

Overdale Junior School

Special Notices

A note from Mr Evans



As we embrace the vibrant colors of autumn, we want to take a moment to celebrate how wonderfully our children have settled into school life this term. It's been heartwarming to see their enthusiasm and eagerness to engage with their new routines and classmates. From the very first day, the children have embraced their learning environments with curiosity and joy. Their positive attitudes have made our classrooms vibrant spaces of exploration and creativity, setting a fantastic tone for the year ahead. Thank you for such a great start to the year and we look forward to continuing to get to know each and every member of our community.

A note from Mrs Cross

Equally impressive has been the respect the children have shown towards one another. We have seen them actively listening, sharing ideas, and valuing each other's contributions in group activities. This mutual respect has fostered a supportive atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable expressing themselves. It has been a real pleasure to witness the friendships that are blossoming as they learn to appreciate the unique qualities each of their peers brings to the classroom. Thank you for all of the contributions to our harvest celebrations; these generous donations will have an invaluable impact on the lives of others.



A note from Mrs Perryman



The children have been remarkably resilient in their learning this term and it has been fantastic to see each child grow in confidence. They have approached challenges with a can-do attitude, whether tackling new subjects or working on complex tasks. It's inspiring to see them persist through difficulties and support each other along the way.

We are so proud of the sense of responsibility our children have shown. From managing their own belongings to taking ownership of their learning goals and helping to keep our school tidy, these actions reflect their understanding of the importance of being responsible members of our school community.

We are excited to see how these qualities will continue to develop throughout the year.



Important Information

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

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Lovely Lowry Art.

This half term, we have been working towards some lovely art work inspired by Lowry. The children have had to think very carefully about everything that they have learned this half term in order to produce some fabulous art work which looks very much like Lowry's work!

We have worked on a range of things such as perspective, realism, colour mixing, painting and drawing.



English Counties

This half term, we have also been learning about English counties.

The children have been using a map of all of the counties to identify the different ones and find them on a map.

Food routes.

In 'Food Routes', the children have been making tasty chilli bean potatoes. They have learned how to create this wonderful meal and worked hard to scoop out the potato, mash it, add tomatoes, chives, paprika & cheese then re-baked it in the oven. Most children ate everything - including the skin!



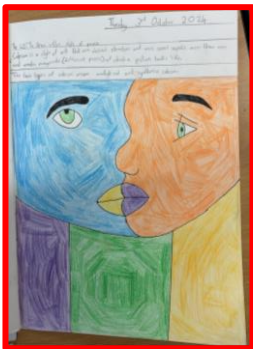
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Introduction to iPads!

Year 4 have adjusted really well to the addition of iPads to help us with our learning. They have begun to show a level of independence in accessing their iPad and have demonstrated the level of care required to look after the device. We are practising using the stylus pen for writing – it can be tricky to do it neatly!



Portraiture/Cubism in Art!



Year 4 have learnt about a famous artist named Pablo Picasso and we have been investigating his techniques to create our own cubism portrait - with a focus on his double portrait. The children were able to follow step by step instructions, to recreate a cubism portrait. They then used pencil crayons and added bright colours to their finished piece.

Investigating living things!

In science, we have learnt about living things and have looked at grouping plants and animals, by following a classification key. We have also recapped what makes something living and non-living. In between the rain showers, year 4 have had the opportunity to explore our school grounds for living things and found lots of different flowers, insects, small animals, ferns and mosses and trees. We used a Leaf ID to identify leaves too!



A great start to the year everyone – well done.🍂



Overdale Junior School

What a great start to the year!

The children have come back to school this half term absolutely raring to go. Year 5, we are all so proud of you!

In English, the children have started drafting and editing their writing about a city. The focus in English has been to discover how authors create humour in their writing – which has been brilliant as it has meant that Year 5 have also had some giggles whilst learning how to hone their craft.



iPads and swimming

The children across the school are loving using the iPads in the classrooms. They are becoming very good at remembering the school iPads routines and demonstrating sensible use of the devices.

