

OVERSTONE NEWS



Welcome to the spring term. January is a time for new starts and for making resolutions. We all start off with the best of intentions and then often the dedication wanes and we find ourselves back in our old habits. At school we have come back with enthusiasm and my assembly for the first week back was linked to making new year's resolutions, but ones we can keep. This was explained to the children as making a new promise that they should try and keep for the year and the hope is then a new habit is formed.

Our resolutions were linked to our school values or behaviours and the children use the children use these on a daily basis:

Try your hardest

Listen well

Be kind

Show respect

(we explain that showing respect is looking after each other, looking after our things and showing good manners)

The children have been working hard to demonstrate these at all times and are doing a great job.

In order to celebrate our school values we awarded our first Governor awards of the year. At the start of each new term we look back and the children are asked to vote for someone in their class who has consistently demonstrated our school values in everything they do the term before. This sparked some great discussions and lots of children were hopeful of being recognised for this award. I am very pleased to share with you the recipients of our first Governor awards.

Ash - Kaelan

Fir - Poppy

Redwood - Maria

Beech - Teddy

Holly - Honey-Bea

Sycamore - Keeley

Elm - Grace E

Oak - Aubrey

Willow - Alfie

Each of these children received a special golden star badge that they will now wear with pride.

We will all aim to keep the resolutions we have made this January and, although there may be a few slips along the way, I am sure with the support of everyone around us we will succeed which is the message we share with the children.

"Your success and happiness lie in you"

Helen Keller

Mrs K Eales, Head Teacher

Diary Dates

Feb 17 : Class Photos

Feb 21–25 Half Term

News highlights from our classes

Acorn We welcome our Nursery children back, and we say a warm welcome to all our new children who seem to have settled extremely well. Last week the children made a shop and role played being the shop keeper and customer, making prices, money etc. We will also be talking about other people who help us; Police officers, fire fighters, doctors and vets etc.

Ash January has brought with it a range of exciting activities for our class, including cookery and Bike Balancability. The children have been thoroughly enjoying their lessons with the Balancability coaches and have practised monster steps, frog hops and gliding across the hall! We are very impressed with their confidence, listening skills and dexterity on the bikes.

In our cookery sessions to date, the children have made the most delicious (and pungent!) garlic bread, mastering the garlic press, following a recipe and understanding the importance of good hygiene and safe handling of the equipment. In weeks to come, the recipes will become increasingly complex, so parents will have some delicious delicacies to look forward to!

Beech We have been exploring sliding mechanisms in our Design Technology work. We have looked at some examples of these and used what we have learnt to create a driving car and a floating hot air balloon. The different modes of transport link to our History work, in which we have been looking at past and present modes of transport. We have used this learning to create a timeline of fire engines.

Elm In our RE lessons we have been learning about some of the different ways to celebrate New Year. Elm Class learnt about the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah, we had great fun tasting apples and honey which signifies wishing one another 'a sweet new year'. The children also greeted each other with 'shana tova' (meaning Happy New Year) and learnt a couple of songs which helped us to understand more of the fun celebration.

Fir This month, we have been very busy in Fir class, learning about rocks in Science, investigating their properties, testing hardness and permeability. The children have enjoyed their Geography lessons as well, learning about how mountains have been formed, using atlases to find mountain ranges on all the continents and looking closely at mountain ranges in United Kingdom.

Holly Can you believe we are already reporting on what has happened for January, where did that go and, what happened to December and Christmas?. Before moving on with January and as promised at the end of the last newsletter, I did just want to share with you that Holly Class as part of the RE topic last term got to make a Christingle. Rev Howard came and spent time with us helping to make them, told us the meaning behind them and then said a prayer with us all. The children really loved doing this and for some it reminded them of when they had made one when they were a lot younger! January as you can imagine has been very busy. In PE this half term we have been learning Dance with Coach Gemma. The children have shown some really creative moves. We also started swimming within three days of being back at school. The children continue to grow in confidence every week and demonstrate super Overstone Behaviour Values outside of school. We look forward to sharing more news with you next month.

Oak We have had a great start to the year. We have jumped straight back into our learning and are progressing with our times table knowledge and quick recall. In History we have been looking at The Romans and in Science we have been studying states of matter. The children took part in an observation lesson looking at the properties of liquids and solids and then completed an investigation finding out if gasses have a weight.

Redwood Year 5 have been incredibly lucky this half term as we've planned, filmed, and edited our own films. From mysteries to football matches to comedy sketches, we've done it all! Thank you to all at home for helping provide various props and costumes!

Sycamore In PE this term we have been working in groups to perform gymnastic routines. In the first lesson we carried out some trust exercises by getting our partners to help us round an assault course blindfolded. Sycamore class have then been practising their routines which needed to contain certain movements and a spy motif to go with the mission impossible music we are performing to.

Willow We've been dissecting pig's hearts in Science. This was a real hands-on lesson with many comments from the children; Alfie said it was really fun and gory, Lucy said it was quite fun, smelt a little, but learnt a lot. Jasper said he really liked it, because they got to dissect the heart and see inside and it was great fun and Emma said she enjoyed dissecting the heart with the scalpel, she learnt how the heart worked and was interesting to see inside

We have also enjoyed our own version of Dragons Den.

Junior Road Safety Some of our Junior Road Safety Officers have been checking parking and how people drive down Church Street. They will be patrolling every Thursday to make sure everyone is safe.

Forest School Children have really enjoyed making bird food kebabs and suet feeders in the forest and then watching for birds arrive ahead of the Big Garden Bird Watch.