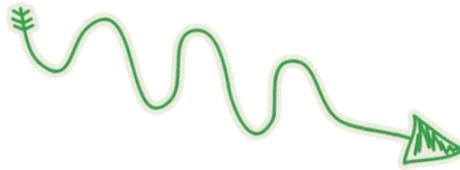


Overdale NEWSLETTER

Junior School

Spring 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our Spring 2 term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic term in school. It has been a wonderful reminder of the strength of our community and the power of our shared values: respect, responsibility, and resilience. I am so proud that we have a community where these values continue to shine through in everything our children do.

Across the school, pupils have shown remarkable commitment to their learning this term. Whether tackling new challenges in the classroom, supporting one another through collaborative projects, or demonstrating maturity and kindness around the school, they have embodied the spirit of our values with real pride. Their resilience has been especially evident as they've embraced new topics and stretched themselves academically, while their sense of responsibility has grown in the way they approach their work and contribute to our school environment. Most heartening of all has been the respect they show, to their peers, to staff, and to themselves, as they continue to grow into thoughtful, confident young people.

I am incredibly proud of the progress they have made this term, not only in their learning but in their character. These achievements are a testament to their hard work and to the support you provide at home.

As we head into the Easter break, I hope you all enjoy a restful and refreshing holiday together. We look forward to welcoming the children back for the summer term, ready for new opportunities, continued growth, and the joy of learning as a community.

Mrs Cross
Head of School



Overdale

Junior School

This term, the Year 3 children have been working incredibly hard and showing real commitment to our school values of respect, responsibility and resilience. Whether in the classroom, on the playground or during special events, they continue to impress us with their positive attitudes, thoughtful behaviour and determination to do their best. We are proud of the way they support one another, take ownership of their learning and persevere when faced with new challenges. It has been a joy to see these values shining through in everything they do.



Year 3 have enjoyed a busy and enriching few weeks, taking part in a wide range of hands-on learning experiences. Their visit to the Gurdwara on Tuesday 24th March helped deepen their understanding of Sikhism, giving them the chance to explore how the religion was formed, how festivals are celebrated and what is important to Sikhs. The children were engaged, respectful and asked thoughtful questions throughout.



Science Week was another highlight, with pupils designing and testing different types of boats to investigate which could float and hold the most stones. Their teamwork, problem-solving and resilience were fantastic to see.



In Computing, the children began learning how to use Scratch, practising how to move sprites, change backdrops and create simple animations as their confidence in programming grew.

The term ended with a fun food-technology session where the children made rainbow pizzas using baguettes, vegetables, pineapple and two types of cheese, with many choosing to add ham. Most children enjoyed tasting their creations.



Overdale

Junior School

This term, our Year 4 children have continued to build on the strong foundations they developed last year, showing an even deeper understanding of our school values of respect, responsibility and resilience. As they grow older, it has been wonderful to see them taking greater ownership of their learning, supporting one another with increasing maturity and approaching new challenges with confidence and determination. Their thoughtful behaviour, positive attitudes and willingness to persevere are shining through in everything they do, and we are incredibly proud of the role models they are becoming within our school community.



Year 4 have enjoyed a fantastic range of activities recently, with plenty of opportunities to develop new skills and challenge themselves. In their final cooking sessions, the children made a spicy chickpea pot, giving them the chance to explore different spices and learn how to safely prepare ingredients such as chillies, ginger, garlic and onions. They also created leek and mushroom croustades, and although many were unsure about the ingredients at first, their confidence grew as they chopped, grated and assembled their tarts—most children ended up loving the finished result.



The year group also impressed everyone with their brilliant ukulele concert, and we were delighted to welcome so many parents to share the moment.



In art, the children produced fantastic dragon-eye sculptures, working carefully to refine the details. We were also incredibly proud of the four children from 4CG who won prizes in a writing competition—an excellent achievement that reflects their creativity and hard work.



Year 4 also visited the mandir, adding another valuable experience to their learning this term.

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Spring 2026

Year 5

This term, our Year 5 children have continued to grow in confidence and maturity, building impressively on the values they have developed throughout their time in school. Their respect for others, sense of responsibility and growing resilience are becoming more evident in the way they approach their learning, support their classmates and take on new challenges with determination. As they move closer to the top of the school, it has been wonderful to see them stepping up as positive role models, showing thoughtful behaviour, independence and a real commitment to doing their best. We are incredibly proud of the young leaders they are becoming.

Year 5 have had a fantastic few weeks taking part in Bikeability, with an impressive 118 pupils completing their training. The children worked incredibly hard throughout the four-week programme and made excellent progress in developing their cycling skills and confidence. Well done to everyone who took part.

For those keen to continue practising, families can attend Bike Fest, a free monthly cycling event at the Leicester Cycle Circuit from May to October, offering coaching, bike hire and maintenance support. Riders who would like to complete Level 1 & 2 before leaving primary school—or progress to Level 3—can also access additional Bikeability courses run by Leicestershire County Council during the school holidays.



