

# Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School

# MESSENGER

Thursday 14th December 2023



Dear Overleigh Family,

Thank you to everyone who has supported us by helping their children to prepare for and in coming along to our Christmas events. It has held a real community spirit for us all and whatever your religious beliefs we hope it has reaffirmed our love for the whole community and the difference we can make by showing kindness in our actions, our words and our attitudes.

Our Christmas lantern making workshop was very busy and good fun with lots of family members pitching in to help groups of children - thank you. The evening event was superb with QPHS band making it go with a swing! Father Christmas had over 120 visitors (thank you Santa for your enthusiasm and kindness, we really appreciate it), our choir excelled as they always do, while the readers did an excellent job of sharing some of our favourite poems and writing. The lanterns looked fabulous and very effective for such a simple idea - one to remember!! Probably goes without saying but please remind the children not to use real candles in them, just the battery-operated ones.

Our Christmas nativity performances were especially good this year, with the youngest nursery children to the oldest in Y2 all shining out with their commitment and enthusiasm. Many thanks to all the KS1 & EYFS staff for supporting and preparing their classes so brilliantly. Hopefully by now the links will all be on the website. Many thanks again to Richard for his outstanding work on the videos and generosity with his time.

Our Carol service at St Mary's church with Rev Ric was as wonderful as ever. The children who led readings and prayers were a little nervous before hand but showed they had no need to worry. They read clearly and confidently and we all enjoyed our special time with Rev Ric.

Our choir has been even more busy than usual this term with a variety of events and performances. This has included singing at the carol evening as well as representing the school at M&S. They worked hard to perfect the singing and their actions and the feedback from visitors and families has been wonderfully positive. Well done, Miss Axam and all the staff who freely gave up their time to help prepare.

The Christmas panto was Cinderella this year and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Hopefully they will be back again next year for more fun and games.

Many thanks to Pete and the kitchen team for a wonderful Christmas lunch. They served over 372 meals all cooked to perfection. The serving started at 11 to allow for the choir to sing their way to M&S and ended at 1.00 with all very satisfied. We hope Pete and the team enjoy a well-earned rest this Christmas!

On Wednesday, Father Christmas made another visit with the Round Table sleigh. It was a lovely start to the day and thank you to all who gave so generously. The sleigh will be in Handbridge on 20th December at the Calton Pub in Handbridge. I'm sure they will be keen to see you.

Thank you to Mrs Redmayne and all her groups of children who prepared our tree decorations this year. It looks truly beautiful and is all created with recycled materials. Rev Ric will be collecting the tree today to take down to church, you may spot him on his bike, balancing the church in his trailer!!

Later in the newsletter, will be pictures of the events. In addition, Gardening Club have been a green fingered bunch planting bulbs as Christmas gifts. They have attended their sessions each week and helped weed and tidy the various flower beds and Peace Garden. Hopefully, after the break we will be able to start some proper planting!

### Baby On The Way

Miss Sayers started her maternity leave on Wednesday. We send her with all our love and hope she manages to put her feet up before baby arrives. We all look forward meeting the new arrival soon.

### Baby Arrived!!

Mrs Norbury's baby arrived on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, leaving her little time for relaxation after finishing work for her leave! She had a little girl - Maya Lillian weighing 6lb 11oz. Mum and baby are doing well and we very much look forward to meeting Maya in the New Year. Thank you to all the families that have sent good wishes - we have shared them all!



### DATES

<u>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> January</u>	<u>Inset Day School Closed</u>
<u>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</u>	<u>First Day of Spring Term - Values Day - Justice</u>
<u>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January</u>	<u>Art &amp; DT Theme Day</u>
<u>1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> February</u>	<u>Mathematics &amp; Computing Theme Days</u>
<u>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</u>	<u>Last Day of Half Term - usual 3.20pm Finish</u>
<u>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February</u>	<u>First Day of Half Term - Values Day - Friendship</u>

### STAFF THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all the staff who have worked so hard this term to ensure everyone is happy and working hard in school. We have had some wonderful special days as well as seeing lots of excellence in learning. Our staff make it all look very easy but below the surface they are paddling very hard!

We would like to especially mention the wonderful Mr Flynn and office team at this very busy time for them. As you may be aware, we have radios to communicate across our large site and in the last few weeks, every few minutes, a call goes out to "Office" or "Mr Flynn", it is relentless. Throughout they all remain calm and smiley, dealing with big and small and, sometimes the most ridiculous of issues! Our school just wouldn't be the same without all their hard work and kindness and our Christmas events remain fun packed due to their coordination. THANK YOU!!!

We are so lucky to have such a great team at Overleigh and we hope everyone enjoys a very restful, healthy and merry break!



