

EYFS NEWSLETTER

TERM 4

OVERSTONE GATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



'Ipsam quod faciendum est diutius'

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Communication and Language

This term, learners have continued to develop their communication and language skills through engaging activities, with a focus on non-fiction texts. During World Book Day week, our word of the week was non-fiction. Learners explored books in our reading corner and discussed what they could learn, including topics such as ladybirds, spiders and earthquakes, helping them become more familiar with non-fiction and new vocabulary.

Learners have also been building confidence when speaking in front of others through regular show and tell, supported by posts shared on Tapestry. They enjoyed sharing experiences such as holidays, planting flowers and other events. It has been wonderful to see them speaking confidently, answering questions and describing their experiences in more detail.

Throughout the term, learners have engaged with non-fiction, used new vocabulary and practised key communication skills, including social phrases and discussion.

Next term, we will focus on stories. Learners will listen to and talk about a range of texts, retell stories, answer key questions and make predictions, while continuing to develop their vocabulary and communication skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, our learners have continued to develop their personal, social and emotional skills through a range of supportive activities and discussions. Through our PSHE sessions and BBC Moodboosters, learners have been exploring different feelings in fun and engaging ways. One of their favourites was the Haunted House Moodbooster, where learners talked about the feeling of being scared and discussed ways we can overcome this emotion. Learners have been encouraged to show empathy in simple ways, such as finding an adult if a friend is hurt or upset. Through stories and real-life situations, learners have been linking events with feelings and thinking about the perspectives of others. They have also been practising waiting patiently for their turn during activities such as using the bikes. During our PSHE topic Healthy Me, learners talked about healthy foods, the importance of hygiene and developed independence by using the toilet and washing their hands on their own. Next term, we will focus on working as part of a group, building respectful relationships, expressing and regulating emotions, solving small conflicts through communication, and continuing to develop independence and resilience.



Physical Development

This term, learners have continued to develop their physical skills through a range of indoor and outdoor activities. In PE, they explored movement through dance, learning a short routine and beginning to link actions into simple sequences with increasing control.

Learners have also been refining fundamental movement skills such as crawling, rolling, running, jumping, hopping, skipping and climbing. They have used a range of apparatus safely, both independently and with others, while learning to move confidently around their peers.

We have also focused on fine motor development. Learners are practising a tripod grip and using tools such as pencils, with a particular focus on number formation. They have completed "lollipop jobs" to form recognisable numbers and letters from all Kinetic Letter families. Independence at mealtimes has also improved, with learners using a knife and fork effectively.

Next term, learners will develop ball skills such as throwing, catching and kicking, while continuing to build strength, coordination, balance and fine motor control through activities like cutting shapes and using tools safely.





Literacy

This term, our learners have continued to develop their reading and writing skills through our phonics and literacy sessions. We have been working hard on Level 3 phonics, with some learners beginning to progress onto Level 4. Learners are becoming increasingly confident recognising Level 3 grapheme - phoneme correspondences and common exception words, which has supported them in reading simple captions and sentences. Learners have also been developing their writing skills by segmenting sounds to write Level 3 CVC words and short dictated captions. They are continuing to practise forming recognisable letters from all Kinetic Letter families while using a tripod grip and handling pencils with increasing control. Learners have also been developing their understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts and have enjoyed using language from familiar stories and rhymes within their role play and discussions. In literacy, we have also been exploring instructional writing. Learners learned about imperative (bossy) verbs and the purpose of instructions. They particularly enjoyed writing instructions for how to make a jam sandwich. When Miss Harris and Mrs Warren followed the instructions exactly, learners quickly realised how important it is to be clear, as the jam even ended up on Miss Harris' head at one point!



Mathematics

This term, learners have developed their understanding of number through practical activities, with a focus on 9 and 10. They have explored different representations, compared numbers to 10 and built confidence with number bonds to 10.

We used hands on resources such as ten frames, cubes, loose parts and Numicon to support understanding, helping learners to visualise how numbers can be combined and separated. Learners also enjoyed Numberblocks stories, which brought number bonds to life in a fun and memorable way. Through these experiences, they have grown in confidence when counting, recognising numbers and explaining their thinking.

Next term, we will explore numbers to 20 and beyond, focusing on counting patterns after 10. Learners will also investigate 3D shapes and patterns while developing spatial reasoning. We will introduce early addition and subtraction through practical concepts such as adding more and taking away, alongside composing and decomposing numbers.

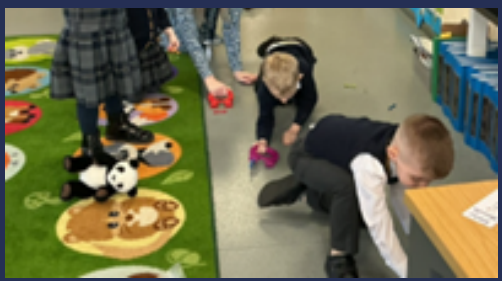


Understanding the World

This term, learners have been developing their understanding of the world through practical and discussion based activities. They explored simple maps by looking at Overstone and identifying familiar places, before drawing their own maps of the school, including the playground and car park. This supported their understanding of how maps represent real places.