Year 5 also produced some truly *out of this world* space-themed artwork this term. The children showed fantastic creativity and attention to detail as they explored colour, texture and imaginative design to create their cosmic pieces. Their artwork has sparked a great deal of excitement and will serve as wonderful inspiration for their upcoming trip to the Space Centre in April.



Overdale

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Spring 2026

Year 6

This term, our Year 6 children have shown an impressive level of maturity, focus and determination as they continue to build on the values they have developed throughout their time at school. Their respect for others, strong sense of responsibility and growing resilience have been evident in every aspect of their learning. As the oldest pupils in the school, they are stepping confidently into their role as leaders and role models, setting a positive example for the younger year groups through their attitude, behaviour and commitment.

With SATs approaching next term, the children have been working incredibly hard, approaching revision and preparation with a thoughtful and determined mindset. We are proud of the way they are embracing challenges, supporting one another and showing real perseverance as they get ready for this important milestone. Their dedication reflects just how far they have come, and we are confident they will continue to shine as they move through their final months at Overdale Junior School.

Year 6 have also been studying Shakespeare's Macbeth, exploring the themes, characters and dramatic tension within the play. The children showed great enthusiasm as they delved into the story, discussing the plot and the motives behind key characters. They even brought parts of the play to life through their own drama work, acting out scenes with impressive expression and confidence. It was wonderful to see them engaging so deeply with such a classic text and enjoying the chance to perform.



Year 6 celebrated British Science Week with a fantastic range of activities that encouraged curiosity, creativity and scientific thinking. The children explored different science careers before heading into the woodland to take part in nature photography. They captured some beautiful images, which they later edited and uploaded as entries for a class competition. Mr Hedges shortlisted the photographs and awarded prizes, and the standard of work was incredibly high. The children should be very proud of the effort and skill they showed; their work was excellent!

A selection of their photography:



Overdale Junior School

Other News

Hedge Planting

On Thursday 19th March, our Year 3 children along with our Eco-Council took part in a wonderful hedge-planting project on our school grounds, and we are incredibly proud of everything they achieved.

It was a memorable event that brought learning to life and gave our pupils the chance to make a meaningful contribution to the future of our school environment. With support from members of the Trust, as well as several staff from Overdale Junior School, the children worked with great care and determination. They planted young trees into pre-dug holes, gently firming the soil around each one to help them take root securely. It was a hands-on experience that required patience, teamwork and attention to detail, and our pupils rose to the challenge beautifully.

What stood out most was their enthusiasm. From the moment they arrived on site, the children showed genuine excitement about being part of something that will grow and flourish long after their time at school. Their teamwork was exemplary, with pupils encouraging one another, sharing tools, and taking pride in doing the job well. Their respect for the environment was clear in the thoughtful way they handled each young tree, understanding that these small saplings will one day become a thriving hedge that supports wildlife and enhances our school grounds.

We are thrilled at the prospect of these hedges growing into a beautiful and lasting feature of our school for many years to come. This simple act of planting today will become part of the legacy that our children begin—and also one they leave behind for future generations. It is not often that pupils get the chance to create something so long-lasting, and we are delighted to have given them the opportunity to contribute to something so meaningful.

We could not be prouder of their hard work, their attitude, and the way they represented our school. Their efforts have made a real difference, and we look forward to watching the hedges grow along with the children themselves.



Overdale Junior School

Other News

Art Exhibition

Both the Infant and Junior schools opened their doors this term to showcase some absolutely fantastic artwork inspired by the book *Ish*. Thank you to everybody who was able to come to school to celebrate the children's work with us. The exhibition transformed our school spaces into immersive galleries, allowing families to step into a world shaped entirely by the children's creativity, imagination and interpretation of the story. Walking through the displays, it was impossible not to feel inspired by the range of techniques, colours and ideas that the pupils explored.

Each class approached the theme in its own unique way, resulting in a rich variety of pieces—from bold, expressive paintings to delicate sketches and mixed-media creations. The children embraced the message of *Ish*, celebrating the joy of creating without the pressure of perfection, and this spirit shone through in every piece of work on display. The exhibition truly reflected the individuality of our pupils and the confidence they are developing as young artists.

We were delighted to welcome so many parents and carers to both the Infant and Junior exhibitions. Your support means a great deal to the children, and we hope you enjoyed seeing their artwork presented in such a thoughtful and engaging way. The pride on the children's faces as they shared their creations was wonderful to witness, and we are incredibly proud of the effort, imagination and enthusiasm they put into every piece.

Thank you once again to everyone who joined us. Events like this remind us how special our school community is and how much our pupils can achieve when they are encouraged to explore, express and enjoy the creative process.



Overdale Junior School

Other News

World Book Day

This term, the children and staff enjoyed a truly wonderful World Book Day, and the whole school was buzzing with excitement for reading from the moment the doors opened this morning. There was a real sense of anticipation in the air, and it was clear that everyone was ready to celebrate stories, imagination and the joy of books. One of the highlights of the day was our reading breakfast – thank you to everybody who was able to come along to this!

