

Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School

MESSENGER

Friday 22nd November 2024



Dear Overleigh Family,

As ever, a busy few weeks with lots of educational visits, visitors to school and continued excellent learning in classes. Thank you to all the staff who have arranged and supported special events and information sharing. Children in Need was great fun and we raised an excellent sum of money to donate, thank you very much to all!

It was super to have snow early in the week and we made sure everyone got to go and play in it before it disappeared. I am sure it won't be the last this year so a couple of things to remember please:

- We will always do absolutely everything possible to remain open. The only thing that restricts this is getting our staff in, many of whom come from more remote areas. However, even then, it would be exceptional for us to close. PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK OUR PHONE LINES BY ASKING IF WE ARE OPEN. If we were not we would send info by Sco Pay and announce on the webpage. Our staff will be helping to clear paths etc for safer entry to school.
- Snow is only a reason for children to stay home if parents cannot physically get them to school through the snow—this would only be children living in more remote areas—not Lache, Saltney, Wrexham or Handbridge. Unless the child is too unwell for school, they should attend as usual and could be given unauthorised mark if we believe they are taking a duvet day. It is really important that school adults and parents set a good example to children and help them learn about commitment, expectation and resilience in the face of adversity to support them in their lives as they grow and move into the workplace themselves.
- If children have wellies in school for Forest Schools we will ensure they have these for snowy / very wet days. If they do not have wellies in school, do please ensure your child brings a change of footwear so they can enjoy the fun outside with their classmates.

Snow days are often some of the longest lasting memories for children. We had great fun today. Well done to everyone for exemplary behaviour enjoying snowball fights and snowman/people making. A group of Y6 children made the great snowman in the picture below. They improvised with an old football as a hat—Ziggy pinched it twice before we captured this!



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.



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

We are putting together 30 hampers for members of our school community in need of a little extra help over the xmas break. Rotary Club are providing coffee & chocolate. St Mary's church are donating tea bags and biscuits. School staff are providing tins of soup.

There is absolutely no obligation to participate but I am regularly asked at this time of year by parents and community groups who would like to help out / make a difference. Therefore we thought it would be a good way of making a big difference collectively.

If you want to help I suggest donations in sets of 5 or 10 items so I can make sure overall we have 30 of each item. We are thinking about bottles of squash, packets of pasta, bags of rice, cereal, crackers, loo roll, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel and in the last week of term, fresh items like fruit, cheese & milk.



If you would like to help, please email the office for the attention of Miss Drew. If you can let me know what item you would like to donate and how many, I can then keep track and if we are over 30 of one item already I can suggest another.

If anyone has links with any other community groups who could help do please flag this to them or let me have contacts.

Many thanks in advance!



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES YR, Y1 & Y2—The performance this year is altogether and repeated 3 times—see dates on next page. In the first instance, we offer 2 spaces per child that families can choose to use together or split at two different shows. WE WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL ROOM. However, to start with we need you to tell us when you want to come so we can keep an eye on numbers for fire regulations. If you let us know who you wish to have additional tickets for and to which performance we will then try and accommodate. If you don't ask us for your 2 spaces we have to assume you are not coming so do please message the office asap so we don't give your spaces away.

CHESHIRE DIOCESE ACADEMY TRUST (CDAT)

We are still waiting but it could well be 1st February before we convert. It is certain now that for us to convert the Diocese need to take ownership of the road outside of school. If this is agreed then it seems bollards will be placed from our school electronic gate and thus block off access for cars to the road. This will mean there will be no drop off immediately outside school and eventually the area will be put over to grass. Pedestrian and cycle access will be maintained. The issues behind this proposal are us not being able to afford to maintain the road from an Education budget and therefore the road would have to be closed. Negotiations continue and when we know more we will let you know.

However, in the mean time we ask all families to use the drop off facility in the College next door rather than immediately outside school unless absolutely necessary. E.g. we have families who have to organise a child to get to special school and can sometimes have to wait for transport so have to drive to us. Even if the road closes we would organise access for these families. However, at the moment the vast majority of people using the drop off are the same families every day and arrive at the last moment causing chaos and not supporting their children to be in the playground for 8.30am ready for doors to open. Please be considerate of others and not just your own convenience.



