Overstone Primary School Newsletter 30/04/26

Welcome to Overstone's Monthly Newsletter

April 2026

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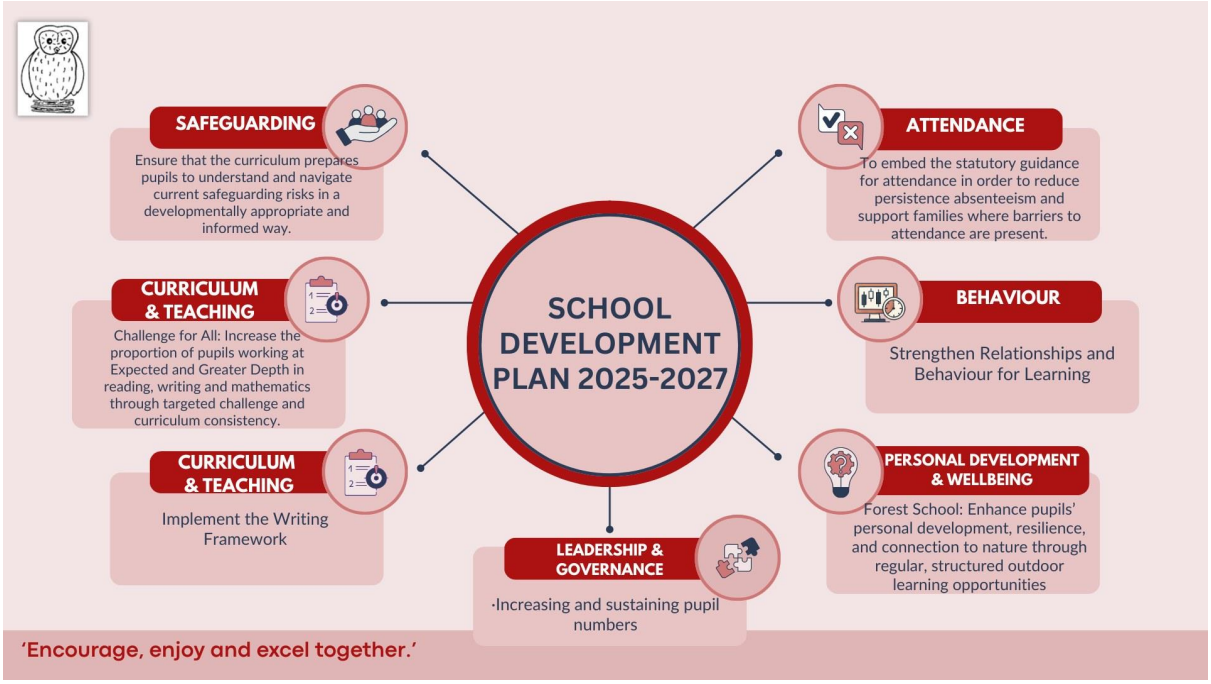
Headteacher's Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move further into the summer term, I would like to take a moment to thank all parents and carers who attended our Parent Consultation Evenings in March. It was incredibly valuable to have the opportunity to meet with you, share your child's progress and discuss their next steps in learning.

I would also like to thank those of you who completed our recent feedback forms, particularly around safeguarding and behaviour. We are very pleased that the majority of responses were positive and reflective of the safe, supportive environment we strive to provide every day.

As a school, we are committed to listening carefully to the views of our community and responding thoughtfully. Your feedback, alongside that of our staff and pupils, is already helping to shape our newly revised **Relationships and Behaviour Policy**. This is an important piece of work for us, led by Miss Dawson, ensuring our approach remains clear, consistent and centred around positive relationships.

We look forward to sharing this updated policy with you soon and will be holding information sessions for parents once it is ready to be launched. We are also very much looking forward to welcoming our new Reception Class pupils and parents for September 2026!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Mushtaq

Walk to School Week - Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd

Arrive in style!

We are excited to be taking part in National Walk to School Week and would love as many of our families as possible to get involved by walking, cycling or scooting to school across the week.

This initiative links closely with our recent learning around Earth Day, where children have been exploring simple ways they can help care for our planet. Choosing to travel actively to school is a great way to reduce pollution, support the environment and make a positive difference.

There are also many health and wellbeing benefits to starting the day with some fresh air and physical activity. Walking, cycling or scooting can help children feel more energised, focused and ready to learn. And of course, an added bonus may be fewer parking pressures around school!

Children are encouraged to arrive at **8:35am**, where they can take part in a **10-minute morning walk around the field**, led by Mrs Bellamy and the staff, before the school day begins at **8:45am**.

If you live further away, you can still take part by parking a short distance from school and walking the final stretch. We suggest using places such as Aldi or The Horseshoe pub to help everyone get those extra steps in.

Thank you for your support, we look forward to seeing lots of active journeys to school!

Join Our Walking Bus (Trial Initiative)

As part of Walk to School Week (18th - 22nd May 2026), a small group of parent volunteers will be trialling a **Walking Bus** from the new local estates in the area on **Tuesday 19th May** and **Thursday 21st June.**

A walking bus is a safe, adult-led group of children walking to and from school along a set route with pick-up points, just like a traditional bus on foot It's a fun, social way to start the day, helping children build healthy habits, confidence, and friendships along the way. It also helps reduce traffic and congestion around the school gates easing a major source of frustration for families and neighbours, while creating a safer, cleaner, and calmer environment for everyone.

When:

Tuesday 19th May and Thursday 21st June

Initial meeting point meet time: **8.15am** If the trial is successful, we hope to develop this into a regular daily routine. Please complete the Form using the link to express your interest:Walking Bus – Fill out form

Thank you for your support—we look forward to seeing lots of active journeys to school!

PE Policy Update

PE, Jewellery and Earrings – Update to Policy

Following feedback from parents and carers, we have reviewed our approach to earrings during PE lessons. We understand that a number of children have recently been unable to take part in PE due to newly pierced ears and the previous restrictions around covering earrings.

Our policy continues to prioritise children's safety. As such, we still expect that **earrings (studs only) are removed on PE and swimming days wherever possible**.

However, we have made a small adjustment to support those children who are unable to remove earrings for a short, defined period following a piercing. In these circumstances, **earrings may now be covered with tape**, provided that:

- Earrings are **covered securely at home before the child arrives at school**
- The tape **remains in place for the entire school day**
- Earrings are **removed at home once they can safely be taken out**
- **Parents/carers provide the tape and apply it themselves** (staff are not able to provide or apply tape)

If earrings are not removed or appropriately covered on arrival, and a child cannot remove them independently, they will unfortunately **not be able to take part in the PE lesson**.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all children, while also responding to the practical challenges families have shared.

The full Relationships and Behaviour Policy, including the section on jewellery, is available on our school website here: [link]

For ease of reference, the jewellery section is also included below.

PE Policy - section on Jewellery

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons, jewellery, watches, fitness trackers and similar items must not be worn during PE or swimming sessions. Pupils are taught to understand the risks associated with wearing jewellery. Teachers will ensure that jewellery is removed and long hair is tied back securely before lessons begin (except for religious or medical reasons, where appropriate adjustments will be made).

Only small stud earrings are permitted in school. Hoop earrings are not allowed.

Earrings must be removed for all PE and swimming lessons. If a child is unable to remove their own earrings, parents/carers must ensure they are removed before school on PE days.

If, due to a recent piercing, earrings cannot be removed for a short, defined period, parents/carers must:

- Provide written confirmation stating the reason and the date earrings can be removed
- Ensure only stud earrings are worn
- Provide micropore tape
- Securely cover the earrings at home before the child arrives at school

School staff will not provide tape or apply tape to earrings.

If earrings are not removed or appropriately covered with tape on arrival, and the child is unable to remove them themselves, the child will not be permitted to participate in the PE lesson or swimming session. The earrings must be covered with tape on arrival to school, remain on for the rest of the day and removed out of school.

The school cannot accept responsibility for injury caused by jewellery worn during PE, or for loss or damage of jewellery brought into school.

Hair and Accessories

- Long hair must be tied back securely to reduce the risk of injury.
- Hair accessories should be minimal and safe, such as soft hair ties.
- Headwear worn for religious or cultural reasons will be accommodated where it is safe to do so.

Medical Needs and Non-Participation

- Pupils with medical conditions or injuries that affect participation in PE should provide a note from a parent or carer.
- Where appropriate, pupils who are unable to participate physically will be encouraged to remain involved in the lesson in a supportive or observational role.

School Term and Key Dates

Please note - we have updated our **Term Dates for 2026-27** to include the INSET Days (scan the QR code or select the hyper link). Please be mindful of this when booking holidays to ensure that these do not fall within term time.

