

OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER



January 2024

Welcome to our January newsletter. The children have all settled back into school life after their busy Christmas holiday.

Fir Class



The Year 3 children have thoroughly enjoyed their geographical learning this month. They have been learning about Antarctica, finding out about Ernest Shackleton's expeditions and plotting his journey using four figure grid references. The children have planned their own expeditions around the school grounds using 8-point compass directions. The children worked in pairs to decide their routes and then wrote directions for others to follow. We all had fun following each other's directions even when we found that we weren't quite going in the direction that was intended!



Elm Class

It has been a busy half term so far in Year 2. We have been minibeast hunting in Science and then made our own class wormery in order to observe the worms over time. The children have been making up their own gymnastics routines in PE and performing them brilliantly. In Art, we have been learning how to make secondary colours using paint and will be creating collages using different textures, and in Maths, we have been learning all about money!



Acorn Class

This half term we have been learning about all the different people in our world that help us. We made our role play area into a police station and the children had great fun making 'arrests', solving clues and taking fingerprints. We made 'wanted' pictures and the children especially liked putting the adults 'in jail!' But don't worry, we have now made the role play area into a hospital so there is no need to try and break us out!



Beech Class

Year 1 have been very busy this month, enjoying learning about the senses in Science, smelling and tasting various foods. We have linked this to our PSHE where the children have learned about allergens and where to find them on food packaging.



In Computing, the children have designed their rockets on Chromebooks and made their own rockets. Afterwards, they have successfully launched their rockets and measured the distance achieved by each of them.

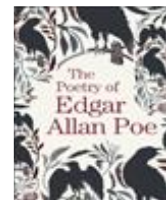


Willow Class



We've had a great start back after the Christmas break in Willow class and the children are working hard across the curriculum. We have been finding out more about how WW2 began and all about the Battle of Britain in our history lessons. Our upcoming visit from the RAF Trenchard Museum, will certainly enhance this learning, so we are all looking forward to that!

We have been reading the book *The Ways of the Wolf* in our English lessons and creating some excellent written work linked to this as well as studying classic poetry by Edgar Allan Poe and learning more about poetic devices.



PTA - Valentine Cake Competition

Overstone PTA are holding a valentine bake off competition on Monday 19th February. Families will have the opportunity to bake a cake/cupcakes/biscuits in the theme of valentines. 5 winners will be picked and a bake sale will be held at the end of the school day for everyone to try the amazing creations. Small cakes and biscuits will be priced at 50p or £1 each, large cakes individually. Your bakes can be dropped off from 8.30am on the day at the school office. (Overstone is a nut free school, please do not include any nuts in your bakes and label any allergen free food).



Ash Class

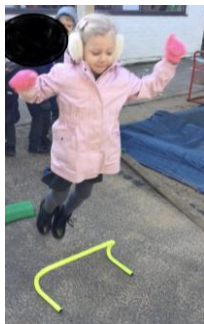
In Reception this month, we have been focusing some of our activities on the season of winter. We have taken a winter walk to look for signs of the season, been creating a winter scene and used hole punches to make snowflakes. We have been investigating the changing of states of some materials, finding places to make ice melt quickly and making jelly melt and set again. In our Understanding of the World learning, we have been thinking about our families and made a family tree to show some of these.



In Literacy, we have been writing our own superhero name and what our super powers are. We have also used the text 'Juniper Jupiter' to plan our own superhero stories. During Maths we have been using balances to weigh objects and finding out the capacity of different containers.



We have also been developing our jumping skills, jumping over objects, playing hopscotch and jumping from a stand and landing with bended knees.



Oak Class



Year 4 have started their swimming lessons this half term and they will continue with their lessons every Friday for 10 weeks. They have been split into groups and are developing their skills in the pool. The class have all been learning techniques to swim different strokes, including back stroke.



Yew Class

Yew class have been studying World War 2 this term. Last lesson we discussed the effects the Blitz had on London. We looked at a photo by Herbert Mason of St Paul's Cathedral standing amongst devastation. We then recreated this picture, using stencilling techniques and various chalks to create the effect of smoke and fire.



Redwood Class

We have done so much this half term! Our Science unit - Earth and Space - has given us the opportunity to learn about so many things, including how day and night work! The photo shows us creating a human sundial. We've also been doing interpretive dance in PE which has been so much fun, and we're currently working on pieces that show climate change. We finally got to use the BBC microbits too, which are like little robots we could programme! Check out the picture of us playing rock, paper, scissors with them - which we coded ourselves!



Forest School

We have been trying to stay warm in Forest School this month. Nursery and Reception made an obstacle course and Year 1 have been on a winter scavenger hunt. Year 2 have made pinecone creatures linking to their story in English, The Bog Baby. Year 3 and Year 4 have been very busy hugging trees, den building and practicing using tools safely. It has been lovely to welcome Year 5 back this half term. They have made 5-minute fires which involved cooking their own marshmallow.



What is coming up in **February**.....

- **Tuesday 6th February** – Parent's evening – 3.30 – 5.30
- **Wednesday 7th February** – Parent's evening – 3.30 – 7.30
- **Thursday 8th February** – 9.00 – Young Voices concert for parents of children taking part
- **Friday 9th February** – INSET day – School will be closed
- **Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February** – Half Term
- **Monday 19th February** – Return to school
- **Wednesday 21st February** – School Nurse in to see Reception and Year 6 for height and weight screening

And finally

On Friday 8th March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Come dressed as a word and surprise us all!