It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers joining us to share stories with the children before school. The hall was filled with the gentle hum of voices reading aloud, pages turning and families enjoying a calm, cosy start to the day.

It created such a warm and joyful atmosphere and set the perfect tone for everything that followed. Our World Book Day assembly was another standout moment. Staff delivered performances and readalouds that had the children completely captivated. The excitement continued with our fun masked reader videos, where pupils eagerly tried to guess which staff members were reading in character. Laughter, curiosity and plenty of surprised reactions filled the room as each identity was revealed.

The whole-school video celebrating our love of reading was also a huge hit, showcasing just how much stories mean to our school community. This was beautifully complemented by a brilliant whole-school singing assembly performance of Explorer and the Bear from Paddington: The Musical, which brought everyone together in a shared moment of music and storytelling. Throughout the day, children took part in a wide range of activities designed to spark creativity and deepen their love of reading. A particular favourite was the BBC live lesson, which added an exciting interactive element to the celebrations and kept the children thoroughly engaged.

We have had a truly memorable day—a vibrant, joyful celebration of stories, imagination and the power of reading. The enthusiasm shown by the children was infectious, and we are so proud of the way they embraced every part of the day. World Book Day reminded us once again of the magic that books bring into our lives and the importance of nurturing a lifelong love of reading.



Overdale

Junior School

Class assemblies

We've had some truly incredible class assemblies this year, each one showcasing the children's hard work, confidence and creativity. It has been a real privilege to welcome so many parents and carers into school to share these moments with us. Your presence adds something very special to the atmosphere, and the children beam with pride knowing that their families are there to celebrate their learning.

What has been especially heart-warming is seeing this enthusiasm continue throughout our Friday celebration assemblies.

These weekly gatherings have become a highlight for pupils and staff alike, as we come together to recognise special mentions, achievements and memorable moments from across the school. Whether it's celebrating academic progress, acts of kindness, sporting successes or personal milestones, each assembly reminds us of the many ways our children shine.

We are delighted to be able to open our doors in this way and to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

The support of our families makes such a difference, and we are grateful for the time you take to join us and cheer the children on. We look forward to welcoming even more parents and carers as the year continues, and to sharing many more opportunities to celebrate the children's successes together.

As we continue with our class assemblies, as well as our Friday Celebration assemblies, we look forward to welcoming you into school in the near future.

Overdale Junior School

Other News

School attendance:

Attendance Matters: Every Day Counts

School is the key to future success, and regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to reach their potential and develop vital life skills. Even small amounts of missed time can accumulate quickly.

It All Adds Up

- Being 15 minutes late every day equates to two weeks of lost learning over a school year.
 - Missing two days each month adds up to nearly three weeks of absence across the year.
- These small moments really do make a significant difference to children's learning.

Start of the School Day

The school day begins promptly at 8:50am. To help children settle and start learning smoothly, please ensure they are on the playground before 8:50am, ready to enter school with their classmates.

Reporting Absence

While good attendance is important, we understand that there will be times when absence is necessary or unavoidable. If your child is absent for any reason, please inform the school office:

- Overdale Infant School: 0116 2882724
- Overdale Junior School: 0116 2883736

If your child is absent for more than one day, please continue to contact the school each day to keep us updated.



OVERDALE SCHOOLS PTFA

PARENTS, TEACHERS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION



Our Purpose



The object of the association is to advance the education of pupils in the school in particular by:



Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school



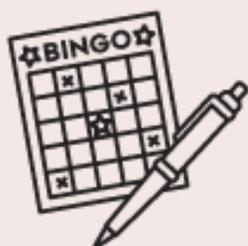
Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



1 EasyFundraising

When you shop online with participating retailers, they'll donate part of what you spend to your chosen cause. Whether you shop on your phone, laptop or tablet, you can earn free cashback donations for your cause. Scan the QR code to get started:



2 Family Bingo Night

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for delicious fish & chips, a thrilling raffle, and lively Bingo games the whole family will love!

Friday 24th April,
5.30-7.30pm!

3 Summer Fete

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 27th June, 2026
12-2.30pm



WE NEED YOUR SKILLS

Treasurer

- A good head for numbers
- Good Mathematical and logistical skills
- Keeps accounts in a clear and concise manner
- Follows any financial or expenses policies
- Provides accurate, up to date reports
- Manages the PTFA bank account with other signatories
- Completes the charity annual return with the chair

Join the Summer Fete Committee

Love planning events?
Enjoy good vibes and great people? 🎉

We're looking for more awesome parents, teachers, and friends to join our A-team!

Come help us put together another unforgettable day—full of fun, community spirit, and raising funds for our school.

If you like laughter, teamwork, and getting stuck into something meaningful, we'd love to have you on board! 🎉



Get in contact



overdalepa@gmail.com



Overdale PTFA
Charity No. 1120901