

EYFS NEWSLETTER

TERM 3



OVERSTONE GATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Ipsam quod faciendum est diutius'

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What we have been learning:

Communication and Language

This term, our learners have continued to develop their communication and language skills through engaging, interest led activities. They have been encouraged to ask thoughtful questions, particularly during our space topic, including "What is a black hole?" and "How many people have been to space?". Learners have enjoyed learning and reciting rhymes, poems, and songs such as Alice the Camel and Over the Deep Blue Sea, joining in enthusiastically and recalling familiar verses. Through shared stories, they have explored characters, events, and settings, focusing on where stories take place. When reading *The Pirates Next Door*, they enjoyed discussing the ordinary street setting and imagining their own homes as pirate ships! Throughout the term, learners have developed their ability to contribute relevant comments, extend sentences using conjunctions such as 'and', 'or,' and 'because'. They have also practised using social phrases, following multi step instructions and speaking in small groups. Next term, we will support learners to understand more complex sentence structures, engage with non-fiction texts, answer questions and share their work confidently with the whole class, describe events in more detail, and further develop their vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, our learners have continued to develop their Personal, Social and Emotional skills through supportive and collaborative experiences.

They have been encouraged to listen to one another's ideas during activities, particularly when working together in construction and have been praised for teamwork and turn-taking.

Through PSHE sessions, daily mood boosters, and role play, learners have been exploring emotions and behaviour, developing an understanding of how actions can affect others and building perseverance when things feel tricky.

Learners have been supported to express their own feelings, consider the feelings of others, show gratitude, and form friendships by choosing who they would like to busy learn and sit with. They have also shown increasing independence by managing their own needs, selecting resources, and practising safe behaviours. Next term, we will continue to support learners to show empathy, link feelings to events in stories and real life, regulate their emotions, adjust to changes in routine, wait patiently, and confidently form and maintain friendships.



Physical Development

This term, our learners have developed their physical skills through focused PE and classroom activities. In PE, they have practised balancing on different body parts, moving confidently in large spaces, and improving control when throwing and catching balls. They have also continued to refine fundamental movement skills such as crawling, rolling, walking, running, jumping, hopping, skipping, and climbing.

In the classroom, learners have strengthened their fine motor skills through our cutting workshop. We have supported correct pencil grip by reinforcing the "three friends" tripod grip through songs and daily practice, alongside Kinetic Letters sessions to develop accurate letter formation. Learners have also been encouraged to use a knife and fork independently at lunchtime.

Next term, we will explore movement through dance and using large and small apparatus safely indoors and outdoors. We will continue to develop fundamental movement skills, spatial awareness, and fine motor control through consistent use of a tripod grip, effective tool use, and writing recognisable letters and numbers.



Literacy

This term, our learners have been developing their literacy skills through a range of stories, phonics sessions and writing opportunities. They have listened attentively during story time and enjoyed exploring familiar texts such as 'The Gruffalo', where they discussed and sequenced the main events. During busy learning, learners have enjoyed role play in small world areas, particularly retelling traditional tales like 'The Three Little Pigs', using language from the stories. Learners have continued to build confidence in reading Level 2 captions and simple sentences, blending sounds and recognising tricky words, while making a strong start with Level 3 phonics using actions to support sound recognition. We have had a real focus on sentence writing, with learners orally composing and writing short captions using Level 2 and some Level 3 sounds, as well as practising spelling common exception words such as 'to', 'the', 'I', and 'go'.

Next term, we will support learners to use story language in role play and discussions, develop an awareness of fiction and non-fiction, secure knowledge of Level 3 sounds and tricky words, read simple sentences, and continue to develop writing skills through correct tripod grip, recognisable letter and number formation, and using adjectives and simple instructions.



Mathematics

This term in maths, our learners have been developing their understanding of numbers 6, 7 and 8, using practical resources such as cubes and ten frames to represent, count, and explore each number. Through hands on activities, learners have been comparing numbers to 5 and deepening their understanding of the composition of 4 and 5. We have also been working on making pairs and comparing two groups, supporting learners to notice similarities and differences between amounts. In addition, learners have explored comparing mass and capacity by using scales to compare weight, helping them to develop early measurement skills through practical investigation. These activities have supported learners in building confidence and understanding through meaningful, hands-on experiences.

Next term, we will continue to build on this learning by introducing numbers 9 and 10, comparing numbers to 10, and exploring number bonds to 10. Learners will also begin learning about 3D shapes and patterns, further developing their mathematical language and reasoning skills. In addition, we will explore length and height through practical activities.



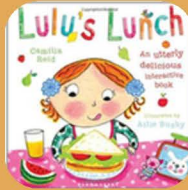
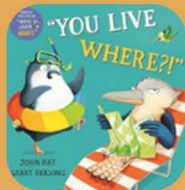
Understanding the World

This term in Understanding the World, learners have been exploring a wide range of topics, including different occupations, where they enjoyed discussing a variety of jobs and meeting adults to learn about their roles during our 'When I Grow Up' day. They have also explored the past through photographs and familiar objects, encouraging conversations about how things were different. Alongside this, learners have shown a keen interest in space, learning about the different planets and beginning to explore ideas around gravity and the forces involved in black holes through discussion and visual resources. Learners have also learned about different cultures and traditions, including how Chinese New Year and Persian New Year are celebrated, helping them to understand that people may live differently and celebrate special times in different ways.

