

OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER



January 2025

Welcome to our January newsletter. Everyone has battled through the cold weather, as well as the coughs and colds, and January at school has been very busy. The children returned after the winter break with enthusiasm and have tackled their learning with renewed vigor.

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

Beech Class

In Year 1, we have had a lot of fun, learning about dynamics in Music, creating a variety of sea sounds with our bodies and voices.



We have discussed our favourite toys in History and created a timeline together.



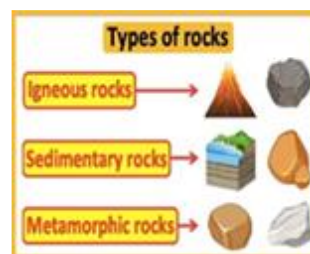
In Computing, we have learned about text processing software and wrote a list of materials for our rocket.



It has been a busy month in Year 1!

Fir Class

In science, the children have been looking at rocks and soil. They became Geologists for the afternoon, looking at specimens and researching how rocks were formed.



The children found out some amazing facts, did you know that:

- Igneous rocks were formed from melted rock deep inside the Earth.
- Sedimentary rocks were formed from layers of sand, silt, dead plants and animal skeletons.
- Metamorphic rocks formed from other rocks that are changed by heat and pressure underground.



Ash Class

To begin this term, we have been thinking about Winter. We have been talking about the changes the season brings and finding them around the school. To link with this topic, along with the recent snow, we have also been practising a range of skills including cutting, threading and mark making.



During this term we have also been practising our writing, trying hard to write a shared sentence independently.



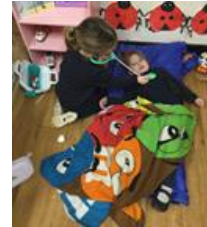
Redwood Class

So far this half term, our favourite topic seems to be the Ancient Greeks in History. We have created timelines to see what different eras happened around the same time, researched and created profiles of some of the gods and goddesses, and even had a debate to support our understanding of Athenian democracy!



Acorn Class

There has been lots going on in Pre-School this month. We have been talking about, and become, doctors and nurses. We have been looking after babies and learning all the names of the equipment doctors and nurses use e.g. thermometer, stethoscope etc.



We have used our large gross motor skills to balance along the bench as well as climb over and under PE equipment. The children enjoyed balancing cones on their heads and using the egg and spoons.



Elm Class

Year 2 have been working hard in Music since returning after the holidays. They have been learning how to sing different songs from around the British Isles including Lavender Blue and My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean. They have been using their voices to mimic different sounds from around the countryside and the city and have worked on changing the pitch of their voices successfully. They have also begun to learn about different materials in Science and discovering that different objects are made from different materials to suit their uses.



Yew Class

In Yew class this week, the children have been working in groups to compose a piece of music using a range of instruments. The groups were also asked to record their piece using a graphic score. They then had to swap groups and see whether another group were able to perform their piece from what they had recorded. Here is a picture of Ava doing a superb job of conducting her group.



Oak Class



Year 4 have been enjoying their PE lessons with our S4A coaches this half term. The children have started a dance unit and handball with Mr. H which they are really enjoying. They have also been working on their passing and shooting skills within this sport and have made great progress so far.



Forest School

In forest school this month Year 4 have shown fabulous perseverance skills whilst building their own 5-minute fire in order to cook a marshmallow. They have also been busy practicing their knot skills. Year 3 have been learning why trees have bark and identifying evergreen and deciduous trees. Year 2 looked for winter treasure and have been building some amazing dens. Year 1 have been on a hunt for signs of winter and created a winter journey stick. Reception have been practicing their counting by seeing how many evergreen trees and bushes they could find. They have also made an obstacle course practicing their balancing skills. Pre-School have been exploring ice and having a go at building dens. What a lot of fun we have had in forest school this month.



Attendance for January

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



Ash Class = 91.9%

Beech Class = 92.7%

Elm Class = 93.7%

Fir Class = 93.6%

Oak Class = 90.2%

Redwood Class = 94.5%

Yew Class = 93.8%

What is coming up in February

- **6th February** – 3.15 – Year 5 Art Exhibition – Everyone welcome
- **10th February** – PTA Valentine Bake Sale
- **12th & 13th February** – Parent’s Evenings
- **14th February** – Inset day
- **24th February** – Term starts

And finally....



It was lovely to welcome Leah into school to join Year 1 today. Leah is a guide dog who supports Nadia, who is visually impaired. They were accompanied by Marylyn, from the Guide Dogs Association and came into school to talk about the work the Guide Dogs Association does and how dogs such as Leah can help their owners. Leah was beautiful and was quite content to sit and listen as Year 1 learnt about how important her role is.

Well done, Year 1, for showing our school values of listening and showing respect during this exciting lesson.

