



Overdale Junior School
Working together, Learning together

Overdale Junior School Newsletter

March 2019

Eastcourt Road, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3YA, Tel 0116 288 3736
www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs J Hart

Upcoming events

Tues 26th March
Big Pedal Day

Wed 27th March
Y6 Welcome Wednesdays
Come Dine with Us

Fri. 12th April
Holy Trinity Easter
Production

School Closes for Easter

Mon. 29th April
School Opens

PA events

Thurs. 11th April
Easter Cake Sale

Wed. 1st May
PA Meeting

Sat. 22nd June
Summer Fete



Cut down line to detach events list

Message from Mrs Hart

It has been a pleasure to be able to share in some lovely musical moments this term. Our current theme is 'Name That Tune' and as a very musical school, it gives all of our pupils the opportunity to experience and celebrate the variety of music that our pupils and staff enjoy. It was a delight to listen to Miss Tamhne perform a vocal duet with her singing friend Laura Ratcliffe during one of our assemblies. The performance left the whole school moved and lifted everyone's spirits which set us up perfectly for an excellent day of learning. In other assemblies, staff are sharing their favourite music and it is lovely to see the wide range being shared. We really do value the contributions the arts can bring to our lives as much as the outdoors, technology, health, fitness and academic achievements to engage and develop our pupils.

In more recent assemblies, we continue to celebrate fantastic learning when recognising class Ambassadors, celebrating reading by awarding Golden Tickets and prizes. Mr Evans and I enjoyed flipping pancakes, with varying degrees of success, to help us understand the meaning behind pancake day. As we continue this busy term and lead up to Easter, our pupils continue to work extremely hard and we are always very proud of them.

Ecoverdale

Ecoverdale have been as busy as ever this school year and as a result we have been rewarded with our second Green Flag assessment. Many of Ecoverdale's activities are going on behind the scenes but there are a number of new initiatives that we hope you are aware of and taking part in. Did you know we have schemes to recycle your old pens and crisp packets for example? We also have Two-Wheeler Tuesday every week and are taking part in Big Pedal day! Please visit our Eco page on the school website for the full 2019 Eco Review including details of all the schemes we are involved in.

Paperless Office

In line with the above Overdale Junior School are working hard towards becoming paperless in order to improve efficiency, costs, and of course to help the environment! We would like to encourage you all to make sure your email address is added onto your ParentPay account so that we can keep you informed of what is happening in school. Information on the Year 6 Kingswood trip, the Pancake Day menu, French Breakfast, 90k Rice Challenge, E-Safety and Parents Evening have all been emailed out recently, and we are using emails more and more as a form of communication. You will only receive these if your current email address is logged on ParentPay. Please do call or visit the school office if you have any queries. Many thanks for your support with this.

Maths

Our current maths practice has been noticed on Twitter and this led to the school being contacted by Sharon Grinham from Oxford Owl University, with the prospect of becoming an advocate school for Numicon. On Tuesday 5th March, we had a Numicon focused maths session, where Sharon came to discuss maths and see our practice with a particular interest in our concrete-pictorial-abstract approach. It was fantastic to see: Year 3 learning about fraction of amounts; Year 4 learning about decimals; Year 5 learning about finding areas of rectilinear shapes and Year 6 exploring ratio. As well as this, we have been trialing 'Plickers' which we were able to showcase in two classrooms. This enables teachers to get instant feedback on misconceptions the children may have. This technology blew Mr Evans' mind when he saw it in practice in 5D. Our visitor was extremely impressed with the attitude towards learning and the outcomes our mixed ability sets are providing for the children. Thank you to Mr Ellis, Miss Smith and staff for your continued dedication to raising standards and the profile of maths across the school.

Year 4 Brass

In February, the whole of Year 4 played their brass instruments in a performance to parents and carers in the school hall. It's amazing to hear what they can do in such a short space of time as they've only been learning to play their instruments since September. The Y5 and Y6 brass continuation group are coming along very nicely indeed and they joined the Year 4 in their concert. A special thanks to Mr Jones who comes in every week to support Mr Davis with the brass lessons.

Year 6 at the Warning Zone

It's that time of year where the Year 6 get to learn more about risk and consequences in the real and online world. Each class had the privilege of spending the day at the Warning Zone where they went through a series of zones which described in real life the very real risks and dangers they may come across as they grow up. Guided by very experienced and skilled Warning Zone staff, they were quizzed about the potential issues with each situation and the consequences of actions. All the pupils then went into the e-safety zone which highlights the various issues, risks and consequences of the online world. Both aspects of our world must be constantly discussed at home and school to remind the pupils of their roles in keeping themselves and others safe. A truly great, thought provoking and powerful experience.

Science week

On Friday 8th March we had a very exciting start to Science week. The whole school got to see a workshop presented by Professor Nitrate from the Education Group. He demonstrated a number of experiments in front of the children such as making fire and launching rockets using equipment such as coke, mentos, heat and balloons. Each session was extremely exciting and we look forward to seeing what else Science week brings.

A Few Reminders...

