



SYWELL ROAD, OVERSTONE, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 0AG

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December Newsletter 2024

We have arrived at the end of what seems like an incredibly action-packed Autumn term. Congratulations to all children who participated in the Christmas performances and carol services. I am sure parents and carers will agree that they all did an amazing job of bringing some Christmas cheer to us all as we entered the festive period! In school we have had a packed timetable with performances to prepare for, a Panto trip and the various end of term activities as well. I am sure the children (and staff!) are all ready for a very well-earned break.

Sports

Throughout the term, we have attended a range of sporting activities including football, dodgeball and indoor athletics. Our children have represented the school with pride and shown determination and sportsmanship throughout. In school, we have had our end term house competitions. Results will be announced in assembly on Friday.

Events

Our whole school Panto trip was a great success with almost all children being able to attend. Our children enjoyed the show and participated throughout whilst representing our school values throughout their time at the theatre. The Christmas Cracker looks sure to be a fantastic event with FOOPS working hard to provide a fun filled occasion for all.

FOOPS

I would like to say a huge personal thank you to FOOPS for all of the support they give the school both financially and also in providing the fun 'extras' each term that add a bit of additional fun and excitement outside of the curriculum. FOOPS have committed to provided funding each year for our minibus which enables us to participate in additional sports and choir activities, class trips to the library as well as additional swimming sessions which would not be possible if we were having to finance coach travel. Additionally, a huge donation of £1,600 from FOOPS enabled a much-reduced overall cost for families of children attending the Panto on Friday which made this event much more accessible. Thank you FOOPS for all that you do - it is very much appreciated. If you are able to support FOOPS in their future work please make contact with them via foops123@googlemail.com, I know they will be pleased to hear from you.

Spanish Week

In November children enjoyed a week of focus on Spain and the Spanish language. They were able to learn about key Spanish artists, geography and history facts and also indulge in some traditional Spanish food. Hopefully the children were able to tell you all about this at the end of the day. As part of our diversity driver, we will continue our Spanish focus and will look to add another fun day of events in the Spring term.



HEADTEACHER: MR S CASEY



MHST

The mental health support team have sent out a number of communications over the past weeks and have asked us to check that parents are receiving them. Please can I ask that you check your junk/clutter mailboxes as it seems their emails are often filtered out of the main inbox area. It may be that some parents are missing event news so please have a check so that you don't miss out on what they have to offer.

Governor positions

There are currently a number of positions available to join the governing body. These are as a co-opted (community governor) or as a parent governor. All parents are eligible to apply to be a parent governor and parents and/or family members or other people with links to the school or local area are welcome to apply to be considered as a co-opted governor. Please email admin@overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk or visit <https://www.teachnorthamptonshire.com/job/school-governor-8/> if you would like to register your interest. Previous applicants are welcome to register again.

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 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 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.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this term is 96.1% which is at a very healthy level. Thank you to all parents/carers who support us with this. We know that good attendance is linked to higher achievement and better wellbeing for children and we appreciate your support with this.

Parking

Unfortunately, there are still a very small minority of parents who park with little consideration for safety, local residents or general road rules. I know this is a small number as the emails I receive often describe the cars and drivers – these are then passed on to the police. I would urge these parents to think of the safety and convenience of all members of our school community and also the message they are giving to their own children by regularly parking in places they shouldn't. Many parents park a little further away and walk a few extra steps which is far more helpful.

In the interests of positivity, I would like to say a massive thank you to the vast majority of parents/carers who take the time to park carefully and considerately and travel to and from school each day without causing upset or distress to anyone. Thank you so much for your ongoing efforts!

Eco-Council

This term our Eco-council have been working on ways to improve our school environment. This has included planting some trees on the field and also undertaking litter picks in the local area.

School Council

This term our school council have been working to provide new play equipment to use at play times. They have chosen a selection of items which are now in use during playtimes on the front playground. They are also very excited to have created a Snowman Game to use on a stall at the Christmas Cracker on Thursday afternoon. They have also been looking at improving safety outside of school and will continue to explore options in the new year.

The School Choir

The Choir have had a very busy term with performances at the Castle Theatre, The Horseshoe Pub and Overstone House Care Home. They will also be singing at Overstone Gate this Sunday if anyone would like to go along and join the fun.

Christmas

On Friday we head off for our Christmas break to do some frantic last-minute shopping (if you are like me) or prepare for visitors or long journeys to see family and loved ones. They say that we only get so many Christmases with our children so please take time to slow down and enjoy the magic and some special time with yours this year, I will certainly be doing so with mine.

Happy Christmas, have a great break and we will see you all back here on Tuesday 7th January to start a fresh year!

Stephen Casey
Headteacher

Some highlights from our Autumn Term:



Spanish Food Tasting



Eco Litter Pick



Christmas Lunch



Reception Performance



Year 1 Performance



Year 3 Performance



Year 5 Performance



Year 2 Carol Concert



Year 4 Carol Concert



Year 6 Carol Concert

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at Overstone Primary School.