

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2 2023

**Overdale**  
Junior School

## A note from Mr Evans

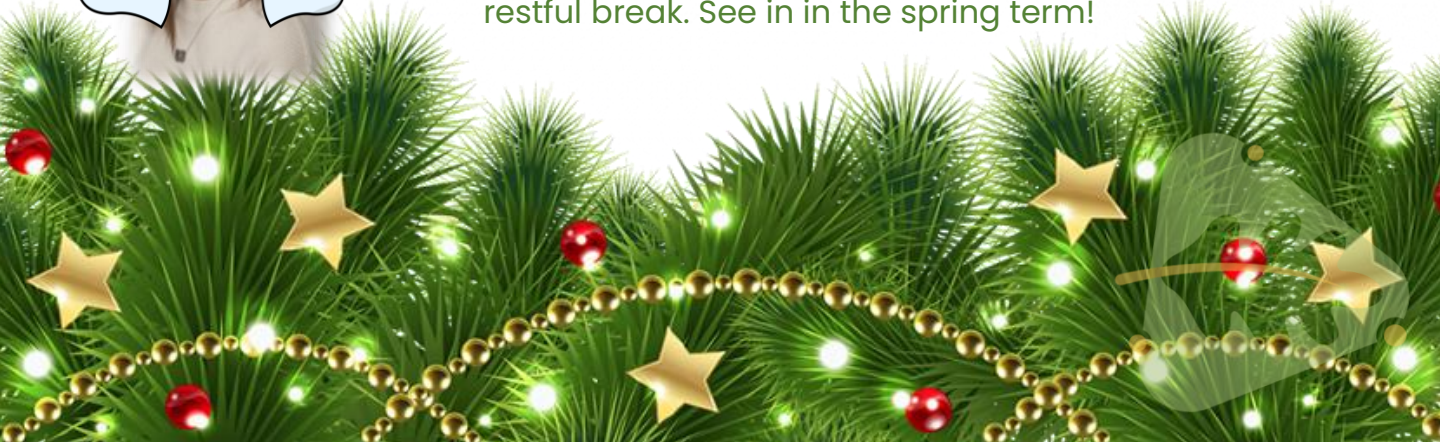
Every year, you make me even prouder than the year before. You've all worked so fantastically hard again this Autumn term and it's been a real pleasure to see you all smiling each day and showing so much resilience in your learning. Have a fantastic winter break and to those who celebrate, may I wish you a very merry Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

## A note from Mrs Cross

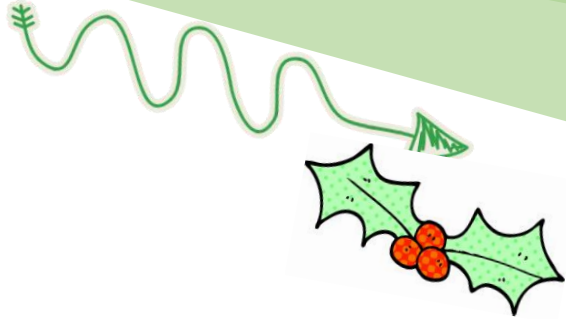
Wow! What an incredible half term it has been! I've been blown away by the respectful way that you treat each other, both inside and outside of the classrooms. It's been wonderful to get to know so many of you this term and I've loved seeing the fabulous work that you've undertaken and the progress you've made. Have a really well earned rest and we'll see you again next year.

## A note from Mrs Perryman


This has been the best term! You've all proven yourselves to be such responsible young people and I've been so proud to see the way that you are taking responsibility for yourselves and the school environment. I know that you've all worked so incredibly hard this year so please do enjoy a well earned and restful break. See in in the spring term!



# Overdale Junior School



## Descriptive writing



This half term, the children have been writing their setting descriptions about a forest. They tried to add as much description as possible and to create layers of atmosphere to make their forest seem mysterious. They have also really tried hard with their punctuation and handwriting. They did an excellent job and everyone should be really proud of what they have done! We're planning to put them into class books and to share them with children in other classes. This has been a really enjoyable module and we can't wait to see what the children do next. Well done!

