

Welcome to



New to Year 3 Handbook
2026–2027

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Holmes
Head of School: Mrs Cross

School contact details:
Eastcourt Road, Knighton, Leicester, LE2 3YA
Tel: 0116 2883736
Email: admin@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk
Website: www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk

Respect – Resilience – Responsibility

Welcome to Overdale Junior School

Inspiring kind hearts, curious minds and bright futures.

Welcome to Overdale Junior School.

Thank you for choosing to join our community at this exciting stage of your child's education.



From lighting hearts and minds to shaping the future of our community, Overdale Junior School is proud to continue along the path of learning where responsibility is modelled, resilience is built and respect is lived.

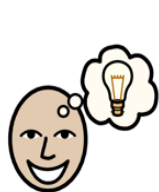
We are a large, thriving school in Knighton, Leicester, offering a supportive and ambitious environment for our pupils in Years 3 to 6. With around 486 children across 16 mixed-ability classes, we are proud of both our academic success and our strong focus on personal development. Located in a calm residential area, we are proud to share our site with Overdale Infant and Preschool, allowing us to build strong, supportive links across the primary years.

At the heart of everything we do are our core values:

Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

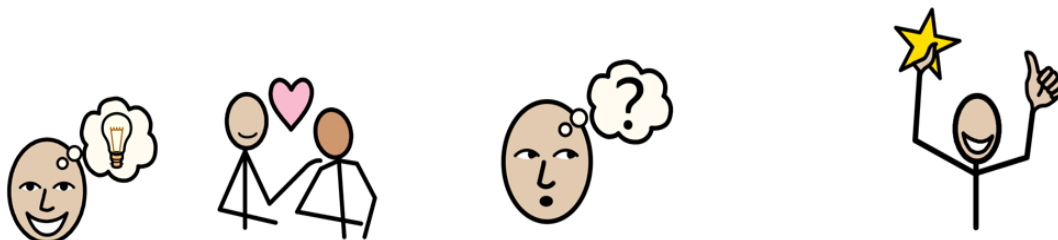
These values shape our culture, relationships and learning, helping our pupils to grow into confident, thoughtful and well-rounded young people who are ready for the next stage of their journey. We believe that children achieve their very best when **school and home work in partnership**. Our "triangle of support" (between school, parents and the child) ensures that every pupil is supported to thrive both academically and personally.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you over the coming years and are excited to welcome your child into our caring and vibrant school community.



Inspiring kind hearts, curious minds and bright futures.

Our vision statement:



Inspiring kind hearts, curious minds and bright futures.

Our vision statement reflects the qualities that we believe help every child to thrive.

We are committed to inspiring **kind hearts**, by encouraging children to show empathy, respect and responsibility in the way they treat themselves and others.

When children feel supported and valued in this way, we believe that they are empowered to develop **curious minds**, empowered by the drive to ask questions, explore ideas and approach learning with confidence, resilience and enthusiasm.

Together, these qualities lay the foundations for **bright futures**, where every child is equipped not only with knowledge and skills, but also with the character and ambition to shape their own path. Our vision recognises that kindness fuels curiosity, and curiosity opens the door to opportunity, creating a future where every child can flourish.

As a school, we aim to:

- drive motivation and a love of learning by encouraging positive attitudes, active engagement as well as the value of having the confidence to push ourselves;
- strive for high aspirations through challenge, opportunity, and a mindset for growth; and
- thrive by celebrating achievement, reaching our goals and supporting each other to excel.

We are proud to grow a community where children are **responsible, resilient, and respectful**; in all that we do, we provide the environment where children can succeed and make a positive difference in the world.

Attendance

Our school day starts as soon as children arrive. As such, being even just a few minutes late can mean missing key instructions, morning activities or vital settling-in time with their class.

