

Overdale Junior School

A note from Mr Evans



Hello and welcome to the first Overdale Junior School newsletter of 2023. What a wonderful half term this has been! It has been brilliant to welcome lots of new Year 3 children to Overdale Junior School and has been equally as wonderful to see many of you return as a year older and wiser for another jam-packed year at Overdale Junior School. I've loved spending Friday afternoons with our children who have received their 'special mentions'! We've had biscuits and hot chocolates and lots of opportunities to discuss all the great things that are happening at school.

A note from Mrs Cross

What a fantastic half term Autumn 1 has proven to be! This first half term, we have focused on our routines and settling into life at Overdale, be that for children who are new to the school or for those who have moved into a new year group. The children have really enjoyed being part of our 'character curriculum' and we can see how their voices are helping to shape the future of our school through our weekly character curriculum assemblies. It has been fantastic to learn about their views and the children are taking their new roles as part of the school council very seriously! We look forward to more fun and learning next half term.



A note from Mrs Perryman



From enjoying our Harvest festivities to all of the sporting achievements we've earned, it's certainly true to say that our children have worked hard in every aspect of their school lives this term. Thank you to all of the families who booked in slots for our parents evening. It was great to welcome you into the school and I know that the teachers enjoyed having this time with you to discuss the progress of your children.

Important Information

Please be reminded that we are a nut free school. This includes all Nutella products.

While we understand that some children will enjoy Nutella, we have a number of children that have severe nut allergies that can be affected in many ways and we must not have any nut items in school. Thank you for your cooperation.



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YEAR 3

Settling In

This half term has been full of fresh starts and new beginnings for our Year 3s. We have spent time with our classes exploring our school building and extensive grounds. We have considered what it means to be a super OJS learner through our school values of respect, resilience and responsibility, and the children have very much enjoyed earning pompoms for showing these values in class. Our Year 3 team have been impressed with the children's enthusiasm and are excited to see what the rest of the year will bring!



Our learning

Year 3 have got thoroughly stuck into their learning this half term. The children have enjoyed beginning to capture new vocabulary in their beautiful, little vocabulary books which journey with them through the school.



The children have been challenged with some tricky Maths concepts, but have risen to the challenge by using Numicon and Dienes to solidify their understanding of number. A particular highlight has been beginning to learn French. There has been some phenomenal artwork across year 3 and we are excited to see how the children develop into future artists!



We have had great fun learning classroom instructions, numbers and greetings. As we venture into Autumn 2, we look forward to learning more about the Stone Age and Iron Age in History; developing our gymnastic skills in PE; and beginning our first design unit in Design and Technology.

Well done Year 3 – you've been fantastic!



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YEAR 4

Unbelievable Ukelele!

We have started our ukulele lessons with vigor and passion! Our teacher, Mr Stevens is very enthusiastic and is a super uke player. He is teaching us how to hold the ukulele and how to place our fingers to make different sounds with different strings. His enthusiasm is infectious and everyone in class has been enjoying getting to know the uke as an instrument, listening to its sound and feeling the strings and frets with our fingers.

Soon, we will be ready to start playing some songs.

We are going to learn the C Major chord to start and then we will learn Smoke on the Water and Seven Nation Army.

Watch (or listen to) this space!



Fabulous Foundation Subjects!

We have been learning about lots of different topics in all of our foundation subjects.

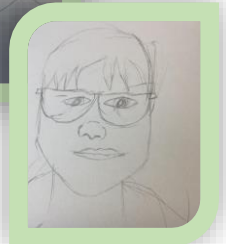
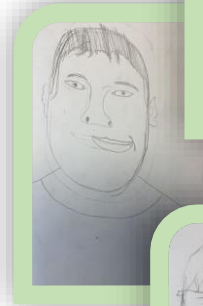
In science, we have been learning about living things and classification.

In history, we have been looking at Anglo Saxons.

Geography found us learning about Europe.

We have been learning about facial features in French.

In art, we have been studying portraiture and looked at the work of specific artists: Picasso, Hockney and Freud. We have had a go at drawing our own self-portraits with some wonderful results!



Remarkable RE!

We will learn about many different religions in our RE syllabus this year. We have started with Christianity, learning about the Holy Trinity. We have many questions about Christianity and the Holy Trinity and are trying to find answers as we learn. We have invited Reverend Jones in to meet with us at the end of the unit – to show him what we have learned, but also to find out the answers to questions we still have!

In PSHE we have started the year looking at friendships; how we can make friends and keep friends but most importantly, how we can be a good friend to others. These discussions go hand in hand with our character curriculum values and attributes of respect, responsibility and resilience.

