

Overdale Junior School

A note from Mr Evans



Happy Spring term everybody!

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. What a wonderful half term this has been! There has been so much wonderful learning happening this half term and it has been brilliant see the children progressing. We're over half way through the school year now and it has been wonderful to think back over the last 3 half terms. We have some exciting news to share – our new building is very nearly ready and so we look forward to seeing our beautiful school restored back to our full glory in the coming weeks. You have all been very resilient during this busy time of building work and so we are excited to share with you our brand new building in the new half term.

A note from Mrs Cross

Spring has sprung at Overdale and it is lovely to see lots of birds and squirrels sharing our space with us. It's been such an exciting half term! I am so happy to see our children respecting our outdoor learning areas and playground spaces and hope to see much more outdoor learning taking place throughout the remainder of the year, particularly as the months get warmer. We have a lot of exciting things coming up in the next half term, which is a short one, so it will be jam packed and action full! In the coming months, we're looking forward to starting some transition work with our older children in Year 6 as well as our children from the infant school in year 2. Exciting times!



A note from Mrs Perryman

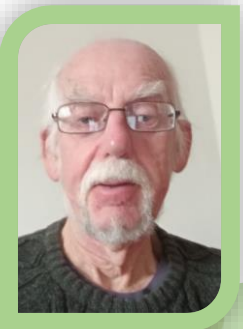


This half term has been brilliant! All of the children have been very responsible and it's clear to see how far they've come this year. As we approach this halfway mark, it's a great time to think about how far we've all come and start to look to the future. I've loved seeing all of the arts projects going on in Year 4, particularly the amazing dragon eyes! They really are very special. Have a lovely half term and see you after the break.

Special Feature - Meet the Governors

Hello everyone. This is a new feature! We thought it would be a good idea to begin by introducing one governor each newsletter.

So - I'm Tony Smith, the Chair, and my responsibilities include safeguarding and, alongside one of the other governors, meeting with subject co-ordinators to monitor the curriculum (except for literacy and numeracy, as these have a separate governor). I retired 10 years ago as Head of a Special School, and so I have a particular interest in SEND. I walk a lot (a lot!), and as I have 3 children and 6 grandchildren I am never short of something to do. Contact me via the school if you need to.

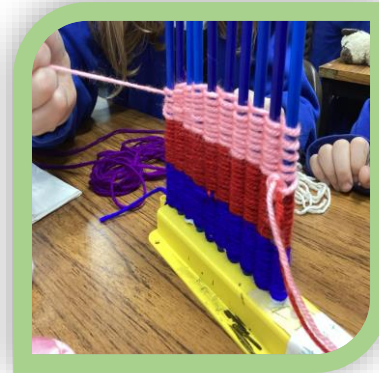


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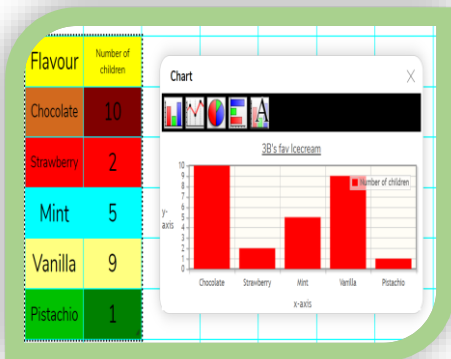
YEAR 3

Art

This half term, we have been learning about art from different cultures. We focused on African art and looked at different artists and their styles. Our main focus was on Kente cloth. This was based on a story called The Spider Weaver who saw the beauty of a spider's web and wanted to create the patterns within his creations. It took perseverance and overcoming set backs to be successful with this! If you want to watch the video, you can find it here: <https://youtu.be/91yapOM7BzI?si=-wHx8b4NW6UfjT6C>.



Computing



In Computing, we have been learning about spreadsheets and how we can use them. We have learnt that spreadsheets can do calculations instantly (as long as we put the right formula in!). In addition to this, we have also learnt how to input data into cells, how to format the cells into different colours and purposes and even use the data to create bar charts!

History

We have been learning about the suffragettes. These were a group of women who fought for their equal right to vote in the early 1900s. We were extremely lucky to have a relative of Leicester suffragette, Alice Hawkins, come in to talk to us about her and what she did! She led the suffragette movement in Leicester and was jailed five times for her efforts! We got to discuss about her life and what she did. We even saw some old photos of her too! This has really helped us to bring to life our history learning this half term, due to the links with the local area.



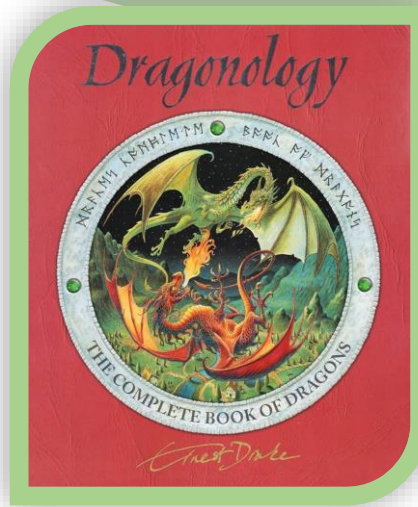
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Dragons!

