

# Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School



# MESSENGER

Friday 8th November 2024

Dear Overleigh Family,

This week we received our Ofsted report that will have been shared with you all. We are really pleased and proud of the outcome and it is great to see that the team highlighted what we think is really great about our school. Thank you to everyone who contributed during the inspection and all those who have supported us on our journey, it is very much appreciated. As ever, there are areas for further development, but no surprises, and we now continue with our school improvement goals to make sure our school is the very best place it can be for all children, staff and families.



## CHESHIRE DIOCESE ACADEMY TRUST (CDAT)

Still no further update—the road dispute runs on!



## Winter Clothing

We are very lucky to have such a big school but as it is surrounded by windows it is almost always too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. Do please make sure your child has a school jumper or cardigan and a warm coat to wear. Please name these items!

PE kits can contain black jogging bottoms and an extra sweatshirt as most classes will continue with outside PE as long as the weather allows i.e. it isn't bucketing down!! Where at all possible, please leave PE and Forest School kits in for the half term. This saves remembering each week. Please remember to label it with your child's name and ensure the kits are in school for this coming week if they are not already here. Thank you.



## CHRISTMAS

Previously we have made Christmas cards to sell with the children but have rested this idea, as card sending has become less popular in the spirit of being eco friendly and the expense. We have also sold T-towels previously but we felt it is probably a bit soon to revive this again.

Therefore, this year, every child will make a Christmas Bauble that features a photo of themselves and is seasonally decorated. This can be kept at home or given as a gift to wider family. All children will bring their bauble home. However, we are asking families to make a small donation if they would like, in recognition of the art work. The donations will all go towards funding the Christmas children's Jack & the Beanstalk panto. The cost of resources etc will be covered by school.



## Remembrance

We are selling poppies and other related stationary from the school office to support the raising of funds by the British Legion to look after veterans and their families and those affected by war. We suggest a 20p minimum donation for a poppy in recognition of the cause. You can call in before or after school or children can pop to the office to collect.

The 11th falls on a Monday so we will be holding a service of remembrance in school and marking the silence. Y6 will join Catholic High for an outside ceremony in their school grounds.

In Love and Peace,  
Miss Emma Drew

## Key Dates For 24-25



<b>Tues 12th Nov</b>	<b>School Photo Day</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Anti-Bullying &amp; Anti-Harassment Focus Days</b>
<b>FRIDAY 15th NOV</b>	<b>Children in Need Day</b> Make a donation and wear something spotty or striped to school—no football shirts or mad hair please.
<b>Tues 19th Nov</b>	<b>2.30pm Ted Hughes Class Assembly</b>
<b>Sat 23rd Nov</b>	<b>Carol singing at St Mary's—KS2 optional</b>
<b>Wed 27th Nov</b>	<b>Head Pupil Election</b>
<b>Tues 10th Dec</b>	<b>Panto—Jack &amp; the Beanstalk</b>
<b>Wed 11th Dec</b>	<b>PTA Disco Day— Wear sparkly clothes or Christmas Jumper during the school day.</b>
<b>Wednesday 18th Dec</b>	<b>Carol Service in school Y1-Y6</b> <b>Christmas Lunch</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Xmas parties / Last Day Autumn 2 2.15pm Finish</b>

Nursery, EYFS and KS1 Christmas Performances times and dates will be sent to parents at the beginning of next week via SCOPAY (wb:- 11/11/24)

## Spring and Summer Terms

<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>INSET Day for Staff</b>	
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>First Day Spring 1</b>	<b>Values Day: Respect</b>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Last Day Spring 1</b>	<b>3.20pm Finish</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>First Day Spring 2</b>	<b>Values Day: Integrity</b>
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Last Day Spring 2</b>	<b>2.15pm Finish</b>
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>First Day Summer 1</b>	<b>Values Day: Service &amp; Stewardship</b>
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Last Day Summer 1</b>	<b>3.20pm Finish</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>First Day Summer 2</b>	<b>Values Day: Thankfulness</b>
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Last Day Summer 2</b>	<b>2.15pm Finish</b>
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	



### Children in Need

Next Friday 15th November we will mark Children in Need Day with children being allowed to wear something spotty or striped to school alongside making a donation of their choice to Children in Need. Please refrain from mad hair and no football shirts.

