



Overdale Junior School
Working together, Learning together

Overdale Junior School Newsletter

July 2019

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

www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Hart

Dates for the Diary

Friday 13th July

School closes for summer

Thursday 29th August

School open for Autumn Term

PA events

Friday 4th October

Family Bingo

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Message from Mrs Hart

Incredibly we are at the end of another enjoyable and very productive year. It has seen many high points and some old favourites, like Year 4 taking part in a Leicester and Leicestershire Schools music festival which was a wonderful success. We have seen more and more children get involved in the ever increasing number of opportunities. Only last week there were children scaling the temporary climbing wall set up in the playground. The range of learning experiences has been wonderful; from visits; to creating our own exhibition spaces. It is the dedication and commitment of the adults and children at OJS that makes it the vibrant and exciting place to be. I want to thank everyone for all their hard work and as another year draws to an end, we hope that everyone can look back on their personal achievements. Sadly it's a time when we say our farewells to our year 6 children as they take the big next step into secondary school. Four years have gone so fast. We have seen them grow and learn together and excel in so many things. We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing about their future successes. We extend our best wishes to everyone and thank you for all your support throughout the year. We know that when we work together as a school community we can achieve great things. Have a lovely restful summer!

Mrs Hart

A smashing summer fete

The amazing Overdale PA have done it again! Pulled together to hold the most fabulous summer fete I have ever seen! Stalls full to the brim with sweet treats, games, books, phenomenal raffle prizes, outdoor games, live performances and so much more. What a fabulous day this is every single year, but I think this year may have just topped it for THE BEST YET! With a whopping total of £11.8k raised for our schools, we are just overwhelmed. We extend our thanks to the whole community for coming and joining us for this annual event, which simply would not happen without the tireless work and commitment all year round from our incredible PA – a million times thank you and an extra special thanks this year to Mel, who is hanging up her PA boots for the last time. Your commitment to the school fete over the years has been simply astonishing. You will be missed by us all.

Tea-time Special!

We were delighted to welcome over 60 people, including past pupils, from Overdale Infant and Junior Schools to our third Teatime Special event on the 5th of June (although apologies for the clash with Eid celebrations). It was a warm sunny evening and for the first time we ate Al Fresco at picnic tables - exactly as planned! The children had fun in the playground while the adults chatted happily. We would like to thank our award winning caterers LTS Catering for providing hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers with a great choice of salads and ice cream with fruit to finish off when they would normally be putting their feet up after a long day!

These lovely social events help us all to celebrate what's great about our schools in a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere. If you didn't join us in June 2019 make sure you book in early next Autumn for the next one. We will swap days to try to include as many families as possible. Please do let us know what theme you would like next time!

Charity Week

Many thanks yet again for your support with charity week. As always the children came up with a wide variety of ideas to raise funds over the two days. This resulted in a total of £1382.42 being raised. This will be divided between three charities: East Mids Air Ambulance, Cancer Research and World Wildlife Fund.



Cut down line to detach events list

Climbing Wall

Over 60 children from across the school were given the opportunity to experience the excitement of a climbing wall this term. This fabulous, mobile wall gave them the opportunity to try a new skill, build resilience and push themselves to scale the dizzying heights of the wall. The day was a great success and Mrs Jones and Mrs Askew were incredibly proud of the children who participated. Well done everyone!

Wheelbarrow Competition

Our green fingered gardening club have immersed themselves in the 'Grow your own grub' competition this year and were over the moon when awarded the gold award in recognition of all their hard work in our school garden. A huge well done to our budding gardeners who have successfully grown a variety of vegetables throughout the year. A massive thank you to Mrs Brown and all of the adult helpers who have supported the development of the garden this year. Congratulations everyone!

Congratulations to our young masterchef!

Many congratulations to Sam Hall in Year 6 who took part in the Junior Chef of the Year Competition. Sam successfully went through his first heat back in March to gain himself a place in the final cook off held at Melton Brooksby College in Melton in June. As one of five finalists Sam's well accomplished skills in the kitchen gained him runner up on the day. Well done Sam, this is an amazing achievement!

In recognition of this, there will be a change to the usual menu on Thursday 11th July to the actual menu prepared by Sam in the final. Please see the school website (Letters section) for full details. All special menus will as always be catered for.

Grand Designs!

We have very much enjoyed this term's theme of Grand Designs and the children embraced this whole heartedly with their 6-week homework projects. We were able to enjoy them on display in the main hall last month. Thank you so much for supporting the children to complete such amazing pieces of work. We hope you were able to join us to view them but, if not, please visit the news section of the school website where there are some photographs.

Collaborative learning

Year 5 had a great time working with Manor High School this term. We welcomed their STEM leaders into class for a day of scientific investigation, which led to our very own rocket launch on the playground! The Year 5 girls also joined Brookside and Woodland Grange to visit Manor High School, where they spoke with best-selling author of the Geek Girl series, Holly Smale. Holly gave an inspiring speech about resilience and self belief and it's safe to say all in attendance left the event with spirits high.

