

# OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER



December 2024

Welcome to our December newsletter. The children have been amazing with their attitude to learning this month. Even with the festivities creeping ever closer, the focus has been on learning.

What we have been up to in December.....

## Ash Class

In Reception, we have been exploring the composition of four and five to begin to recall these from memory. There has also been a lot of combining of shapes to make new shapes within our creative work. In PE, we have practised rolling a ball and using this technique to hit a target. Our home corner has changed to reflect all the special occasions we have been learning about throughout the term and as we have got nearer to Christmas, we have been designing and making our own decorations.



## Redwood Class



We've had a great half term in Year 5, learning about reversible changes in Science, the Alps in Geography, creating music in Computing, and talking about the planets in French! But we're currently absolutely loving bridge-building in DT!

We've learned about some different types and have had so much fun figuring out how to strength our bridges to hold the maximum weight - one of our bridges made from card held 7.5kg! Here's some pictures of us making truss bridges from spaghetti!



Who knew that making bridges would be so much fun! Well done Redwood class for some excellent work.

### Yew Class

Year 6 have designed and created their own playground structures in Design Technology. They have learnt how to plan and design, measure accurately, cut wood safely, bond materials and be creative! Here are some examples of our budding engineers carrying out the task.



### Beech Class

In Year 1, December has been a particularly busy month. The children have enjoyed learning about maps in Geography, creating their own maps of the playground. They had a look at our playground features and have decided which features they like and which features they would change. They also had an opportunity to look at an OS map of Milton Keynes and surrounding areas including Wing.



In Science, the children have tested materials based on their property of toughness and predicted which materials are tough and which were not.



### Inter House Sing Off

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December the children all took part in the Inter-House Sing Off. Each house chose a Christmas song and practised together in order to put on a performance of a lifetime! The judges were very impressed with the quality of the singing, the props and the performances themselves.

As always, there can only be one winner, and Mentmore House was crowned the 2024 winner!



### Oak Class

This half term, Year 4 have been studying electricity in Science. They have made circuits and are able to problem solve when a circuit is not working. They have experimented and have also discussed safety around electricity both in school and at home. The children have learned a lot during this time and can clearly describe a range of electrical components and their use within a circuit.



### Acorn Class

Our friends in Pre-School have really enjoyed making lots of things over the last couple of weeks for Christmas. We have made Christmas cards, Snowmen, Reindeer tree decorations, Snowmen baubles and lots of other decorations.



We wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and wishing you a healthy new year.

### Fir Class

As part of our history learning this term, Year 3 learnt about changes in Britain from the Stone Age to Iron Age. Attending Celtic Harmony in Hertfordshire for the day, gave the children an insight on how tough life was during this period.

In the trading activity, the children had a unique opportunity to trade and role-play using real Artefacts as Farmers, Hunters, Miners etc. and exchange goods of different values using numeracy skills. It was great fun, we witnessed who would become budding entrepreneurs and may even be the next 'BBC Apprentice.'

Fun in the forest, building their very own dens, meant the children worked together to become gatherers to source suitable timber to build their own woodland shelter. They had to make sure it was stable and weather proof!

We had a great day out, learning even more out this time in history.



### Elm Class

Year 2 have had a very busy few weeks learning their songs and parts for the nativity. They did a wonderful job and we are so proud of them all! Alongside the preparation for that, they have also been working very hard in the classroom - making chairs for baby bear and moving monsters in D&T. They became botanists in Science and discovered the joys of plants and they have become marvellous mathematicians, learning about the different properties of shapes. Well done to everyone. What a fantastic end to the term!



## Attendance for December

Please help us by making sure your child is in school every day and they are here by 8.45am.



Ash Class = 88.7%

Beech Class = 91.3%

Elm Class = 90.6%

Fir Class = 93.1%

Oak Class = 87.0%

Redwood Class = 84.1%

Yew Class = 92.9%

## Forest School

In Forest School this month, all classes have been making Christmas decorations. These have included hanging decorations, masterpieces made from clay and wooden decorations made using saws. Pre-School also made a big tree on the forest floor and decorated it with ivy and little red bells. We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas from Forest School.



## Nativities



Our youngest children wowed us all with their super Nativity performances. The children learnt their lines, sang their songs and acted like professionals. It was super to see them all joining in and putting on a show. Thank you to all the children and to the staff too for their hard work.

## Overstone Choir



The choir did a wonderful job representing the school at The Cottesloe School Christmas Concert. They shared some of the performance in assembly today and it was amazing. Thank you, Choir.

### Governor award

At the end of each term a child in each class is nominated to receive a governor's award. This award is given to a child who has continually shown our school values of good listening, trying their hardest, being kind and showing respect. The children chosen are given a gold star to wear on their jumper and receive a letter from the Chair of Governors, congratulating them on their achievement. The awards for this term were presented in assembly and we congratulate all the children who have received this award.



### Christmas Lunch

During the last week of term, the children all enjoyed our Christmas lunch. 148 children chose the roast dinner option from HCL and those who had packed lunches enjoyed treats from home. The children pulled their crackers, wore their hats and shared their jokes. It was lovely to see them all enjoying this social time together. Thanks go to the HCL staff for managing to serve everything so efficiently and to Mrs Buckingham-Brown for co-ordinating everything.



### Year 6 Carol Service



On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, Year 6 took part in the annual Carol Service, shared with their families. The children told the story of Christmas interspersed with beautiful carols. They also shared Christmas traditions from other countries. Their performance was very well received and reflected the true meaning of Christmas.

### Staff Pantomime

The staff entertained the whole school with our very exciting version of Cinderella. There was great hilarity at the costumes, the jokes and the ugly sisters! The children were an excellent audience and a good time was had by all, 'Oh yes it was!'



We would like to thank Mrs Shardlow, who has been working in Year 2, for all her hard work. Mrs Shardlow stepped in to work as a TA in the class whilst we were going through the process of recruiting Miss Crampton and we are grateful for her time and expertise during her brief time with us. We wish Mrs Shardlow every success for the future.

What is coming up in January .....

- **6<sup>th</sup> January** – Term starts
- **6<sup>th</sup> January** – Open Classroom – 3.15pm – 3.45pm
- **22<sup>nd</sup> January** – Year 2 trip to The De Havilland Museum
- **28<sup>th</sup> January** – Knife Crime workshops for Year 5 & Year 6 – more information to follow
- **29 January** – 8.45 – Headteacher Half Hour – The focus will be Communication
- **31<sup>st</sup> January** – Young Voices concert

And finally....