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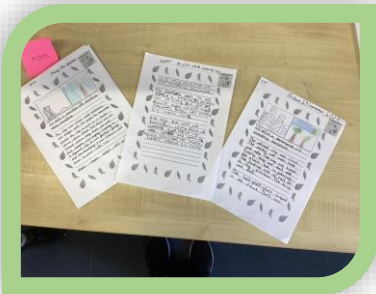
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YEAR 5

We have had a great start to the school year in Year 5 and have been working hard on our character curriculum to ensure we are ready for learning and are modelling our core values throughout school! We have thoroughly embraced the focus on our values and are earning Pom Poms to celebrate our achievements with some great reward activities planned in each class!

5S and 5PM have started the year with a weekly swimming session, which has been fantastic in developing confidence in the water for many of the children and enabling our more confident swimmers to continue to develop their swimming and water safety skills! We look forward to 5LW and 5S starting their swimming next half term.

In Science this half term we have been developing our scientific skills through research and questioning and predicting. We dissected flowers to identify the reproductive parts which was super interesting and got all of the children's scientific minds flowing!



In writing, we have been working very hard on our descriptive language techniques and have explored description across a range of texts. In geography, we have started our topic on 4 and 6 figure grid references. We know that 4 figure grid references help us to find specific areas on a map and we've compared aerial photos of Knighton with simple OS maps. The children enjoyed finding the school, Knighton park and even some of their homes!

So far this year in History, we have been looking at the Ancient Greeks and their influence on our world today. We have plotted key achievements on a timeline and enjoyed a time machine element to our learning to focus our mind on how far back they lived! Theatres were a brilliant Greek creation and we used our listening skills to identify key characteristics of their structure - it was a great lesson full of creative ideas! The Olympic games has been another element of our discovery, discussing similarities and differences between what they were like back in Ancient Greece and how we enjoy watching and playing them today.

In PSHE we have focused on belonging and beginning a new year with different people. We started by introducing ourselves and finding out what different people liked, to help build some new friendships. We then identified and explored how someone might feel in a new situation and how we can help them navigate their way through some things that they might think or feel. In our learning we made games to demonstrate our ideas and strategies about how to cope in new situations and build resilience (which is one of our school values!).

A lovely start to the year in Year 5 and we can't wait to see what next half term brings!

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Settling in...

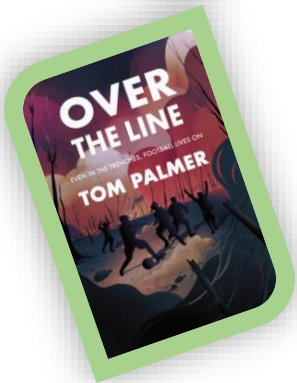
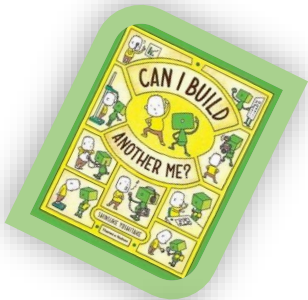
The year six children have settled in to their new classes well and are doing a wonderful job of showing our core values of respectfulness, responsibility and resilience. Classes are awarded pom-poms for their hard work and each class is working towards their first whole-class reward!

Reading

All children in year six have chosen two reading books: one book at an appropriate level for them to access, while providing some challenge, and a second book chosen to read for enjoyment. Regular reading at home provides amazing benefits for children's vocabulary, their comprehension skills and their ability to empathise with others.

We encourage children to read at home for twenty minutes, five times a week. This could be a fiction reading book, but it could also be a magazine, comic book, instruction manual...anything!

In class, we have been reading *Over the Line* and *Can I Build Another Me?* The books relate to our history and art theme of World War I and our PHSE theme of Friends and Family.



Key Information for Autumn 2:

- Parents evenings for year 6 are on the following dates: **Tuesday 24th October and Thursday 26th October.** Log on to **SchoolCloud** to book your place.
- Homework will continue to be set each Friday and will consist of a piece of **MyMaths.co.uk** work, a paper grammar exercise and spellings to learn. This is due on a Wednesday. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any issues and we will be happy to help.
- Reading journals are also due each week from the children on a Wednesday. If they read five times in the week, they will receive an entry into the weekly prize draw to win a £10 Amazon voucher!

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School Football

A great evening was enjoyed at the Aylestone Recreation Ground for our first fixture of the year with our Boys' Football team.

We were extremely impressed with their teamwork, their communication and their passion for playing. We had some brilliant games and some exciting chances within them. The referees were really pleased with our sportsmanship between games and commented on how supportive our players were to each other and the opposition.



School Football

Our girls' football team played their first fixture on Thursday 21st September at Aylestone Recreation Ground. We had both bright sunshine and heavy rain to contend with but had a really successful evening of football.

We played 5 matches against different schools and I can safely say that every single one of the girls tried their best and were an absolute credit to OJS. Their teamwork, communication and resilience during all games was commendable! I hope they are extremely proud of themselves.



In each class this month, as part of our Black History Month celebrations, we will be learning about a black person in history who has done something extraordinary. We will be reading a book filled with facts and stories about a special person. The children will be presenting what they have learnt about in an assembly at the end of the month.

Why not ask your child who they are learning about and help research more about them at home?

