



Overstone Combined School

Newsletter Monday 20th January 2020

We have had a great start back to the term, with the children eager and ready to learn. You will have noticed an additional member of staff, who started with us just before Christmas. Mr Kenny has begun working with us as a Deputy Headteacher, on a temporary basis, in order to increase our capacity for the number of projects on which we are working. We are lucky to have found a senior member of staff, who has been able to get settled into the school so quickly and has already begun working with a number of children.

Mrs L Mercer

Interim Headteacher

Safeguarding

You will have been aware that Mrs Bendall has been our Designated Safeguarding Lead since September 2019. We would like to share a slight change in the structure of this, as Mrs Mercer will now be our main Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs Bendall will be our second Safeguarding Lead.

Safeguarding leads are available in all schools to ensure that if anyone has concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, they are able to report this immediately. If you have any questions, queries or concerns regarding safeguarding then please contact Mrs Mercer.

Mrs Mercer

Mrs Bendall

Our School Vision

We have previously shared our school vision with you and the focus upon the 3Cs (community, curiosity and challenge) is one which the children have come to understand well through assemblies and in class discussions. We would like to continue sharing the key ideas regarding this within our newsletters, so look out for these in the coming letters.

One of the key parts of our vision is below:

Overstone is “At the heart of our village community” and children “make a difference in their community”.

We are looking to create as many connections as we can currently within the village community. We have currently started to make links to Cottesloe School, the library, Carey lodge and the parish council. If you are aware of any other organisations or groups with whom we could make connections, then please let us know.





Reading Buddies

On Tuesday across the school, Mr Bradman initiated a system of reading buddies. This meant that children from KS2 were paired with children from KS1, to share a love of reading. This week the older children mainly shared a book with their younger partners, but this will be continuing regularly with opportunities for all different types of reading.

It was a pleasure to see the children working so well together, sharing knowledge and enjoying reading!



Key Dates for your diary:

W/c 27th January – Anti-bullying week (display for parents on Friday after school)

31st January - Y 5/6 Residential trip (those who have signed up) - please pay in full by this date

4th and 6th Feb- Parents' Evening (online booking opens 6pm on Friday 24th Jan, closing on 31st Jan 9pm)

Friday 14th Feb – Whole class Photo's (tie, white shirt and navy v-neck required please)

W/c 17th Feb – Half term holidays

Wed 26th Feb, 2.30pm – Phonics meeting for parents

Fri 22nd May – INSET day (school closed to children)

Book Fair

'Travelling Books' will be holding a Book Fair at Overstone from 6th to 13th February 2020 in the hall. This will be available on the second of our parents' evenings, if you are attending on Thursday 6th February, or alternatively for the rest of the following week.

See posters around the school for more information.

Books for School – 'THE SUN' campaign

If you have been kindly collecting 'The Sun' tokens for us, now is the time to bring them in to the school office please. Thank you in advance.

After school clubs

...continue this week – Monday Teddy Tennis, Tuesday Netball, Wednesday Dodgeball, Thursday Craft Club and Football and Friday Martial Arts.

Volunteers

At Overstone we are proud of our school community, including not only the children and staff, but also all of their families and the wider relationships. If you are able to help, please fill out the form attached to this newsletter and drop it into the school office and we will be in touch.

School Council Interviews

Our School Council has decided that they would like to take the time to interview some of our members of staff, so that pupils and parents can get to know them better. For their first choice they interviewed Mr Winyard, our Year 6 teacher.

What was your childhood dream/s?

To become a professional football player, to travel the world, to become a teacher.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

My Nan used to be a teacher and I used to go and help her during the school holidays. During family holidays I always looked after younger family members.

What is your favourite food?

Chinese – sweet and sour chicken, veg chow mein and seaweed.

Do you like teaching at Overstone School?

Yes, I love teaching here, my Year Six boys and it's a great team to work with.

Do you have any pets?

No, but I would like to get a dog.

What is your favourite subject to teach?

Maths and PE

What is your favourite film? And Why?

I have two – Toy Story 4 because it's funny and Shawshank Redemption because I love the ending, when he escapes from prison.

Do you have a favourite celebrity? And why?

I really like Roger Federer because he is calm and composed.

Interviewed by Alfie and Marco from Year 6, Kate and Hunter from Reception Class.

Don't forget to find our page on facebook, "like" it and look out for updates on things which have been happening across the school as well as upcoming dates.





Times Tables App for free!

Times tables fluency is key for children's understanding in Maths, particularly through Key Stage 2 and repeated practice can make a big difference to this. Children in Year 4 will also now need to take a times tables test and repetition will make this easier.

We are launching a new times tables app, which children can use from home, to practise their times tables in a fun way. Teachers will be able to see children's results and the areas which they need to focus on, as well as how much they are using it! You will receive login details during this week for your child.

This is a great resource, which is free to parents, so we strongly encourage you to download it for use at home. Some teachers may also choose in the future to use this for homework, so please look out for this.



Accelerated Reader

We are introducing a new system called Accelerated Reader for pupils from Year 2 and above. This system is designed to encourage a love of reading, as well as ensuring that the children have the most appropriate level books for them and continue to make progress. We held an information meeting about this on Wednesday but if you were not able to come the slides are available on the website in the parents section.

Over this half term children will gradually start coming home with "accelerated reader books" which are books with levels that suit their reading level following on from a reading test which they completed. They will repeat these tests every half term so that we can adjust these levels accordingly.

At parent's evenings this term we will be sharing with you the results of these tests and how we will be using them to help the children to progress further.

Once a child has finished an "accelerated reader" book they will be asked to complete a quiz on it at school using the ipads. This will allow the teacher's to ascertain their understanding as well as parents who can access results (Details provided at parents evening).

Uniform Clarification

Our Uniform policy states that children should wear black shoes. We would just like to clarify that this does not include boots or trainers. In exceptional circumstances, we understand that this is necessary for a day or two but please ensure that your child has appropriate shoes.