



## Overstone Combined School

Newsletter 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019

I would like to thank all staff, parents, pupils and governors for their support in the past week. Many staff went above and beyond what could have been expected of them and showed their real commitment to the pupils in the school. I apologise that this newsletter is later than planned, due to all the events which have occurred this week.

Following feedback from parents, we have re-designed the newsletter slightly, so that it is easier to find information relevant to your family. Information will be in colour- coded boxes:

Whole School : blue

KS1: green

Early Years: purple

KS2: yellow

These newsletters will continue to be issued every fortnight, with 'bits and pieces' on the alternate weeks.

Mrs Mercer, Interim Headteacher

### **Message from the Governing Board**

As you may know the school was inspected by OFSTED this week. We can't provide any update on the outcome of the inspection, until the formal report is issued in a few weeks' time. We would though, like to take this opportunity to thank parents and children for their comments to the Inspectors, very many of which underlined the hard work that has taken place this term.

On the subject of hard work we would like to express our deepest thanks to all staff at the school; not only did many work well beyond the hours that they are required to this week, but several also showed dedication and commitment to ensuring that the inspection was a success, despite feeling very unwell. We are extremely pleased and proud, thank you.

This dedication and commitment has not only been shown for the past few days, but also during the school summer holidays and throughout this term; without the work done by Mrs Mercer and her team, the school would not be as good as it now is.

Mrs Mercer has taken on the challenge of Acting Headteacher, in the absence of Mr Bowskill, with drive, determination and enthusiasm, likewise Mrs Bendall as Acting Deputy Headteacher. Mr Bowskill will not be returning to the school and we thank him for his time at the school. Mrs Mercer will continue as Interim Headteacher, with the support of Mrs Bendall in her Acting role, whilst we plan for the future.

We hope that you will join us in continuing to support Mrs Mercer, her team and the school, in building on the work already done; the school is a wonderful asset within our community and we will work hard as a Governing Board, to ensure that it continues to be a great foundation to every child's education.

The Governing Board of Overstone Combined School.

Thank you to everybody who supported our amazing fireworks event. A special thank you to those who volunteered, including the PTA, the "firing squad", the stewards, those on stalls and many of our school staff. The community came together for a wonderful event and we got many positive comments from people who had visited just for the evening. The profit from the event was an amazing £2094!

Our day for Children In Need was a wonderful success. Many children (and adults!) wore their pyjamas for the day, in exchange for a contribution to the charity. We also took part in 'buddy's big workout', where all of the children in the hall participated in a 20 minute workout, led by Joe Wicks. Total raised to be confirmed.



Thank you to everyone who supported our Go Green for MacMillan day. It was a wonderful success and between ourselves and Cottesloe we raised over £520! Our Macmillan Coffee Morning also raised over £150!

### Lunch Times

Mr Winyard, our sports co-ordinator, has been thinking about how we can provide more opportunities for children on the playground. We have invested in equipment, which all of the children will be able to use in designated areas of the playground. Hopefully you will hear lots about this new equipment in the next few weeks, as the children get to try it out. "It's great because there are loads to play with and it is lots of fun to all play together" (Year 3 child)



### Youth Parish Council

We are excited to be part of the development of the Wing Youth Parish Council. 4 representatives from our school have been to meet with members of Wing Parish Council and representatives from The Cottesloe School to discuss plans. They will be looking at projects across Wing, to improve the village for all.

### Reading Volunteers

We are starting an exciting project based on reading across the school, which we hope will transform the children's approach to reading. In order for this to get started as soon as possible, we are hoping for some volunteers who can help with the administrative tasks needed, before we can start. If you are able to help, at any time, we will give you training and would be grateful for your time. You are welcome to come in on your own or for a group to work together.

### Remembrance Day

The whole school spent time learning about the importance of Remembrance Day, both in classes and in lessons. The children all showed a great amount of respect during silences throughout the school and we were proud of how thoughtful they were. Representatives from the school also attended the memorial service within Wing and were wonderful ambassadors for the school.



### Key Dates:

25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 and 4 chocolate workshop
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu immunisation (for those who have consented)
w/c 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	International week
6 <sup>th</sup> December 6-7.30pm	Christmas fair
11 <sup>th</sup> December 9.30am	KS1 Christmas Play 1 <sup>st</sup> performance
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2.15pm	KS1 Christmas Play 2 <sup>nd</sup> performance
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm	Reception Christmas Nativity Play
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school trip to the pantomime
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Service

## Nursery return date in January 2020

So that you can plan ahead, Nursery children (current and new children) will be starting back for the Spring term on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020**, for your information.

Our Year 5 pupils took part in a national writing competition. Congratulations to Harry, who was chosen as one of the winners from across the country!



Reminder!

## Reminders

- Can we please ask that children are not sending their teachers messages via class Dojo. There have been some occasions in which class teachers are being frequently sent messages and this is disturbing the time in which they are working on other things. It is a great tool for teachers to send out messages to the whole class, if they choose, however it is not the best solution for concerns or messages to be sent to teachers. If you need to send a message, please do so via an email to the school office.
- Today is the last day to consent online for the flu immunisation on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.
- Please pay for the pantomime, if you have not already done so. It is still live on 'ParentPay'.
- If your child will be 4 by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, don't forget to apply online for a Reception place to the County Council in which you live, **by 3pm on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020**.
- Please remember to send in jogging bottoms and a long sleeved top for PE, now that the weather is colder. Named PE kit needs to be kept in school at all times please, so that all children may participate fully in lessons.
- Please remember to inform teachers of authorised pick up information for the next term/year in writing. This can be given to the class teacher or emailed to [admin@overstone-wing.org](mailto:admin@overstone-wing.org). Please also inform in writing if any changes need to be made to these.
- Remember that lunches need to be ordered by the Wednesday of the previous week using Parentpay. The supplier is AIP and their contact number is 07805696164, in case of problems.
- Please inform the school by 8.30am if your child will be absent due to illness. This can be done by ringing the school telephone or emailing [absence@overstone-wing.org](mailto:absence@overstone-wing.org).
- Please inform the school office if your contact details have changed recently.