To help all children benefit from the full school day:

- Children need to be on the school site **before** the bell and whistle, which is sounded at 8:50am.
- **After 8:55, the school gates will close.**
- **Parents will be able to exit the gates after this time but no entrance will be permitted after this time.**
- Any children arriving after 8:55am will need to enter via Reception and will be marked as late

Thank you for supporting your child to arrive on time each day. If you need help with morning routines, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Key Information

- Children may arrive at school from **8:40am**.
- Playground supervision begins at **8:45am**.
- Year 3 children, should arrive and wait on the Willow playground.
- The whistle will be sounded at **8:50am**.
- School activities begin at **8:50am** and children will be permitted to enter the building.
- **After 8:55am**, the school gates will close.
- Parents will be able to exit the gates after this time but no entrance will be permitted after this time.
- Any children arriving after 8:55am will need to enter via Reception and will be marked as late
- School finishes at 3:20pm.
- Parents should meet year 3 and year 4 children at the end of the day on the willow playground.
- If your child is late for school due to a medical appointment (for which we request advance notice where possible) please provide the school office with a copy of the letter/appointment card for our records. Where possible, such appointments should be made outside of school hours.



8:40

Children may arrive at school from **8:40am**.



8:45

Playground supervision begins at **8:45am**.



8:50

The whistle will be sounded at **8:50am**. Children may enter the building. Lessons begin.



8:55

Just after **8:55am**, the gates will be locked.



3:20

School finishes at **3:20pm**.

If your child needs to leave early for a medical appointment, please provide the school office with a copy of the letter/appointment card for our records. Where possible, such appointments should be made outside of school hours.

If your child is ever unwell, please inform the office either by telephone or by emailing: absences@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk and include your child's name, class and the reason for absence in the email.

From 1st September 2013 new legislation was brought in regarding children taking holidays during term time. The new law states that schools should not authorise leave of absence except in exceptional circumstances. Parents may be issued with penalty notices and fined per parent, per child for taking holidays during term time.

Learning at Overdale Junior School

- Overdale Junior School is a friendly, inclusive and multicultural school within the Oak Multi Academy Trust, where every child is valued and supported to succeed.
- We deliver a carefully planned, knowledge-rich curriculum that builds progressively over time, ensuring children develop a strong understanding of individual subjects such as History, Geography and Science.
- Teaching is informed by research and evidence, with clear links made where meaningful. Knowledge organisers help pupils identify key learning and connect new knowledge to what they have learned previously, including at the Infant School.
- Our extensive and well-resourced grounds, including playgrounds, a sports field, spinney, pond and outdoor learning spaces, are used to enrich teaching and provide varied learning experiences.
- We work closely with families to ensure a smooth, positive transition from the Infants, so that every child continues their Overdale journey with confidence, excitement and curiosity.

Enrichment

- Year 3 children will take part in a range of exciting activities throughout the year, including school trips, local visits, walks in the community and visitors coming into school.
- They will also enjoy whole-school events such as collective worship, Anti-Bullying Week, Charitable activities as well as Sports Day.
- All children will begin learning French in Term 1 and will take part in whole-class music lessons, learning the recorder from Term 2 through to the end of the year.
- Each week, class teachers have a half day of planning, preparation and assessment time.
- During this time, children take part in a planned programme of Forest School, Food Routes, PE and other foundation subjects. We are proud of this unique offer at Overdale.
- Your child's class teacher will share any specific equipment or clothing needed for each activity via Class Dojo.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities throughout the year, giving children opportunities to enjoy learning beyond the classroom at lunchtime or after school. Clubs vary by term and may include football, tennis, gymnastics, multi-sports, book club, gardening, maths challenge, cross country, art, board games and choir.

Clubs are usually organised each half term and are advertised via Parent Mail and Class Dojo, with places allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For music tuition, please refer to the separate music booklet for instrument options and costs provided by our peripatetic teachers.

Preparing for School

When you join Overdale Junior School in Year 3, you will notice that many aspects of learning remain the same as at the Infant school.

Like Overdale Infant School, we aspire to make learning exciting, accessible and challenging, to suit the needs of every individual.

In Year 3, we build upon the fantastic foundations and encourage children to develop a greater level of independence. As such, we promote this from the very first day.

We expect children to:

- be on time and ready to learn;
- wear the correct school uniform with pride every day;
- read 5 times a week to an adult at home;
- have their reading journal (boom reader) signed electronically;
- complete any homework set and hand this in on time;
- wear the correct pe kit to school; and
- follow the 'Overdale Way' in all that they do.