## PSHE

In PSHE, we have been looking at gender stereotypes, with a particular focus on jobs and career choices.

We have discussed what gender stereotypes are and thought about three jobs in particular: a nurse, a firefighter and a mechanic. Interestingly, most children initially drew a female nurse, a male firefighter and a male mechanic.

We discussed different scenarios in a school as to whether they were fair or whether they showed some gender stereotyping. It was a great, open discussion and a very interesting one! Well done everyone.



## Mindfulness

Some of our children have had the wonderful opportunity to take part in some relaxation and mental health workshops. These sessions aimed to raise awareness of mental health & wellbeing support and included interactive discussions and activities. The workshops began with an introduction to the brain (explained as the wise owl and the guard dog) so that young people were able to understand how their brains work. They then designed 'happiness boxes' which we hope they have brought home to show you.



# Overdale Junior School

## Design Technology

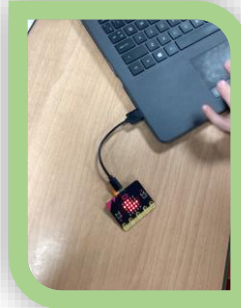
We have been learning about coding in DT. We started the design process by analysing and comparing things that measure our steps. We then used this data to design our own technology that can measure our steps when we exercise.

Lots of inquiry into coding and into gauging input and output helped us familiarise with Micro:bits enough to be able to make our own step counters and use them when we exercise!

## Art

Next term in art, we will be sketching and making dragon eyes with clay. This is a Highlight of the Year 4 curriculum and we can't wait to share this with the children!

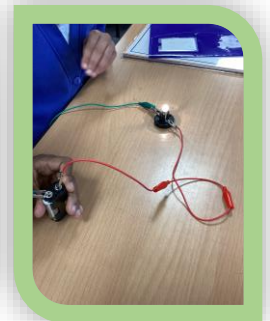
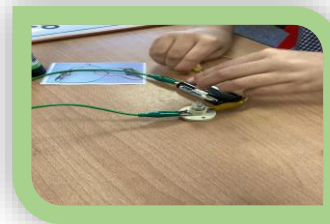
These art lessons will compliment our English learning, focusing on the book Dragonology: The complete book of dragons.



## RE

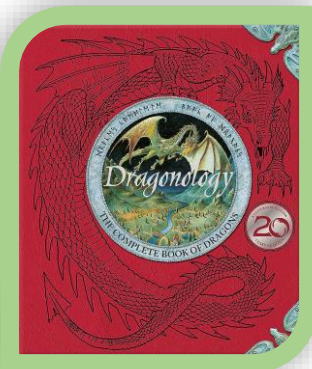
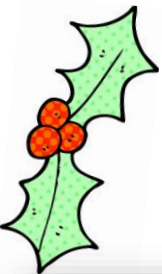
We have been learning about Hinduism in RE. We have been learning about the history of Hinduism through the story of Rama and Sita. We know a lot about Hindu worship at home and we are now learning about worship in the Mandir and comparing the two.

We will visit the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Leicester early in the new year to find out more.

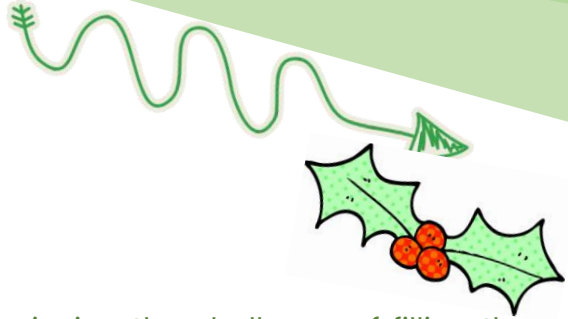


## Science

We have been making circuits in science. We tested the conductivity of different types of material. We made our own circuits, troubleshooting to find out why circuits wouldn't work and how to fix them. We used electrical wires, crocodile clips, bulbs, cells and switches!