## Attendance

Class	WB 27/11/23	WB 04/12/23	WB 11/12/23
Quavers	98.9	96.0	94.2
Crochet	95.8	96.9	96.3
Minim	91.9	96.2	89.9
Ballad	93.2	94.0	90.0
High Note	91.1	96.3	99.1
Glissando	90.7	88.3	87.1
Melody	97.7	95.0	93.8
Maestro	93.1	93.1	88.8
Harmony	97.8	98.5	92.6
Note	97.0	98.3	91.7
Maestoso	95.7	92.7	97.5
Allegro	91.7	98.3	94.2
Pizzicato	91.0	88.7	93.5
Joyeux	90.5	97.0	97.5
Finale	95.0	97.0	91.3
Heptatonic	98.1	96.2	96.4

### Attendance Key

96% and above **Green**

95—90% **Amber**

Less than 90% **Red**

It is very important that attendance is maintained at 96% and above, please note some of the classes that have fallen below this.

We had 125 children across the school who have achieved 100% attendance for the autumn term. Quite an achievement when we have had so much sickness and illness in the recent weeks. Well done, to all and hope you can keep it up next term!

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

As we return to school it will perhaps be time to look forward to the experiences and challenges, we will face in 2024.

# Getting your child to school on time really matters

If in a school year your child is late everyday .....	Your child would have lost approximately .....	Or they would have missed approximately .....
5 Minutes	3 days from school	16 lessons lost
10 Minutes	5 days from school	32 lessons lost
15 Minutes	8 days from school	48 lessons lost
20 Minutes	11 days from school	63 lessons lost
30 Minutes	16 days from school	95 lessons lost

We would like to make a special plea to all those families who bring their children to school, more often than not, too LATE to enter their classrooms through their normal doors.

Children should be on site at 8.40am when the doors open to enter straight into school. This way they gain from social opportunities with their friends and ensure they are able to access the full learning offer. Evidence shows children with poor punctuality, on average, perform less well than their peers academically and unsurprisingly are less settled and confident in school than their class mates.

We understand some travel a long way to reach school because they prefer to remain at Overleigh rather than attend a school local to home. Whilst we respect and enjoy the loyalty to our school, we would then need families to understand they should allow sufficient time, each day, to manage the traffic and usual congestion.

Please make 2024 a fresh start for your child and ensure they are in school on time  
**EVERY DAY!**



Thank you for all the very kind gifts and good wishes that staff have received. As ever, it is not expected but very much appreciated. The best gift of all is always seeing the children smile and laugh and enjoy the school Christmas magic!

A special thank you from Ziggy for the very kind gifts he has received - we will do our best to ensure he does not eat them all at once!!

We hope everyone enjoys a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

# Class Assemblies



We are delighted to confirm that class assemblies will be starting up again after Christmas.

**Class Assembly Dates: All at 2.30pm unless stated.**

Tuesday 16th January:- Y6 Finale

Tuesday 23rd January:- Y6 Heptatonic

Tuesday 30th January:- Y6 Joyeux

Tuesday 6th February:- Y5 Allegro

Tuesday 13th February:- Y5 Pizzicato

Tuesday 5th March:- Y4 Maestoso

Tuesday 12th March:- Y4 Note

Tuesday 19th March:- Y3 Harmony

Tuesday 26th March:- Y3 Maestro

The classes in Reception, Y1 and Y2 will follow with their assemblies in the Summer Term. If for any reason a class assembly needs to be moved notification will be given in advance.

# Overleigh at Sunrise



Mrs Davies kindly sent us a photograph of our school field at sunrise. I'm sure you'll agree that this is a beautiful scene and portrays so much atmosphere. We would love to receive any photographs of our local community to share on the school newsletter and Miss Drew has suggested that a Handbridge (and neighbouring areas) Christmas photography competition for children and their families would be a delightful way to bring in the New Year. If you wish to submit your entry then please send through to the office team [admin@overleighstmarysce.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@overleighstmarysce.cheshire.sch.uk) with the title 'Photography Competition' and they will forward it to the newsletter. **One entry only per child please (Choose your best)**. A small prize will be on its way to the Davies' family for their inspiration.



# Photography Competition



# PTA News

## About Us:

### Overleigh PTA

(Parent Teacher Association)

is run by volunteers to raise money for school projects through fun activities such as sponsored events, discos and movie nights.

## Next Meeting

**Date:** Monday 8th January 2024

**Time:** 8.00pm

**Venue:** The Bear & Billet

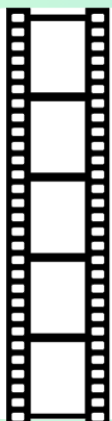


The Glow Disco was a great success; the children had a lovely time and we made £783 profit!

Rags2Riches clothing collection raised £139

Christmas bottle tombola & lucky dip raised £186.35

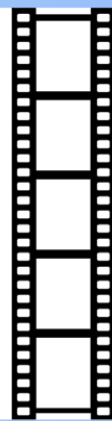
A huge thank you to the school community, staff and volunteers for all of your contributions.