### PTA Disco

It is intended that the PTA Christmas Disco will be held on Wednesday 11th December after school. Children attending will be allowed to wear their sparkly outfits (school appropriate) during the day. Children not attending may also wear something sparkly or a Christmas Jumper on that day. This will replace the other Christmas Jumper day as we are doing a number of non-uniform events this half-term. More details will follow regarding the PTA Disco.



## Photo Day:- Tuesday 12th November

Just a further reminder that photo day is this coming Tuesday 12th November. You should already have details of this but can we please remind parents about the need to be in the correct colour school uniform and that hair needs to still be tied back for those children with longer hair. A red hair bobble would be ideal on this day to tie hair back. If it is your child's birthday on Tuesday, then we would request that either your child wears their birthday non-uniform on Monday or Wednesday or that they bring it in a bag and will be allowed to change after their photo has been taken. Thank you for your support with the above.



## Other Christmas Events

Other information regarding Christmas events will follow via SCOPAY once arrangements are ready to be shared.

## Pop Up Shop - Christmas Jumpers

We would really love to offer the opportunity through the Pop Up Shop to recycle any Christmas Jumpers which are in good condition but are no longer being used. If you have any to donate, these will be welcomed gratefully and give families an option to collect a jumper without the need to buy one for what tends to be just a single day or so at this time of year. Please see details on our newsletter Pop-Up Shop page.

## Online Parenting Courses - Family Lives

Please see information and link below for some parenting courses that cover lots of different areas including; the importance of play and boosting your child's self esteem. Mrs Redmayne has completed two of the sessions and recommends them for your interest. They are not just aimed at parents but any care giver e.g. grandparents. Mrs Redmayne has a lot of experience of training as well as being a parent and grandparent but has still picked up some little gems and nuggets to share with staff too. Please do feedback any that you find especially useful that we can recommend to others.

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>

Family Lives offers a confidential and free\* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice. (\* Free from landlines and most mobiles)





Good quality second-hand clothes available  
Simply bring along a shopping bag and help yourself!

Donations welcome - please take to the school office



We are in need of Autumn/Winter wear, for girls and boys of all ages

We also have a fancy-dress rail to reduce the need to buy new outfits and reuse where possible - if you can help and have any items at home please drop off at the school office or bring along to the Pop up shop on the day! |

We are especially looking for donations of Christmas jumpers or anything sparkly ahead of the festive season.



# Up and Running...

and Gardening and Crocheting and Computing and netballing and...

Basically, our lunch and after school clubs are back up and running after the half-term break.

We know how much our parents like to see the benefits of the clubs, as was evident from the many examples of what Gardening Club had produced last half-term, so we thought we would start off with Choir and a fabulous performance of 'Down by the Riverside.' They more than demonstrated that they are tuned in ready for the all the wonderful singing opportunities that Christmas will bring. Thanks to all the choir and a special mention to Miss Axam for all her hard work with the children to get them to this level.

## Singing



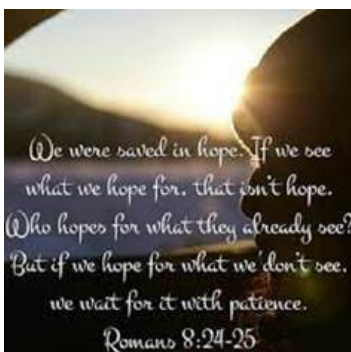




This half term we will be focussing on the Christian value of Hope. We launched our Hope value in our whole school worship on Tuesday when we explored what we mean by 'Hope'. Hope is the belief that circumstances will get better. It's not just a wish for things to get better — it's the actual belief, the knowledge that things will get better, no matter how big or small. The Bible teaches us that in God we have hope of life after death but it also teaches us that God is always with us and that he 'has our back' as it were so that even in the darkest of times and most difficult of days there is the Hope that things will get better because we know and trust that God is with us.

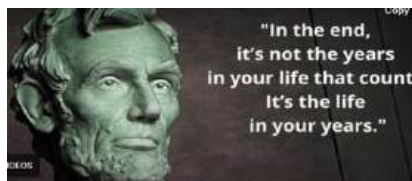
We listened to a story that helps to illustrate placing Hope in God's hands.

