

OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER

January 2026



Welcome to our January newsletter. We have all been working hard since coming back after Christmas and it is lovely seeing the children enthused by their learning.

Following some parental feedback, we will be moving the layout of the newsletter around so here are the important dates for your diary.

What is coming up in February

- Tuesday 3rd February – Year 2 trip to the De Havilland Aircraft Museum
- Friday 6th February – Year 1 visit from The Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Monday 9th February – PTFA Valentine Bake Sale
- Monday 9th February & Tuesday 10th February – Parent's Evening
- Thursday 12th February – Year 6 SATS meeting
- Friday 13th February – INSET day – School is closed to children
- Monday 23rd February – Term starts for all children

Oak Class

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed their PE sessions this month while undertaking circuit activities. The children moved around a range of stations, each focusing on different skills such as strength, balance, agility and co-ordination. Working as part of a team, they encouraged one another, took turns and supported their peers to complete each activity. These sessions helped develop physical fitness as well as teamwork, communication and resilience - all while having lots of fun.



Beech Class

We have been very busy in Beech Class learning about toys from the past and we have compared these with toys from the present. As part of our History learning, we have created a timeline for toys and we have learned how to ask questions like historians.



In PSHE, we have investigated how germs are spread and we have learned how to wash our hands thoroughly to prevent germs from spreading or making us poorly.



Willow Class

This week in Year 6, the children have been developing their dialogue-writing skills whilst exploring Charles Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species'.

To do this successfully, they first explored the characters in depth, thinking carefully about not only what they might say, but who they were, how they behaved and how they responded to the world around them.

Through drama, the children took on the roles of Darwin and Fitzroy, acting out conversations between the two. It was fantastic to hear these discussions come to life, especially as the children were wearing face masks! They thought carefully about how to vary their vocabulary, speech pace and rhythm, as well as how their partner's character might react, resulting in thoughtful and engaging performances.



Redwood Class



Year 5 have been working on creating some 3D art installations as part of our spring term art topic.

So far, we have designed and begun to create the space that we will transform with different size objects in the coming weeks.

Children have chosen different themes, ranging from outdoor park spaces and playgrounds through to much more abstract ideas such as shelters to keep uncomfortable emotions safe from harm.

We have been really impressed with their creativity and teamwork so far.



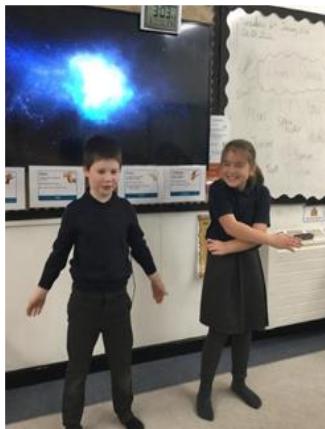
Pre-School

Happy New Year 2026, it has been lovely having everyone back and we have welcomed some new children and families into Pre-School. We have been discussing 'People who help us' and we have role-played being police officers and nurses. We have taken our fingerprints, arrested people and made police and nurses hats. We have had a lot of fun taking each other's temperatures, giving injections and applying bandages. We have also had discussions about what our parents do as their jobs.



Fir Class

So far this term, Fir Class have been having a fantastic time exploring creative movement and dance through an exciting space theme. The children have been working collaboratively in small groups to create and refine their own sequences, sharing ideas and supporting one another. They have been focused on expressing different space-inspired movements, from floating like astronauts to zooming like rockets, using their bodies to show imagination and control. The children have been practising moving in time to the music, confidently counting and performing sequences to clear beats and counts of eight. It has been wonderful to see their creativity, teamwork and growing confidence shine through in each performance couple with such enthusiasm.



Ash Class

Throughout January we have been thinking about winter. The children have learnt there are 4 seasons and the weather is different in each. We have made shape snowmen and we have painted with self-made evergreen paintbrushes. We have also been exploring ice in different activities to look at how we can change it.



This month we have talked a lot about the past, sharing our own experiences from the past and comparing different modes of transport with now and then. This has led to us designing and making our own aeroplanes.



Elm Class

In PSHE, we have been learning about 'Secrets and Surprises'. We have learned that sometimes people confuse secrets and surprises. Usually, to make sure a surprise work, it is a secret for a while. But eventually, everyone finds out. On the other hand, a secret is often something bad that someone does not want other people to find out about. It might be something they have done wrong and they know other people will be hurt or cross when they find out or it might be something unkind. These are not healthy secrets to keep and the children should always share secrets like this with adults they trust. We then had a few surprises of our own – a treasure chest with a surprise inside of reward time for all working so hard on our handwriting, and then the following day, unwrapping new tables and chairs!



Forest School

As part of the Big Schools' Birdwatch, we all headed outdoors to become bird detectives. Observing the trees and hedgerows for movement among the branches, using binoculars and identification sheets to spot and record different birds. We spotted a lot of pigeons, our robin, magpies and crows.



The Orchard – Cherry Class

January in Cherry class has seen us sharing our experiences of the Christmas holidays as well as looking forward into the new year. We have counted all the days to come in the month and used ordinal numbers to classify days and activities in to first, second and third. We love songs in Cherry class, so we have used lots of number songs to explore different ways of comparing and working with numbers. We have had fun with our 'Squash and a Squeeze' sensory story, recreating characters and re-telling the story in our own way. In our 'Life skills' lessons we have been learning to chop safely, and create healthy snacks; particularly enjoying our fruit salad and vegetable medley.



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 = 86.8%

Beech Class = 90.4%

Elm Class = 89.5%

Fir Class = 97.2%

Oak Class = 89.5%

Redwood Class = 91.3% Willow Class = 95.3% The Orchard = 72.2%

Responsibilities

Throughout the school year the children have the opportunity to nominate themselves for a variety of roles. They do this in a similar way to an application form in order to showcase their talents and skills. I am very pleased to share the results of all the elected posts.

School Council

Year 1 – No applications
Year 2 – Ellis & Dominic
Year 3 – Charlie & Sienna S.
Year 4 – Ryan & Harrison
Year 5 – Mary
Year 6 – Grace RH & Tomas

Reading Ambassadors

Year 1 – Jessica
Year 2 – Teddy & Jemima
Year 3 – Edward & Lena
Year 4 – No applications
Year 5 – Eloise
Year 6 – Ruby & Sofia

House Captains

This role is open to Year 6 only
Ascot – Erin & Hunter
Mentmore – Kate & Jaxson
Rothschild – Grace E & Poppy C
Waddesdon – Georgina & Scarlett MF

We would like to thank all the children who completed an application form, your hard work was much appreciated.

And finally....

We would like to share the good news that Mrs Heard is having a baby. We wish her well with her pregnancy and look forward to welcoming the new arrival later this year.