King Power Football Tournament

On Wednesday 22nd May, Mr Ellis and Mr Cross took a team of footballers to King Power Stadium to play in a football competition. We played in the Division 1 Boys tournament. Our first game was against St. Johns, it was a close match but Ethan scored the only goal to give us the victory. Then, we played against St. Patricks, this game was quite one sided after one goal from Ethan and two goals from Charlie Ball. We were then into the semi-finals, against Granby. This was the game we were most worried about, it was such a close game right to the end, then it went to penalties after a 0-0 draw; there was lots of pressure on the players from both teams. Granby went first and scored. When Ethan stepped up to take his penalty there was a lot of pressure because the school was watching, but he buried it in the back of the net. Next for our team was Sam, after Granby scoring, he scored post and in. After Granby scoring their next goal, Max slotted past the Granby goalie. After that, it was Charlie Ball's turn; he smashed the ball right into the goal. This meant it was 4-4 and one of the Granby players drastically missed his penalty by hitting the post. Then up stepped Veer, if he scored we would win and go through to the finals against Caldecott. There was so much pressure on Veer, no one could look... With a lot of pressure, he buried it into the back of the net! Everyone went mad! We went into the final. We were against Caldecott, it was close but Charlie Blood secured victory by scoring the winning goal in a tense final to bring the trophy home to Overdale for the first time. Hooray!!!

The squad members are as follows: Lewis Tannahill, Elliot Manning, Joe Tull, Veer Shoker, Charlie Blood, Sam Kelly, Ethan Dhillon, Max Thompson and the captain Charlie Ball.

By Joe and Elliot

Notices & Reminders...

Lunch Boxes

Please remember to collect your lunch box at the end of the day, we don't want to have any left in the dining hall at the end of term! Thank you!



**Enjoy a wonderful
Summer break everyone!**

A super summer of sport

As always, summertime paves the way for a busy term of sport with many children participating in a wide variety of sporting activities and competitions. We are delighted to report that our year 5 and 6 girl's cricket team were cricket champs in the West Leicester competition at QE College and will now represent West Leicester in the School Games competition. We are so proud of the whole team.

Later in the term, 25 children made their way to Uppingham College to participate in the summer championships where they took part in: Swimming, Tri-golf and cricket. It was a fabulous day where the children demonstrated grit and determination and Miss Obhi commented on their outstanding sportsmanship.

Each year our children look forward to the Saffron Lane summer athletics competition, this year we took approximately 40 children along to compete. Miss Neal was incredibly proud of every child who participated and commented not only on their sporting prowess, but their fantastic attitude and behaviour throughout the day.

It was unfortunate that our whole school sports day was postponed, but every child relished the opportunity to take part in workshops including: Bhangra dancing, Kung Fu, Street Dance and body stomp! It was a fabulous morning, enjoyed by all.

The Summer Reading Challenge

This Year the Readers Agency and Leicester Libraries have launched the Space Chase Summer Reading Challenge 2019! You can join in if you are aged 0-15 years from Saturday 29 June to Saturday 31 August. Visit your local library and read six books to win your rewards! Please see full details on the school website or visit spacechase.org.uk

The City Passport

The City Passport is a pilot initiative to keep children and their families learning through creativity over the summer months. It includes listings accessible by all ages from a number of local arts organisations, venues and festivals, plus ideas of other things to make see and do, along with activity pages to be completed. We will have an assembly to tell the children all about it and every child will come home with their own passport. Please visit the news section of the school website for further information and a link to The City Passport website.

Musical magic

This term has been full of wonderful musical performances across the whole school. Year four have been learning to play brass instruments all year and took to De Montfort Hall stage in a musical extravaganza to demonstrate their skills. I'm sure those of you who attended will agree that the performance was outstanding! This year, our year 3 recorder players also had the opportunity to perform in the recorder festival at De Montfort Hall, they performed so confidently, it was wonderful to see. The year 3 and 4 musicians were joined by the year 5 and 6 continuation brass group who have rehearsed every lunch time this academic year. They performed with other continuation musicians across Leicestershire. It has been absolutely brilliant to see how progress the children have made with their musical instruments this year, all of the staff at Overdale are so proud of each and every individual that performed on stage that night!

The School Fete saw the return of the musical extravaganza this year, with the addition of individual singing performances too. The children who performed were so brave and showed just how much talent the children at Overdale have. Performances ranged from compositions, musical arrangements, a performance from the orchestra, the choir and much more! Well done to all those who performed on the day.

In another musical celebration, 20 boys took part in the 'Boys Noise' project in association with Leicester City Football Club. There has been research showing that over 75% of boys won't admit to enjoying singing, so this project mixed sport and singing in order to encourage boys to develop and celebrate a love of singing. They had the opportunity to tour the football stadium, had sports sessions with coaches at Leicester City, learnt lots of exciting music and of course, met Filbert the Fox! The project concluded with a wonderful performance at De Montfort Hall. We are so proud of you all boys, well done.

Hello and goodbye

The end of the school year signals a time of change. Moving on for our oldest children in year 6 and saying a big welcome to our new, year 3 children who join us from year 2. It is an exciting time in the school year, the end of one learning journey and the beginning of a brand new adventure!

This year, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Toon our Office Manager who will be retiring in the summer term after 14 wonderful years in the school office! We wish her the best of luck in her retirement and extend a huge thank you to her from the entire Overdale staff for all of her hard work over the duration of her time here.

We say Adieu to Miss Tahmne, Miss Joshi, Mrs Ganger, Mrs Stephenson and Ms Felix who will also be moving on to pastures new at the end of term and we wish them all well in their future endeavours.

We would like to welcome Miss Wilkinson to the year 4 teaching team and we are looking forward to welcoming Miss Dighton back to school following her maternity leave.