

Jan 2018

OVERSTONE COMBINED SCHOOL



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Message from the Headteacher

May I firstly take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and trust that you all enjoyed the festive period. My day, almost in its entirety, has been filled with stories of what Father Christmas has delivered and how much they have enjoyed themselves. There were even a few "I'm happy to be back at school" in there too, which I have to admit were my favourite responses from the children.

There were lots of conversations today relating to electronic devices, Xbox, PS4's and online gaming etc. from our excited children. Whilst these items provide an excellent source of entertainment, may I remind you to take this opportunity to check the settings on these devices to ensure they have the right levels of restrictions and conversations are had with their users about staying internet safe.

As we move into the Spring term our whole school focus will be on "Challenge". This links well with 'Resolutions' (for those that have made them!) and I have already seen evidence of this in the classes. My assembly which introduced our "Challenge" focus brought about some excellent ideas for the school to think about, from the children – who were only too eager to share their ideas and thoughts with me.

Along with bringing in the New Year, January also brings our newest 'Overstone Family' members into the Nursery – so welcome to you all. I look forward to the journeys we'll share.

I am also hoping to be able to tell you more about the new Library project that will be started this term, as things progress. So make sure you keep an eye out for the updates.

Could I also remind you to send in your child's report feedback form, if you haven't already done so. The school's Leadership Team will review these comments and look to identify ways to make the reporting process better for all.

One of the school's "Challenges" for this year will be to review the school's website and look to identify ways to improve its use as a communication tool, as well as a source of information about our school. Therefore, the Governors and I would appreciate it if you could answer the 4 questions in our online survey. If you follow the link: [Website Survey](#) it should only take 2-3 minutes to complete and your feedback will be very much appreciated. This survey will close on January 26th.

Here's to an exciting 2018. Happy New Year!

Mr K Bowskill
Headteacher

Applications for Reception September 2017 – now urgent if you have not yet applied to County!

If you have a child who will be 4 by 31st August 2018, wanting to join our Reception class in September 2018, please remember to apply online by 15th January 2018 to your local County council. Please also remember to collect an application form from the office and return it to us as soon as possible, so that we can also have a clear idea of numbers.

Parents of children in KS1

If you have a child in YR, Year 1 or Year 2, please order a hot meal for your child for Thursday 18th January 2018, Census Day, by midnight on Wednesday of next week (10th January). Our funding is based on the number of hot lunches taken on that day by children in KS1.

School uniform

Can now be ordered online from Tesco using the link below:-

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

We still do have limited stock available from the school office at the moment and please continue to buy the school tie from us.

Free School Meal eligibility

If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meals and you have a child in year R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, it is worth reading the attached form. It is a very easy and confidential check to make. Please speak to me in the office in confidence (at a quiet time) or send me an e-mail, if you would like more information. It is worth checking even if you are in receipt of Universal Free School meals in Key Stage 1, because your child will benefit in other ways for the next 6 school years if you qualify. Please don't wait until your child is in Key Stage 2 to check this out, if you think you may qualify.

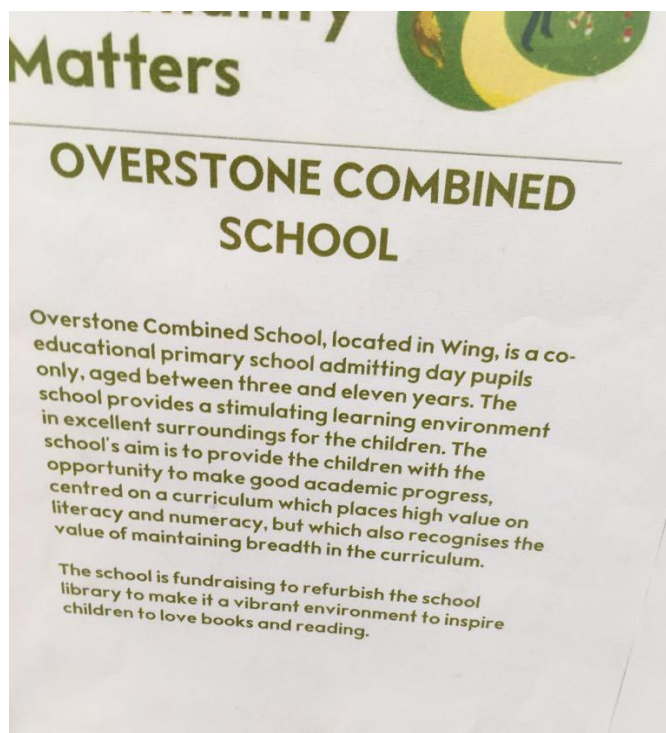
After School Activities

After school clubs begin for this term in the next two weeks. Please see the timetable below for specific club information. For Craft club and multi-skills club – you should have received your confirmation of a place e-mail before Christmas. Do check with the school office, if you are at all unsure. Please note that the Craft club children will be brought to the main school door by Miss Smith or Mrs Willett at 4.15pm to meet their parents/carers.

Day	Club	Year	Teacher	Dates		
				From	To WB	
Mon	Choir	KS2	MS	8/1	5/2	
Tues	Booster club	KS2	MM	9/1	5/2	
Weds	Boys Football	Y5/6	MM	17/1	5/2	
Weds	Girls Football	Y5/6	MM	17/1	5/2	
Weds	Multiskills Club	Y1 /2	MW	10/1	5/2	
Thurs	Craft Club	Y1/2	FW/SS	11/1	5/2	
Thurs	Cross Country	KS2	JB/MH	18/1	5/2	

Waitrose tokens for Overstone

Waitrose in Leighton Buzzard currently have Overstone School library refurbishment as an option, when donating tokens. It is until the end of the month of January. Please donate there if you can.



Year 1 and 2 Cooking with Mrs May

A reminder that Reception and Year 1 and 2 will be cooking with Mrs May this half term (starting from next week) instead of Forest School. Any more outstanding contributions to the school office as soon as possible please, to enable Mrs May to get started. Please remember to send in an apron and a smallish, named, plastic take-away container/tin for your child to take home their goodies.

Absence from school

Please remember to ALWAYS phone or e-mail 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.

Attendance for the month of December.

Well done last month to Year 1/ 2 Cedar and Elm!

YR Ash	95.6%
YR Beech	96.6%
Y1/ 2 Cedar	97%
Y1/ 2 Elm	97%
Y1/ 2 Fir	95.8%
Y3 Holly	94%
Y4 Oak	96%
Y5 Redwood	96%
Y6 Walnut	88.6%
Y6 Willow	96.6

Please remember to always pass through the school office, once you have come through the main school door and sign in if necessary. Please also sign your child in if he/she arrives late to school.

Diary Dates for this term

School Nurses in for YR and Y6 – Monday 8th January 2018

Class photo's – Tuesday 30th January 2018

Parents' Evening – Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th February 2018

Last day of half term – Friday 9th February 2018

First day back after half term – Monday 19th February 2018

Muffins with Mum – Friday 9th March 2018

Grandparents' Morning – Thursday 15th March 2018

PTA Spring Disco – Tuesday 27th March 2018

Last day of term – Thursday 29th March 2018

First day of Summer term – Monday 16th April 2018