



## Happy New Year!

We hope that you and your families had an enjoyable and restful Christmas. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and to hear all of their news. We would like to invite you to share any photos of future celebrations or traditions within your family, so that the children can see that special times can be celebrated in different ways.

As the children have settled so beautifully into the routines of school life, we will be introducing some new activities into our curriculum to broaden their experiences further. This will include cookery sessions, P.E. lessons and visits around the local area.

### Physical Development

This term, we will be having P.E. lessons twice a week, on a Monday and Tuesday morning. At first, we be taking part in 'Bike Balancability' during these sessions, which will be led by a coach from Balancability. In the second half term, the children will have the opportunity to develop and refine their gross motor skills such as jumping and landing, balancing and ball skills. This will then in turn support strengthening their fine motor skills needed for writing. It would be really helpful if your child is able to change into their P.E. kit as independently as possible, so please encourage them to dress and undress themselves at home.

### Communication and Language

The children will be encouraged to share and communicate their experiences with their friends and adults in the class. This allows the children the opportunity to recognise how special they are as individuals and encourages them to develop their friendships within the class. We have been taking part in activities to develop our awareness of others, turn-taking and listening. We do this in a number of ways for example through games, discussions, and circle times.

### Literacy

This term, we will be focusing on consolidating the children's skills in the early stages of reading and writing. The children will continue to experience a range of texts in order to encourage a love of books and reading throughout their lives. Our focus books will be *Juniper Jupiter* and *Little Red*. We will encourage them to use vocabulary linked to the different parts of stories, such as *Once upon a time*, *Suddenly*, *At last*, *Finally*. We will continue to teach Phonics in daily Read Write Inc sessions, developing oral blending and word reading and introducing Guided Reading sessions. The children will also be taught to form all of the letters of the alphabet correctly. We will upload guidance for letter formation onto Class Dojo so that you can support your child with this at home.

### Mathematics

This term will focus on consolidating the children's knowledge of numbers up to 5 and introducing numbers up to 10. We want to ensure that the children develop a secure understanding of the value of numbers so that they are able to manipulate them confidently when starting to use them for calculations later in the term. We will also be exploring size and mass, including looking at which objects are heavier/heaviest or lighter/lightest by estimating and weighing them. Other topics that will be covered include length, height and time.

### The Natural World

We will be taking advantage of the freezing weather and exploring the changes that are happening in the environment, especially how ice is formed. This will then lead to looking at other changes in materials such as melting butter by applying heat in our cookery sessions.

In [Forest School](#), we will be observing our Ash tree as the seasons change as well as the birds in the local area. We will make bird feeders to encourage more of them to visit us.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

We will encourage the children to access a variety of resources which they can then use to model, paint and create collages. We will provide opportunities for the children to use their imagination in role-play and using a variety of small world toys. They will also have the opportunity to explore the sounds of different musical instruments and learn new songs and rhymes. Each week, we will be focusing on a particular skill, such as cutting or joining materials, to enable them to be even more ambitious when being creative.

### **Cookery**

We are delighted to begin our cookery sessions this term. These will support all areas of learning, including Maths, Literacy and Communication and Language. Cookery is also an excellent way to inspire the Characteristics of Effective Learning as children explore ingredients, focus on following instructions and adapt recipes to create a desired effect. Each child will have the opportunity to cook a variety of recipes in a small group every fortnight. They will then be able to take their delicious delicacies home! We will be asking for a contribution of £2 per term in order to cover the cost of ingredients. Further information will be sent home in a letter this week, before sessions start on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **Homework**

In order to support and consolidate your child's learning this term, we would like you to:

**Read** – Please share lots of different storybooks with your child on a daily basis for about 10 minutes. Your child will also bring home a library book for you to share together. These books will need to be in school on a Thursday as this is when we will visit the Library to change them. As children develop their phonic and word blending skills, we will start to send home books linked to their phonic knowledge. Please ensure that your child brings their book-bag to school every day.

**Phonics** – Please check your messages on Class Dojo regularly as Phonics activities tailored to your child will be sent to you, rather than being posted on the class story. We really appreciate your support with completing these activities with your children as this will have a fantastic impact on their reading and writing journey.

**Maths** – At home, please support your child by encouraging them to sort objects according to their length or weight, using the vocabulary heavier/heaviest, lighter/lightest, longer/longest, shorter/shortest. You could also challenge your child to see how many jumps/laps of the garden/socks they can put on in 1,5 or 10 minutes, to help them to gain a sense of time. This could be recorded by drawing a line for each one completed.

**Website and Newsletter** – <http://www.overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk>

Remember to check the 'Latest News' on the school website to keep up to date with what is happening. The school newsletter will come out on the last Friday of the month and will celebrate what we have been up to and will tell you what is coming up in the next month. This will be sent to you via ParentMail.

### **Behaviour & Rewards**

**Dojo points** – These are given to children demonstrating the school values, e.g. sharing a good piece of work or demonstrating good manners. The children will receive certificates to mark 50-point milestones in the celebration assembly.

**Sharing outside achievements** – children will be able to share achievements from outside school in celebration assembly, e.g. swimming badges.

**Weekly certificate** – one child in each class will receive a values certificate in celebration assembly for showing the school values.

**Governor award** – Termly the class will hold a secret vote for one person in their class who they feel has consistently demonstrated the school values. These children will be presented with a Governor badge to be worn on their uniform.

**Headteacher postcard** – these are awarded to children when they are sent to the headteacher for demonstrating good behaviour, completing good work and for clear evidence of showing the school values.

### **Equipment**

Please send your child in each day with a clear named drinks bottle filled with water which can be refilled throughout the day, a warm, waterproof coat which is clearly named, and their book bag. Thank you!