



Overstone Combined School

Newsletter Monday 3rd February 2020

This half term has flown by, with lots of wonderful opportunities for the children. We hope that they have been coming home full of the enthusiasm they have been showing at school.

We would like to welcome all of our new pupils who have joined us in the past half term. They have all settled in well and are making new friends. Thank you to all of our children and parents who have made them feel welcome.

We look forward to seeing many of you at parents' evening tomorrow and on Thursday.

Mrs Mercer

Interim Headteacher

Anti-bullying week

All of the staff would like to thank you for your support in anti-bullying week. Children's safety and well-being is the most important aspect of our work and therefore this week was a crucial part of our curriculum and these messages will continue to be shared throughout the year. Some of the key messages which our children shared were:

Bullying is persistent and deliberate behaviour.

If someone is bullying, then you must tell a trusted adult.

Everyone in school will listen and help.

Next week, as part of our continued dedication to safety, we will be hosting a visit by the NSPCC, who will be sharing more key messages about safety. You will receive more information and resources about this following their visit.

We also have a visit on the **12th February** from a Paralympian, which is a wonderful inspirational opportunity. You should have already received information regarding this from Mr Winyard, our PE coordinator.

Phonics

We have previously informed you of a phonics information session on **Wednesday 26th February**. In this session we will be introducing to you the new system "Read, Write, Inc." which will be beginning soon. Many of our staff will be attending training on this program on **11th and 12th February** and we will be hoping to begin it as soon as possible after this.

THEREFORE PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NO EARLY MORNING PHONICS CLASSES ON TUESDAY 11TH AND WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY AND THERE WILL BE NO FOREST SCHOOL ON THOSE DAYS FOR BEECH AND ELM CLASSES, AS STAFF WILL BE OFF-SITE TRAINING.

After school clubs this week – one change

There will be no football club after school on Thursday this week, as the teacher involved will be unavailable.

Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Mercer, Mrs Bendall

One aspect of safeguarding, which we have recently been focusing on, is around transitions at the start and end of the day. We have sent out our policy regarding dropping off and collecting as well as a new form to allow for clearer communication about responsible adults. We would like to remind you that children in Year 4 and below must be collected by a responsible adult over the age of 16. If you do need to make any changes to the collection arrangements then please let us know in writing.

If you have a child in Year 5 or 6 and have told us you would like them to walk home, we encourage you to think carefully about your child, their level of maturity and responsibility and the potential difficulties regarding their route.

Please remember to return your form regarding your child's collection arrangements by the end of this week.

Our Vision

In the previous newsletter we shared one of the key principles underpinning our vision: community. This week we would like to focus upon:

Challenge

"...challenge each other to achieve more". This principle (like the rest of the vision) is applicable to all members of the school community. Within school we have been working on a variety of ways to continue to increase challenge for pupils in all aspects of school life.

Children are encouraged to choose their own level of challenge within their work, thinking about their personal understanding and moving to that which provides them with a personal challenge (not too easy and not too hard). Children are also encouraged to challenge themselves to try new things - this could be one of our clubs, a new responsibility or a sporting opportunity, such as our inter house dodgeball tournament being organised within school next week.

Staff members are also keen to model this and challenge themselves. They do this by trying new methods with the children, visiting other schools to see new ideas and attempting personal challenges.

Chiltern Open Air Museum Y3/4 trip

Y3/4 trip payments are due please by **24th February 2020**. Please also remember to send back the reply slips, so we know how your child will be getting home after the trip.

Travelling Books

We will be holding a book fair in school from the 6th to 13th February 2020. Leaflets will be coming home in your child's book bag on Wednesday this week, giving you further information. The children will have a chance to look at the books in school and there will be opportunity for parents to have a look at the books after school and also on the evening of the parents' evening on Thursday 6th February. Any questions, ask Mr Bradman.

Blue Cross Visit

Today (Monday) we have had a visit from the Blue Cross in our assembly. They talked to us about the excellent work they do for animals and left us with further information, which should be coming home to the older children in book bags.

Key Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th Feb- Parents' Evening (online booking closed on Friday evening)

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)