

# OVERSTONE NEWS



**Welcome** back to school! The start of term has begun well and it has been great to have all the children back after the summer. We welcome all our new families to Overstone and hope that you and your children will be very happy here.

The children have embraced their learning well and I have already seen some excellent examples of work in children's books. It is great being able to go in and out of classrooms seeing the children asking questions and being eager to learn. I was especially intrigued by lots of giggles from Year 4 last week, during their Science lesson, when they explained that they were carrying out an exciting and rather messy investigation to see how the small intestine works. This enabled them to see what happens when food enters the mouth to the waste leaving the body. I don't think I have ever seen children so excited about toilet habits before!

This term we will be focusing on our school values of:

**Be kind Show good listening Try your hardest Show respect**

These are the expectations we have of everyone at school and we link as much of our learning and behaviour to these values as possible. During our weekly assemblies these themes are followed and celebrated at every opportunity. It is lovely when the children reflect on their week and use this language when they talk about what they are doing.

As we are able to return to some form of normality in school this term we are beginning to put dates in the diary for events where we would like to invite parents to join us. Over the course of the year each year group will lead one of our school events, such as Harvest or a performance, and we will invite the parents of that year group to join with the children for that celebration. We do hope you will be able to join us for that occasion as it will be lovely to see you.

I am pleased to say that I have been able to share several bags of food and toys from our donated stock which have gone to families and friends in our communities. There are still a good number of items in my office so please do tell us if you, or someone you know, would benefit from these donations and we will be more than happy to pass on a bag or two.

As always, if you have any questions or worries then please speak to me at the gate or any other member of the Senior Leadership Team as we are always happy to help.

Mrs K. Eales

Headteacher



## News from our classes

**Acorn** We are so pleased to see all the children have settled in well and are happy. They have been learning about themselves, looking at similarities and differences and talking about families and pets. We have been discussing our feelings and emotions and what makes us happy and sad. We have named our big teddy Big Buddy! He loves cuddles and stories.

**Ash** September has been a busy and exciting month for us in Ash Class as children have taken their first steps into school. We have been exploring our indoor and outdoor environment, learning new routines and making friends. One day, we even found an enormous hole in our playground! We wondered if it had been made by someone stomping on the ground or if an animal had dug it to make a home. Perhaps a mole or a badger lives in there? We will keep you updated...

**Beech** We have been settling into our new classroom. We have enjoyed learning about old toys and using the book *Major Glad, Major Dizzy* in Literacy. In Maths we have started to look at one more and one less. We have also identified technology in the classroom and talked about computer safety.

**Elm** We have been learning about being a good friend in PHSE lessons. Our top tips for being a good friend are: have fun, play together, smile and dance together and say friendly things.

**Fir** We have been very busy studying our book 'The Iron Man' in English using dictionaries to find synonyms to help evaluate our writing. We are preparing for our own creative narrative writing by using interesting language like personification and kennings (two-word phrases that replace a one word noun e.g. a small-squeaker = mouse). We have shown great enthusiasm in learning French and enjoyed making conversation with our talking partners.

**Holly** have enjoyed the PSHE lesson on self-worth and finding out what others felt about them. This was a super positive experience for them realising what their peers thought about them. We too in Holly Class have written some super work in English, "The silvery, gold moon sparkled over the gleaming blue ocean. Each and every plank of wood collapsed on the sandy desert island." We are looking forward to making Mediterranean inspired dishes in DT later on this half term.

**Oak** We are really pleased with the progress they have been making in English and improving their sentence structure and looking at using much more adventurous vocabulary. An example of such super writing is "This morning, the children happily fixed their old boat and now it is very secure." Forest School has been a super regular addition to our timetable and they have enjoyed their experience down there so far and are doing activities related to our topic The Anglo Saxons.

**Redwood** We have had a full first few weeks back; In English we have been learning all about Apollo 11 and the first man on the Moon. In Maths we've looked at rounding all the way up to the nearest 10,000! We've loved singing 'Living on a prayer' in Music and looking at a real Quran in RE. We've learnt some new games as well as remembered Tag Rugby in PE. We can hold a conversation in French about our families and in Computing we are learning how systems and networks work. In History we're exploring how people were punished for committing crimes in different time periods.

**Sycamore** In class the children have all settled well and are all working together as a class. Last Wednesday we visited the local church allowing the children to enquire about Christian Saints and we even investigated the crypt! At the school children's fete Year 6 were working on stalls and helping the nursery and reception children around the fete.

**Willow** We have been enjoying learning about habitats. In Science we've carried out investigations using sweets, using a classification key to sort the different types. We've been learning how to write a diary in English and understanding what emotive language is using drama. In Geography we have been using Google maps and Ordnance Survey maps to find out about where we live.

## Around the school

**House Captains** A big congratulations must go to our elected house captains Sepe for Mentmore, Zidane for Rothschild, Annabelle for Waddesdon and Anand for Ascott. Their speeches were great and we even had a great rap by Anand to tell us why he should be Ascott's house captain!

**Sports Captains** have also been elected and we are sure they will enjoy getting involved with the organising of inter-house competitions and encouraging their teams. Congratulation to Roy, Preston, Dexter and Taylor. Ascott—Roy, Mentmore—Preston, Rothchild—Dexter and Waddesdon—Taylor.

**Forest School** The children have been enjoying their time in the forest with many topic and skills based activities across the classes including compass and map work, land art, den making, tie-dye and fire skills.

**School Council** We are pleased to announce that the School Council is back and we have already had our first meeting. The children had some fantastic ideas that they wish to try and achieve in their first term of office, so watch this space! They have enjoyed their first boardroom lunch together. Mrs Clarke said "It was lovely to take on the School Council responsibility. Being new to the school it will give me a great opportunity to get to know the children across the school".

**Covid Reminder** Please can we remind you that although school is very nearly back to normal you must get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test as soon as possible for your child if they have covid symptoms. A lateral flow test is intended for people without symptoms. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>