

OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER



January 2023

Welcome to our January newsletter. The term has started well in spite of the cold weather and the children have been very engaged in their learning.

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

Elm Class

Year 2 have been busy learning about the different ways in which New Year can be celebrated from around the world and within the Jewish faith. We used straws to blow paint to give the impression of fireworks and added silhouettes of buildings, including Big Ben and the London Eye to our pictures. We had lots of fun acting out examples of other celebrations, such as breaking plates to wish good luck for the year ahead on your neighbours door step if you live in Denmark and throwing old furniture out of your house in Johannesburg. We practiced saying L'Shana Tovah to each other when we were finding out how Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashanah and tasted apple and honey which seemed rather popular! Some of the children said they were going to ask if they could have some at home after dinner!



Christmas Cards and Gifts

The staff would like to thank all the families for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts we received. You were all so generous and it is very much appreciated.

Beech Class

Year 1 children have been very busy learning about sliding mechanisms in DT – they have measured, cut and assembled their own sliding mechanism for a book. They have illustrated their books and have presented their work to the rest of the class.



The children have demonstrated the same enthusiasm in R.E. when learning about the meaning of Creation in Christianity and Judaism. They begin to understand that there are many beliefs and that we show respect to all.

Fir Class

This term Year 3 have been studying mountains and volcanoes. We first made an 'active volcano' working in pairs to make the structure and then adding bicarbonates of soda, washing up liquid and vinegar to make the eruption happen. We then made our own clay model based on Mount Vesuvius.



Acorn Class

We have been talking about Who can help me? We have role played and dressed up as Police officers and Fire Fighters. We have role played as shop keepers, making a shop and money and taking turns to be the shop keeper/customer. We have also celebrated Chinese New Year by making lanterns and lucky red envelopes, tasting noodles with chop sticks!



Willow Class



January seems to have flown by so quickly. Willow Class have been busy beavering away on their writing skills and producing some super pieces of descriptive writing about Ernest Shackleton. In Art we have been studying Pop Art which is an exciting, colourful and vibrant art movement that emerged in the UK and the US during the 1950s. We have looked at work by Andy Warhol and James Rizzi, creating our own interpretation of their work. Dr Peel came in from the local doctor's surgery and gave a very informative talk on Drugs and Alcohol linked to our PSHE and Science curriculum this term. Next newsletter we hope to tell you of more exciting things we have been up to in Science - watch this space!



Ash Class

We began the new term by thinking about the new year and created collage face pictures on our calendars by tearing paper. Many activities have been based upon the theme of superheroes, linked to the book we are looking at in literacy, 'Juniper Jupiter'. We have designed superhero masks, thought about what we are the best at, made posters for a sidekick and created a superhero themed den in the home corner. Our maths has involved lots of 'one more" activities and some comparing of the weights of objects. This month we have also observed objects to investigate whether they float or sink.



Redwood Class



We've been working towards lots of great final projects in Year 5 this half term! In computing, we've been planning out films in groups and are looking forwards to filming and editing them on the iPads. Hollywood is in our reach! In Art, we've been looking at armatures (wire skeletons) and working with clay to create beautiful crowns before we paint them. We can't wait to show you what we've made!



Sycamore Class

In English this term we have working towards writing a dilemma narrative. We are exploring the book 'King Kong' and had fun making our very own beast! The children got to make their very own beasts using plasticine – some children had fond memories in Reception using this! Their creature will be sitting on their desk when they begin to write their narrative. Before starting, they had to think about how their beast would move, its features, any sounds they make, size and what location will this beast be found. The children be using figurative language (similes, alliteration and metaphors) to enhance their writing. Within their story, as well as the antagonist (the beast) they will have two characters exploring a location, coming across the beast! Perhaps they were looking for it, or just stumbled upon it by accident – we will have to wait and see.



Forest School

This month the whole school has taken part in the Big School Bird Watch. During their forest school sessions, the children have been bird spotting and then identifying what they have seen on their charts. It has been great fun identifying the birds and seeing which groups visit school at different times of the day.

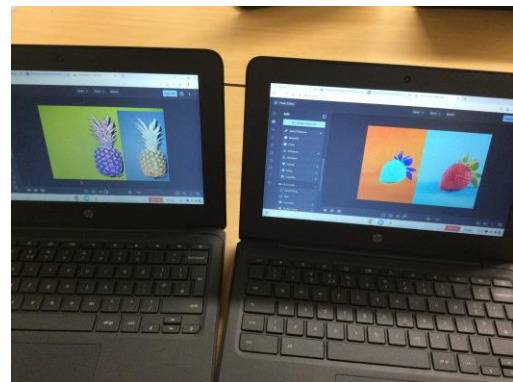


Girls Football Club

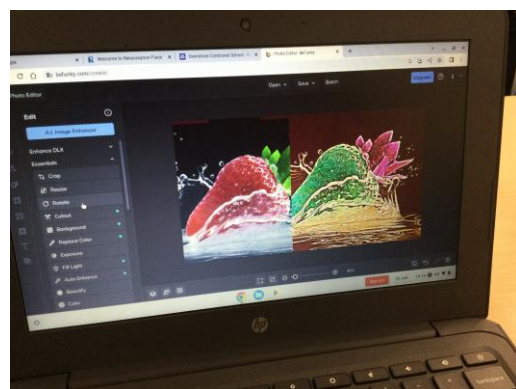
Mrs Clarke runs an afterschool football club for 22 very enthusiastic bunch of girls from Year 5 and Year 6 along with the help of a couple of students from Cottesloe. Each week they have been learning the skills of the game and how to apply them into a game. Considering they have only been together for a few weeks the progress they are making is super. They recently took part in a Football Festival at Cottesloe and whilst the outcome was perhaps not what they hoped for their spirits were not dampened and made them more resolved to do better next time. The girls are due to play their first league match in a couple of weeks.



Oak Class



Year 4 have started their swimming lessons again and have thoroughly enjoyed developing this skill. We have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons in history and photo editing, in computing. We have discussed the effect that photo editing has and the different ways that an image can be altered.



What is coming up in February

- **Monday 6th February** - Year 6 SATS, Residential and End of Year meeting meeting – 6.00pm
- **Wednesday 8th February** – PTA book swap
- **Friday 10th February** – INSET day – school closed to all pupils
- **Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February** – Half term
- **Monday 20th February** – School re-opens
- **Wednesday 22nd February** – Parent' evening
- **Thursday 23rd February** – Parent's evening

And finally....

We would like to congratulate Michelle, our caretaker, who got married over the Christmas break. We hope the new Mr and Mrs Langley are very happy and send them our best wishes for the future.



Following her wedding, Michelle has made the decision to leave Overstone as she would like to explore new adventures, so her last day will be Friday 10th February. We would like to thank her for all that she has done for the children and staff at Overstone School during her time here and wish her every success for the future.