

# OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER



March 2026

Welcome to our March newsletter. The sun has started to make an appearance and there have been smiles all round.

What is coming up in April .....

- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – End of term
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** – Start of Term
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April** – 3.15pm – 3.45pm – Meet the Teacher
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April** – 3.45pm – Additional parents evening for Year 4
- **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April** – 6.00pm – Year 5 Parent meeting – Secondary School application and transfer test
- **Friday 1 May** – Non-uniform day – Bring a bottle for the fete tombola
- **Friday 1 May** – 2.30pm – Headteacher Half Hour – In school

## Willow Class

During our science lessons, we have explored animals and how they have adapted to their environments over time. The children learned about survival of the fittest - as well as the different variations and characteristics found within animal species.

We even had a selection of “giraffes” in the classroom, which helped the children clearly understand how this animal has evolved and adapted to suit its environment. The children demonstrated superb learning throughout.



## Beech Class

In Year 1, we have been busy learning about Senses and conducting investigations in Science. We had a very special visit from the charity Guide Dogs UK, represented by Marilyn, Nadia and her guide dog Leah. The children had a chance to ask lots of questions and were very curious to find out how Leah is helping Nadia in her daily life such as going to the shops, picking her children up from school, etc.



## Pre-School – Acorn Class

We have had a busy few weeks in Pre-School.

The children enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year - the year of the Horse. We made fans, lanterns and learnt about the story of the animals racing to the other side of the river, this is how the animals got placed in this order.

We have read the stories Jack and the Beanstalk and The Enormous Turnip, the children have enjoyed acting out the story and painting a giant beanstalk and drawing the characters. It was hard work but it really helped the children to understand the content of the story.



The children enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and having our parents join us for a stay and play session for communication week, where we acted out the story of the enormous turnip all holding onto one another to pull out the turnip.

## Elm Class



The children have had a very busy and exciting month of learning. In English, they have been exploring how to write clear instructions. To help them understand this, they began by reading and following instructions to make salt dough, before using it to create their own salt dough models. The children then applied what they had learned about instructional writing by creating their own set of instructions. They designed and wrote step-by-step guides explaining how to build a habitat for an imaginary creature they had invented and written about. It has been wonderful to see their creativity alongside their growing confidence in writing clear instructions.



## Attendance for January



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

Ash Class = 93.0%

Beech Class = 93.1%

Elm Class = 90.3%

Fir Class = 96.6%

Oak Class = 92.9%

Redwood Class = 92.9%

Willow Class = 96.7%

The Orchard = 76.5%

We have seen an improvement with attendance over the last month which is great. Our expectation is for the children to be in school every day and we appreciate your support with this. Let's make April an even better month for attendance.

### Oak Class



Year 4 have had a great start to the new term. In DT, we have been looking at mechanical systems, with a focus on mechanical cars. So far, we have built two different prototypes and measured how far they travel. The first was designed to roll on an inclined plane, the second was designed to be a slingshot car, using an elastic band to propel it along. Next, we will be designing a wind-up car. We have been carefully considering the various materials used, thinking about the durability of each design, the sustainability of the materials used and which prototype is better according to the distance travelled and the intended function.



### Ash Class

During March we have used the story of 'Little Red' in Literacy for roleplaying and describing characters, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' for size ordering and 'The Princess and the Pea' for constructing beds in our creative play.

During science week, we looked at keeping healthy, ways to exercise and how to take care of our teeth. We put eggs in different drinks to investigate how they can change our teeth.

During communication week we were using different phones in our activities and opened up a shop in the classroom.

In Maths, we have been thinking about which numbers are odd and which are even. We have also been recalling some number doubles.



### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2026 took place on Tuesday 10th February 2026 in school. The event focused on the theme: Smart tech, safe choices - exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.

It was wonderful to see the children so thoroughly engaged with the activities across the school. Classes moved around to work alongside different year groups, giving everyone the opportunity to learn collaboratively. The older children created informative posters and leaflets about online safety and the responsible use of AI; whilst the younger pupils enjoyed colouring images to accompany the messages. The children learned a great deal about staying safe on the internet and developing a better understanding of AI. Most importantly, they really enjoyed working with others and sharing their ideas, making Safer Internet Day 2026 a valuable and memorable experience for all.

## Fir Class

Fir Class have been reflecting deeply on what it means to be inclusive and how we can make everyone in our classroom feel a strong sense of belonging. We discussed how our school values of kindness, effort, listening and respect help us to build a community where every child feels valued and supported. By showing kindness to one another, making the effort to include everyone, listening carefully to each other's thoughts and ideas, and treating one another with respect, we are creating a classroom where all children feel safe, secure and confident to learn.