Behaviour, Rewards and Consequences

We have extremely high expectations of behaviour at Overdale Junior School and aim to:

- Maintain levels of excellent behaviour;
- Provide a consistent approach in rewarding good behaviour throughout school;
- Provide a consistent approach in responding to unacceptable behaviour throughout school;
- Ensure that behaviour does not inhibit the learning of others.
- Teach skills to support positive social interaction, as well as positive learning behaviour

We promote positive behaviour as often as possible, reduce language and help children begin to understand how to manage their own behaviour. Good behaviour is rewarded through:

- Positive praise
- Stickers (respect, resilience, responsibility)
- Special mention slips to send home
- Attendance certificate (by class)
- Dojo points
- Sharing of good work with SLT

We expect all children to behave appropriately at all times and actively engage with lessons and play in an appropriate manner. Our Character Curriculum is made clear to all pupils through classroom discussions and weekly assemblies – these link to our school values which we refer to as 'The Overdale Way'.



Our behaviour policy, as well as all of our other policies, can be found on our website here:

[Policies - Overdale Junior School](#)

Overdale Junior School uniform

A fair and consistently applied school uniform helps promote a sense of belonging, a learning ethic and safety. It helps reduce peer pressure, finances for families, distractions and wasting time in the morning deciding what to wear.

The following describes the uniform at OJS which can be found at most supermarkets for very little cost.

PLEASE ENSURE EVERY ITEM OF SCHOOL UNIFORM IS LABELLED

Tops



White shirt/blouse



White polo t-shirt



Royal blue round neck jumper



Royal blue v neck jumper/cardigan

Bottoms



Straight Black trousers
(no jean/jeggings/tights style)



Knee length black skirt/pinafore



Knee length black shorts



Royal blue checked dress knee length

Shoes



Plain black shoes



Plain black shoes patent or matte



Plain black boots patent or matte



Plain black smart trainer shoes

No colours
No open toe shoes
No heels
No additional decorative buckles

PE Kit

- Children are required to attend school wearing PE kit on their PE days.
- Children are required to look smart whilst in school and should be dressed appropriately for PE on their PE days.
- If your child is not in appropriate kit, we will call to request that this is dropped off at school for them to change in to.

PE Tops



Plain white round neck t-shirt (no logos or patterns)



Royal blue round neck jumper

No hoodies
No football tops
No coloured tops

PE Bottoms and shoes



Plain black jogging trousers (small sports logo acceptable, no patterns)



Plain Black leggings (small sports logo acceptable, no patterns)



Plain black shorts (small sports logo acceptable, no patterns)



Sensible trainers, appropriate for sport (any colour)

Jewellery

- **Small set of ear studs only** (no ear studs allowed for PE at all – they must be removed by child as staff cannot do this and tape will not be applied). No other piercings allowed.
- 1x item of religious jewellery e.g. kara (this should be removed for PE)
- No makeup is permitted – children will be asked to remove this if it is worn to school. This includes painted nails.

Outdoor



Waterproof jacket
(any colour) all year
round



Warm winter coat
(any colour)

What should my child wear for Forest School?



Waterproof outerwear: sturdy coat/ jacket and trousers suitable for mud, rain, and puddle exploration.

Layered base set: moisture-wicking top and leggings that keep children warm and dry.



Fleece mid-layer: lightweight warmth that's easy to move in.

Wellingtons or all-terrain boots: waterproof, grippy footwear for movement through the 'forest school'.



Warm socks: breathable warmth that stays cosy even when damp.



Warm gloves: breathable warmth that stays cosy even when damp

Miscellaneous

- Children do not need to carry their PE kit to school so **DO NOT** need a large rucksack.
- A book bag is sufficient for carrying reading books and any homework.
- Children should have sensible hair cuts and no colours.
- Children with long hair may be asked to tie it up for certain activities.
- Writing equipment is provided by school therefore children **DO NOT** need a pencil case.
- Children should bring a water bottle to school every day. This will be kept in the classroom and is in addition to the drink they bring as part of their packed lunch. This should be clearly labelled. Please note, in the new school year and going forward, **metal water bottles are NOT permitted.**



Lost Property

If your child loses any uniform during the school day, then our lost property store is located in the Fox Entrance which you may enter at THE END of the school day, after 3:20pm.