Please click on this link to take you our Term Dates: [Overstone Primary School - Term Dates]

Our last day of term is Friday 22nd May. School will re-open on Monday 1st June.

Attendance Update

Attendance Matters

Our overall attendance has recently declined to 95.9%, and we are currently placed 15th out of 20 similar schools. Following our recent assessment week and Pupil Progress Meetings,

we have identified a strong correlation between children who attend school regularly and those who do not, particularly in relation to progress and attainment.

Improving attendance is therefore a key priority for us. Our aim is to be within the top 5 schools—an ambitious target, but one that we know will have the greatest impact on children's learning, wellbeing, and long-term success.

Good attendance not only supports academic progress but also nurtures a strong sense of belonging. Being present each day helps children to build friendships, develop confidence, engage fully in collaborative learning, and establish positive routines. Regular attendance is also an essential life skill, preparing children for secondary school, further education, and ultimately the workplace.

Every lesson, intervention, and opportunity for discussion contributes to children's readiness and confidence.

We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that children attend school whenever they are well enough to do so. Every day truly does count. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping us prioritise attendance and secure the very best outcomes for all of our children.

Celebrating Attendance

As part of our ongoing drive to promote and celebrate good attendance, we recently recognised children who have achieved 100% attendance, as well as those who have made significant improvements since September. These children were awarded prizes in recognition of their commitment and effort, something we are very proud to celebrate as a school.

We do understand that some children and families may have felt disappointed if they did not receive a prize on this occasion. Our intention is always to encourage and support every

child to attend school regularly, as this has a significant impact on their learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging.

There will be further opportunities throughout the year to celebrate both excellent and improved attendance, and we look forward to recognising even more children next time. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping your child attend school every day.

Co-opted Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a **Co-opted Governor**, and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in supporting the school in this important voluntary role. This could be a parent or a member of the local community. Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body to bring valuable skills, experience, and perspectives from the wider community. You do not need to be a parent of a child at the school to apply, what matters most is a commitment to improving outcomes for all pupils, an interest in education, and a willingness to work as part of a team.

The role of a governor includes helping to set the school's strategic direction, supporting and challenging school leaders, and ensuring that resources are used effectively. Governors attend meetings (usually twice a term), may visit the school occasionally, and take part in training to support them in their role.

This is a rewarding opportunity to make a real difference to our school community. If you, or someone you know, have skills or experience in areas such as education, finance, business, HR, or community work, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Mrs Mushtaq, via the school office.

Overstone's Got Talent!

We are always proud to celebrate the amazing talents within our school community. Each term, we recognise the achievements of our children, whether in sport, music, or academic success.

This time, we are delighted to shine the spotlight on one of our staff members. Mrs Bellamy recently took part in the London Marathon and not only completed the race, but did so in an incredible time of 3 hours and 28 minutes-an outstanding achievement!

We are all extremely proud of her dedication and determination. Her passion for sport and music continues to inspire our children, both past and present, and we are very lucky to have her as part of our school community.

Learn and Stay Sessions for Parents

We are pleased to invite parents into school this term for our **'Learn and Stay'** sessions. These sessions are a great opportunity for you to:

- see how we teach key areas of the curriculum, and
- work alongside your child to experience the learning first-hand.

Reception and Key Stage 1

Monday 18th May | 9:15–9:45am – Phonics Session

Parents will join their child's phonics group to see how phonics is taught in school. You will have the opportunity to take part in reading words, supporting with spelling and sharing stories together.

Key Stage 2

Tuesday 19th May | 9:15–9:45am – English or Maths Session

Parents are invited into class to take part in an English or Maths lesson alongside their child.

We hope you can join us - these sessions are always a lovely way to share in your child's learning experience. **To help staff plan for the sessions please complete the form to register your attendance at the session, so that we can anticipate the number of parents attending:** Learn and Stay Sessions for Parents – Fill out form

To help the session run smoothly, please confirm the following:

-This is a structured teaching session for observation. -It is an opportunity to see how learning takes place and how you can support at home. -Children may be working in different groups, and we kindly ask that parents do not interrupt or ask individual questions during the session.

Please note - the sessions are on the same week as Walk to School Week. This means parents will walk to school with their child, wait on the playground and mingle with other parents whilst the children take part on the walk around the field. Parents will be invited to into school for 9:00am to join the learning session.