



# **Overstone Primary School Newsletter**

## **30/01/26**

**Welcome to Overstone's Monthly Newsletter**

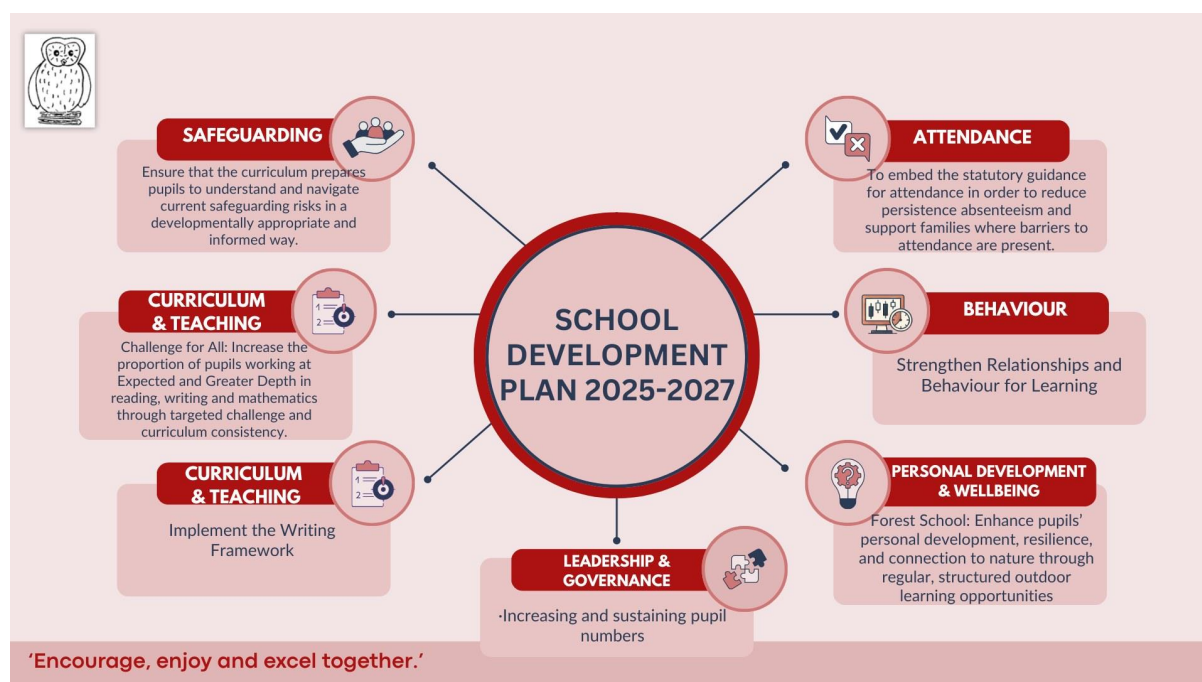
**January 2026**

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## Headteacher's Welcome



Dear Parents,

Despite the wet, windy, snowy and rather dark days that have greeted us at the start of this new term, it has been lovely to see that our school continues to be full of smiles. Each morning, children staff and parents greet one another warmly, and this simple act really does help to keep us all positive, connected and ready for learning.

You may have heard from your children that we have recently made some changes to our lunchtime provision. These changes have been introduced in direct response to both pupil and staff voice, and we are delighted to now be offering a wider range of lunchtime clubs and activities. Our aim is to ensure that lunchtimes are enjoyable, purposeful and inclusive, allowing children to engage in activities they genuinely enjoy.

This would not be possible without the dedication of our lunchtime staff and the teachers who generously give up their own time to run additional clubs, many of which are led by pupil voice. A special thank you must go to Mrs Coe, Miss Dawson, Miss Cox, Mrs Stevens and Mrs Adams, who currently run Computing, Maths, Times Tables, Lego and Library clubs. Their commitment and enthusiasm make a real difference to the children's daily school experience.

In addition to this, we have also introduced colouring and reading provision at lunchtime, providing calm and creative options for children who prefer quieter activities. These changes are already helping children to enjoy their lunchtimes and remain positively engaged throughout the school day.