## Movie Night

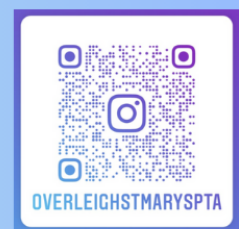
January 2024

Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th  
more details to follow



Scan to join our WhatsApp group

Find us on Facebook and  
Instagram





## Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

### ***SENCO Drop in session***

*In the spring term, we will be bringing back our SENCO drop in sessions. This is an opportunity for you to come in and meet with Mrs Jones to discuss any concerns or to ask any questions about your child and any additional learning needs that you are concerned about.*

*This session will be on a first come first served basis therefore you will not require an appointment. The sessions will be held every two weeks on a Thursday after school between 3:30 and 4:30, beginning Thursday 4th January.*

*Please come along to the office if you would like to speak with Mrs Jones during this time.*






## Secrets to Success Award 2023 - 2024

Well done to all those children who completed the challenge in Autumn 1 – ‘Understanding Others’ and the Autumn 2 challenge ‘Try New Things’.

The next challenge is Spring 1 ‘We don’t give up’.

A copy of this can be found in your booklet.










### Spring 1

Don't Give Up

At Overleigh St Mary's we don't give up

*The curriculum needs a certain degree of danger and risk if children are to experience the real world. They need opportunities to fail in a safe environment and learn to have another go.*

For this challenge we would like you to think of a skill that you currently find difficult (for example riding a bike, learning to swim, spelling a certain word, a times table) and work hard over the term to master this skill. When you have succeeded please send us a photograph and tell us about the skill you have mastered.



We would love to hear about all the things you have persevered with, even when you have found things/ the skill difficult. Please email or upload on Seesaw any photographs or information from this challenge to your Class Teacher.

Remember that once you have completed this challenge you will receive a certificate in Celebration Assembly.

We look forward to seeing and hearing all about all the new things you have mastered!

Mrs Barnes and Mrs Birchall

# Message from Cheshire Libraries



“Following the success of Ready, Set, Read Summer Reading Challenge, the theme has been extended into the Winter Mini Challenge. With the holidays approaching, now is the time to encourage your children to tackle the holiday reading ‘dip’. Join in at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk) from 1 December 2023. More information on the Challenge can be found on the website.”

## Facebook

“The #WinterMiniChallenge is here! @readingagency have teamed up with @YouthSportTrust this year, to encourage children to unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading. Children can sign up online at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk). #ReadySetRead!”

While I am on, our libraries will be busy over the Christmas period – for a list of events going on, see [Library events | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#).

# Bike Safety



As you are aware we are entering into the colder months of the year and the roads and pavements are becoming more treacherous for bikes and scooters. Please could we encourage all children biking to school to wear a helmet for



their own safety. We are seeing a number of children without helmets which is concerning in the slippery conditions. Please consider this if your child is cycling to school. Could we also remind children to dismount from bikes and scooters before entering the school grounds.

## Information we have been asked to pass on

### **Action for early years settings: Applications open for the Childminder Start-up Grant Scheme**

On 30 November 2023, the Childminder Start-up Grant Scheme [opened for applications](#). The scheme will support new childminders by providing them with grant funding worth up to £7.2million over the next two financial years, helping with the cost of setting up their own businesses.

The scheme will be available to all new childminders who have completed their registration on or after 15 March 2023. Individuals who have previously been registered as childminders and wish to re-register may also apply for the scheme. There must be at least a 12-month gap between the date of their previous registration being cancelled and their new registration being finalised.

We are providing £600 to new childminders registering with Ofsted, and £1,200 to new childminders registering with a childminder agency. Childminders must apply for the grant within two months of registering as a childminder, or within two months of the scheme launching.

Here is a link to the information:

[Apply for a childminder start-up grant - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



Royal Life Saving Society UK issues winter water safety advice

## Urgent Winter Water Safety Message

RLSS UK offer safety advice for winter water safety, with simple steps to keep safe during the winter:

1. Never go onto the ice to play, to retrieve an object, or a pet
2. Never enter the ice to rescue somebody, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service [What to do if you fall through the ice:](#)
  - Keep calm and shout for 'help'
  - Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you
  - If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs to slide onto the ice
  - Lie flat and pull yourself towards the bank
  - If the ice breaks, work your way to the bank-breaking the ice in front of you anyway
  - If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water

Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately for a check up

[What to do if you see someone fall through the ice:](#)

- Shout for assistance and phone the emergency services – call 999 or 112
  - Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue
  - Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm
  - Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach
  - When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice
  - If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats, such as a plastic bottle or football, across the ice for them to hold onto to stay afloat whilst help is on the way
- If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services while calming and reassuring the casualty

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety>

[Winter water safety | Staying safe on our canals | Canal & River Trust \(canalrivertrust.org.uk\)](#)

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# Friday Certificates 1.12.23



