

# OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER

March 2025



Welcome to our March newsletter. This half term has flown by and we are now at the end of the Spring term.

What we have been up to in March....

## Elm Class

Year 2 have been very busy over the last few weeks! In Science, they have been measuring the growth of children throughout the different year groups in order to answer the question: Are children the same height in every year group in the school?



They have begun to learn how to use ScratchJr in Computing and successfully created an animation and have also been enjoying listening to The Planets Suite by Gustav Holst in Music.



They have also responded creatively to our music unit of work through the use of art and movement, and used their knowledge of dynamics and tempo to describe the music.

## Ash Class

During March we have been jumping into the season of Spring. We have searched for signs of Spring and been artistic to create flowery art work.



We have also been scientists, exploring different forces around us, and gymnasts, skilfully balancing and jumping, in PE. Our literacy sessions have been based on Little Red by Bethan Woolvin. In these we have been focussed on developing the writing of our own sentences.



In maths we have been thinking about the composition of numbers up to ten and started to look at the number pairs which make ten.

## Redwood Class

This half-term, we've been up to our necks in cool technology! Following our amazing trip to Leicester's Space Centre, where we were able to programme mini Mars Rovers to complete tasks, we began our Computing unit working with Micro:bits. We've learned to turn these tiny robots into dice, scrolling messages, pedometers, and even games! We're really looking forward to continuing to work with them in our upcoming DT unit too, where we'll aim to create animal sensors that detect temperature changes. Wish us luck!



## Beech Class

In Year 1, March has been busy and a lot of fun. We have enjoyed learning about the weather in Spring, creating journey sticks in Geography. We have also learned how to use compasses and atlases in Geography.



In Computing, we have had a lot of fun learning to program Bee-Bots.



## Yew Class

Year 6 visited The Cottesloe School last week to take part in National Science week. Not only was it a great opportunity for our Year 6 children to visit the school that many of them will be going to next year, they also experienced a 3D planetarium and then had a lesson on identifying objects using microscopes. All the children really enjoyed their morning of fun Science activities!



## PTA

Just a reminder that the PTA are running the Children's Easter Fair on Wednesday afternoon. The children will be able to exchange their money for tokens and then visit the stalls, as well as take part in an Easter egg and spoon race.



Thanks for all the Easter eggs donated so far for this event, but we could do with some more. If you are able to make a donation please give it to a member of staff at the gate or drop it into reception. Many thanks.

## Fir Class

Over the last few weeks Year 3 have been studying life in Ancient Egypt. We decided to enrich the children's learning by taking them to the British Museum in London, to visit the Ancient Egyptian exhibitions. On Friday 28th February 2025, the children meet at Leighton Buzzard railway station and travelled together on the train to London Euston. The children were absolutely marvellous (some had never been on a train before) and were so excited to get to London.



When we arrived, we went to Room 4 – where the Rosetta Stone is held. The children learnt, that in July 1799, a group of soldiers stumbled upon an object set to change our understanding of the ancient world – The Rosetta Stone. The children walked around the exhibits within their groups and even had a challenge to solve various puzzles from their booklets!



After a much-needed lunch – the children had the opportunity to visit rooms 61 – 65. In room 61, the children found out during ancient Egypt times women and men wore make-up and jewellery to look their best. Only rich people could afford expensive materials like gold and precious stones, most people wore copper and coloured pottery beads.



Dating back to about 1350 BC, these are wall paintings from the tomb chapel of a wealthy Egyptian official called Nebamun.

The children were super role models for our school and had an amazing time - learning what life was like for the Ancient Egyptians.

## Acorn Class

The children in Pre-School have looked at various fruits and vegetables, and we have discussed the shapes and colours. We smelt and tasted them and also printed with them. We have made some fruit skewers which the children devoured.



The children really enjoyed communication week and we had an open afternoon where our parents joined us for some fun in the classroom, playing turn taking games, reading stories and having fun with the shaving foam. Then at the end of the week we celebrated world book day by dressing up. We have also planted some broad beans and discussed that plants need soil, light and water to grow. We have been very busy in Pre-School.

## Oak Class

This half term, Year 4 have been working really hard to design and make slingshot cars in DT. So far, everybody has built the car chassis, which is the base of the car, and the launcher. This has taken a couple of weeks as the chassis has several different parts to it and we have had to work carefully to put it all together. We also had to incorporate a hook, using an unfolded paper clip, in order to launch the car when it is finished.

At the moment, we are designing the car body. It hasn't been an easy task as it will have to fit on to the chassis so our measurements have to be quite precise. We have also been learning about air resistance because one of our design criteria is that the cars need to travel as quickly as possible. This is because, once they are finished, we will be racing them against each other to see which one travels the furthest. We are very excited for the race!



## Football Update

Over the last couple of weeks both the boys' and the girls' teams have been in action. The boys lost to St Michaels 'B' team 2 - 0 but beat the 'A' team 1 - 0 with a goal from Albie. The girl's beat High Ash away from home 3 - 1 with goals from Kiera, Eleanor and Hollie. Both teams are still in with a chance to win their respective leagues.



## Forest School

In forest school this month we have been jumping in puddles and hunting for signs of spring. We have also enjoyed a spot of cooking and we made a vegetable soup to keep warm, along with pancakes on the fire to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Some children have made little dens for our woodland puppets whilst others have sat quietly drawing daffodils and some have begun to plant seeds ready for further planting later in our allotment.



### Headteacher Half-Hour

I would like to thank all the parents who have been able to come and spend some time with me during these sessions. Over the year I have met with a variety of people from different year groups and we have discussed reports, reading, communication and homework. Following these discussions, I have been able to implement a variety of things, such as:

- A new report format, shared at both parents' evenings and the end of the year
- Read Every Day Challenge where your child will have the opportunity to win a bike
- Sharing of knowledge organisers in a variety of ways to make them more accessible
- Consistency across the year groups with the homework front sheets so parents know what their child has to do

The last meeting of the year will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 8.45 and we will be discussing parental engagement. Please do attend if you are able to as it would be great to get your views.

### Cross Country

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March, we had 36 children take part in a cross-country event at Ascott House competing against 18 other schools. The races were over 1300m for Years 3 and 4 whilst Years 5 and 6 ran over 1600m on a very hilly track. The children certainly had to use the school value of effort as it was a tough course.

The children competed brilliantly and our top runner, Grace Edwards, was placed 14<sup>th</sup> in a race with over 120 children.



Well done to all involved and thanks to all those who were able to come and support the children at the event.

What is coming up in April .....

- **2<sup>nd</sup> April** – PTA Children's Easter Fair – 1.00pm – 3.00pm
- **3<sup>rd</sup> April** – Year 5 Easter Service at All Saint's Church – 9.15am
- **3<sup>rd</sup> April** – Whole School Science Fair
- **4<sup>th</sup> April** – End of term
- **22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Term starts
- **28<sup>th</sup> April** – Maths morning – 9.00 – 10.00 – All parents and carers are welcome

The school library is open on a Wednesday afternoon from 3.15pm – 3.45pm for all families to come and browse.

And finally....

S4A will be holding their Easter Holiday Clubs at various venues locally. Please contact them by either following the link below or by scanning the QR code to book a place.

<https://www.s4aclub.co.uk/school/overstone/>.



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