Lunch Boxes

Please remember to collect your lunch box at the end of the day especially on Friday as food is going off in the lunch bags. Also remember those healthy choices please, no sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks, Thank you!



Parking!

Please remember to park considerately when dropping and picking your children up. DO NOT park on the marked area directly outside school where our Lollipop lady is guiding families across the road. This causes great danger.

Please also be mindful of local residents' driveways. There have been incidents of driveways being blocked reported.

Please also

TURN OFF YOUR ENGINES

When picking up from school please **DONOT** pollute the environment and our children's lungs.

Thank you!



Drop off/Pick Up

Please remind children of the rules before and after school.

When children are brought by their parents/carers/before school to the playground they must stay on the flat ready to line up when the whistle blows so that all adults know where they are. And

at the end of the day when children are collected, they are to stay with their teacher until they are handed over to their grown-up. They must not go off with anybody else that has not been pre-arranged. It is important that parents and teachers know that they have arrived and gone home safely.



Cooking at OJS

On Tuesday 12th March, Mrs Cooper organised a lovely French Breakfast event. Children came to school extra early to devour sumptuous foods which make up a traditional French breakfast and were encouraged to speak in French when placing their order. Thank you Mrs Cooper. If you and your family enjoy cooking and eating, then why not come along to the 'Just Cook for Fun' after school cookery Club starting Thursday 9th May – Thursday 13 June. Speak to Mrs Cooper or give the office your details ASAP to find out more.

Have you heard we have Snackalicious Loyalty Cards?!

- You can get a card from Snackalicious.
- Write your name and class on the card – then if you lose it there is a chance it may be returned to you!
- If you lose a card you can get another one from Snackalicious, but sellers CANNOT put stamps back on.
- It is probably best to keep your card in school, in your drawer or coat pocket.
- When you have collected 10 stamps you can trade it in for UP TO 30p worth of snacks eg one piece of fruit priced 20p or 30p (NO MONEY will be refunded if you chose a snack priced just 20p) or get 30p off the price of a dried fruit snack.
- You must make a purchase in order to get a stamp on your card. For each purchase you get one stamp.
- When the card has 10 stamps you can trade it in on your NEXT PURCHASE.
- Cards must be handed over to the Snackalicious team who will keep it.

Thank you
The Snackalicious Team

OJS Get Active!

Football - The Year 5/6 football team is currently sitting 3rd in the Thursday night league and are only 1 point off the top position. The top team goes through to the finals day at the King Power Stadium we have 2 rounds of fixtures left. Exciting times! The team did exceptionally well in the Rice Bowl Cup where we got through to the quarter finals. Unfortunately, we came across a very good Kibworth team and lost 4-1. A huge well done to all of the children that have taken part so far this year. Thank you to Mr Cross and Mr Ellis for running the team.

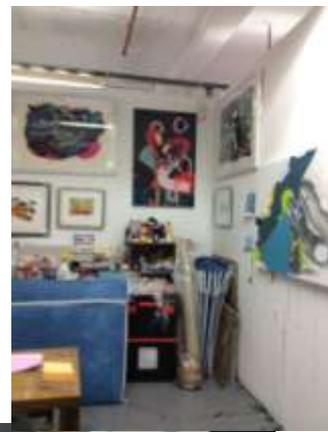
Cross country - On Friday 8th March, 45 of our boys and girls from years 3-6 represented the school brilliantly in a cross country competition. They competed against hundreds of other pupils at the Knighton Park event and did amazingly well. It was lovely to see all of the pupils cheering each other on and supporting one another in this way. Congratulations to you all! Thank you to Mrs Weston, staff and parent volunteers for organising and supporting the event.

Daily mile - The whole school will be taking part in the daily mile at the end of lunch time, everyday from Monday. We are really excited about the opportunity to get involved in more physical activity. Thank you to the sports council and Mr Stevens for organising this - it's going to be great!

New Age Kurling - 5 children attended the New Age Kurling competition earlier this month. This was a new sport for all involved. They performed with confidence and skill but overall demonstrated fantastic team work and encouraged each other and others from different schools. Kurling is a form of the original curling game, but adapted so that it can be played indoors. It requires participants to deliver 'stones' from one end of the court to a target at the other end of the court. The target has red, white and blue concentric circles and scoring is determined by the number of stones closest to the centre of this target.

All children participated to a very high standard and represented Overdale in a fabulous way!

Bikeability - Year 5 began their very important cycling training recently. They are taught to be safe whilst cycling on the roads by instructors from the council. These are vital skills for children to learn and the correct use of their bicycles on the roads should be encouraged. We hope they are also enjoying their experience of riding their bikes together as well as learning about being safe.



Art Club were lucky enough to visit a fantastic art studio in Leicester City centre- StudionAme. They were given a tour of the space by Jonjo Elliott and a chance to meet some of the talented artists (Graeme Hawes and Tim Fowler). The children were engaged and really excited by all the individuals they met.



StudionAme run a FREE art club for children on a Saturday, which is absolutely incredible. Thank you so much to all the parents who helped with the transport, Miss Keenan for helping to organize this trip and to Jonjo!