Class	Value	Comment
Crochet	Compassion	Isabelle for always trying her hardest to show kindness to everyone. She is always the first to offer help and cuddles. Keep it up Isabelle - a superstar!
Minim	Peace	Stanley has been working so hard this week with his writing. He is using his phonics, making sure there's a finger space between each word and is even starting to use tricky words! Well done Stanley you super star!
Ballad	Trust	Isaac for writing an amazing description of the dragon in our story Once upon a dragon's fire. Isaac used some fabulous adjectives to describe him and remembered our mastery target of capital letters and full stops. Well done Isaac.
High Note	Love	Harriet always works hard, especially in maths this week. She is such a loving friend always wanting to help others. We are lucky to have Harriet in our class.
Melody	Respect	William has really impressed me with his super listening and good manners. He always puts an enthusiastic effort into his learning. He is a friendly, polite member of melody class and sets a great example for others to follow. What a superstar you are!
Glissando	Respect	Oskar is a kind and hardworking member of our class. He always works hard and listens well. He has also blown us away this week with his maths assessments. What a star!
Harmony	Wisdom	Leo has been working extremely hard in all of his lessons and has really improved his attitude to learning. This has had a positive effect on his learning! Well done, Leo!
Maestro	Integrity	Heleena has been trying her best to follow our school and classroom rules. She has been taking responsibility for her own learning this week and helping others to do the same. Keep up the fantastic work Heleena!
Note	Peace	Ruby is the star of the week for always working hard, showing kindness to others and being ready, respectful and safe which links to the Christian value of Peace. Ruby is quick to offer to help with classroom tasks and she always demonstrates having a positive and conscientious attitude. Well done Ruby!
Maestoso	Integrity	Thomas always tries hard and this week he has been impressing me with his willingness to have a go, even if it's not right the first time. This is how we learn Thomas, so keep it up!
Pizzicato	Wisdom	Grace. I have been really pleased to see throughout the year so far how willing she is to engage with her learning. She listens well in class and takes her time to make sure she understands the work to the best of her ability.
Allegro	Integrity	Jacob has really stepped up his efforts in all of his learning over the last few weeks and is producing some great work. He is also being really proactive in the classroom and being very responsible in his role as digital leader. Keep it up!
Joyeux	Respect	Eashan always comes into school with such a positive attitude and makes a conscious effort to follow our school values, including Respect. He always shows respect to others around him and encourages his peers to make the right choices. Well done, Eashan!
Heptatonic	Compassion	Liam - As new teachers to the class, it is so nice for us to see members of our class being kind and thoughtful towards others and Liam does this effortlessly and constantly, without being asked and without knowing that he is being watched. He is so helpful to others and helps us to remember very important things like snack orders! Let's all try to be a bit more Liam!
Finale	Integrity	Daisy is an excellent member of our class who always strives to achieve her very best. She always does the right thing, even when nobody is watching. Well done Daisy!

# Friday Certificates 8.12.23



Class	Value	Comment
Crotchet	Wisdom	Fatiha has amazed us all since starting in Reception. She has settled into school routines, shows kindness and love to her friends and has made incredible progress. She is reading phonic books, writing words and phrases and counting independently too! We're so proud!
Ballad	Respect	Eva for an amazing attitude to learning. Eva is always keen to answer questions during class discussions and tries her very best in all areas of the curriculum. Well done Eva, we are very proud of you.
High Note	Peace	Oliver for returning back to school with such a positive attitude to learning and a big smile on his face! Oliver has been trying his best and joining in everything. This week he has come up with great ideas in science, putting his hand up for every question and using scientific vocabulary to explain his answers. Well done Oliver, we are happy to see you back, happy and working hard!
Melody	Wisdom	Harrison has been working exceptionally hard in everything he does. However, he has really outshone in his math's this week where we have been adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers across 10. You have been a superstar, Harrison. Well done!
Glissando	Hope	Florence has been an absolute superstar during our Christmas show practice and has overcome her initial nerves. We are so proud of you Flo!
Harmony	Thankfulness	Finley's attitude to learning has been excellent these last few weeks even if he has found something particularly challenging. He tries consistently hard and has started to proof read his own work without being prompted which is excellent. Keep up the hard work, Finley! You are a star! ☐
Maestro	Integrity	Elif has been an absolute superstar this week in everything that she has put her mind to. She is always ready, respectful and safe while also helping others in her class to be as well. She always helpful and polite and I can count on her to be doing the right thing, even when no one else is watching. Keep up the fantastic work Elif!
Note	Integrity	Benedict can always be seen doing the right thing. He listens respectfully in all lessons and is always eager to share his ideas during class discussions. Well done Benedict, you are a brilliant member of our class and a joy to teach.
Maestoso	Love	Ruby-Rose is always kind to others. She comes to school every day with a smile on her face and tries her best in every lesson. You are a superstar Ruby!
Pizzicato	Wisdom	Marnie, I have been really impressed with the effort she has been putting into all of her work and doing the very best she can. She is also always keen to help out around class in any way she can and sets a good example to others.
Allegro	Wisdom	Jessica has been really focussed during lessons and has been applying all of her recent learning in our 'super fun quizzes' (assessments!). She has also made a super effort co-ordinating the construction of our classroom wreath. Well done Jess
Joyeux	Service & Stewardship	Bertie is always willing to help others around him, including his peers and teachers. He will always do this with a big smile on his face and ensure he is being responsible. Well done, Bertie, keep on being your caring, lovely self
	Respect	Eashan always comes into school with such a positive attitude and makes a conscious effort to follow our school values, including Respect. He always shows respect to others around him and encourages his peers to make the right choices. Well done, Eashan!
Heptatonic	Thankfulness	Flo - We're so glad that she joined our class this year. She's a lovely friend and helpful to us too. She always tries her best and we particularly noticed a massive improvement in her handwriting. Keep it up Flo!
Finale	Love	Will is a very happy and outgoing member of our class who always comes into school with a big smile. He is a delight to teach and makes those around him feel happy and included due to his very caring and warm nature!

