

OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER

February 2025



Welcome to our February newsletter. Owing to the shorter month, and the half term, we wanted to bring you up to date on a few developments across the school rather than sharing information class by class. Don't worry though, the newsletter will be back to normal next month.

Young Voices

On Friday 31st January, 26 of our children ranging from Year 3 to Year 6 had the most incredible night, performing with thousands of other children performing at the Young Voices concert, at BP Pulse LIVE in Birmingham. Young Voices is the largest children's choir in the world and is an amazing opportunity for children to experience live music. For that one night, they become part of a united choir, singing and dancing together as well as listening to world class singers and watching award winning dancers. The Young Voices mission is a simple one: to ignite a love for music, empower children to discover their voices, and build their confidence.

The day begun at 10.30 when we made our way on the coach to Birmingham. After a quick lunch break on arrival, the three-hour long rehearsal started. From the minute our conductor came on stage, the children were enthralled. We warmed up our bodies and voices and then went straight into the first song. It wasn't long before we were introduced to all the singers and dancers on stage and they helped the children throughout the rehearsal, leading them all and encouraging them to sing out. When MC Grammar appeared, he caused a huge stir from all the schools! MC Grammar is the star of Sky Kid's Wonder Raps and World Book Day Ambassador. His enthusiasm and passion for what he does shone from the tips of his gold shoes to the top of his gold chain, and this was equally matched by the eagerness and excitement from all the children. He is somewhat of a celebrity in all our eyes!

Once the rehearsal was over, it was time for dinner. There was a sense of nervous anticipation but most of all excitement from the children. We were back in our seats at 6.00 and it was almost time for the performance to start....

At 7.00 the lights went out and the Young Voices torches turned on. The atmosphere was electric. Every song from Birdhouse in Your Soul to the Pop Medley was sung with pure enjoyment. The children sang, danced and beamed from beginning to end. The day will be remembered by all the children as a day of musical wonder and joy. One young person summed up everyone's feelings at the end of performance by saying: "This was the best night of my life!"



ASD Unit

Our plans for the ASD Unit have been progressing well and all the consultations are now complete. Thank you for completing the consultation documents and for sharing your comments with the Local Authority. The cabinet member has signed off the project so we can now move to the next stage. The architects have been showing round potential contractors to do the build and refurbishments in the main school and we hope to have a start date for the building work to commence shortly.

Before half term we advertised the role of Lead Teacher for the unit and I am pleased to share that we have appointed someone for this role. Mrs Blake has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to working with children with ASD, having worked in both mainstream and specialist provision, and having led the ASD provision at Booker Park Special School for a number of years prior to the job she is doing now. She will be joining the school after Easter.

Mrs Roberts will be extending her hours after Easter and will then be at Overstone full time. She will have overall responsibility for the unit and will be responsible for the statutory part such as admissions, annual reviews and EHCP monitoring. Mrs Blake will then be responsible for the everyday decisions, the teaching and learning and the curriculum.

We have spent some time considering what the Unit will be called and how it will fit into the ethos of the school. It will be named The Orchard, with the 2 classes being named as Apple Class and Cherry Class. We would now like to name the other 3 school buildings with a connection to groups of trees or nature spaces that will enhance our outdoor theme. If you have any suggestions then please do share them with us over the next few weeks.

School Library

Just a reminder that the school library is open on a Wednesday afternoon from 3.15 – 3.45pm. All families are welcome to visit and the children can change their books. It is also a great place for your child to read to you and for you to sign their reading record as part of the Read Every Day challenge.



Football

Match report from Polly L and Hollie B:

On Thursday 13th February 2025, we played Cheddington at home. It was a home game and we were in the semi-final. The girls at Cheddington were extremely good and unfortunately, we lost 2 – 0.

Poppy L was striker for the first half and then we swapped in the second half to Darcy. We made several shots and we used all our tactics from training.

We think we were amazing and are looking forward to our next match!



What is coming up in March.....

- **3rd March** – Y5 trip to The Space Centre
- **5th March** – Football team – double fixture - at school
- **6th March** – Cross Country trials for Y 3-6 at lunch time
- **7th March** – World Book Day – Dress as a word
- **15th March** – Cross Country event at Ascott House – more information to follow
- **25th March** – Girls football fixture away at Edlesborough – more information to follow

And finally....

Don't forget World Book Day



When: Friday 7th March

Where: At school

How: Dress up as a word