The spring term has been wonderful so far. There has been so much fantastic learning taking place! Year 4 have been studying their topic based around 'Dragonology – The Complete Book of Dragons.' This is a text which has really captured everybody's imaginations!

In Year 4, all of the children's writing and artwork has used this book as a source of inspiration, alongside a range of other exciting non-fiction texts which have featured dragon-based themes to inspire and provoke.

The artwork and the writing produced across the year group has been exceptional. We wanted to share a selection of the pieces that have been created with you.



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Bikeability

Year 5 children were given the opportunity to improve their cycling skills this term, with lessons from the Bikeability team. Over the course of two weeks, children were offered lessons in cycling safety and road use. They were very excited to be in the fresh air, learning new skills and becoming more confident on the roads near school.



Certificates and badges were awarded for Level 1 and Level 2 proficiency, with personalised notes to ensure that children knew which skills to practice further at home. Road safety is a vital life skill for all of us, and it is reassuring for staff and parents to know that the children have received such high quality teaching. Well done to all those who took part, and thank you to Jon and his team. In addition to Bikeability, we had a visit from Sustrans, reminding us about road safety, and from The Bike Doctor, who repaired and safety-checked bikes for pupils and staff. Thank you to all involved.

Fire talks

We were fortunate in Year 5 to receive a visit from Em at Leicestershire Fire Service. She gave a highly informative talk on fire safety in the home, and we all learned something new about keeping safe. The message was to check smoke detectors, and have a fire escape plan for your own home. She also stressed the importance of knowing your full address and post code when making an emergency call.

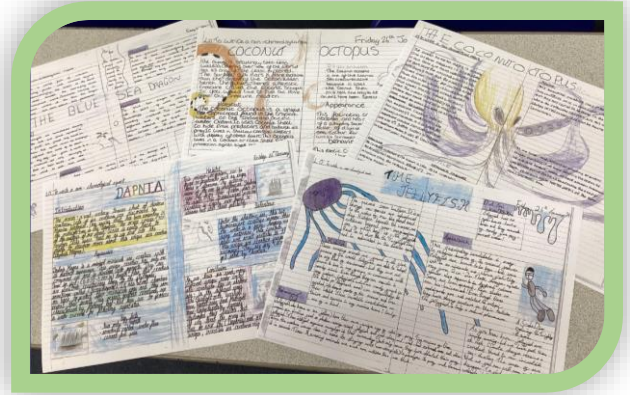


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English

Year 6 have been busily researching sea creatures this term. They have written detailed non-chronological reports and presented their work beautifully in their English books. The children have really enjoyed the unit and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to be creative in how they have displayed their writing.



A selection of writing from our previous unit, based on the book *Over the Line*, has been shared with the author Tom Palmer, who has been delighted to receive their work. He will be providing some feedback, which we are all eagerly waiting to receive.

Year 6 have been particularly enjoying sharing and discussing Leicester City Libraries' *Best Books*. The top 5 books were delivered in bundles to classes and the children are flying through them!



Maths

To celebrate Number Day, Year 6 'dressed up as digits' and wore some fantastic number-related costumes. They were challenged to solve a mystery, completing puzzles and problems to determine who committed the crime. The children enjoyed working as detectives for the morning, raising money for the NSPCC in the process. Well done Year 6.



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Young Voices 2024

We took 60 children from Year 5 and 6 to perform at the Young Voices concert in the World Resort Arena in Birmingham in January. They sang with over 5,000 children from other schools.

The children were a credit to the school and to their families. They spent months and months learning the songs and dance moves. On concert day, they performed tremendously. We were right at the front this year, so could see our parents in the crowd and they could see us.

Young Voices is one of the most popular events in the school calendar!

Ex Pupil returns to OJS to perform

We had an unexpected but delightful email from an ex-pupil Jessica Mawby recently, who now goes to Sir Jonathan North College in Leicester. Jess has pursued her love of music in the years since and is now a singer songwriter with many accolades to her name. Even though she is studying for GCSEs at the moment, Jess did some performances at our singing assemblies. Her attitude and her talent has been an inspiration to our pupils. Jess is on Spotify if you want to have a listen!



Brass Consolidation Group

Our Year 5 Brass group have had a great experience, continuing their brass learning with a specialist brass teacher from Leicestershire Music. They did a performance for parents at the end of their ten weeks of lessons.

Many children across the school have signed up for brass lessons with the music service now and we are hoping we have the numbers needed to secure a peripatetic brass teacher to compliment our woodwind, piano, drums, guitar and ukulele peripatetic teaching!

Year 3 Recorders

Year 3 have started learning recorder! There are some very excited and very ambitious students learning their Bs from their As. Watch this space for progress updates!



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Team building at OJS

This week, we have been working on 'team building' as part of our ongoing whole school character curriculum work around resilience; as a school, we are passionate about teaching children the importance of resilience, communication and team work.

Groups of children took part in some fun team building activities and games alongside Mrs Cross and a special visitor called Mr Amoroso. The children had a wonderful time and it was brilliant to see them working so well together.

We have more opportunities such as these planned throughout the rest of the school year, in particular as part of our transition work as the Summer term draws near. In year 6, this will be focussed specifically around preparing children for secondary school.