# Friday Certificates 14.12.23



Class	Value	Comment
Crotchet	Service & Stewardship	Corey is the most polite, helpful and respectful member of Crotchet Class. Nothing is ever too much trouble and he always tries his best with everything he does. Keep it up Corey - you are a superstar!
Minim	Integrity	Isabella has been an absolute super star since starting Overleigh! She has come on in leaps and bounds especially in her phonics! She has become super confident and loves putting her hand up in lessons! Well done Isabella you shining star!
Ballad	Peace	Sonny for an amazing attitude to learning. Sonny tries his very best with all aspects of the curriculum and he does it with a big smile on his face. He is also a very kind and helpful friend. Sonny you are a delight and a super member of our class.
High Note	Respect	Amine has been working super hard this term and has made excellent progress in her maths! She comes into class ready to learn and she always has her hand up to answer questions. Amine, you are a polite, kind and a lovely friend - we are glad you are part of our class. Thank you for always showing respect to your friends and our school community.
Melody	Integrity	Lilah is someone who ALWAYS does the right thing even when no one is watching. She is hard-working, kind, respectful and so much more. Lilah is a fantastic role model and I am so pleased to see her confidence grow every week. Please keep being you! ☐
Glissando	Integrity	Ocean has been trying really hard this term in all subjects, but has particularly impressed us in maths. He listens well during carpet time and is always the first to put his hand up and have a go at answering questions. Well done Ocean, you are a star!
Harmony	Thankfulness	Bhavya arrives to school every day with a beaming smile which is infectious and cheers the Year 3 adults up instantly! Bhavya has also worked extremely hard in all he does since the beginning of Year 3 which has really begun to show in the work he produces. Well done, Bhavya! You are a star.
Maestro	Integrity	Neela has been working so hard this half term. She is always ready, respectful and safe. She has been building her confidence this term and this can be seen in her engagement within her learning. She does the right thing even when no one is watching. You are a superstar, Neela! You should be proud of everything you have achieved this half-term because I know I am.
Note	Wisdom	Isaac impresses me every day with his passion and enthusiasm for learning, especially in maths. Isaac is always ready to share his ideas and offer contributions to class discussions. Well done, Isaac!
Maestoso	Compassion	Alfie always looks after everyone, making sure they are not alone or sad. He is always kind and considerate to everyone and works hard, conscientiously trying his best.
Pizzicato	Wisdom	I have been impressed with how well Lola has been listening during all of our work in class. She is keen to learn and always tries her best to understand everything to the best of her abilities.  Marnie - I have been really impressed with the effort she has been putting into all of her work and doing the very best she can. She is also always keen to help out around class in
Allegro	Wisdom	Daria has impressed me all term with her dedication to her study. She works extremely hard in EVERY lesson and at home. Daria is reading enthusiastically and is always doing the right thing. An absolute super star.
Joyeux	Integrity	Lola has had a fantastic start to Year 6, and has continued to come into school each day with a positive attitude to her learning. She always chooses to make the right choices even when nobody is watching. It is such a pleasure to teach Lola and have her in my class. Keep up the fantastic efforts Lola, they will never go unrecognised!
Hepatonic	Wisdom	Avi is an absolute joy to have in our class - always full of amazing ideas to share. He listens well to others and is a supportive friend. He is keen to try his best in everything we do and produces great work every day!
Finale	Service & Stewardship	Nyla's attitude to learning has been fantastic in Year 6. She always tries her best and perseveres during challenging tasks. She works consistently hard on her targets and we are very proud of her efforts. Keep it up, Nyla!



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## BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

BOYS | SATURDAY 27 JANUARY | 1.30 - 5PM

GIRLS | SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY | 1.30 - 5PM

Does your child love to sing?

Chester Cathedral is seeking boys and girls aged 5-11 to join the prestigious Cathedral Choir.

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of singing games and rehearsals culminating in a service of Choral Evensong at the end of the afternoon.

All welcome, no experience necessary.

For more information and to register for this free event, please contact Dan Mathieson on [dan.mathieson@chestercathedral.com](mailto:dan.mathieson@chestercathedral.com)

[chestercathedral.com](http://chestercathedral.com)    

# Christmas at Overleigh

And, as ever, we have saved possibly the best until last as our Nursery, EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children took to the stage in their Christmas performances.

