

# OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER

November 2023



Welcome to our November newsletter. We have all been working really hard this half term and the children enjoy sharing what they have achieved over the last few weeks.

## Oak Class

This month Year 4 visited the Roman Verulamium museum in St Albans. The children were able to look at and handle some Roman artefacts and look around the museum.



The children were also able to see a real Roman floor mosaic and notice some of the intricate patterns and pictures created with the small tiles.



A great day was had by all.

## Elm Class



Year 2 enjoyed a fabulous trip to Claydon House as part of their History topic about Florence Nightingale. They listened well to the talks about Florence and her life and were able to see some real artefacts from that time.

They enjoyed the Florence Nightingale tour around the house and even got to lie in her bed!

They dressed up and experienced life as a soldier travelling to the Crimea and finished the day dressing up as Florence herself, along with her nurses and injured soldiers in a wonderful set up of a hospital in Scutari.

The class were fully engaged and loved the day!



### Acorn Class

Pre-School have been looking at Halloween and fireworks this month. We carved a pumpkin and saved the seeds to plant in the Spring. We also made firework pictures and rockets.



We have learnt the nursery rhymes Jack and Jill, Hickory Dickory Dock, Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Row Row Row your Boat and The Wheels on the Bus for our Nursery Rhyme challenge week, where we learnt the rhymes and did some fun activities. Lots of Pre-School and Reception parents were able to join us for the sing off and we hope you enjoyed seeing us sing.



### Yew Class

Yew class have met their new buddies in Reception. Over the past couple of weeks, on Wednesday mornings, the children have shared a range of activities. Yew class have been extremely nurturing towards their buddies and it is truly lovely to see. Here is a picture of both Year 6 and Reception getting some early morning exercise in the hall.



### Willow Class

October has been a busy month in Willow class as we settled into our routines, enjoyed new learning in all our different subjects and completed poetry linked to Black History Month.

One of our favourite days has been our trip to Batchworth Lock Canal Centre in Rickmansworth. We spent the day doing a variety of activities that have helped our understanding of the Industrial Revolution and what life would have been like on the canal in Victorian times. Travelling up and down the canal on a narrow boat was one of our highlights as we spotted wildlife and other boats as well as how to stay safe on board – especially when going into a lock.

It was very exciting to go into Batchworth Lock itself and experience how the boat would move up or downhill along the canal by being raised and lowered in the lock; this was made even better by the fact that it was children in our class who were manning the lock!



We also got to see a historic narrow boat which showed us a glimpse of life on board for boat dwellers over a century ago and we had the chance to dress up and re-enact some of the working roles of people building and using the canals in the Victorian times. The children used a pickaxe and wheelbarrow to role play digging out the canals, and 'puddling' the clay – stamping it down to help line the bottom of the canal. They then experienced 'wash day' where they scrubbed clothes with a bar of soap and a metal board, then used a wooden 'dolly' and a mangle, before hanging them up to dry.

### Ash Class

Throughout November we have been thinking about Autumn and celebrations. We have been exploring for signs of Autumn and have made some super leaf men from the leaves we found. We have also designed and constructed homes for our own hedgehogs to stay warm during the Winter



For Fireworks Night, we made explosive firework pictures, adding sound writing to these and compared now and then for the present and the time Guy Fawkes lived.

For Diwali, we have made different Rangoli patterns, danced to the story of Rama and Sita and investigated reflective materials with torches. We have selected these materials to create our own stars to shine in the classroom. In Literacy we have planned our own stories, based upon The Star in the Jar story, and written some short sentences.

In maths we have looked at different shapes and subitising numbers up to five.



### Beech Class

Our Year 1 children have been very busy this month, learning to add and subtract using Rek-en-Reks and other manipulatives, as well as developing their mental maths skills.



In Computing, they have enjoyed learning about Algorithms, Input and Output devices and Virtual Assistants. We needed to fully understand this using other resources first before we could move onto trying it out on the computers.



### Fir Class

The Year 3 children have particularly enjoyed their Design Technology learning finding out that fruits and vegetables grow in different countries based on their climates. They found out about foods that are seasonal to the United Kingdom and how they grow in a particular season rather than all year round and how this can have a positive effect on the environment. They have learned how to use peelers, graters and vegetable knives safely. They then had the opportunity to design and make their own seasonal fruit tart and then eat them!





### Redwood Class

This half term we've been doing a lot of music! In Computing, we've been learning how to code our own soundtracks for the book we're reading in English - we've had to think about volume, instruments, speed... And in Music, we've been looking at the history of Blues music as we start learning how to recreate the 12-bar blues!



### Forest School

This month we have been super busy in Forest School. Pre-School have been learning about hibernation while Reception made leaf ghosts and a giant poppy. Year 1 made wands and Year 2 & Year 3 made poppies out of leaves and wood cookies which gave us the opportunity to discuss why we wear poppies this time of year. Year 4 have been making Autumn mandalas and Year 6, Yew class, have been making scented candles.



We would like to say goodbye to Mrs Bell, our School Business Manager, who will be leaving Overstone on 15<sup>th</sup> December. In the 18 months Mrs Bell has been at the school she has worked very hard with staff and governors as well as being a friendly face on the gate. Mrs Bell is moving to become the School Business Manager at a secondary school and we wish her well in her new role. We will be advertising for a new School Business Manager in the next few weeks but in the meantime Mrs Hamper, who has been working in the office alongside Mrs Buckingham-Brown, will manage the school finances.

We would like to thank everyone who was able to come to the Overstone School Christmas Fair last Friday. The PTA worked incredibly hard to organise such a successful event and it was lovely to see so many people attending, both from school and the village. Thank you for supporting this event as all of the children will benefit from your generous giving.



What is coming up in December.....

- **Monday 11 December** - 2.15pm - Year 1 Nativity - Year 1 parents welcome
- **Tuesday 12 December** - 9.00am - Pre-School & Reception Nativity - Pre-School and Reception parents welcome
- **Wednesday 13 December** - 9.15am - Year 6 Christmas Service at the Church - Year 6 parents welcome
- **Wednesday 13 December** - School Christmas Lunch - Please remember to book in advance if you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner
- **Thursday 14 December** - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 children visit to the church for a Christmas lesson - children only
- **Thursday 14 December** - 2.15 - Year 2 Nativity - Year 2 parents welcome
- **Friday 15 December** - Christmas jumper day - Wear your Christmas jumper as we enjoy an Inter House Christmas Sing Off
- **Friday 15 December** - Afternoon - PTA Children's Christmas Fair - More information to follow
- **Tuesday 19 December** - End of Term - School closes at the end of the day for the Christmas holidays

## **2024**

- **Thursday 4 January** - School re-opens to all children for the Spring term

And finally .....

I am very pleased to share the good news that Mrs Burgess has had a baby girl, called Orla, who was born at the end of October and big sister Erin is delighted with her baby sister. All is well and I am sure you will see Mrs Burgess and Orla soon. I am sure you will join us in congratulating the whole family and wishing them well.

