

OVERSTONE NEWSLETTER

October 2023



Welcome to our October newsletter. There has been a lot going on during this part of the half term and the children have been very busy.

Oak Class

Year 4 have had an amazing half term learning about healthy eating and performing in our Harvest Celebration at the church. The children created poems and learned bible scriptures relating to harvest and being thankful which we really enjoyed sharing with our families.



We have looked at the benefits of a healthy and balanced diet and planned meals that include the different food groups.



Beech Class

In History the children have been very busy learning about toys in the past and present and the differences between their houses and their grandparents' houses. They had a lovely time working together to design and create their own houses.



Acorn Class

We have been talking about our bodies, our families, where we live and who we live with. We've also been looking at our facial features and learning about our emotions. We have enjoyed growing Pumpkins and going on Autumnal walks to collect conkers.



We have also been discussing our pets, which has led us to talk about animals. We were all very excited to see and touch some real animals during the Ark Farm visit!

Ash Class

During our first half term in Reception, the children have been very busy exploring the classroom, becoming familiar with our routines and taking part in many learning activities. We have started our daily phonics and in Literacy we have been planning our own stories and retelling them to the class.

In Maths, we have been looking at matching and sorting materials.



Our topic this half term is Animals so we have been painting our favorite animals and creating rock pets.



Yew Class

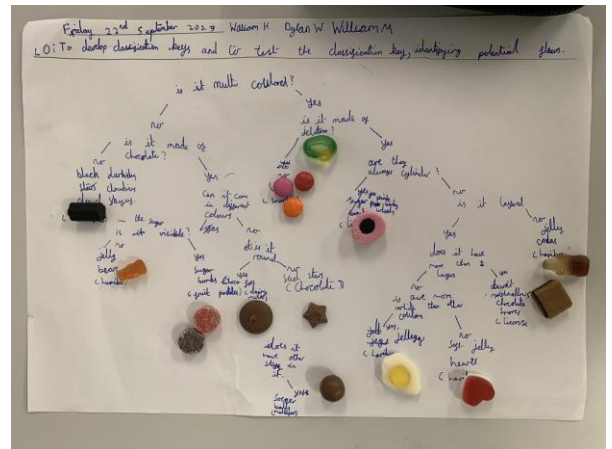
In Geography, Year 6 have been studying where in the world we are. We then created some maps of the local area. We compared our maps to that of the Alps finding key features. After finding Mont Blanc on the map we then looked at a 3D model which helped us to create our own clay model of Mont Blanc trying to copy the features as closely as possible. Here's Teddy's fantastic model!



Willow Class

Willow Class have had a great start to this academic year and have shown a brilliant attitude to learning.

In our Science lessons, one of our favourite activities was using sweets to help us understand classification keys and we realised quite how complex these can be and what a big undertaking Carl Linnaeus must have had when he was classifying plants and animals back in 1736. Of course, getting to eat some of the sweets at the end was a good reward for our hard work.



We have also enjoyed using Google Maps to explore our local area and to help us create our own maps of our school. It has also been interesting to use Google Maps to explore the Alps and the children have become adept at spotting glaciers in the mountainous areas.

Elm Class

Year 2 have been extremely busy this half-term! We have had lots of practical lessons in History and the children have really enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. They recently used Venn diagrams to compare Florence and Mary and are now very excited for their upcoming trip to Claydon House!



In RE we discussed what the world would be like with no leaders. No one to help us, no Police Officers, no teachers, no adults at home! We thought of different scenarios and did some role-playing and talked about how we would feel.

In Maths, we have been learning to count up in 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's. The class loved working practically to help with their learning!



Fir Class

The children enjoyed their first educational visit experience of the school year at Tring Museum where they explored the exhibits, along with the outdoor environment, and then undertook a workshop. The workshop was all about animal skeletons and how to identify animals by the structure of their bones. The Museum Education Officer gave them a variety of challenges to look carefully at the bone structures of beaks to determine which birds they belong to and different leg joints to decide whether the animal is a quick springy mover or a slower careful mover.



Redwood Class



In the first half term of Year 5, we've been very busy! We've learned about crime and punishment through the ages, how computers transfer data, what identity means to us, learned an awesome rock song, and have designed our own multimedia art pieces! Check out our prints here which we created using a variety of different techniques and tools. When the paint is dry, we will begin sewing on extra designs to make our pieces really 'pop'!