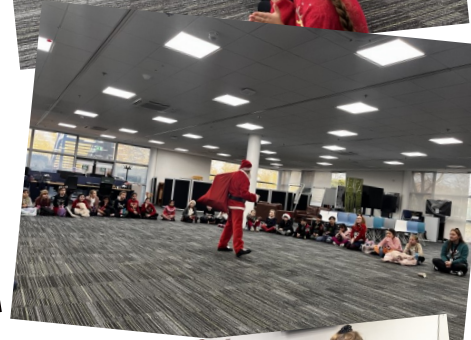
## Little Stars on the Big Stage



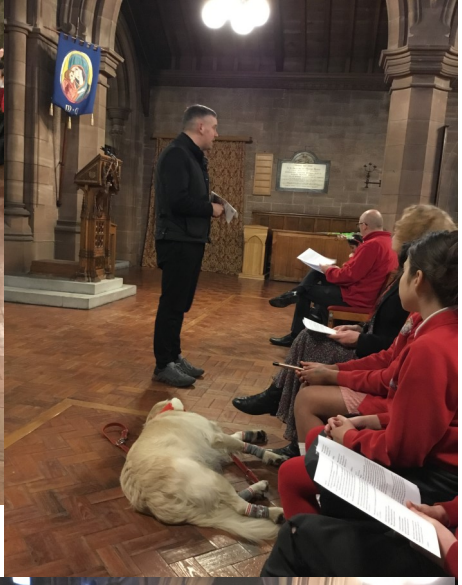
# Christmas at Overleigh

The following pages reflect the ongoing Christmas celebrations at Overleigh as we journey through Advent to Christmas itself. It begins with our children once again representing the school in an outstanding manner at Marks and Spencers headquarters on the Chester Business Park.

## Carol Singing at M&S



# Christmas at Overleigh Key Stage 2 Carol Service at St Mary's



Well done to all the readers at St Mary's Church, you told the story of Christmas beautifully. Thanks to Rev Ric and all the people at Church for such a lovely welcome.

# Christmas at Overleigh Panto

As a Christmas treat from the PTA, all our children enjoyed a Christmas Pantomime this week.



# Time

# Christmas at Overleigh

Thanks to everybody who contributed to our after school event including all our pupils, staff, volunteers, PTA, Santas and those who attended.

## Carol Event at School



# Christmas at Overleigh

Don't forget that if you missed your child's performance or they are not featured here then the video of the performance is available for Nursery, EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas performances.

## Little Stars on the Big Stage



A selection of story writing from our Year 5 Children

# Cloud Tea Tigers by Lois

As rosy dawn arrived, gentle morning sounds drew Reena from her sleep: the warm sun crackling through the mountains, her mother tending to the fire and the village roosters crowing. Reena changed and crept into the warm cosy room to collect her tea and say good morning to her mother.

Now armed with her warm tea and shawl she padded outside sipping her sweet tea staring wistfully at the emerald green plantation where her mother worked, where tea bushes rolled like waves into the distance Reena had never seen the end of the plantation she desperately wanted she often asked her mother but she would refuse to tell her. Dusty paths Wove through the village beautiful, bright flowers sprouting at the border. Her mother coughed twice.

The next day nothing. No fire. Silence covered the house. Her mother coughed.

“Reena, darling I am ill I do not think I can work today,” croaked the girl’s ill mother, whose cough sounded like breaking sticks.

When Reena looked she saw her mother’s face was beaded with sweat as she shivered vigorously. Reena decided she agreed and could not let her mother go to work under the burden of her basket while the roasting sun down in the plantation. Alas Reena knew she had to help her mother, who slept breathing horsley. The young girl made a plan.

She waited two days, nothing changed the cough got worse sharper, her mother stopped talking. Then one day after her mother had gone to bed she hauled up the large basket and set off towards the green plantation, which shone in the early shining sun. Reena arrived, realizing she had forgotten about the cruel, horrible man, who had beady black eyes, that watched the women as they worked the long days in the heat would say. Reena knew when he found her he would yell like he yelled at the fierce tigers every day. Reena loved the tigers, she thought they were intelligent creatures that should roam free. She grabbed at the leaves but felt a shadow fall over her. A big ugly laugh filled the air.

“HA, HA, HA, you a child, think you can pick good, ripe tea leaves. Ha, as if,” cackled the overseer, “Hey you come see this stupid child fail picking leaves!” Then the wicked man kicked over the basket into the dust, Reena ran into the clearing where she played with the tigers.



Soon she heard a yell the tigers, her friends were here.

When Reena next looked up she saw the old wicker basket she had dragged up the slopes being pulled away by the tigers! She tried to stand. She tried to yell, she tried everything to get back that basket. But she could not the young girl was just too tired, too exhausted to react. So she picked up the tiger cubs carefully combing their fur and dozed off to sleep. Horrible thoughts spinning round her head: her mother, the basket, the overseer, Reena wept in her sleep would she ever get her basket back?

When Reena woke, she saw the tigers had returned with her basket and as the young girl peered over the edge of the basket she saw tea leaves lush green tea leaves like emeralds. Reena sniffed them they smelt like cinnamon and nutmeg she wept with joy feeding the tigers a small feast promising them more tomorrow. After that, Reena once again hauled up the basket and stumbled down the rocky mountain path, her face beaded with sweat from the raging sun.

When Reena got back she saw the strangest scene: the overseer pacing to and fro, the women lined up whispering and a cart draped in purple with oxen at the front the driver asleep. Reena saw her aunt and pulled the basket over to her. Her aunt gapped at it.

“How did you,” she whispered and shook her head and mouthed

“Later.” From where she stood Reena could see inside the cart with indigo cushions arranged like a throne.

“Who is in the cart,” questioned Reena quietly The Overseer answered for her.

