



Message from the Headteacher

I don't know whether it's too early to break out into a rendition of a Christmas Carol or not yet? However, I can't ignore the fact that Father Christmas' visit is only just round the corner, which means that we are already a term through our school year!

We have continued to focus as a whole school on making positive choices, especially with our learning behaviours. My visits in and out of the classroom have certainly evidenced a much more positive dialogue from the children with regards to their learning. I believe it is a critical part of a child's development to be able to make positive choices and use their Growth Mindset to support these.

Our Key Stages continue to be a hub of busy learners. Our EYFS children have been very busy looking at developing their independence and challenging their learning. In KS1, I have been thrilled to have had so many proud learners visit me and show off their independent writing skills (I may need to ask Santa for some new stickers!) In KS2, I have been "blown away" by Walnut Class' professionalism and communication skills, as they continue to use formal writing to persuade myself (and other local businesses) to support a project they wish to undertake – I'm sure I will be able to convince them to share more information in the next newsletter.

Following on from Walnut Class, I am pleased to be able to report that we have Mrs Willett back with us full- time now and I know she has been desperate to get back and work with the Y6's. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mrs Kudaravalli, who supported Walnut class in her absence.

I know it seems a long time ago already but I would like to offer my thanks to everyone involved with the school's Fireworks Display and to all of you who supported the event by attending. This event takes a lot of preparation and organisation that often starts in March. I know our letter of thanks went out to all those who gave up their time to make the event work, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Andrea Toosey and Michelle Elliott, who give up a large amount of their time over the year to make this event as successful as it is.

If you haven't seen the information sent last week, I would like to share with you a project I am extremely excited about. The PTA has agreed to work with the school to direct funds raised towards re-designing and re-stocking the school's library. This is a massive project and the PTA have already met with me to discuss how we can make this project as exciting as possible and how we can engage with local and national companies and initiatives. As the project starts, myself and the PTA will be updating you all with the progress, alongside any requests that we may have. If this is a project you feel you can support the school with in some way, then please either contact the school or the PTA directly.

As I continue to resist the urge to break out into Wham's 'Last Christmas' I am getting very excited about the KS1 and EYFS Christmas shows. I know the children have been working extremely hard in the rehearsals, learning their lines and the lyrics to songs. I have found it a challenge to avoid being near the hall to overhear the rehearsals, as I don't want to spoil the excitement of seeing it for the first time when they perform.

I must also apologise in advance if your child comes home later this week and starts repeatedly singing a Christmas Song as part of the Inter-House Christmas Singing competition. The school's House Captains have been busy working with the House Lead teachers to select a song to perform at the competition and this will be announced to the children later in the week. We will be having the whole school (KS1 & KS2) competition on Tuesday 19th December; as one of the judges ... I can't wait!

I would also like to extend my thanks to all of you who have offered your kind words of support to both myself and the school this term and I very much look forward to challenging our learning here at Overstone in 2018!

So I guess that leaves me to "Wish you all a Merry Christmas" and hope that December 24th provides your house with a "Silent Night" when "Santa Claus is coming to town" and you all manage to have a little "rockin' around the Christmas tree" at some point.

Mr. K.Bowskill
Headteacher

Christmas at Overstone

On Friday morning in assembly, as is our tradition every year at the start of December, the youngest and the oldest child in school turned on the lights on the Christmas tree in the hall. This year we had two children from each Reception class, who were born on the same day, so well done William and Arianna from Reception and Matteo in year 6 on starting off all the Christmas festivities for us.



Poppy Appeal

Thank you for supporting the British Legion's Poppy Appeal – we have just heard that Overstone has raised approximately £254.73. Thank you so very much to everyone who contributed. Thanks also go to Thomas and Paige in year 4 for representing the school so well at the village Remembrance service. They did Overstone proud!

Fireworks

Bonfire night broke all records this year! It was attended by record numbers and a profit of over £3,000 was made. This event could not happen without an army of volunteers, who give up their time to help. A big thank you goes to the PTA for all their hard work and the stewards who spend a chilly evening ensuring a safe evening is had by all.

A very big thank you must also go to our “firing squad”, who plan and run the display. They are all parents of past and present pupils; Mr D’Souza, Mr Peel, Mr Sanders, Mr Stephens and Mr Willmott. They give up their time to undertake the necessary training and start planning the display in July each year!

PTA Christmas Bazaar

The PTA would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the Christmas Bazaar on Friday evening, as well as the Overstone Choir, who sang so beautifully. We would like to thank the PTA for their continued hard work and support. It was a lovely evening. Congratulations to Isaac in year 1/ 2 Cedar for winning the chocolate bouquet!

Hockey Tournament

Nine children from Year 5 and 6 took part in a hockey tournament last Monday. They all improved their hockey skills and had a great time (despite the cold and the rain) – so well done to Evelyn, Casey, Freddie, Cameron, Abigail, Ben, Danny, Niamh and Macie.

Christmas performances

The children in Reception and KS1 are all working extremely hard on their Christmas plays and are looking forward to performing in front of their families next week.

We have spare tickets for the Reception play and for the 11am performance of the KS1 play. Please let us know in the School Office if you would like any. A few kind parents have returned a couple of tickets for the 9.15am performance that they did not require. First come first served!

Pantomime this year

This is just to clarify that a company of performers will be coming into Overstone on the 15th December. We are not taking the children to the Milton Keynes this year. The PTA is kindly subsidising the event – so there is nothing for you to pay or to sign, as all children simply have to be in school that day.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 15th December, we invite the children and staff to come to school in a Christmas jumper (instead of their uniform jumper) for a voluntary donation of £1, which we will pass on to the charity ‘Aylesbury Nightstop’ which is for the homeless in our area who are aged between 18 and 25. This will also be the day when the pantomime will be coming to Overstone in the afternoon.

After school activities

This half term’s after school activities will continue until WB 11th December. There will be no after school clubs on the last two days of term.

The letter offering after school activities will be sent to you by parentmail on Wednesday this week. You will NOT need to reply if your child is continuing with Choir, Booster club, Football or Cross country next term. Any new clubs will be offered on a ‘first come first served’ basis.

Attendance

Congratulations to Year 1/ 2 Cedar for the highest attendance in November 2017!

Registration Group	% Attendance
YR Ash	92
YR Beech	92
Y 1/ 2 Cedar	96.59
Y 1/ 2 Elm	95
Y 1/ 2 Fir	95
Y3	95
Y4	95
Y5	95
Y6Wa	95
Y6Wi	95

Diary dates for the rest of term

Monday 4 th December	KS1 update meeting at 6pm	
Tuesday 5 th December	Overstone Choir performing at Ascott House	6-7pm
Monday 11 th December	Nursery Christmas celebration at 11am	
Tuesday 12 th December	KS1 Christmas play at 9.15 or 11am	Y1 & 2
Thursday 14 th December	Reception Christmas play at 9.30am	YR
Friday 15 th December	Whole School Pantomime at Overstone - pm Christmas Jumper Day and Last Day for Nursery children	All YN
Tuesday 19 th December	Church Service Christmas Lunch and last day of term	
Inset Days 2018	Wednesday 3 rd January Friday 6 th July Monday 9 th July	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Thursday 4 th January	Children return to school	