Overstone Combined School, Church Street, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 ONY



Telephone: 01296 688799 www.overstone.eschools.co.uk Email: admin@overstone-wing.org Headteacher: Mrs Kirsty Eales

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the autumn term and begin to wind down for a well-earned break, it's a great time to reflect on the achievements of the year so far. The trees are up, the lights are on, and there have been lots of festivities across the school. These have included four lovely and very well-attended nativity performances, a fun Christmas sing-off, a musical performance from Rock Steady, and Year 6's Carol Service at Wing Church. It has been wonderful to see so many families joining us and to see the children performing with confidence and enthusiasm. These events remind us what a vibrant and joyful school community we are part of.

This term has also marked an important milestone with the completion and opening of The Orchard, our Communication and Interaction (Autism) Unit. We are very proud of this development and grateful to all those involved in making it happen. The Orchard is an important resource for the wider community and reflects our commitment to inclusion and meeting children's differing needs.

As always, there are many people to thank this year. Firstly, we'd like to thank you, our parents and carers, for supporting our school – from coming along to events, to reading with your children, arriving at school on time, to helping to raise funds, it all adds to our community spirit. We would also like to thank our staff for their ongoing dedication, and the children for all the hard work they have put into the year so far. They've had some great opportunities to learn outside the classroom at Forest School and on school trips, discovering rainforests and Celtic living, among other things. These experiences not only expand their learning, but also give the children confidence by allowing them to challenge themselves in different environments, and often result in a calmer and more focused time once back in the classroom.

Our brilliant PTFA deserve a huge thank you for their continued hard work and support, particularly for organising a very successful and enjoyable Christmas Fair. Events like this play an important role in supporting the school and building our community. They are still very much in need of more hands to make light work, though, so please do get in touch if you can help out: pta@overstone-wing.org

As Governors, we love to watch the children in their special events, but we also pop into school from time to time to see how things are going and to support the leadership team in their roles. As well as attending formal meetings, we've visited The Orchard, met teachers, and participated in a Local Authority review to support our disadvantaged children. All of these experiences allow us to build a picture of the school, including areas to focus on and things to celebrate. We continue to work closely with leaders on the areas identified in Ofsted's next steps, including refining the curriculum, strengthening learning for all pupils, and understanding and supporting our disadvantaged groups, ensuring that every child is given the opportunity to succeed.

We appreciate the way our school community continues to live our values of **Kindness, Respect, Effort** and **Listening**. And this is also a good time of year to think about how we can extend those values beyond the school gates and into the wider community. Whether it's a donation to Wing Food Bank at the Church or just a hello to someone in the street, all acts of kindness go a long way.

We wish you all a restful Christmas break and look forward to the year ahead.

Kind regards, The Governing Board

KINDNESS RESPECT EFFORT LISTEN