“We are delighted to have you,” announced The Overseer, “sent by her majesty the empress of the known world and beyond to test the tea off the of the world to see if her majesty could drink it!”

An outburst of murmurs and whispers broke out.

“SILENCE! QUIET! SHUSH NOW OR ELSE!” cried the overseer.

A figure stepped out of the cart in indigo robes and a blue sari with silver and gold embroidery like the sun and the moon in the evening sky. She glided over to the first basket, whose leaves were a deep green, she picked one of them up sniffed it exclaimed in horror like it was a vile smell and threw it to the floor.

“Vile, horrible,” she muttered “un-edible!”

While testing four other teas, she was about to walk away but her nose twitched. She sniffed

the air and went over to Reena's basket

"Where? Where did you find this beautiful tea," she spoke to Reena's aunt. "No I did not the child did, she is the daughter of my ill sister," she replied. "I see," the royal tea taster said, "follow me girl I must hear your story."

Behind the cart the tea taster trilled the tea and summoned the royal tea maker (the driver) quickly made two cups of Reena's tea. He handed one to the tea taster and one to Reena the tea taster clicked a silk, white cloth was placed over her and Reena blew on her tea while listening to the royal tea taster slurp, sip, gargle and swallow her tea. The young girl sipped her tea it tasted heavenly like a warm summer day.

"Where did you find this tea?" questioned the royal tea taster.

"I'm sorry," apologised Reena, "I can't tell you."

"As you wish we all have secrets," sighed the royal tea taster, I defiantly have mine."

"Agreed," said Reena.

"But only twice have I tasted cloud tea, a tea so rare, rich and perfumed they say it seemed to be made by the clouds, it comes from up there," explained the tea taster gesturing to the wild, towering mountains, "so I ask how did a young girl climb the mountains, brave the danger, collect the tea and make it down?"

"Once again," replied Reena, "I can't tell you."

"As you wish I will do you a deal," said the tea taster mysteriously, "exactly a year from today I will come back, you will give me a basket of tea and I will give you this."

Reena gasped as the tea taster produced a bag of heavy golden shining coins the girl could hear the overseer muttering

"How, how is my I mean our tea not the best!"

"Because your tea is horrible the girl's tea is exemplary," retorted the tea taster."

Reena grinned and muffled a giggle.

Then one of the coins could heal her mother's illness, one of the coins could buy food enough for the tigers and them and the rest made sure Reena's mother never had to work again. So now only three people drink luxurious cloud tea: The Empress of the Known World Beyond and a retired tea picker and her daughter who live in a small village next to snow topped mountains surrounding it near a lush green plantation were glossy tea bushes rolled like waves into the distance past mountains and hills on and on into the sunset. Reena had never seen the end of the plantation but now Reena did not want to know she was happy where she was. Endless tea bushes, her cosy house, and a simple life now with her mother all day long. Then

year after year an indigo cart appeared cloud tea was loaded into the cart and a hand appeared through the cloth holding a purple silk bag covered in gold sewing and dropped it into the hand of a young girl who lived with her mother high in the mountains who is now sipping tea staring at sunset.

## **The Tigers Tea by Lyla**

Aarna, who was a lovely, young girl, lived with her older sister Aadhya in Nepal, Himalayas. Aadhya was like a mother to Aarna because their parents passed when the girls were very young. Their Aunt Sonam looked after the girls until Aadhya was old enough to care for herself and Aarna. The kettle screeched, waking Aarna from her sleep. She ran down the stairs and helped Aadhya prepare the breakfast. Aarna carefully stepped outside with her steaming, hot tea. She held it in the air, which was blowing a gentle breeze towards her. She blew into the tea and it formed intricate patterns above her head.

“Aadhya! Aadhya!” called Aarna “your tea is nice and cool now, come drink it with me.” Aadhya came outside limping and coughing. Her cough was like the sound of twigs snapping and her cheeks were burning red. Aarna helped Aadhya sit down on the bench with her tea. Aarna went and got Aadhya a blanket to keep her warm. They drank their tea together as the warm, comforting sun came out from behind the frosty mountain peaks. The great green tea plantation stretched out miles beyond the mountains.

“Aarna listen closely now,” Aadhya paused.

“What! What! Whats wrong,” cried Aarna.

“Calm down, it’s just I won’t be able to go to work for a while,” murmured Aadhya.

“Oh, well how will we earn money then?” Aarna asked.

“Well...we won’t be able to get money,” Aadhya replied.

“Oh I could do it, I could do it!” exclaimed Aarna.

The wicker basket was too big for Aarna to hold, but either way, she was determined to do it. Surprisingly Aadhya did want to go to work the next day but Aarna could tell that if she did go to work it wasn’t going to go well. Aarna persuaded Aadhya to stay home in bed but she refused. Aadhya still went but collapsed and dropped her tea over and over again. All of the beautiful women rushed over to Aadhya in their ragged old hijabs and dresses. They helped her up and took her back home, which took a while. The fierce tigers came over to the plantation like

usual scaring all of the women and the overseer. They sprinted over to Aarna who was lying under the thin shady trees. They licked her face to get her out of her daydream. She woke up and grabbed her lunch out of her bag and shared it with the tigers until they left. Aarna saw Aadhya's basket and decided to make a move. Aarna leapt over the rocks and grabbed Aadhya's wicker basket, that still had some lime green tea leaves inside. She placed the basket onto her back but because it was so big and heavy she had to bend over so she could walk. The tea leaves grew so high that Aarna could only reach the ones at the very bottom of the plant.