Rev Antony Dutton was inducted as the new incumbent at St Mary's Church on Monday evening. It was a wonderful celebration and warm reception for Rev Antony and his family. Ruby in Y6 was in choir at the service but also took one of the lead parts in the presentation and welcome from the congregation. She carried out her role perfectly and was very much a credit to her family and school. Rev Anthony will be visiting us at school next week so he can start to get to know the children and become part of our school family too. We are very much looking forward to welcoming and working with him in the year ahead.

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)

In Love & Peace,

Emma Drew

Key Dates For 24-25

Sat 23rd November	Carol singing at St Mary's—KS2 optional
Wed 27th November	Head and Deputy Head Pupil Election
Tues 10th December	Panto—Jack & the Beanstalk
Wed 11th December	PTA Disco Day— Wear sparkly clothes or Christmas Jumper during the school day.
Friday 13th December	Nursery Christmas Performance 2.00pm
Monday 16th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Performance (one) 9.15am
Tuesday 17th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Performance (two) 9.15am
Tuesday 17th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Performance (three) 1.30pm
Wednesday 18th Dec	Carol Service in school Y1-Y6 Christmas Lunch
Friday 20 th Dec	Xmas parties / Last Day Autumn 2 2.15pm Finish

Spring and Summer Terms

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

P.T.A. Christmas 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 (full outfit or just an accessory) 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. As ever, we just wish to confirm that if children wish to come to school in their normal school uniform on this day then that is also fine, there is no pressure to dress up.

Head and Deputy Head Pupil Elections

This week our main candidates delivered their speeches to all the children in school to share their vision and ideas for school development should they be elected. We thoroughly enjoyed hearing all the wonderful ideas that the children had generated.

The official voting will take place on Wednesday 27th November, when each child in school will be allowed one vote for Head Pupil and one vote for Deputy Head Pupil. Children will be asked if they wish to vote and are allowed not to if they so wish.

We would like to praise all the candidates in advance of the vote for the way they have conducted themselves throughout the campaign so far and also thank those who were not fortunate on this occasion to make it to the main candidacy but have remained committed contributors to the whole process. There will be a thank you ceremony after the election results on Wednesday afternoon for all those who were involved in the process this year.

We wish all our candidates and parties the very best of luck, we are extremely proud of you all.

Drama Superstars

Esme in Y2 and Emilia in Y5 have been busy rehearsing for a show over the last 10 weeks as part of the House of Dance Club they attend at a weekend. This weekend, they've had two full days of dress rehearsals and then today, the show itself. We are so proud of both of them. This week, along with about 200 other youngsters, they performed a number of routines in front of hundreds of people at a sold out show at the Storyhouse in Chester. Well done from everyone at school, you are very brave and talented to perform in front of so many people.

Cross Country Update

In the last school newsletter we gave details of how to take part in long distance running events. Please check again if you didn't see and are still interested.

Heidi has competed in all the events so far and after a really creditable 8th in the first event, she finished 3rd in the most recent cross-country. Well done, Heidi, an amazing achievement again.





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

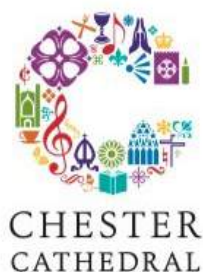
We also have a fancy-dress rail to reduce the need to buy new outfits and reuse where possible - if you can help and have any items at home please drop off at the school office or bring along to the Pop up shop on the day! |

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



Chester Cathedral Choir Recruiting

If your child enjoys singing then Chester Cathedral Choir is looking to recruit new members. Please see the information below for details of who to contact and how to get involved.



BECOME A CHORISTER

Does your child love to sing?

Each year, the Cathedral offers opportunities for boys and girls to audition for a place in the Cathedral Choir.

Chester Cathedral Choir is made up of boy and girl choristers aged between eight and eighteen years. Together with the gentlemen of the choir, they provide music at the daily service and on many special occasions throughout the year.

For more information please contact the Master of the Choristers, Philip Rushforth by email: philip.rushforth@chestercathedral.com

chestercathedral.com    



shutterstock.com - 38379025

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.



External Information

We have been asked to share the information and website link below with all our parents regarding Fuel Poverty. Although the initial pages on the website might contain a range of languages there are links provided to over 100 languages. As mentioned, this is something we have been requested to share with the school parents it is not a school sourced website.