Learners have also explored the past by discussing how toys, clothes and technology have changed. We used objects in our home corner to support these discussions and considered how life may have been different. Learners also learned about Easter and how it is celebrated.

In science, we explored seasonal change and the arrival of spring, noticing blossom and growing daffodils. Learners investigated simple forces using push and pull, explored magnets and tested which objects float or sink. Next term, learners will explore plants and minibeasts, as well as changes in materials through heating and cooling, while continuing to learn about different environments.



Recommended Reads



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Expressive Arts and Design

This term, learners have explored music, movement and creativity through a range of activities. In music and dance, they moved in response to music, expressed themselves through dance and performed short routines. They particularly enjoyed singing and dancing to songs from The Lion King, listening to instruments and discussing how the music made them feel.

Learners have also developed their creativity through art, exploring different materials, combining media and mixing colours. These experiences have supported them in expressing their ideas and experimenting with artistic effects. We have encouraged learners to talk about art, using our learner voice wall to comment on each other's work and celebrate achievements.

Next term, learners will continue developing creativity by making props for role play and exploring techniques such as natural art, collage and watercolours. They will also begin to represent the work of artists and create collaboratively while sharing ideas.

PSHE

This term, our learners have been exploring the Jigsaw "Healthy Me" unit, where they have been learning about ways to keep their bodies healthy and look after themselves. Learners discussed healthy foods and why it is important to eat a balanced diet, as well as the importance of hygiene such as washing our hands and looking after our bodies. We also learned about how to keep our hearts healthy through exercise and discussed how the heart pumps blood around our body, especially when we are active. Learners enjoyed noticing how their heart beats faster when they run and move their bodies. Throughout the unit, learners have been developing independence by managing their own needs, such as using the toilet and washing their hands independently, while understanding why these habits are important.

Next term, learners will begin the Jigsaw "Relationships" unit, where they will explore friendships, kindness, and how to build positive relationships with others.

Suggestions for Home

Next term, we will learn about Relationships in PSHE, focusing on friendship, kindness and sharing feelings. In RE, we will explore What Stories Tell Us, looking at stories from different religions and their meanings.

You can support this through simple everyday conversations:

Feelings and friendships:

"How do we show we care?"

"What makes a good friend?"

Family and relationships:

"Who is in our family?"

"How can we help at home or school?"

Stories and messages:

"What happened in the story?"

"What can we learn from the characters?"



Learner Leadership

This term, our Eco Warriors met to monitor and evaluate our three eco projects. We began by discussing our upcoming community litter pick. We have already had 8 responses - thank you so much for your support! We are really looking forward to the 21st April and hope more of you can join us. We then reviewed our bottle top project. We have already filled a whole tub - thank you for your contributions! We have also started creating our fish and worked out that we have enough bottle tops to complete it. This project is helping us learn about protecting our oceans. We also have plenty of bottle tops left, which we will be using in our loose parts and maths areas, so no more are needed - thank you again! Finally, we talked about caring for our flowers and the importance of watering them every day. Next term, we will be creating our own Eco Code. A post will be shared on Tapestry soon, and we would love your help in coming up with ideas.

Thank you so much!

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 and hopefully some sunshine, please ensure your child comes to school with a sun hat and suncream. (sunglasses are optional!)

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

Our first ever school visit to Woburn Safari Park is coming up on Tuesday 23rd June. Please complete all relevant information on Arbor.



Key Dates

Monday 13th April – Start of Term

Learners will return to school on Monday 13th April. The bus will arrive at the bus stop at 08:15.

Wednesday 15th April - Reports out to Parents

Full reports go out to parents.

Tuesday 21st April - Community Litter Pick

Join the team on a community litter pick in our local area after school - 15:30 - 16:00.

Wednesday 22nd April - Earth Day

We celebrate Earth Day by learning all about our wonderful world!

Monday 4th May - May Bank Holiday

School is closed to learners on this day.

WC 11th May - Mental Health Week

Learners will take part in lots of activities to support positive mental health.

Thursday 14th May - Wear it Green Day

On Thursday 14th May, learners will swap one item of clothing in support of a local mental health charity.

Friday 15th May - Colour Run

Learners take part in Wootton Park School's Colour Run. Please sign up on Arbor.

Wednesday 20th May - Whole School Photographs

Learners will have their class photograph taken. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform.

Friday 22nd May - Last Day of Term

Learners will finish school at 15:10 on Friday 22nd May. Learners will be collected from school the bus at 15:20.

World Book Day

Our classroom was filled with imagination and excitement as we celebrated World Book Day! Children and staff arrived in fantastic costumes, bringing their favourite characters to life. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm for reading, with stories shared, activities enjoyed and a real buzz of creativity across the school.



British Science Week

We had lots of fun celebrating British Science Week. We carried out lots of experiments across the week and thoroughly enjoyed watching the Big Bang Show. Our highlight was with Mr Douglas when he came to Busy Learning and made erupting volcanoes with us.



Easter Adventures!

Please do send us photos and videos from your Easter 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 and eat lots of chocolate!