"Ha!" came an ugly laugh from far away. Aarna knew that it was the overseer. She could just about see his beaky nose and him scratching his hairy belly. His eyes like sharp stones were fixed onto Aarna. She quickly began to pick more and more tea leaves hoping he wouldn't laugh again.

"Ha!" came the ugly laugh once more.

"Look at this stupid little girl trying to pick tea!" called the overseer loudly, gathering attention. He kicked over Aarna's basket and all of the tea leaves poured out.

"You can't pick tea at your age silly!" the overseer whispered right into Aarna's ear.

Aarna was embarrassed and ran back to the trees dragging her basket behind her. The tigers were asleep on the mossy rocks. They awoke to the sound of Aarna running back. She dumped the basket on the floor and sat down. Tears like crystals dripped down her face. She then saw the tigers taking the basket and whimpered softly. Aarna was very upset to see Aadhya's basket go. Now she had not only failed at picking tea but she had also failed at keeping her sister's basket safe. She ended up falling asleep cuddling one of the baby tigers.

Aarna woke up to a lot of commotion and all the tigers were jumping around. She got up cautiously, hoping the tigers would not follow her. The tigers had spotted her and they started to whimper and gently tap their noses on the basket. Aarna didn't know what was happening but she was delighted that the basket was back. She slowly stepped forward and peered into the basket.

“WOW!” exclaimed Aarna, her mouth wide open. Right in front of her sat a basket full to the brim of glorious emerald green tea leaves. Aarna didn’t know what to say but she hugged all of the tigers and thanked them. She dragged her basket over to the overseer’s little hut because her aunt was there and she wanted to show her the tea. To her surprise all of the women were stood in a line with their tea baskets in front of them, giggling and chatting. Aarna walked over and stood next to her aunt Sonam placing her tea basket in front of her. She looked around and spotted a golden cart with a little man sat on the front fast asleep. The door opened slowly revealing a soft indigo cushion sat on a purple and gold throne and all of the cart was painted all different shades of violet. Sat on the throne was a royal man, he came out and a moon like glow shone upon him. His majestic white robe wrapped around his legs and was edged with a fine silver lining.

“SILENCE!” the overseer shouted at the top of his lungs. The little man woke up and helped the royal man step out of the cart.

“He is a royal tea taster and he travels all over the world to find the finest tea for the empress,” whispered aunt Sonam to Aarna. The tea taster came over to the first lady and peered into her basket, that was only half way full. The tea taster picked out some tea leaves, sniffed them and then scrunched them up and threw them away. This made the ladies more and more nervous. He went to the next lady and did the same. He did the same for the rest of the ladies until he approached aunt Sonam. He stuck his head right into Aarna’s basket.

“WOW!” exclaimed the tea taster just like Aarna did.

“Where did you get these miss?” the royal tea taster asked Aunt Sonam.

“I didn’t collect them the child did!” replied Aarna’s aunt. The tea taster looked at Aarna with a shocked face.

The royal tea taster clicked his fingers and the little man sprinted over to him. In his hands sat a white cloth and a thin, porcelain bowl. The royal tea taster then scrunched the emerald tea leaves up in his hands and then placed them into the bowl. Then he poured boiling hot water into the bowl on top of the tea leaves and it made some tea. The royal tea taster clicked once more and the little man put the snowy white cloth onto the tea taster’s head. “Why has the little man put that cloth on the tea taster’s head?” asked Aarna “he looks rather silly.”

“It keeps the wonderful smell of the tea right next to his nose,” replied aunt Sonam quietly. There was the sound of a sniff, a sip, a gargle and a big gulp.

“AMAZING!” came a loud cry that made Aarna jump.

“Come with me child,” said the tea taster to Aarna. Aarna ran into the cart with him and he asked a few questions: “Where did you get this tea? How did you get it? Was it definitely you that found it?” asked the tea taster excitedly.

“I can’t tell you all my secrets!” replied Aarna.

“Oh well, it was worth a try! I have my own secrets to,” said the royal tea taster disappointedly.

“This is the finest tea on earth and it grows on the high, high mountain tops. So if you bring me this tea every year I come, I will give you a bag of these fat gold coins,” said the tea taster as he handed Aarna a bag of coins.

“Thank you so much!” replied Aarna.

“Aadhya! Aadhya!” Aarna called when she got home, “the tigers helped me collect the finest tea and I got a bag of fat gold coins from the royal tea taster!”

“Oh well done Aarna, really well done!” replied Aadhya. In the end just one of these coins was enough to pay the doctor for Aadhya to get better. Aadhya didn’t get sick again but retired and now Aarna was a tea picker! They lived happily together in their old little house and Aarna remained close friends with the lovely tigers.