Forest School

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to forest school this half term. We have been so busy as the children have been foraging for apples and blueberries which we used to make crumble, learning about different animals preparing for hibernation and creating acorn people. The children in Year 1 used a saw for the first time and they followed safety instructions fabulously. Some of the younger children also went on an Autumn leaf identification walk and we discovered that we have lots of different types of trees at Overstone.



Year 6 Responsibilities

It has been wonderful to see some of our Year 6 children take on a variety of roles across the school.

<p><u>Gardening team – led by Mr Bradman</u> Elissa Alice H Grace William M James Maisie Aimee - chair</p>	<p>The children will learn about the environment, sustainability and insects and how they have an impact on the development of plants and vegetables. They will aim to tidy up areas within our school, some are keen gardeners at home, so watch this space!</p>
<p><u>Eco-warriors – led by Miss Mitchener</u> Alice G Katie Annie Tabatha Lois - chair</p>	<p>Our Eco Warriors will care about our school, looking at the community around us and the current environmental issues within the world. They will understand why it is important to look after our school environment.</p>
<p><u>House captains – led by Mrs Willett</u> Ascot house – Guri & Ariana Mentmore – Aubrey & William M Waddesdon – Benji & Annie Rothschild – Logan & Alice G</p>	<p>Our house captains are involved in the day to day business of the school. They will have the opportunity to lead assemblies within their houses, offering competitions, for example, writing, art, music or maths etc., plus helping with whole school events.</p>
<p><u>Sports captain – led by Mr Winyard</u> Ascot house – Rose & Oliver Mentmore - Teddy W & Aidan D Waddesdon – Dylan & Tabatha Rothchild – Hattie & India</p>	<p>Our Sports Captains will encourage all pupils to participate positively in gaining points for their houses. They will organise and run intra-school tournaments (refereeing, set up and tidy up, looking after your houses etc). They will help out at Sports Days and will think about setting up and running lunch time sports clubs with support from the S4A coach.</p>
<p><u>School councillors – led by Mrs Bendall</u> Ed M Katie Aimee India - secretary Olivia - chair</p>	<p>Overtone's school council will be run by Year 6 with members from other year groups. They will act as representatives of their peers in discussing school issues with Mrs Eales and staff. It is a great way of representing and contributing to pupil voice within our school.</p>

Goodbye! & THANK YOU

At the start of October, we said goodbye to Mrs Graves, our office administrator. Mrs Graves had worked at the school for the last 8 years and before that was a volunteer. We really appreciated all her knowledge, along with the kindness she showed everyone, and we wish her well for the future. Mrs Hamper has kindly stepped in to help us out in the interim and we have made a permanent appointment going forward. Mrs Buckingham-Brown will be joining Overstone after half term and will be the person who greets you in the office and at the end of the phone. I know you will all welcome her to the school and we look forward to her being part of the staff.

Black History Month

As you know, October is the UK's Black history Month and is celebrated in many ways across the country and in schools. The theme for this year is 'Celebrating our Sisters' and we have followed this theme in school too. Our classes have chosen some inspirational black women who have had an impact on others, including Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Michelle Obama, Nicola Adams, Simone Biles and many more. Our Early Years classes looked at the Notting Hill Carnival and its history, ending the week with their own carnival party! The older year groups have written poems about their chosen sister and some classes created artwork and some cooked different dishes.



When we come back to school after half term please remember the children need to be dressed in winter uniform.

Pre-School

Winter uniform – October half term until Easter

- Navy polo shirt
- Navy jumper/cardigan
- Navy jogging bottoms
- Comfortable shoes
- Waterproofs
- Wellingtons for outdoors

Reception – Year 6

Winter uniform – October half term until Easter

- Black shoes (not trainers)
- Grey or white socks (either long or short but no trainer socks)
- Grey tights
- Grey trousers - traditional tailored school style, no jersey or legging material, no cargo pockets
- Grey skirts/Pinafores
- Navy polo shirt – Reception – Year 5
- White shirt and tie - Year 6 only – tie available to buy from the school office priced at £5.00 for a knotted tie or £6.00 for a clip-on tie
- Navy blue V-neck jumper or cardigan with logo

And finally

HAVE A WONDERFUL HALF TERM