Overstone Combined School, Church Street, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 ONY



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Happy Easter from Overstone's Governors!

The end of the Spring term is here, and so is the lovely weather – let's hope it holds for the holidays!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support with attendance this term, a key focus of our work. Evidence shows that children who attend regularly and on time perform better and are happier in school. We've recently reviewed our attendance statistics and our policy – please do <u>take a look</u>. With the better weather arriving, let's hope we all get a spring in our steps as we say goodbye to those winter bugs!

We've also been looking at 'cultural capital' across the school – giving children new experiences to enrich learning, boost skills and build confidence. Our Board members have been privileged to see this work in action. At the start of March, the Young Voices choir performed enthusiastically to a packed assembly. The choir is supported by the Wing Singers, and it was great to see their representatives in the audience enjoying the show as much as the children. Also in March, Year 1 visited Woburn Safari Park. The children enjoyed a tour of the animals and an interactive lesson about ecosystems, linking to the importance of protecting the environment. The children's behaviour was exemplary, displaying our school values of respect and kindness.

Complementing the cultural capital provision within the timetable, we'd like to thank the teachers for their time and effort in providing after-school clubs, such as art club, football and creative writing. These clubs give children a chance to try new things and enjoy time with friends. There are new clubs planned next term, so do look out for them! We're also pleased to support offers of extracurricular activities from our partners, including S4A sports clubs, peripatetic music providers, and Rocksteady Music, which launched this term. Research shows that learning to play an instrument – especially in a group setting – has a positive impact on children's academic achievements and confidence, so we're delighted to offer this opportunity.

Behind the scenes, the Governing Board works closely with the Senior Leadership Team to meet the school's strategic and financial targets. This term, we've progressed with the proposed Communication and Interaction (Autism) Unit and formally approved a decrease in our Pupil Admission Number (PAN). The Unit consultation closed after a very positive response, so building work will proceed over summer. Our new PAN of 30 takes effect from September 2026.

A huge thank you to Overstone's PTA for raising vital funds and organising exciting events for the children like the recent Easter Fete. Our PTA is always looking for new volunteers – it's a great way to make friends and there are many ways to help, big or small.

Finally, the Headteacher's Half Hour continues to be a useful initiative, with parents sharing their thoughts on reporting, communication and homework. As a result, positive changes have been made that will benefit the school community. There's one more session this school year on parental engagement, so do pop along – we're keen to hear your views.

We hope you all have an egg-citing Easter break!

Kind regards, The Governors

Please do feel free to contact us: governors@overstone-wing.org

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