We have been so impressed by the perseverance and determination shown by the children in Year 5, not just with their iPads but also in their swimming lessons and they have made amazing progress already.

Life cycles

The children have looked at the life cycles of frogs and butterflies and have created atmosphere, in groups, in their music lessons.

We also had some fun for European languages day – singing a well known song in German and doing a cheese hunt!



Reminder

Please ask your child to read at least 5 times per week and sign their reading record to show they have completed this. We had many more reading records handed in on Wednesday but it would be great to have the full set!



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English

Year 6 have worked very hard this half term in English. We have been practicing writing a range of sentences including simple, complex and compound using the picture book, 'Can I build another me?' by Shinsuke Yoshitake. We used this to help us write a non-chronological report about ourselves where we discussed our achievements, what makes us proud and our hobbies and interests. After this unit, we then read 'Over the Line' by Tom Palmer where we learnt more about life during World War One and living in the trenches.

Maths

In Maths, we have recapped our knowledge of place value and worked with larger numbers up to 10,000,000. We learned how to round decimals to the nearest decimal place. In addition to this, we have worked on our arithmetic skills through assessments. We then used this to address misconceptions or recap how to solve certain problems during short arithmetic lessons.

Reading

During the first few weeks of school, we ensured we had the correct reading book for our reading level. This was why completing the STAR reading test was important to ensure the ZPD level that the program provided us was an accurate picture of our reading. Once completing the book, we have been using iPads to take quizzes to demonstrate our understanding of what we have read.



Visit from Mr Croucher

Year 6 had a fantastic visit from Mr Croucher from Manor High School, who came to share all the exciting opportunities awaiting them at secondary school. The pupils were inspired as they learned about the new experiences and challenges ahead. They also demonstrated great resilience and creativity while making paper aeroplanes and testing their designs by flying them across the hall, turning the activity into a fun and engaging learning experience!

Wider Curriculum

Our History topic has been World War One where we have learnt about the reasons for the outbreak of the war as well as some of the weapons that were used during the war. We also learnt about how women made a huge contribution to the war effort while men had to fight on the war front. Alongside this, in Art, we explored war artists such as Paul Nash and discussed why certain artists would have been commissioned to create pieces of artwork for the government. When looking closely at these pieces, we found that colour, line, tone and shape played a pivotal part in creating mood and atmosphere.

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MUSIC

Young Voices

Rehearsals are well underway for our Young Voices concert.

Over 50 children from Year 5 and 6 are meeting after school on Mondays with Ms Gamble and Mrs Lawton-Weale to get ready for the big event.

Young Voices takes place in many venues across the country and Overdale Junior School Choir travel to the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham. Our concert is on January 15th and we will sing with around 6,000 other school children to an audience of thousands.

This event is a highlight of the musical calendar every year.



In School

We have started weekly ukulele lessons in Year 4 with the fabulous Mr Stevens from Leicestershire Music.

In Year 6, our students are learning how to Beatbox like pros!

In Spring Term, Year 5 will learn turntablism and Year 3 recorder.

Our weekly singing assemblies are a joy. We are definitely a singing school!



Festive Season

We are preparing for our Nativity performances in St Mary's Church in December. Our Christmas Choir will perform our Christmas songs at the Nativity, the Infant School, for the Salvation Army and hopefully for our local care home too!

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iPads

We hope your children are talking about their learning at home and that they are enjoying, but also benefitting from working with the iPads in their lessons. They are a huge resource and learning tool which we are very excited about bringing into the modern classroom.

There is a home school contract which every parent/carer will need to sign after reading the supporting documents.

As it is such a big investment in time and funds, we need your support in ensuring they are used correctly and safely as well as understanding the benefits and reasons for using iPads.

There are four documents that you need to read:

- 1) Home School contract (primary)
- 2) Ipad terms and conditions (primary)
- 3) OAK digital acceptable use and responsible use Policy
- 4) Ipad FAQs (primary)

Please find the documents here: Overdale Junior School – iPads at Overdale Junior School (overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk)

Then please complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/MeSpeD2ism>