As part of this learning, Fir Class linked their discussions to Children's Mental Health Week, thinking carefully about how belonging and feeling accepted can positively support our wellbeing. The children shared thoughtful ideas about places that are special to them and where they feel happy, calm and truly themselves. The class then created a beautiful "Belonging Mosaic" which is proudly displayed in our classroom. Each piece represents a place where a child feels that important sense of belonging. When all the pieces were brought together, they formed a powerful reminder that, just like our mosaic, our class is strongest when everyone is included and valued.



## The Orchard – Cherry Class

In Cherry class in February and March it was all about celebrations and sensory exploration. We 'loved' all things heart shaped for Valentine's day, experienced Chinese costume, stories, food, customs and geography in honour of Chinese New Year and planted, decorated and painted to create some special things for Mother's Day. Each of us read our favourite story to the class on World Book Day and we have had fun creating Easter crafts, learning about Eid and watching Winter turn to Spring. We also enjoyed using our senses to add fun and meaning to our learning from activities in our dark room, to sensory stories and using practical, sensory based ways to explore number and measurement.



## Redwood Class

Year 5 enjoyed a great day at the National Space Centre. We were lucky enough to have a good amount of time to explore the exhibitions, with everything from rockets and the history of space flight to the wider wonders of the universe. The children enjoyed a challenging Mars Rover workshop where they had to programme their own Rover to undertake a mission similar to the real Mars Rovers. We also visited the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium. The children were guided through some of the intricacies of the planets of our Solar System with fantastic visuals and interactive quizzes throughout. A great day was had by all.



## World Book Day

It was lovely to see so many children enjoy the activities we did on World Book Day. I think the Masked Reader was a definite hit and so many of you were successful with your guesses. Thank you to Mr. Gunning for putting that together. Throughout the day classes did lots of book-based learning and it was great to see everyone reading and talking about the books you enjoy. We also saw some great costumes so thank you to everyone for your efforts.



## Science Fair



On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, we held our much-anticipated Science Fair at school, and it was truly wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm from the children as they proudly presented their projects. The hall was buzzing with curiosity, creativity and a love of discovery.

The Cottesloe School Science Lead visited the event and was amazed by the wide variety of experiments the children had devised. There were so many fascinating investigations and activities on display, ranging from exploding volcanoes and explorations of space, to tornadoes in a bottle, demonstrations inspired by Archimedes and even blind food-tasting experiments.

It was fantastic to see the children explaining their ideas, sharing their findings, and engaging so confidently with their audience. A big well done to everyone who took part. Your hard work and creativity made the event a great success and a real joy to see.

Certificates will be presented to all children who participated and we are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by our young scientists!

Mrs Willett



## Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone for the donations for Red Nose Day and for wearing red, you all looked amazing. We raised £176.08 for the charity which will be used to support children in a variety of children's projects.



## Easter Fair



We would like to thank the PTFA for all their hard work with the Easter Fair held in school this week. The children had a great time and there was lots of excitement about the stalls they could visit. Once we have a grand total raised we will share it with you but, in the meantime, thank you for your support with this event.

## Forest School

February and March are always an exciting time of year in forest school. The woodland begins to wake from its winter sleep and the first signs of spring start to appear. We have all been nature detectives, carefully looking for clues that spring is on its way.

Pre-School experienced their first forest school fire, where they helped cook and enjoy warm porridge together around the fire circle. Reception also had their first fire session this year. The children prepared and cooked a vegetable soup, linking our learning to healthy eating and trying new foods. In Year 1 the children explored how to use a compass, learning about directions while navigating around the woodland. Year 2 have created miniature bogs inspired by their learning about Bog Babies, carefully building tiny wetland habitats in the forest. Year 3 investigated light and shadows, creating beautiful Shadow Art using mud paint and natural materials. Year 4 have been busy building waterproof dens and creating tree spirits to welcome the arrival of spring in the woodland. It has been a busy time for everyone.



We would like to say goodbye to Miss Potter who is leaving the school today. Miss Potter currently works in Pre-School but has also worked across the main school so many of your children know her. Mis Potter is going to work at a school nearer to home and we wish her every success in her new role. After Easter we welcome Mrs Bryans to the school and she will be joining the Early Years team.



And finally....



We would like to say a big thank you to Elats Ltd. for their very generous donation of wood chip to support our Forest School area. This has made a huge difference to what had become a very muddy space.

Our Reception, Year 2 and Year 3 children worked incredibly hard to help spread the wood chip, showing fantastic teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm. Armed with wheelbarrows and spades, they took real pride in improving our forest school.

Thanks to this donation and the children's efforts, our Forest School is now a much safer, drier and more enjoyable place for learning and exploring. We are extremely grateful to Elats Ltd. for supporting our school.

Thank you once again!



If you work for a company who could donate something useful to school or if they would like to offer some of their community days to help with jobs on site, then please speak to Mrs Eales. Thank you.