



Overdale Junior School
Working together, Learning together

Overdale Junior School Newsletter

February 2016

Eastcourt Road, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3YA, Tel 0116 288 3736

www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Hart

Message from the Head

With the February half term holiday almost upon us it feels as though spring is just around the corner. We really enjoy making the most of our fantastic outdoor space through Forest School, gardening club, outdoor education and lots of sport.

Mrs J Hart, Headteacher

Upcoming events

Fri 12 February

Break up for half-term

Mon 22 February

School reopens

Year 5 visits to The Lancaster School (boys) and Sir Jonathan North Community College (girls)

Tue 23 February

Year 5 Bikeability training starts

Tue 23 and Wed 24 February

Parents' Evening

Mon 14 March

Parents' Forum, 6.15pm

Thu 24 March

Break up for Easter holidays

PA events

Fri 5 February

Family bingo night, from 5.30pm

Thu 17 March

Easter cake sale

Fri 18 March

Quiz night for parents and friends

Sat 25 June

Summer Fête



Cut down line to detach events list

Parents' Evenings coming up

We'll be holding Parents' Evenings on **Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 February** and you should have already received a letter for you to book a time slot to see your child's teacher(s) to discuss their progress and any concerns that you may have. We look forward to seeing you.

Has your child won a Golden Ticket?

Every child has a Reading Journal and they are expected to read every day as part of their regular homework. We ask parents to sign these journals to show that their child has read at home. The Reading Journals are checked each week, and we're awarding prizes across the school to recognise a significant improvement in the number of times a child has read each week, or for reading every day. Two Golden Tickets, worth £10 in vouchers, are drawn at random each week.

Congratulations to all our January winners: Taranjot (5A), Elsa (4P), Amelie (4P), Muhammad (5O), Seb (4MS), Sabah (5O), Zaynab (3F), Oscar (6P)

Well done everyone, and keep reading!

Kingswood residential

Plans are well underway for the next Year 6 residential trip to Kingswood, which will take place from 5-9 September. Information has been sent out to all current Year 5 parents and details are also on the school website.

The first deposit for the trip was due by **Friday 29 January**, so please send your payment in to the school office as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. We'd like to take the whole year group on the trip, and places are still available: please contact Miss Sultana if your child would like to go and they haven't yet signed up.

Parents' Forum

Our Parents' Forum meets every half term, and every parent of an OJS pupil is invited to attend Forum meetings. You can contact us about the Parents' Forum or raise a topic for discussion by emailing

parentsforum@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk. The next meeting of the Parents' Forum is on **Monday 14 March at 6.15pm**, and we do hope you will be able to join us.

Overdale success in 'Postcard to Paris'

We are pleased to announce that OJS won the Key Stage 2 category for the 'Postcard to Paris' competition in November. Zara's (6E) entry was made into a banner which was taken on three marches during December – Leicester, London and Paris. Congratulations to Zara and we're sure her message was part of the reason for the success of the climate talks in Paris!

We're now a cashless school

As of 5 January 2016 we are a completely cashless school. All payments need to be made through ParentPay as we are no longer able to accept cash or cheques. Please register with ParentPay now, if you haven't already done so, using the activation code provided by school. If you have lost your code, please contact the school office.

More trees please

Thank you to everyone for sending in their old Christmas Cards - they have been taken to Marks & Spencer for recycling, as M&S have pledged to plant a tree for every 1000 cards we collected. We collected about 5000 (53Kg) which equates to almost 5 trees. Wonderful recycling!

SATs information for Year 6 parents

We held a SATs information evening for Year 6 parents before Christmas. You can now download all the presentations on our website, and we'll keep our SATs information page updated with all the latest SATs news.

Eco Schools conference

Eight members of our EcOverdale club attended the recent Eco Schools conference at the National Space Centre. They learnt about reading energy data for our school, which will be coming into effect very soon; looked at ways to help them to recycle at home; and studied how people in Nicaragua leave very little to waste. Over the coming weeks they'll be sharing everything they learned with the rest of the school.

Year 6 to visit Warning Zone

At the end of January our Year 6 pupils visited Warning Zone. The Warning Zone Life Skills Centre at Frog Island has been set up by the Leicestershire and Rutland Crimebeat to offer safety education to Year 6 children in the area, covering general safety alongside issues around personal responsibility and consequences of actions. You can find out more at warningzone.org.uk.

EcOverdale Update

This term, the EcOverdale club is working on an Eco Code which will inspire the whole school community to think about the environment in everything we do. We'd love you all to get involved with this too and more information will be coming your way soon.

Heavy snow? Is the school open?

With winter still with us and the weather somewhat unpredictable, we need to have plans in place in case it becomes necessary for the school to close due to adverse and unsafe weather conditions. In these circumstances an announcement will be made on BBC Radio Leicester, GEM and Capital (the Dino and Pete show) and we will put a closure notice on the school website. We will also send a text message to all parents who are registered with ParentPay. In the event of snow, please do not ring the school office to check if school is open: we ask that parents listen to the radio and check the school website for information. If no announcement is made, the school will be open as normal.

Additional funding: is your child eligible?

Your child could be entitled to up to £1320 of additional funding for extra resources, support and enrichment activities such as music lessons, if they are eligible for free school meals **even if they do not have them or eat a packed lunch from home**. To find out if you qualify, ask at the school office or visit www.leicester.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals.

Did you know?

The Fashion & Textile Children's Trust (FTCT) provides grants to parents whose children may require additional support. Education and Wellbeing grants are available to children up to 18 years of age whose parent or carer works – or has previously worked – in the UK fashion and textile industry. Find out more at www.ftct.org.uk/grants or call 0300 123 9002.

Don't forget

The children spend their morning break and lunchtime outside in all but the worst weather so **it is essential that they bring a coat to school** to keep them warm and dry in the playground. Cold, wet children are definitely not happy children so please do make sure your child has their coat with them every day.

NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE ON ITS WAY

Later this month we'll be launching our brand new website, to help make it even easier for you to keep up to date with what's going on at OJS. We can't wait!

For the latest information, up to date events listings and copies of recent letters to parents visit the school website at www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk