



SYWELL ROAD, OVERSTONE, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 OAG

Tel: (01604) 493861

[www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk)

15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to school and a very big welcome to Overstone Primary School to our new Reception children and parents. It has been lovely to welcome all the children back after the summer (but not actually very sunny!) break and a pleasure to welcome our new reception children into school. This week, our new reception children have been staying with us until after lunch and next week they will be with us until the end of the day. They have been spending some time each morning with their Year 6 buddies who have been doing a fantastic job of helping them to settle in and providing a familiar and caring face for them when needed. Thank you to our Year 6 children who have shown our new arrivals what Overstone Primary School is all about.

### School News

In school we have slightly adapted our rewards system for this year. Following child and parent questionnaires over the last 12 months we have worked as a staff to try to refresh our system. Children have all been informed and introduced to a few of the new Overstone bookmark characters that are now available as rewards.

Below I have listed the wide variety of rewards that can be earned throughout the year for your information. Certificates will be received in our school assembly each fortnight. Home assembly will take place every other week where children are able to bring along any awards, medals, trophies or certificates for their activities out of school. Each class will host their own Class assembly throughout the year where family members will be invited along to watch and enjoy their performance.

**Owl Points-** These are now given for behaviour and hard work as well as home reading. Children are able to earn certificates and our new character bookmarks as they work through the card system. Children will need to gain 5 points on each card from home reading before they can progress on to the next card. They can earn these by making sure they have read or shared a book at home with an adult at least 3 times in a week and then making sure their reading record books are in school on the following Monday. They will need your help with this at first. They can also earn 2 Reading points for completing 6 home reads in one week as before.

On completion of card 8, children will receive an award which is individual to their year group. These will be announced in assembly over the coming weeks.

**Well Dones:** Teachers will nominate 2-3 children in each school assembly to receive a Well Done and teachers will talk about something they have excelled at throughout the week.

**Headteacher Award:** Each class will nominate one child to receive a Headteacher Award each week. This will be awarded based on the child showing a particular commitment to the weekly theme or for being a great representative of one or more of our school values. Headteacher award children will have their photograph sent out on a Tweet (if they have permission) each week. Please follow us on Twitter (or X as it is now known) to see these.



HEADTEACHER: MR S CASEY



West  
Northamptonshire  
Council



**Pom Poms:** These are awarded by lunch staff for conduct around the lunch hall and the playground. These contribute to a house total which are then counted at the end of each week. The winning house will receive 10 points toward their overall house total.

**Good to be green:** All children who remain on a green traffic light each week will receive reward time each week and also will be given a house point to contribute towards their overall house total each half term.

**Line trophies:** As children move around the school as a class they are encouraged to be calm and respectful to others. Teachers will award a line trophy where classes are doing a particularly good job of this. The winning class each half term is rewarded with an additional play time.

**Attendance Trophy:** Measured as a class group each half term, the winners gain ownership of the huge attendance Trophy for a whole half term. The winning class each half term is rewarded with an additional play time.

As you can see there are a number of ways children can celebrate success here at Overstone and I look forward to watching them all progress through the new system.

### **Sport at Overstone Primary School**

I am very pleased to be able to share that last year we achieved the School Games Gold Award for our participation and engagement in sporting activities across West Northamptonshire. We will continue to participate in as many competitions as we possibly can throughout the year.

### **Focus events**

Throughout the year we will be inviting parents into classes to view children's work for a short session at the end of the day. We are hoping to start with a writing focus event during the autumn term. You will be able to come along to class, take a look at your child's most recent piece of extended writing and look at their achievements and targets. Teachers will be on hand to answer any questions you might have.

### **Water Bottles**

Please remember to send your child to school with a water bottle. It is important that they drink during the day and our drinking fountain continues to be out of use currently. As they are drinking throughout the day, please send plain water rather than squash or flavoured water. The recommendation is that sugary drinks are not consumed over lengthy periods of time when children cannot clean their teeth.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club is now open from 7.45am each week day. If you would like your child to attend breakfast club, this can be booked via your ParentPay account. Please book by 3.00pm on the day before club is needed (including 3.00pm on Sunday to use breakfast club on Monday).

Gates are open from 7.45am for breakfast club access only. For general school access, please do not enter the school site until 8.30am in preparation for doors to open at 8.35am. No children, other than those in Year 5 and 6 who have permission, should be entering the school site without an adult. Please can I also ask that only the pedestrian gates are used to enter the school site.

### **Contact Details**

If you have had a change of address, email address or telephone number, please let the school office know. It is important that we have accurate contact information for your child.

### **Communication**

If you need to speak to a class teacher or have a concern or worry to discuss, please try to catch teachers at the start or end of the school day. If this is not possible, please send a message to [admin@overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk) with 'FAO - Teacher Name' in the subject box and a brief summary

of the concern/information in the main body of the message. This will be forwarded to the teacher within school hours and whenever possible responded to within 24hours or the next working school day. Direct staff emails should not be used.

In any instance where you feel a concern may need further discussion, please email [admin@overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk) with 'FAO - Miss Dawson' (Deputy Headteacher) with a short explanation of the concern and the conversation already held with the class teacher. Miss Dawson will then be able to assist you further. Class teachers should always be the first port of call as they are most likely to have the information you need to reassure you and your child. We thank you with your support in this.

### **Diary Dates**

Diary dates for the term will follow next week. We will include everything we know about currently and will update you with any additional dates as the term moves on.

### **Nut Allergies**

Please can I remind parents that we are a nut free school. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies and in order to keep them safe we need to ensure that no nuts or nut products are sent in and consumed on the school site. We appreciate your support with this.

### **Christmas**

You will find information for Christmas performances on the attached date list. This year we will not be visiting the Theatre for a Pantomime but will instead have a theatre group come to perform in school. Our intention is to alternate this year on year.

### **Aspiration**

In line with our school Aspiration driver, we will be inviting a number of visitors into school to inspire children in a range of different and diverse activities and interests. I am please to be able to say that this term we will be visited by Josh Spinks, professional Motocross rider and coach who will be coming to present an assembly for us all.

### **Parking**

Sadly, we have already received a number of communications regarding inconsiderate parking. Please can I remind all visitors to the school to be mindful of our neighbours and other parents when parking. The spaces between driveways can often fit more than one car if parked carefully which can prevent the need to park across driveways.

### **Life Education**

This week we have had a visit from Life Education who have worked with children in each class looking at PSHE. Children have engaged well in all classes and were praised for their attention and behaviour.

We hope all of the children have enjoyed the first few days back and look forward to an action-packed term ahead.

Kind Regards

*Stephen Casey*

Headteacher

Overstone Primary School