# Overdale Junior School



## Pom Pom jars

Children in Year 5 have been enjoying the challenge of filling their pom pom jars to recognise good choices throughout the day. A half full jar of pom poms is rewarded with a treat chosen by the class. This half term, we have had rewards of a Science investigation afternoon and Pyjama days with a movie afternoon. The full jar rewards are soon to come. A great incentive to be 'caught being good'.

## Foundation Subjects

We have continued our topic of 4 and 6 figure grid references in geography.

The children have enjoyed looking at OS maps of Leicestershire, building on prior knowledge of rural and urban areas and are now more confident when finding specific squares on a map. However, finding 6 figure grid references have been a little trickier to master! In French we have finished our weather topic and we are now looking at shops and buildings found on a French high street. The children have worked hard on their pronunciations and identifying types of shops. Tres bien!

RE lessons have focused on Islam and it has been really good to hear personal experiences from our children who follow this faith.

## Swimming

Year 5 are fortunate to receive swimming lessons and these take place for classes at intervals throughout the year on Thursday mornings. We have all been very impressed both with the children's great behaviour and attitude in lessons. They are a credit to Overdale. As teachers, it is fascinating to see our pupils progressing, overcoming initial anxieties and supporting one another in so many ways.



Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the Spring Term.



# Overdale Junior School

## Well done Year 6!

Congratulations to our Year 6s for completing their first term. We've packed in lots of learning and exciting opportunities, as well as marking whole school events, such as Children in Need, Christmas Jumper Day and Anti-Bullying Week. It's been a brilliant term and we're all so proud of you.

A massive well done to everyone who has received a special mention award this term as well as those that have received certificates for PE achievements, fantastic poetry and tackling the Primary Maths Challenge.

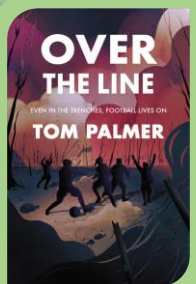
## The Wider Curriculum

This term, we have enjoyed a visit from Anne Scott to enrich our RE curriculum. In science, children investigated circulation, designing and carrying out an experiment into exercise and pulse rate. We have completed our history topic on World War I and our geography focus of global trade.



## What we've been reading...

In Autumn term, most of our writing and reading lessons have been based around *Over the Line* written by Tom Palmer. The children have really engaged with this book that is based on real footballers turned soldiers who fought in WWI.



## Warning Zone

All classes represented the school exceptionally well on our trip to Warning Zone this term. The children spent time immersed in different safety-related situations, discussing how to make good choices and minimise potential risks. Key areas included online safety, fire, roads, water, electricity and safety on the railway.

## What's Coming Next

After Christmas, our topics will include:

- Geography- Marine Biomes
- History - Ancient Islamic Civilisation
- Art - Islamic-inspired art
- French - The Home
- PSHE - Financial responsibility



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## Music in the community



Overdale Junior School visited **St Mary's Church** for our Nativity again this year. Half the school visited on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and the other half on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Our nativity drama club and the Year 3 and 4 choir worked so hard in preparing for the special occasion. We were so pleased see so many families also in attendance to join us in our Christmas celebration.



Members of our Young Voices Choir and the Year 3 and 4 nativity choir were invited to perform at the **Salvation Army Leicester South** concert on the date of

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. They were very excited and honoured to be representing OJS out in the local community.



Alex Scott and crew from **Holy Trinity Church** in Leicester are visiting to do a Christmas assembly on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. These interactive assemblies always have music and singing involved!

'Leics Make Music Live' came to perform interactive Rock and Pop assemblies on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December for all year groups. Our very own ukulele teacher, Mr Stevens, starred in the show!



### Our Year 3 and 4



nativity visited Overdale Infant School on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December to showcase some of their Nativity songs. It was a fabulous event and the children were so excited to perform for their old teachers, TAs and the young ones at the Infant School! Well done!

