

March 2018



OVERSTONE COMBINED SCHOOL

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Message from the Headteacher

I remain immensely proud of our children, again this term, to have had so many conversations linked to challenges in learning and challenges in activities they have undertaken at home too. I am excited to hear more recounts of the children's learning linked to perseverance – which is this half term's focus. Please keep them coming!

As a school, we are continually evaluating our provision for the children and the effectiveness of our curriculum. The teachers and I are currently reviewing our curriculum to make sure it meets the needs of all of our learners and continues to capture and inspire our children. It is extremely important to me that we make sure our children have a balance of statutory National Curriculum input and opportunities to learn beyond the curriculum. These enrichment experiences provide our children with memorable events alongside contextual opportunities to develop their learning even further. I will update you all if we make any significant changes to the curriculum but in the meantime, information relating to our curriculum can be found on the school's website.

However, in the meantime, please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me on the school's curriculum, as input from children and our community will ensure we have the right learning opportunities to meet the needs of our children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank HomeBase (Bunnings) for their "Overstone Community Project Day" that was undertaken on 21st February, who came as a team of almost 20 staff and painted the library and music room. The next phase is to refurbish the library and the PTA members are already actively engaged with this process. Many of you have already volunteered ideas, donations and suggestions towards the library and ideas towards developing an improved reading culture in our school – please keep these coming as we continue to work on the Library project.

On a more serious note, I have had a few conversations with children in the playground and around the school recently and there appears to be an increasing number of children accessing Social Media sites and playing electronic games that have PEGI ratings higher than their age. Whereas I recognise that PEGI ratings are advisory and linked to sales of the games, I would urge you to evaluate whether these games are appropriate for your child to be playing – especially those with PEGI ratings of 16 / 18. Equally, there are age restrictions to access Social Media sites and guidelines around this. Therefore, I would urge you to spend some time this weekend checking the level of parental control your child's devices have and what they can access. As a school, we invest a lot of our curriculum time into e-safety and online awareness and it would be very much appreciated if this could be followed up at home too. If you need any support, guidance or help, then please feel free to discuss this with a teacher here at school.

As always, my door is open if you want to share, question or celebrate anything regarding our school; just arrange an appointment with the office and I will be happy to meet you.

Mr K Bowskill
Headteacher

Year 1/2 Elm class on their way to Forest School, enjoying the very special weather the last week of February



Sporting news

The British Cycling company paid us a visit on Tuesday 27th February and put Reception and Year 1 children through their paces. Here are some photo's of Year 1 Elm children enjoying their session.



The year 5/6 workshop will be rescheduled for April/May time.

Other sporting news

Do you have any links to outside sports clubs suitable for primary age children and, if so, would you be interested in helping the school to make a link with the club? If so, please speak to Mrs Glover.

Year 3/4 Badminton team came 1st in their festival and will go through to the county finals. Well done!

Also, a big well done and thank you to our **Year 5/6 girls**, who participated in a local friendly hockey tournament.

World Book Day – rescheduled date of Friday 9th March 2018

Come dressed as your favourite book character.

Muffins with Mum on Friday 9th March 2018

Please pre-order your muffins, using the reply slip provided. £1 per person. Please reply by the end of school on **Tuesday 6th March 2018**.

Grandparents' Morning on Thursday 15th March 2018

We look forward to welcoming our Grandparents into the children's classrooms on Thursday 15th March from 9-10.15am. The PTA will be serving refreshments for this event, so please come with some loose change!

School uniform

Except for our school tie, uniform can be ordered online from Tesco using the link below:-

<https://www.tesco.com/direct/overstone-combined-school/14274.school?t=1512564919765&source=others>

After School Activities

After school clubs continue this term, as shown below. Please note that the children on the waiting list for Craft club in Y 1/2 will be able to start after Easter.

Day	Club	Year	Teacher	Dates WB			
				From	To WB		
Mon	Choir	KS2	MS	19/2	26/3		
Tues	Booster club	KS2	MM	19/2	26/3		
Weds	Boys Football	Y5/6	MM	19/2	19/3		
Weds	Girls Football	Y5/6	MM	19/2	19/3		
Weds	Multiskills Club	Y1/2	MW	19/2	19/3		
Thurs	Craft Club	Y1/2	FW/SS	19/2	19/3		
Thurs	Cross Country	KS2	JB/MH	19/2	19/3		

Attendance for the month of February 2018

Well done in February to Reception Beech class!

YR Ash	95.9 %
YR Beech	97.8 %
Y1/ 2 Cedar	95.2 %
Y1/ 2 Elm	97.2 %
Y1/ 2 Fir	95.8 %
Y3 Holly	94 %
Y4 Oak	97.3 %
Y5 Redwood	94.9 %
Y6 Walnut	93 %
Y6 Willow	94.7 %

Vacancies for two governors

There is still time to volunteer as a school governor. This is an opportunity to become involved in the strategic management of the school. We already have two elected parent governors; the two vacancies are for partnership governors. Partnership governors are appointed by the Governing Body after a nomination process.

You need:

- A commitment to improving outcomes for children
- Willingness to question and analyse
- Good interpersonal skills

You don't need:

- Previous experience of being a governor
- To have a child at Overstone

Training will be provided.

Becoming a governor is a great way to support the school and contribute to its continuing success. If you would like to find out more, please contact the school office by 29 March. We will let you have further information about being a governor and how to make a nomination.

Diary Dates for this term

World Book Day and Muffins with Mum – Friday 9th March 2018

Grandparents' Morning – Thursday 15th March 2018

PTA Spring Disco – Wednesday 28th March 2018

Last day of term FOR NURSERY CHILDREN ONLY – Wednesday 28th March 2018

Last day of term for all except Nursery – Thursday 29th March 2018

First day of Summer term – Monday 16th April 2018

PTA Safari Supper – Saturday 21st April from 7pm

Summer term half term – WB 28th May

Friday 6th and Monday 9th July – INSET DAY – school closed to children

Last day of Summer term – Tuesday 24th July 2018



Staying safe on Facebook

Thames Valley Police have sent us the following information, which may be of interest to you, about keeping your family safe while using facebook etc.

As almost a quarter of 12-15 year olds say they don't know how to control who can see what they post on social media, Thames Valley Police (TVP) is encouraging parents, carers and responsible adults, such as youth activity leaders, to help young people stay safe online, as part of the latest phase of the [#ProtectYourWorld campaign](#).