We urge you to label all uniform. When uniform is labelled, it is almost always returned to it's owner.

What happens at playtime?

- Depending on the child's year group, playtime will begin at a different time.
- In Year 3, playtime usually begins at 10:20am.
- Children may wish to bring in a piece of fruit or dried fruit to eat, please note that crisps, cereal bars and biscuits are not permitted.

**We are a NUT FREE SCHOOL and a HEALTHY SCHOOL.
Please ensure your child's snacks and packed lunch reflects this.**

- At playtime, children will be assigned to a playground; either the large playground 'Willow' or the smaller playground 'Blackberry'.
- 'Willow' is a busy playground – no football is permitted on this playground at playtime.
- 'Blackberry' has colourful markings added to encourage children to develop their own games. The most popular features of this playground are the maze and the adventure trail (wibbly-wobbly).
- All children are encouraged to take a toilet break at playtime as this is discouraged during learning time. There is an expectation that all children work towards using the toilet before school, at playtime and at lunchtime.

What happens at lunchtime?

- Payments for school dinners are made online and further information will follow.
- If your child is not eligible for Pupil Premium funding, you will need to pay for school meals. Please check the school website to see if you qualify for Free School Meals, and contact us if you need support with this.
- In Year 3, lunchtime begins at 11:40am, with 25 minutes for eating and 25 minutes for play. Children have allocated seats in the dining hall so staff can get to know them and monitor behaviour and eating.
- Children with packed lunches collect and return their lunchboxes independently from the Year 3 trolley. Those having school dinners line up to choose their meal and clear away their trays independently.
- There are always several adults on duty, including senior leaders, all wearing high-visibility jackets. Our lunchtime team ensures children are safe, happy and behaving well.
- Playtimes include a range of organised activities through our "Zones," such as sports, games and creative play. Children can earn rewards for demonstrating our core values of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility.
- If any issues arise, children are encouraged to speak to an adult. Incidents are recorded and shared with class teachers, and parents are informed if needed. First aiders are available for any injuries.

What happens at the end of the school day?

- The school day ends at 3:20pm.
- Children are escorted to the Willow playground where parents should wait behind the yellow line.
- At the start of the year, we ask that you collect your child directly from their class teacher to help build relationships and ensure a safe handover. As children become more confident, they may walk to you once the teacher has seen you.
- If your child has a packed lunch, please encourage them to collect their lunchbox at the end of the day to develop independence.
- Teachers remain on the playground until all children are collected or until 3:30pm. After this time, children will be taken to the school office. If you are running late or there is a change to collection arrangements, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

What might a typical school day look like?

| | | Weekly Timetable | | | | | Year 3/4 | | | | | |
|-----|----------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|----------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| St | 8:50 | 9:00 | 9:25 | 10:20 | 10:35 | 11:00 | 11:35 | 12:25 | 1:20 | 1:50 | 2:05 | 3:00 |
| End | 9:00 | 9:25 | 10:20 | 10:35 | 11:00 | 11:40 | 12:25 | 1:20 | 1:50 | 2:05 | 3:00 | 3:20 |
| Dur | 10m | 25m | 55m | 15m | 25m | 40m | 60m | 55m | 30m | 10m | 55m | 20m |
| M | Register | Assembly – character curriculum | Maths | Break | Reading | Writing | Lunch | Foundation 1 | Intervention Reading RWI | Physical Break | Foundation 2 | Class story and home time routine |
| T | | Assembly – singing | Maths | | Reading | Writing | | Foundation 1 | Intervention Reading RWI | | Foundation 2 | |
| W | | Class Collective worship | Maths | | Reading | Writing | | Foundation 1 | Intervention Reading RWI | | Foundation 2 | |
| Th | | Class Collective worship | Maths | | Reading | Writing | | Foundation 1 | Intervention Reading RWI | | Foundation 2 | |
| F | | Assembly – celebration | Maths | | Reading | Writing | | Foundation 1 | Intervention Reading RWI | | Fitness Friday | |