



## Message from the Headteacher

Wow – it's almost half term ... can someone tell me where the last 5 weeks have gone?

It has been a fantastic 5 weeks and I have been thrilled to have had the chance to spend time in so many of the classes getting to know all the children – the buzz and 'vibe' in the classrooms is brilliant and the children have been very open and positive, sharing their thoughts, ideas and opinions. After last year's focus on implementing the Growth Mindset, I have been proud to see and hear the children discuss their learning and their positive focus on improvement.

As a school, we have recently been focussing on manners and behaviour and there has been a significant improvement in the number of children now coming past me in a morning at the school door with a smile and a good morning – a great way to start the day! Equally, within classes the teachers have been addressing this and encouraging the children to take greater ownership of the choices they make, when it comes to behaviour and manners. I would appreciate it if you could follow this up with your child(ren) and reinforce the need for manners and positive behaviour choices.

I have also written a letter that will follow this Newsletter, regarding communication. I would urge you to read this and reflect on the points made. It is critical for us as a school to ensure we have the right partnership with you as parents, so that the outcomes for your child are the best we can achieve.

As we continually look to evaluate and improve our systems, I would be grateful if you would feedback to the school any comments regarding the content of our Newsletter. Is there something you feel should be added? Please let us know via email, using the email address at the top of this newsletter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their efforts behind the scenes that have already started for future events. With an increase in the number of members, this should alleviate some of the challenges previously faced... but I am sure they would still welcome more members and help – please do contact them if you are able to support – whether in a limited capacity or as an event leader.

The school's Leadership Team have been very busy finalising the school's development plan and we are hoping to be in a position to share this with you as soon as possible. We are also in the process of reviewing a large number of the school's policies to make sure they are meeting the needs of all of our children and, like the development plan, we will share any changes with you as soon as they have been approved by the school's Governing Body.

If you were unaware, the Leadership Team for Overstone Combined school consists of:

Mr Kevin Bowskill – Headteacher

Mr. Mat McArthur – Deputy Head Teacher

Mr. Max Williams – KS1 Coordinator

Mrs. Zafra Bendall – EYFS Coordinator

Mrs Andrea Toosey – School Business Manager

I am hoping to get the chance to meet more of you at the next school event: Bonfire Night, and look forward to a fun evening with our school families and community.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Kevin Bowskill

Headteacher

## Parental consent forms

The annual 'parental consent forms' were sent home in your child's bag yesterday. If you did not receive one, copies are available from the office. Please read, sign and return to school by the end of next week. Many thanks.

## Harvest Festival

We would welcome your donations of non-perishable food items next week, in time for next Thursday's assembly (items such as tinned fruit and vegetables, tuna, dried pasta, rice, cereals, couscous, pulses, biscuits, jams and pickles etc. will be gratefully received). Please leave them on the table inside the main door or they can go into your child's classroom. If you are able to send them to us in a spare shoe box, this will help greatly with our deliveries on Friday. Thank you!

This year's Harvest Assembly for **parents of Y3 and 4 children only** will take place on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October** at 9.15am. The distribution of produce, to elderly members of our community, will be by Y3 children on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**.

## Reading breakfast and Open Morning

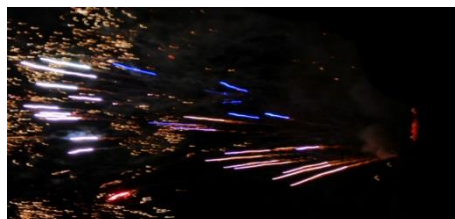
This lovely event will take place this term on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. A letter will follow next week.

## Christmas Card Project

Members of the PTA are kindly overseeing the Christmas Card Project this year and the children have enjoyed producing their lovely art work this week. All orders and payment to school please by **12<sup>th</sup> October**.

## Bonfire night

We are all looking forward to our Bonfire Night celebrations **on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November** and are looking for some Stewards to volunteer to help to keep us all safe for the evening. Volunteers will be treated to a memorable occasion, a free BBQ and of course a wonderful fireworks display. Please see attached letter and reply slip. Please help if you can – each year we need about 10 volunteers.



## Parents' Consultation Evenings

Parents' Evening for all on Tues 17<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> October. **Booking opens this evening at 6pm.** Please make your booking **by 9pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, using your eschools login – go to our school website to find the eschools prompt.

## Message from our First Aiders

Please ensure we have a recent 'Asthma Plan' for your child, as well as their inhaler and spacer in school. Please note that the inhaler should be in the original box, with the child's name and be in date. An inhaler may only be used by the 'prescribed' child and may not be shared between siblings.

## Parents of year 6

Please note that the window for applications for secondary school is open and the deadline is by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. Please apply online if you are able.** Many of you, however, will no doubt wait until the transition test results have been received.

## Uniform

**Please clearly name all items of clothing and equipment that your child brings to school.**

This will make it considerably easier for 'lost' items to be returned. Children should also be urged to take responsibility for their belongings.

## After School Activities

**Please note that due to the Parents' Consultation evenings, Homework club, Y6 Booster classes and the General Sports Club will not take place on Tuesday and Thursday (17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October).**

The form for after school activities for after half term will be coming out via parentmail next week.

## Absence from school

Please remember to ALWAYS phone or e-mail [admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk) before 8.30am (and leave a message) if your child is going to be absent from school for that day.

## Sickness or diarrhoea

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, you must keep them off school for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea, to avoid spreading germs to other children and staff.

## Last minute pick up arrangements

Please only call the office in cases of emergency on the afternoon concerned (eg. traffic hold-ups etc.). Pick up arrangements should be arranged well in advance and changes communicated to the classroom teacher in writing and in advance of the day concerned.

## Attendance

Congratulations to Year 3 for the highest attendance in September 2017!

Registration Group	% Attendance
YR Ash	94%
YR Beech	94 %
Y1 Cedar	93 %
Y1 Elm	95 %
Y2 Fir	95.5 %
Y3 Holly	98 %
Y4 Oak	97 %
Y5 Redwood	97 %
Y6 Walnut	96 %
Y6 Willow	97 %

Diary Dates		
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning for Prospective parents	9-10.15am
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival 9.15 am	Y3 &4
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival Distribution	Y3
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu vaccination (for those who consented)	YR-4
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening	All years
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening	All years
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Reading Breakfast	
23 <sup>rd</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>HALF TERM</b>	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Children's individual photo's	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Bonfire Night from 6pm at Overstone	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Space Trip to Leicester	Y5 & Y6
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas play	Y1 & 2
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas play	YR
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Pantomime at Overstone Last Day for Nursery children	All Nursery
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Church Service and Christmas Lunch and last day of term	
Inset Days 2018	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN