

OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER

April 2026



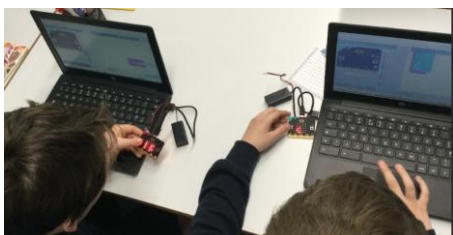
Welcome to our April newsletter. The children have returned from the Easter holidays with renewed enthusiasm for learning.

What is coming up in May

- **Friday 1 May** – Non-uniform day – Bring a bottle for the fete tombola
- **Friday 1 May** – 2.30pm – Headteacher Half Hour – In school
- **Monday 4 May** – Bank Holiday – School is closed
- **Wednesday 6 May – Friday 8 May** – Year 4 & Year 5 Residential trip to Bushcraft
- **Monday 11 May** – Year 6 SATS week starts
- **Tuesday 12 May** – Reception class visit Wing Library
- **Thursday 14 May** – 2.30pm – Year 4 and Year 5 assembly about Bushcraft
- **Friday 15 May** – PTFA Summer fete
- **Friday 22 May** – INSET day – School is closed
- **Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May** – Half term
- **Monday 1 June** – School opens

Redwood Class

The children in Year 5 have started learning about programming. For this, we have been using MicroBits. These are small devices with have a simple LED display and a few basic sensors. The children have been able to programme simple pictures to display on the screen as well as recurring messages. They have learned to programme different input methods for making the MicroBit perform different actions. Over the next few weeks we'll be continuing our exploration of these great devices.



Pre-School – Acorn Class

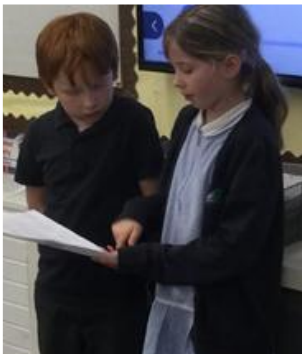
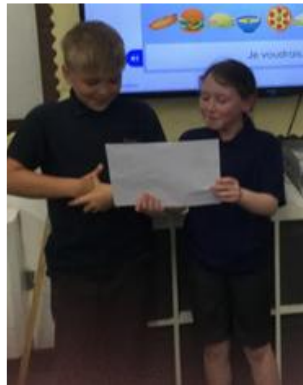
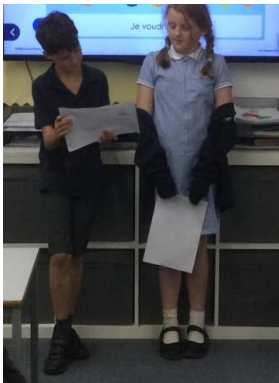
We hope you all had a good Easter break, we wanted to welcome all our families back and say a big warm welcome to our new children and families and to Mrs Bryans for the start of the summer term.



We have been looking at the life cycle of a butterfly, where we have learnt that the egg turns into a caterpillar. They grow and grow and grow, then turn into a chrysalis, for around two weeks, before turning into a beautiful butterfly. We are growing real life caterpillars, so the children can watch this happen before their very own eyes!

Oak Class

Wow, it's hard to believe we are in the penultimate half term already. We have some exciting activities planned this term for Year 4. A snippet would include: Our BushCraft Residential, learning about Raiders, Traders or Settlers within our Anglo-Saxon History topic and learning about French food, including how to ask for the menu, order the food you would like and asking for the bill afterwards. Here are a few pictures of Year 4, orally rehearsing their French conversations in front of their peers.



Beech Class

In Year 1, we have started a new term full of exciting topics. In Science, the children have enjoyed practical lessons, learning all about plants and their features. They have learned to identify different parts of flowering parts and to observe these closely. In History, the children have had a lot of fun pretending to be explorers. They shared their ideas with great enthusiasm and many expressed their desire to travel around the world. In Maths, the children had fun learning about mass, measuring and comparing the mass of different objects.



Finally, in PE, the children have learned the correct techniques for sprinting and throwing a javelin, which was great fun.



Attendance for April



Please help us by making sure your child is in school every day and they are here by 8.45am.

Ash Class = 88.5%

Beech Class = 91.7%

Elm Class = 94.4%

Fir Class = 95.8%

Oak Class = 92.1%

Redwood Class = 94.9%

Willow Class = 94.5%

The Orchard = 78.5%

We have seen a drop with attendance for April. Please remember to book appointments outside of school hours and all term time holidays will not be authorised.

Fir Class

Fir Class have enjoyed having opportunities to take their art learning outside the classroom, encouraging curiosity and engagement. In small groups they took their time to sketch a chosen plant which allowed them to make more detailed observations bringing their learning to life. By the end of the lesson, the children had created detailed drawings and had a clearer understanding of plant structure and their functions, linking nicely with our current Science unit.



The outside environment also exposed them to nature such as bees and butterflies which prompted further discussions valuable to their learning. Being outside also supported the children's wellbeing as the fresh air, space, and natural surroundings helped them feel calm and focused.

It gave them a different environment to the classroom and allowed them to move around more freely. Many of the children were confident when working outdoors and they enjoyed the hands-on experience.



Elm Class

In Design and Technology, the children have been busy exploring a Textiles unit, where they have been learning and practising basic sewing skills. They began by mastering how to tie knots, thread needles and use a running stitch with a careful up-and-down motion. The children then applied these new skills to create colourful paper flowers, using their stitching to form the centres.



As their confidence grew, they practised sewing straight lines on card, focusing on neat, evenly spaced stitches to create simple designs. The children then applied these skills to sew fabric pieces together and design their own pouch decorations, thoughtfully selecting and arranging materials.



It has been wonderful to see their fine motor skills develop, along with the pride they take in their work.



Willow Class

Year 6 have had great fun and learnt so much in our Geography lessons. They have explored different energy sources, comparing renewable with non-renewable sources. The class were particularly engaged in learning about the impact of fossil fuels on climate change and the importance of making responsible choices for the future. Their favourite lesson was to explore the school grounds to collect and present data on where to position a solar panel on the school grounds in addition to those we already have.



The children have also thoroughly enjoyed their gymnastics PE lessons this term, where they developed greater control, strength and confidence. They showed enthusiasm whilst creating more complex sequences on both the floor and apparatus, combining advanced shapes, balances and rhythmic movements. The children especially enjoyed working with partners to explore counterbalances and using themes to make their routines creative, challenging and fun.



The Orchard – Cherry Class



In Cherry class we have started our Minibeasts topic. We really love using all our senses to explore a story so 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' has been a perfect sensory story choice. It has helped us with sequencing days of the week, understanding life cycles in nature and allowed us to explore our creative side by painting symmetrical bugs and dancing like a butterfly with the parachute. We have been on bug hunts around the school and worked on our scientific classification skills. We have also written about bugs, counted and multiplied bugs and learnt new bug songs! We are looking forward to exploring our topic more as the sun comes out and we welcome in the summer term.

Ash Class

Since returning to school, we have begun to think about seeds, planting and growing. Our Literacy story is The Extraordinary Gardener, and we have been looking at the things we need to plant our own seeds and instructions to follow. We have also revisited the story of Jack and the Beanstalk which led to an interest in castles. We have seen a number of them being built and giants being drawn. The children have also shown an interest in aeroplanes and this led to them creating one inside the classroom. In Maths we have started looking at numbers up to twenty, exploring different ways to represent these. We have also visited Wing Library and the children were all fantastic walking there and choosing their books.



Forest School

It's been another exciting and busy month in forest school, with each year group getting hands on with nature in their own unique way. Year 4 have been developing their scientific skills by classifying leaves and bugs, carefully observing differences and similarities in the natural world around them. Year 3 stepped back in time to the Roman era, setting up camp and cooking bread on the fire. They showed great teamwork and enthusiasm while experiencing a taste of history outdoors. Year 2 explored creativity through Hapa Zome, using natural materials to create beautiful prints, and also enjoyed painting what they could see around them using water colours. Year 1 have been learning to identify wildflowers and leaves, helping them to name different trees and deepen their understanding of the environment. Early Years have been busy in our allotment, planting seeds and learning what plants need to grow. They've shown great curiosity and care as they begin to understand how things grow.



Read Every Day Challenge

Well done to all the children who received their reward for reading every day over the last month. They could choose from football, board games, basketball and kite flying as their reward.



And finally....

Make sure you come to the school fete on Friday 15th May. There will be lots to see and do and it is a great community event. Please invite your family, friends and neighbours to come and enjoy the fun.

