

OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER

December 2025



Welcome to our December newsletter. The school has been a hive of activity and we have just about survived the glitter!

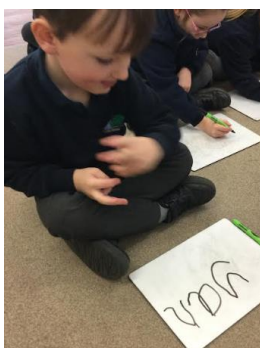
What we have been up to in December.....

Ash Class

During December we have been learning our songs and lines as we rehearsed our Nativity, ready for our final performance. We have also been thinking about the celebration of Hanukkah, we have looked at special lights through this and special times with our families.



In literacy we have been trying to use our letter sounds to read words and write words more independently. In maths, we have been looking at the pattern of numbers and use this to say the number that is one more.



Fir Class

Fir Class have been thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to develop their oracy skills, particularly during Guided Reading sessions and across the wider curriculum. In the lead-up to Christmas, the children took part in festive, Christmas-themed lessons dedicated solely to spoken language activities.

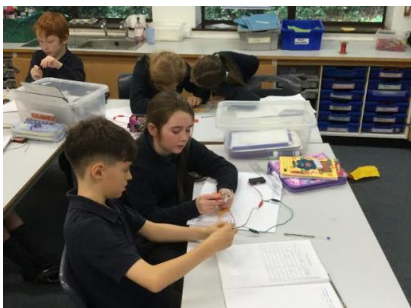
During these sessions, they showed clear development in turn-taking, listening respectfully, using active listening skills, and thoughtfully challenging one another's ideas. We have also been making good use of the oracy symbols to support their discussions. The children thoroughly enjoyed these sessions as they were able to make the link between their learning and listening carefully to each other.



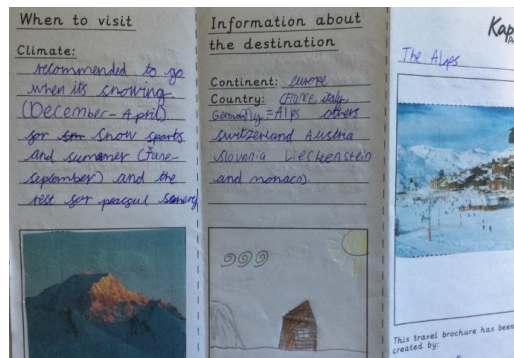
It has been fantastic to observe their progress and growing maturity in discussion.

Oak Class

This half term, Year 4 have been studying electricity and have completed a number of experiments within their learning. They have created working circuits, investigated the brightness of a bulb and what materials conduct electricity and which do not. They have worked hard and had a lot of fun.



Redwood Class



The children in Year 5 have enjoyed learning all about the Alps in their Geography lessons this half term. The topic culminated in each child creating a tourism leaflet about the Alps. They had to use their skills to research, plan and edit their work. They also needed to consider what information to share within their leaflet based on their audience. The class really enjoyed this activity and we have seen some great work from all the children.



Pre-School

We have been focusing on celebrations and the children have enjoyed making all their Christmas decorations. We have also been describing and talking about the different weather changes. The children have enjoyed discovering how water turns to ice when frozen and then melts back to water and they used hammers and different tools to chip away at the ice. The children have also been using scissors to practice their fine motor skills when making snips or cutting along lines. We decorated the Christmas tree in our room and the children had a lot of fun using every single decoration from the boxes!



Elm Class

The children in Year 2 have been busy learning all about mechanisms in a fun way. They discovered that a lever is something that turns on a pivot, and that a linkage is a system of levers connected by pivots. Through hands-on exploration, the children developed an understanding of how these simple mechanisms can create movement. The children then experimented with making different linkages, testing how they could be used to help their monsters move. This practical work encouraged problem-solving, creativity and teamwork as they refined their ideas and explored what worked best. Next, the children designed possible moving monster ideas. Once a final design was chosen, the children carefully constructed and assembled their moving monsters. The children evaluated their creations, discussing what worked well and what they might change next time. The finished moving monsters were full of character, and the children were extremely proud of their achievements.