National Energy Action adds accessibility tool Recite Me to website <https://www.nea.org.uk/news/national-energy-action-adds-accessibility-tool-recite-me-to-website/>

Fuel poverty affects millions of UK households and Recite Me will mean NEA can offer help and expertise to as many people as possible – clients and stakeholders.

In addition to translating text, there's also functionality to adapt fonts etc to support anyone who may have difficulty reading and understanding online content, including:

- Decreased vision
- Learning difficulties
- Literacy
- Language/linguistic problems
- Attention disorders
- Physical disabilities

The text to speech button will read out the text. You can choose a male or female voice.

If you click on the flag option, you can pick one of over 100 languages and the content of our pages will automatically be translated including Farsi, Tamil and French. More languages are being added regularly

Joanne Stanton (she/her)

Senior Development Officer

Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA)

Mobile no: 07940 421 220

(My working hours are Mon-Fri, 9-5pm)



Friday Certificates 15.11.24



Class	Value	Comment
Carle Miss Evans	Respect	Arlo always shows respect to everyone around school with his polite manners. He follows our school rules of being ready, respectful and safe and is an example to all children in reception. He is focused on the carpet and has come really far with his phonics. He should be so proud of his efforts in school over the last 8 weeks. Well done Arlo!
Butterworth Miss Burns	Compassion	Isabel is an extremely kind and considerate friend to others; she has been spotted a number of times this week helping others and allowing them to join in with her play. If a friend ever feels nervous or sad about something, Isabel is the first to offer a caring hand and reassurance. What a pleasure it is to have you in Nick Butterworth class Isabel
Bond Mrs Birchall Mrs Barnes	Love	Lucas for his amazing focus and determination with his reading. Lucas has developed into a lovely fluent reader with all his effort and hard work. Well done Lucas, we are very proud of you.
Nicoll Miss Noakes	Respect	Sophia is the Star of the Week in Nicoll class for the Christian value of Respect. Sophia is showing a fantastic attitude to learning in Year 1. She is an active participant in all of our lessons and shows respect to the whole class by always putting her hand up when she wants to add her ideas to class discussions. Well done Sophia on your positive approach and respectful behaviour.
McKee Miss Morgan	Wisdom	This week's nomination is to Elliott for Wisdom. I've been really impressed with the effort he has been putting into his writing by showing great progress in using specific vocabulary, thinking about sentence structure and improving his handwriting. This was clearly seen in his latest independent write. Well done and keep up the hard work you're doing!
Gravett Miss Griffiths Mrs Jones	Wisdom	Sara has shown incredible dedication by working hard independently, tackling challenges with resilience, and always giving her best effort. She is also a wonderful friend to her classmates, stepping in to help others when they need support. Keep up the fantastic work, Sara!
Hughes Miss Hunter	Respect	Imogen has made a great start back to school showing a fantastic attitude to learning. Imogen shows outstanding respect towards her classmates, teachers, and school community. She consistently listens to others, treats everyone with kindness and demonstrates a love of learning. She is a wonderful example of respect for all.
Meadows Mr Mander	Integrity	This week I am choosing Haylin for integrity. Haylin has been working really hard on focusing during independent work time. She has been really trying to concentrate on completing her work and is now producing good quality pieces and showing what she is capable of.
Strong Mr Skinner	Wisdom	Our star of the week in Strong class is Casey for Wisdom. He has made great progress over the past half term and is a positive role model in our class. I've been particularly proud of his work in Maths where he has flourished in our addition and subtraction unit. We are very proud of Casey. Well done!
Morpurgo Miss McFaul	Wisdom	Elif has been trying her best in every lesson this week and she has been working extremely hard on the timetables that she finds tricky. She is gaining more confidence in her abilities and it's amazing to see her shine when she challenges herself. She has been doing lots of reading and extra timetable work at home and I am excited to see how she continues to progress throughout the rest of the year. Well done Elif, keep up the fantastic work superstar!
Horowitz Miss Holdstock	Wisdom	My nomination is for Penelope for the value of wisdom. Penelope has returned after the half term and has been working extremely hard, particularly in English. She has really focussed on her presentation which is beautiful and she is beginning to apply our mastery targets. Well done, Penelope
Austen Miss Axam	Service and Stewardship	Berkay has been working so hard on his writing in recent weeks and is producing some really impressive work as a result. He is determined to try his best and get his work just perfect - what an incredible attitude to have. Well done Berkay!
Jeffers Miss Jones	Integrity	Elaina is a fantastic example of an Overleigh pupil, who is always doing the right thing. She will constantly be showing our School Values around school and is always representing Overleigh to the highest standard. Her effort in class is always impeccable and she always tries her best. Well done Elaina!
Blackman Mrs McGoldrick Mrs Dickson	Wisdom	Since joining us at Overleigh in September, Mila has been an engaged, enthusiastic learner who contributes massively to every lesson. She shares her insightful ideas, thoughts and answers with the class, and uses ambitious, clear vocabulary to ensure that her explanations are clear so that she is understood. We're so glad you joined our class, Mila! Well done!