Next term, learners will explore seasonal changes linked to spring and summer, investigate simple forces such as push and pull, magnets and floating, and continue learning about different environments, maps, life in the past and similarities and differences between families, communities and traditions.



Recommended Reads



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Expressive Arts and Design

This term, our learners have been developing their expressive arts and design skills by singing familiar songs, learning new poems, and preparing for our EYFS Nativity. They have worked incredibly hard to learn all of the Nativity songs, actions, and words, showing growing confidence during rehearsals. Learners have taken on their roles with enthusiasm-whether narrating, acting, dancing, or singing-and have shown wonderful teamwork as they practised coming on and off the stage, using props and performing in front of an audience. Through this experience, they have learned how to express themselves, follow musical cues and work together to create a shared performance. They have also enjoyed performing poems and using expression in their voices. Next term, we will continue to build on these creative skills by helping learners name and explore different instruments, understand how to play them, and begin to perform simple pieces of music as a group.

PSHE

This term in Jigsaw PSHE, our learners have been exploring the theme of Dreams and Goals. Through stories, discussions and practical activities, they have spent lots of time talking about their future goals and what they would like to be when they grow up.

Learners have confidently shared their dream jobs and discussed the skills, effort and achievements they might need in order to reach these goals, such as practising, listening, trying their best and not giving up when things feel challenging. They have also reflected on their own achievements, recognising things they are proud of and celebrating the successes of others. Throughout the term, learners have been encouraged to understand that mistakes are part of learning and that perseverance helps us improve. These experiences support the EYFS focus on developing self-confidence, resilience, independence and positive attitudes towards learning, while helping learners to build aspirations for their future. Next term, we will be looking at 'Healthy me' where we explore everything that keeps us healthy!

Suggestions for Home

Next term, we will be learning about Healthy Me in PSHE, helping learners understand how to look after their bodies, feelings, and make healthy choices. You can support this learning at home through simple conversations during everyday routines. Here are a few ideas to try together:

- Talk about keeping healthy: "What helps our bodies stay strong?" "How do we look after our teeth and feelings?"
- Explore food and exercise: "Which foods help us grow?" "How do we feel after moving or dancing?"
- Chat about Easter: "What is Easter?" "How do we celebrate Easter in our family?"
- Talk about where you live: "What is your house called?" "What places are near us, like parks or shops?"



Learner Leadership

Our Eco Warriors have met this term to monitor how our projects are progressing and we are so pleased with how things are going. We are absolutely thrilled with the number of bottle tops we are receiving for our fish display - thank you so much for your continued support with this.

During our meeting, we talked about how we haven't seen many Tapestry posts about picking up litter, and this is something we would love to see more of as it is an important action towards achieving our Eco Flag.

To support this, our Eco Warriors have created posters to encourage everyone to help look after our environment by picking up litter.

We are also really looking forward to planting some wildflowers to support biodiversity in our outdoor area. If you have any suggestions for plants or flowers we could grow, we would love to hear them.

Reminders

To ensure that drop off and collection arrangements run smoothly, please inform the school directly by phone or email of any changes to the expected adult collecting your child. We also kindly request that you notify us if your child will not be using the bus service so that staffing can be deployed appropriately to ensure the safety of all learners.

With the changes in weather, please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing with them. Fingers crossed we can go back to the thin coats soon!

Please ensure that all items are clearly named so that items can be returned as quickly as possible should they be misplaced.

Thank you to all our families — you are doing an amazing job supporting your children. Your partnership makes a real difference.



Key Dates

Monday 23rd February – Start of Term

Learners will return to school on Monday 23rd February. The bus will arrive at the bus stop at 08:15.

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Time to celebrate our love of reading with our favourite day of the year! Come to school dressed as your favourite book character.

Monday 9th - Friday 13th March - British Science Week

Learners will take part in discussions about all things Science! We will end on Friday 16th March with a special Science show!

Friday 13th March – Mother's Day Shop

The FoWPS will hold a Mother's Day Shop ahead of the special occasion. More details to follow.

Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day

Learners will learn about the charity Comic Relief. Learners will be able to swap one item of their uniform for something red or 'Red Nose Day' merchandise.

Monday 23rd March – Headteacher Drop In

Join Mrs Smith at Overstone Care Home between 15:30 - 16:00 am if you would like to share any feedback or have a chat.

Thursday 26th March - End of Term

Learners will finish school at 15:10 on Thursday 26th March. Learners will be collected from school the bus at 15:20.

Friday 27th March – Professional Learning Day

School is closed to learners on this day.

When I Grow Up Day

Thank you for supporting 'When I Grow Up' day. The learners looked amazing in their workwear and have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their dreams with us. Thank you so much to all the parents who took the time to share their jobs with us too. The children loved all of their special visits and finding out about what everybody does. I think it is fair to say that you have some really interesting jobs!



Life Education Tent

We were delighted to welcome the Life Education Tent to school this term. Pamela and Harold (the giraffe!) visited in their special mobile classroom to teach us all about staying healthy. Learners discovered how food and exercise help our bodies and give us lots of... ENERGY!



Half Term Adventures!

Please do send us photos and videos from your half term adventures!

We would love to share them with the learners and reflect on what they've been exploring and enjoying over the holidays.

Have a lovely break!



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