One night, a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, 'Jump! I'll catch you.' He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. But his father kept yelling: 'Jump! I will catch you.' But the boy protested, 'Daddy, I can't see you.' His father replied, 'But I can see you, and that's all that matters.'



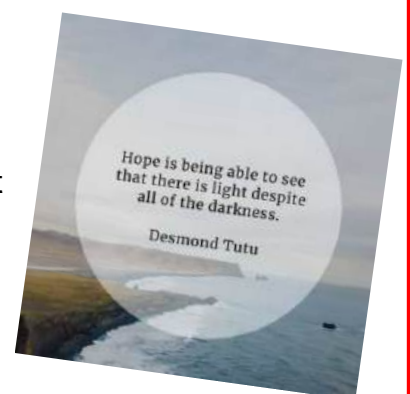
God can see us. God can see us. At times when we can't see for the smoke and the confusion and the worry and the pain, God can see us and he is telling us to jump to him. Put our Hope in him.

Throughout the day the children were thinking about hope, what the Bible teaches us about hope and what hope means for them and others today.



The children will also be thinking about their own personal hopes for the future, which of these were earthly hopes (like wishes) and which of these hopes were Godly hopes that we should place in God's hands. We also thought about small things that we can do to give our lives meaning and worth which in turn will give hope to others.

We all have struggles and challenges and bad things do happen but the gift of hope enables us to keep us moving forward. Hope give us the fuel to face impossible challenges. Hope is the expectation that things will get better, that God has plan for us all and that we will get where we want or need to be when the time is right.





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# Overleigh



# Tots



Wednesday afternoons

1:30pm till 3pm

Children and babies from 0-4years can enjoy free unstructured play and then join the circle singing time for rhymes and songs.



Come and join us every week in Mini Cosmics room in school for a chat and a cuppa.



# Overleigh Head and Deputy Head Pupil Elections

After an extremely impressive first and second stage of our Head Pupil Election, the following parties have been formed. The following parties (in no particular order) were formed for the two different elections:

## Head Pupil Elections



Ruby Party



Mindfulness Party



Royal Party



Peace Party



Sunflower Party



Parliament Party

Each of the candidates above are standing for Head Pupil with their party supporting them with ideas and campaigning. Posters can now be displayed around school.

On Thursday 21st November each candidate will speak to the school assembly for no more than 4 minutes to tell the children why they think they would make a good Head Pupil and what they intend to do to improve the school for all children.



# Overleigh Head and Deputy Head Pupil Elections

After an extremely impressive first and second stage of our Head Pupil Election, the following parties have been formed. The following parties (in no particular order) were formed for the two different elections:

## Deputy Head Pupil Elections



Value Party



Wellbeing Party



Clover Party



Helper Party



Fierce Party



Art Party

Each of the candidates above are standing for Deputy Head Pupil with their party supporting them with ideas and campaigning. Posters can now be displayed around school.

On Thursday 21st November each candidate will speak to the school assembly for no more than 3 minutes to tell the children why they think they would make a good Deputy Head Pupil and what they intend to do to improve the school for all children.

We have been asked to make you aware of the upcoming event. This is an event that is independent of school and we therefore cannot accept responsibility for it.



**Vicars Crossing** £7.50

An original play by  
**Keane Harrison**

Saturday 30th November - 7pm  
Sunday 1st December - 2.30pm and 7pm

At the Vicars Cross Community Centre, CH3 5LP

Tickets are available by phone/text 07861 041795 or dropping into the community centre or via the QR code or on ticket source.

Suitable for ages 10+

A light-hearted love letter to our community

*Sent on behalf of Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA) and Great Boughton Parish Council...*

Young, local theatre director, Keane Harrison, has written a play with dialogue pieced together from interviews with people from the Vicars Cross area of Chester.

The play, entitled, Vicars Crossing, is a local production, supported and promoted by Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA) and by Great Boughton Parish Council, and funded by UK Government.

The productions will take place on Saturday 30 November at 7pm and Sunday 1 December at 2.30pm and 7pm, at Vicars Cross Community Centre, CH3 5LP.

We are really keen to help promote this far and wide across our networks and your help to share it where you can, will be greatly appreciated as always.

You can purchase tickets by:

- phone/text on 07861 041795
- visiting Vicar's Cross Community Centre
- QR Code in the image alongside.



Kind regards,  
Communities and Engagement Team, Chester.