Beech Class

In Year 1, the children have loved all our Geography lessons this term. They have particularly enjoyed designing a new playground to include even more features.



In Science, they have learned all about materials and their properties and they have enjoyed testing the absorbency of various materials.

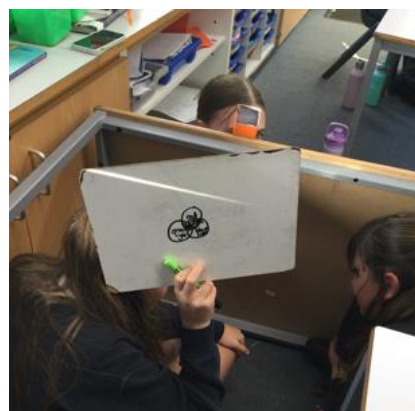


Music was a lot of fun too; the children have enjoyed retelling the story of 'The three little pigs' using different instruments.

Willow Class

In Science, we have been learning about light and reflection and we have really enjoyed the multiple science experiments we have been able to do in this unit. We particularly loved making periscopes and testing them out in groups. The children had to work collaboratively in order to complete their experiments so communication was key!

Well done, Year 6, you really demonstrated our school values in this unit of work.



Forest School

This month at Forest School, every class has been busy creating beautiful Christmas decorations inspired by nature. Year 4 used their tool skills to make fantastic wood-cookie Father Christmas decorations. Year 3 crafted wood-cookie wreaths, which were sold at the Christmas fair. Year 2 created mini wooden tree decorations and built their own natural Christmas trees. Year 1 designed and made their very own unique decorations. Reception children practiced their fine motor skills by threading cranberries to make festive wreaths. Nursery made hanging bird feeders and decorated our Forest School Christmas tree with them, helping care for winter wildlife. It's been a wonderful, creative, and festive month outdoors especially as the weather has been kind to us all. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from Forest School.



The Orchard

In Cherry class we have spent some of December listening to snowy stories and creating winter crafts. We explored the properties of ice; watching it melt and change from a solid to a liquid. We added penguins to the ice, counted family sets and had fun with icy role play. We have also enjoyed learning new songs, and now have some firm class favourites!



Music celebrations



Thank you to all our very talented Rock Steady and piano musicians who recently performed for the whole school and their parents. There will be more to come from our guitarists in the new year.



Attendance for December



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

Ash Class = 84.0%

Beech Class = 89.8%

Elm Class = 87.1%

Fir Class = 95.2%

Oak Class = 89.1%

Redwood Class = 92.4%

Willow Class = 92.4%

The Orchard = 84.5%

Christmas Celebrations

As the year comes to a close we like to celebrate in a variety of ways. This has included:

- PTA Christmas Fair
- Christmas tree switch on
- Read Every Day challenge reward
- Pre-School - Nativity
- Reception - Nativity
- Year 1 – Wriggly Nativity
- Year 2 – Ralph the Reindeer
- Read Every Day Challenge afternoon tea
- Year 6 Carol Service
- Christmas lunch and jumper day
- Rock Steady Music Performance
- Whole School House Sing Off
- Year 6 visit to the Care Home
- Staff pantomime



As you can see we have been really busy and we have all loved every minute of this festive time.



What is coming up in January

- **Monday 5th January** – Term starts for all children
- **Monday 12th January** – Meet the teacher
- **Thursday 15th January** – 2.00pm & 7.00pm – Read Write Inc meeting for Reception parents
- **Friday 16th January** – Year 4 swimming starts
- **Thursday 22nd January** – 2.00pm & 7.00pm – Phonics Screening meeting for Year 1 parents
- **Thursday 29th January** – 9.00am – Headteacher Half Hour

And finally....

