

Nov 2016

OVERSTONE COMBINED SCHOOL



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

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our November newsletter. I hope you had an enjoyable half term.

It was lovely to see so many Parents and Grandparents in school for our Reading Breakfast and Open Morning. The year 6 children did a super job as 'tour guides'. Many parents commented on the calm atmosphere in the school and how impressed they were with the behaviour and how the children interact together. Our super PTA were also supporting the events and the pastries and cakes were enjoyed by all.

This half term is always a very busy time. We are all looking forward to our Bonfire Night tomorrow evening and the preparations for Christmas will I'm sure be under way soon enough.

I look forward to seeing you all at the various events and share with you this special time.

N France
Headteacher

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.

Reading breakfast and Open morning

Thank you to all staff and PTA for two super events in the week before half term.



Bonfire night

We are really looking forward to this year's firework display on Saturday 5th November. The doors open at 6pm and the firework display begins at 6.30pm. Thank you to the PTA for all the preparations so far and to all our parent and staff volunteers. We are anticipating a truly memorable event.

Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale next week. We will be selling poppies for a donation to support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Netball Festival

Mrs Ward writes 'A massive well done all the year 6 (Cerys, Oliver, Kacper, Sophie, Evie, Sylvie and Caitlin), who took part in the Netball Festival at Cottessloe on Wednesday. Everyone played extremely well. We were just 'pipped to the post' by 1 goal, missing out on a place in the semi-final. However, we came a very respectable 3rd place, which is a huge improvement on last year'. Thank you to all the children and the staff involved as well.

Open classrooms

We are holding our termly 'Open Classroom' session on **Tuesday 22nd November** from 3.30pm – 4.15 pm, where you will be given the opportunity to look at your child's books, with your child and to have a look at the lovely displays in the classroom. We hope as many of you as possible can make it.

Christmas plays

Please see the diary dates section at the end of this newsletter for information regarding the Christmas plays which we intend to stage this year.

Children in Need

It's that time of year again and time to come into school in your pyjamas, armed with a minimum 'fine' of £1 please – all donations to Children in Need.

Nursery parents

Please be advised that the last day for Nursery children this Autumn term is **Thursday 15th December**. We apologise for any inconvenience caused, while the flooring is replaced and Mrs Bendall visits the new Nursery starters at home.

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 between 7th November 2016 and 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.

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/education/schools/admissions-and-moving-school/admission-to-primary-schools/>

Please also 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.

Winter Uniform

We are pleased to see the children looking so smart in their winter uniform. However, there are a number of children who are still coming to school without coats. Please ensure your children are suitably dressed for this colder, wet weather.

The Governors' Marketing Committee is currently working on a uniform questionnaire, which will be sent out to you all shortly.

PTA AGM

For your information, this will be taking place on Monday 14th November 2016 at 8pm at the Cock Inn. Everyone welcome. Thank you for your continued support at the PTA's future events.

Photographs

If your child is in today and was in for the photographs, your photo packs should be in your child's book bag today. Orders need to be returned to us no later than Thursday 10th November at 9am.

Office hours

The office is staffed from 8.30am to 3.30pm and our really busy times are inevitably 8.30-9am and 3pm to 3.30pm, with only one person in the office from 1pm. Please can we ask you to refrain from ordering uniform, asking for change, requesting photocopies of letters and making any payments in person at these times. Kindly use the outside post box.

Sickness or diarrhoea

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, you must keep them off school for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea, to avoid spreading germs to other children and staff.

Last minute pick up arrangements

Please only call the office in cases of emergency on the afternoon concerned (eg. traffic hold-ups etc.). Pick up arrangements should be arranged well in advance and changes communicated to the classroom teacher in writing and in advance of the day concerned.

Year 5 and 6 Isle of Wight Trip

All those going on the trip should have received your letters before half term, outlining the payment plan. The first instalment was due this week. Please would you pay it as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

AIP menus and order forms

We are pleased to confirm that the Autumn weekly menus and order forms are now available on our website under the section 'forms'. This is only useful for those of you who order weekly and have not already ordered for the Autumn term. Please remember that if you order food on a weekly basis, that the AIP's deadline is 9am Wednesday each week.

Letters

We would be very grateful if you would take the time to print off your own letters at home and then put the reply slips and payments etc. in the post box outside the front entrance in a sealed envelope, indicating who or what it is for. Single forms need not be in an envelope. When possible, please do not put mixed letters/forms in the one envelope, to help prevent items going astray.

Since September, we have handed out more than 500 photocopies of letters to parents, all of which were sent out by Parentmail (which is now working efficiently, since all e-mail addresses have been updated).

We would very much like to reduce the cost of unnecessary photocopying and would be grateful with your cooperation with this.

Parentmail

If you are still having problems with it, it is likely that your messages are going to your 'spam'. This is a particular problem for BT internet users.

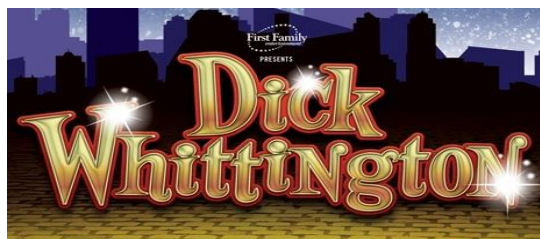
If you suspect this with your messages, 'Parentmail' advise that you put the following into your mail box/safe-senders list: info@parentmail.co.uk

After School Activities

KS2 Cross Country on Monday	Y2 Sports Club on Thursday
KS2 Homework club and Y6 Booster classes on Tuesday	Y3 Craft club on Thursday
Y5/6 Football (boys/girls) on Wednesday	KS2 Choir on Friday
Y3/4 General Sports on Wednesday	

Pantomime

Please can those of you who have not yet filled in the Pantomime reply slip do so as soon as possible. If you do not wish your child to go, please still fill in the slip and return it to the office and remember to collect your child on Friday 16th December at 11am. All other children will need a packed lunch on the day of the Pantomime (as mentioned in the Pantomime letter).



Diary Dates

Bonfire night – Saturday 5th November 2016

Year 6 Health Questionnaire – Wednesday 9th November 2016 (only for those who have consented)

Phonics information morning for Y1 and 2 – Thursday 17th November from 9-10am

Children in Need Pyjama dress up day – Friday 18th November 2016

Open classrooms Y Reception - Y6 – Tuesday 22nd November 2016 from 3.30-4.15pm

Flu vaccinations for Y1, 2, 3 - 22nd November 2016 (for those who have consented by end Oct)

PTA's Christmas Bazaar – Friday 2nd December 2016 from 6pm – 8pm

Nursery and Reception Christmas Play – Tuesday 13th December 2016 (more details to follow)

Nursery taster sessions (for starters in January 2017) – 5th December and 7th December 2016

Last day for Nursery children and Nursery Christmas party – Thursday 15th December 2016

Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play – Thursday 15th December. There will be 2 performances at 9.30am and 10.45am (more details to follow)