Friday Certificates 22.11.24



Class	Value	Comment
Carle Miss Evans	Respect	James understands that everyone is unique and special and really stood out during last week's anti-bullying days. He knows to be kind to everyone, and that kindness can go a long way. He is improving week on week in his phonics and starting to blend his sounds into words. He is starting to write independently and can hear all the phonemes in the word. Well done James!
Butterworth Miss Burns	Wisdom	Nyla has worked super hard this week in all areas of learning. She has listened well in phonics and now begins to blend words together independently. Nyla has applied her phonics skills well into both her reading and writing tasks this week. Keep up the hard-working effort, Nyla!
Bond Mrs Birchall Mrs Barnes	Love	Fatiha tries very hard in school with every aspect of the day and she always does it with a smile on her face. Well done Fatiha, you are amazing.
Nicoll Miss Noakes	Hope	Oaklee has been seen making good choices this week. He has worked hard in English to improve his presentation and he always works well in maths, even when questions are tricky. I've also been really impressed when Oaklee has tidied the classroom without anyone even asking him to. Well done Oaklee!
McKee Miss Morgan	Wisdom	Amelia has been working exceptionally hard this week, especially in her phonics and reading which has had a great positive impact on her learning. Keep up the hard work Amelia. Well done you!
Gravett Miss Griffiths Mrs Jones	Integrity	George consistently demonstrates integrity both in and out of the classroom. He always listens carefully to instructions and gives his best effort in everything he does. He is a role model for doing the right thing, even when no one is watching, and he inspires his classmates. Well done George, you're a star!
Hughes Miss Hunter	Integrity	Yarina is such a hard-working member of Ted Hughes class! Each day she tries her best and is making fantastic progress. Although Yarina is new to the English language, her writing is unbelievable and creative. She has made so much progress already in Y3. Well done - you are a superstar!
Meadows Mr Mander	Wisdom	Chloe has really impressed me over the last few weeks with her attitude to learning. she has been trying really hard in all her work but has been impressing me particularly with her can do attitude in maths during our addition and subtraction skills. Well done Chloe!
Strong Mr Skinner	Integrity	Matteo is a responsible and well-liked member of our class who always approaches his learning with a smile. He has been a great role model to his peers over the past half term and has represented our class well as our Ethos group member. We are all very proud of Matteo and everything that he has achieved thus far this year. Well done!
Morpurgo Miss McFaul	Wisdom	Noah has been challenging himself in every lesson this week. He has been working extremely hard on his timetables both in school and at home on TTRockstars. He has also been working on keeping his handwriting neat and working at a slower pace in English which has helped improve his overall writing. Keep up the hard work Noah!
Horowitz Miss Holdstock	Wisdom	Alfie is a consistently hardworking child who has a great work ethic in all he does. He is conscientious, enthusiastic and is always eager to share what he knows and what he has learnt. Well done Alfie. You're a star!
Austen Miss Axam	Wisdom	Clara always works hard in lessons but has especially impressed me this week with her contributions to our RE lesson. She showed great maturity and insight in our discussions and really showed a great level of understanding and empathy. Well done Clara, its a pleasure to have you in our class
Jeffers Miss Jones	Love	Maicie Blu has had a fantastic week in school last week! She has been contributing all the time in class discussions and has tried really hard with her work in class. It has been lovely to see how much she has been enjoying coming into school and how much of a love of learning Maicie Blu has shown! Well done Maicie Blu, keep it up!
Blackman Mrs McGoldrick Mrs Dickson	Wisdom	Jiyanshi's current attitude to school is amazing. She is contributing and having a go at answering in class, even if she is unsure. She is engaged in our new areas of learning, and we all loved sharing the circuits kit which she brought from home to deepen our knowledge and experience in Science and D.T. This enthusiasm and making connections in learning is just what we want in Year 6. Well done Jiyanshi!



