



## Infant School Newsletter Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016



Thank you so much to all those parents who attended our Phonics Information Morning last week. We hope that you found it useful and if you do have any questions we would be very happy to help you. The PowerPoint used in the presentation is attached alongside this newsletter.

This week we will be:

- Learning about the life of Mary Seacole
- Writing a letter from a soldier cared for by Mary Seacole
- Writing a comparison of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale
- Learning about inequality
- Investigating number bonds and developing our calculations in Maths
- Developing our coordination and movement skills in PE
- Investigating different materials in science
- Sounding out and blending in phonics
- Learning the songs for our Christmas Production

### Open Classrooms

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November after school is our Open Classroom session. We look forward to seeing you then. This is an informal opportunity for your child to show you around their classroom, but please note that this is not an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

### Reading with your child

Reading daily at home with your child is part of our daily homework expectation and is an incredibly valuable activity to support your child with their learning.

#### **Tips to Help:**

- If your child is reluctant to read to you, read the book to them
- Don't hide words or pictures from children, they need these as contextual clues
- If your child gets stuck on a word and they are struggling to sound it out, read it for them; otherwise the flow of the story is lost
- Children should feel successful and confident when reading, it should not be a chore - it should be for enjoyment
- Children like some books more than others and love to re-read particular texts, this is incredibly valuable!
- Children can take more than one book home from school if they like to re-read a favourite

### Moving Book Bands

If your child is reading confidently and fluently at home you may wish them to move onto the next band. Please write this in your child's reading record and we will ensure that they move onto the next level.

However, please remember that children develop at different times and children in the same class will be on different book bands. Children should be allowed to 'wallow' in the stories and feel successful and confident and enjoy being able to read. There is a wealth of stories for the children to read in each band and it is important that they are able to have as much exposure to different texts as possible.

Moving children onto the next band before they are ready can be extremely detrimental to some children, as they never feel success as a reader. They just move from one challenge to another without gaining confidence in their own ability. Reading becomes a chore and then they don't want to participate anymore.

## Safeguarding

We take safeguarding very seriously at Overstone; if you have any concerns regarding a child in the school please speak to Mrs France who is our Safeguarding Officer or Mrs Sim who is our Deputy Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Michelle Sutton, our Chair of Governors is our Safeguarding Governor. Our website has lots of information for parents and children with regard to Safeguarding, including information on how to help your child understand how to stay safe online. At the beginning of the term all of the children in the Infant School took part in the NSPCC Pantosaurus lessons about appropriate and inappropriate behaviour and acceptable boundaries. In the next few weeks we will be participating in an assembly with a speaker from the NSPCC as part of their 'Stay Safe, Speak Out' initiative.

If you do have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us in the **strictest confidence**.

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Open Classrooms 3.30-4.15pm
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	PTA's Christmas Bazaar
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant School Christmas Play (9.30-10.45)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

The Infant School team