



SYWELL ROAD, OVERSTONE, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 0AG

Tel: (01604) 493861

www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk

27th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had an action-packed return to school with lots going on across the year groups. We have welcomed our new Reception children into our school and their Year 6 buddies have been doing a fantastic job of helping them to settle in and learn the rules and routines of our school. Well done Reception and Year 6!

We have recently completed our elections for school councillors, Eco-councillors and House Captains over these early weeks and I would like to congratulate all of those who were successful.

I would also like to congratulate all of those children who spent time and energy putting information together to present their own speeches and for having the courage to put themselves forward for election. Your contribution is vital, and I know over 30 children were disappointed on this occasion, but they should be very proud of their efforts some of the votes were very, very close!

Please find attached some dates for the term ahead. We have included everything we are aware of currently, but there will undoubtedly be more updates as we progress through the year.

FOOPS

FOOPS hosted a very successful meeting on Thursday 19th September here at school and have set out some plans for the year which will provide a range of exciting events for children to enjoy.

They have also made another sizeable donation to the school to enable us once again to take all the children to the Pantomime at Christmas this year. The trip will be on Friday 13th December to the Derngate Theatre to watch Cinderella and the generous donation from FOOPS will enable a huge reduction in costs and a reduced fee for all parents. With the huge rise in transport costs, this really wouldn't be possible without this important contribution. Further details will be provided. We thank FOOPS for all of their hard work and ongoing support. They are very keen for new members and anyone who thinks they could help in anyway should make contact on foops123@googlemail.com.

Peanuts

Due to a number of children having severe allergies, we are a nut free school. Please can I remind parents that no peanut or other nut products should be brought in to school at any point.

Well-being and Mental Health

We continue to look at ways to learn in this area and I am pleased to announce that The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) are hosting a drop-in session for parents on

World Mental Health Day, on Thursday the 10th of October. Parents can pop in via the office, to chat to MHST from 8.40am to 9.30am. You can find out more about the services they offer and ask the team questions or talk about your child. Tea and biscuits will be available!



HEADTEACHER: MR S CASEY



West
Northamptonshire
Council



Social Media

We now have a school Facebook page (search 'Overstone Primary School') and a school Instagram (search 'Overstone Primary School') to go along with our X/Twitter @schooloverstone. Please give these a follow. We are looking to enhance our output this year but children who currently do not have photo permission will not appear on these platforms or will have their image covered or blanked out. If your child previously has not had photo permission and you would like to update this, please let the office know.

Fruit Snacks

At morning break, the children are allowed a fruit or vegetable snack to eat at play time. This was introduced as part of our Healthy Schools Initiative to enable children to get one of their '5-a-day'. Snacks should be fresh fruit or vegetables, or dried fruit (such as raisins). Other snacks in packets that are not just fruit or veg will need to go in lunch boxes to have at lunch time.

Smart Phones

There is a growing issue across the country with Smart Phones and the impact they are having on our primary aged children. As children move through Key Stage 2 and particularly on into Years 5 and 6, I am aware that parents begin to feel under pressure to allow children to have these.

I would urge you to think carefully about whether children are prepared to use these responsibly and safely. I know schools around the UK spend a lot of time dealing with fallout from contact being made through smart phones, outside of school hours. Indeed, we too have had issues that have needed to be resolved over the last 12 months. These issues are often complicated, time consuming and upsetting for children and increasingly difficult to solve at school level.

I have included a link below for parents who may be considering a phone for your child. I would recommend taking a look at this so that you are clear on the issues that may occur if you decide to allow your child to have a smart phone.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/the-problem>

Perhaps if children need to be in contact when out and about then a straightforward phone and text device would be sufficient. I thought this worth sharing but of course the decision comes down to parents.

Pumpkin Challenge

We are very excited to see your Pumpkin Achievements at our Harvest Assembly. Please bring along any **HOME GROWN (only)** pumpkins from Monday 14th October. Mrs Jacobs has the exact genetic makeup of each of the pumpkin seeds that were distributed so she will know if any 'Aldi Specials' turn up!!! So home grown only please.

If you haven't managed to grow one this year, please do not worry as new seeds will be distributed to try for next year.

School Choir

Our choir have a performance coming up at the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough. Please see flyer attached if you would like to support them on the night.

Eco-Council

Our eco-challenge this week is to try and reduce our use of disposable wraps such as cling film and tin foil. In light of this we have a school discount code at honeybeegood.co.uk you can get 20% off your bees wax wraps using the code OVERSTONE20.

Clothing

Now the weather is changing please ensure that your children bring a waterproof coat with a hood and wear sensible shoes to school.

Jewellery

Please remind children that no jewellery is permitted in school except for small stud earrings. These should not be worn on PE days unless your child is able to remove them independently. Children will be asked to remove other jewellery items to take home if they are worn to school.

Lost Property

We have a large pile of lost property already here in school. If your child has lost any items of clothing, please come and take a look. Many of the items do not have names in which makes it difficult to return to the rightful owners. The pile of items is in the main foyer. If items are not collected they will be offered to Uniformly or sent for recycling when the clothes bank is collected on 11/10/24.

Appointments and absences

Please use the Absence notification link under the parents tab on the school website. This asks for all of the required information and processes it automatically. Please do not send absence information via email. Please include confirmation of appointments when completing the form. For absence related to medical appointments, a copy of the confirmation of appointment message is required for absence to be authorised.

Printer Cartridges

We are collecting used printer cartridges as an initiative to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. These can be taken to the school office.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is very popular and often nearing full capacity. It is important to book by at least 3.00pm the day before to ensure a spot. If the club reaches capacity and you are not booked in, you may be turned away at the door which I know will not be convenient. Please book in advance.

School Governors

Our school governors are keen to add some additional members to the group. If you would like some further information please contact the school office on admin@overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk .

We hope you all have an enjoyable end to the week and a lovely weekend.

Kind regards



Stephen Casey
Headteacher

A few snaps of our first few weeks:

Chess Club



Sports Crew -Leading Activities



Some of our new School Representatives

School Council



House Captains and Vice Captains



Year 6 and Reception Buddies



Eco-Council