Nursery



What a cold but busy week
in Nursery this week!



Bread making



Painting



And Snow!!



Forest School

Autumn in Forest School!

We are well into the Autumn season and the weather is changing rapidly. We've had some really cold mornings and wet afternoons. Although we have our amazing 'container' in forest school, it is still very cold. So please on the days your child has forest school, make sure they are dressed for the weather and send extra layers if necessary!



Cut Your Carbon

As a school we are taking part in a national project called 'Cut Your Carbon'. We are challenging you to complete 6 small activities across November, at home, with friends and family. Each activity will reduce your carbon emissions and inspire others to act too.

Every child will have been given a form to take home and stick to their fridge with information on the challenge and a tick list to cross off each of the challenges! Please return these to school at the start of December.



Autumn 2 Timetable

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Morning</i>	Y1 Bond Class	YR Butterworth Class YR Carle Class	Y4 Strong Class Y4 Morpurgo Class	
<i>Afternoon</i>	Y5 Horowitz Class Y5 Austen Class	Y2 Gravett Class Y2 McKee Class	YN Story Creators Y1 Nicoll Class	Y3 Hughes Class Y3 Meadows Class

We have been learning about Diwali, the festival of light. We created our own diya lamps made from salt dough, discussing how light over dark, means good over evil.

Year R



Year 1

We wore our stripy and spotty clothes in support of 'Children in Need'

We carried out different activities for 'Anti-Bullying Week' based on the book 'The Perfect Fit'. We acted out how the characters were feeling in the story and explored shape patterns through tessellation.



It was so exciting when the snow came. We all went outside to play; building snowmen and throwing snowballs. Despite the cold hands and feet, it was great fun!



Year 2



Our trip at Chester Zoo



Year 2



CHESTER ZOO

Year 3



In Science, we have been exploring different types of soil. We looked at how the soils are different in appearance, water retention and texture. We then used the properties to identify what type of soil they are.



In PSHE, we have been looking at how we need to 'let love in'. We wrote positive things about each other on post it notes and then stuck them on each other.

Ted Hughes class had a great time performing their class assembly to the school and parents.



In our English Lessons we examined Stone Age non-chronological reports. We researched our facts and began to plan our own report writing.



Children had a wonderful time playing in the snow. We enjoyed the experience of snow as we don't get it much in Chester!!!



Year 4

In Year 4, we have spent lots of time this half term practising our times tables using TT Rockstars. We recently completed a nationwide challenge on TT Rockstars and have all been working extra hard to improve the tables that we don't know.



In gymnastics, Year 4s progress to harder rolls such as the forward roll. All of Morpurgo class are proud to say that due to hard work and perseverance, we can all forward roll.



On Thursday, we explored the winter wonderland that appeared over night on our back field. It was an incredible experience for some of our children as we rarely get snow in Chester.

Year 5

Year 5 welcomed Dr. Diane Davis, Maya archaeologist on Thursday. She enthralled us with her experiences of the jungle in Guatemala and the wonderful discoveries her and her team made.

We got up close to many artefacts and were able to ask the leading expert in Britain all about everything Maya. (see next page for more)



Maya Workshop with Maya archaeologist Dr Diane Davis



Year 5



Horowitz Class Maya
workshop



PIC•COLLAGE

Year 5

We also enjoyed an exciting lesson being 'Royal Tea Tasters' in the style of our current book 'Cloud Tea Monkeys'.

We sniffed and slurped our way through 4 different teas and used descriptive language to write our own advert for our favourite.



Year 5 tea tasting



Year 6



The Year 6 children were able to 'Learn with the Lords' last week, which introduced them to the role and membership of the House of Lords, and help them understand how UK Parliament works. We had the pleasure of meeting Lord Knight of Weymouth and the children were able to ask him various questions about life as a Lord.



Year 6 children asked a range of intriguing questions. They were amazed that Lord Weymouth had met Queen Elizabeth, King Charles and Barack Obama!

It was a really positive, enriching experience which added to children's cultural capital.

