations with your children about staying safe on the way home from school. We have had several reports that our older children are walking in the road, as they walk home from school and not paying enough attention to Road Safety. Myself, Mrs Willett and Mr McArthur have spoken to our older children and the message has been shared with all children through assemblies.

Pantomime this year

The children are really looking forward to going to the Milton Keynes Pantomime this year. Please make sure that you do NOT book hot lunches on that day – **Friday 14th December and that you send your child in with a packed lunch.** We will be leaving at 11.45am and returning at approximately 4.30pm. Please return any reply slips, if you have not done so already and make any outstanding payments via ParentPay. Thank you.



(Starring Shane Richie and our very own Jasmine from Y3 (who stars as a clown!))

Medical information

Please note that we are happy to continue to administer inhalers or other medicines prescribed by a Doctor. However, from now on and in line with most other Bucks schools, piriton and calpol etc. should be administered before school and, if required later on in the day, we ask that you pop in to school to give it to your child yourself please.

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.

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.

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.

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 5th 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

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 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.

Names in clothes

The school's lost property bucket, by the school office, has become very full with items of school clothing, mostly unnamed. Please can we remind you to write the names on the children's clothes labels so that we can return the clothing to their rightful owners, when they are found.

Mr.Bowskill's bit Part II

A few weeks ago the children took part in the first of our "Poetry Weeks". This was an opportunity for our children to model and show their creative flair in a different form of writing. This week culminated in an assembly, where some of the children shared their poems with the rest of the school. It was amazing to see the children's excitement to do this and there needs to be a BIG recognition for Year 2 who were using 'hyperbole'!! *(I bet there are a number of readers who need to google that! ☺)* The next poetry week will take place later this term and will have a whole school focus on: **performance and spoken poetry.**

On a completely different note, we now have a completely renovated set of children's and staff toilets around the school. This may seem trivial to be recording in a newsletter, however it has taken almost 4 years to get this process completed and finished – a big thank you to Mrs Toosey and the Governors for being so persistent with this!

With school budgets so stretched nationally, Overstone faces the same financial predicaments as our neighbouring schools and counties do. As we continue to strive for improvements in and around the school, I often look outwards to see what other schools are doing to address this. I have recently had discussions with other Headteachers and looked into "Corporate Social Responsibility" (CSR). I know a number of local small scale and national companies have supported schools with equipment, resources and sponsorships, which has helped them to drive their CSR, especially the community element. Do you work for a large local/national company and could support our school with a CSR project? Are you a small scale local business and want to drive support back into the community? Benefits to your business include:

- The opportunity to change lives
- Make a real difference to schools, teachers, pupils and parents
- Increase exposure of your business within the local community
- Positively impact on your business reputation
- Increase sales and customer loyalty
- Stand out from the crowd

If this is something that you feel you could support the school with, please arrange an appointment to see me, where we can discuss the support further.

And to finish – a reminder that we have an open-door policy and want to work in partnership with you, as we continue to work towards further improvements for our children and our school.

Mr Bowskill

Attendance year to date

Class	%
Reception	94.78
Y1/2 Beech	96.66
Y1/2 Cedar	97.1
Y1/2 Elm	96.88
Y3 Fir	97.18
Y3 Holly	97.87
Y4 Oak	96.58
Y5 Redwood	96.19
Y6 Walnut	95.84

From the PTA

Save the date – Friday 7th December for the Christmas Bazaar.

Also – calling all bakers.... – see attached from the PTA and please help if you are able.

Training days 2018/19

Please note that our Inset days for 2018/19 are as follows:

Wednesday 2nd January 2019

Tuesday 23 April 2019

Wednesday 24th July 2019

For **2019/20** they will be:

Monday 2nd September 2019

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Monday 6th January 2020

Monday 21st July 2020

One further day tbc

Diary Dates:-

Wednesday 12 th December	KS1 Christmas Production at 9.30 and 11am	KS1
Thursday 13 th December	Reception Christmas Play – at 2.30pm	YR
Friday 14 th December	Whole School Pantomime in MK, leaving at 11.45am	YR-6
Tuesday 18 th December	Last day of term for NURSERY only	YN
Tuesday 18 th December	Church service for Y5/6	Y5/6
Wednesday 19 th December	Last day of term, Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day	All (not YN)
Wednesday 2 nd January 2018	Inset Day – School closed to children	
Thursday 3 rd January 2018	First Day of Spring term for all children	