A key focus for us this term has also been strengthening parental engagement and sharing important assessment information with families. I would like to thank all parents who were able to attend our Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and Year 6 SATs information sessions. Your engagement and support are invaluable in helping us work together to support your children.

We were also thrilled by the number of parents who attended the in-class reading sessions. The turnout was beyond what we had anticipated, and it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm for reading and learning. These opportunities to share learning experiences together are incredibly important to us, and we truly appreciate the time you give.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

## Clubs Timetable Spring 1 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Morning</b> Football- Freestyle Football	<b>Morning</b> Dodgeball	<b>Morning</b> Parkour/ Gym- Pacesetter
<b>Lunch Time</b> Pacesetter Colouring/ Reading Maths KS2 (DD)	<b>Lunch Time</b> Sports Crew Timetables KS2 (EC) Colouring/ Reading	<b>Lunch Time</b> Sports Crew Pacesetter Colouring/ Reading	<b>Lunch Time</b> Sports Crew Librarians Lego KS1 (MC) Lego KS2 (EC) Colouring/ Reading	<b>Lunch Time</b> Sports Crew Pacesetter Computing (MC)
<b>After School</b> Gymnastics- Pacesetter  Choir Mrs Bellamy-KS2	<b>After School</b> Karate Years 2-6	<b>After School</b> Dance-Freestyle UDance	<b>After School</b> Netball Mrs Bellamy Years 5/6	<b>After School</b> Yoga

## Celebrating Young Voices 30th Anniversary



We are pleased to share that our school choir recently took part in the **Young Voices 30th Anniversary** celebration! The children represented our school brilliantly, performing with confidence and enthusiasm alongside thousands of other young people in this truly special event.

A huge thank you to Mrs Bellamy, our Music Lead and Miss Broderick, our school Bursar for their fantastic work in organising our participation and ensuring everything ran smoothly on the day. Their dedication made the experience seamless and memorable for the children.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers; Mrs Viney, Mrs Barber, Mr Watkins and Mrs Bellamy, parents and siblings who attended the event to support the children. Your encouragement and presence made a huge difference and helped create a positive, celebratory atmosphere for everyone involved.

It was a wonderful celebration of music, teamwork and community, and we are so proud of our choir for being part of such a landmark occasion.

## Overstone's Got Talent



We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievements of Mia Goodman, who competed over the weekend in a **CNRG World Qualifier for Irish Dancing**.

Competing against **21 dancers in her age group**, she achieved some wonderful results:

- **1st place** – Primary Reel
- **2nd place** – Primary Hop Jig
- **2nd place** – Primary Championship
- **7th place** – Beginner Treble Reel

This is a brilliant accomplishment and a real testament to her dedication, hard work and talent. We are incredibly proud of her and wish her every success in her future competitions.



We are also incredibly proud of Sebby Stevenson, who represented the **county in a tennis competition last week.**

The team put in an excellent performance, securing a 4–0 win against Bedfordshire and then taking on a very strong Nottinghamshire side, which included top 10 nationally ranked players, pushing them all the way to a tiebreak.

This was a fantastic achievement and a great example of determination, teamwork and sporting excellence. Well done – we are very proud!



Also celebrating Daisy Masterson, who recently performed a **rumba and salsa** during our **Home Assembly**. The performance was full of confidence, rhythm and flair, and was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

Daisy is clearly very talented, and we have no doubt that she will go on to achieve great things in the future. Well done on such a fantastic performance – we are incredibly proud!

## Celebrating Writing

Stepping in relief down onto the sand, Tom (in the distance) sighted the soggy remains of his castle. He noticed the beach was deserted, his friends had left him (alone on his own). Abruptly, like a toddler who had been said no to, the sky had a meltdown. Lightning crashed down, thunder roared like a furious lion as the clouds were a writhing grey monster breathing its fury on him. The gales of wind were so strong it blew Tom like an autumnal leaf. Flinching every time the pound of a wave hit the shore, Tom hurriedly headed to the ascending path before the Atlantic Ocean swallowed him whole.

1 - Read the full version here: [Overstone Primary School - Writing Examples<sup>1</sup>](https://www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk/curriculum/view=article&id=119:writing-examples&catid=80)

### Year Six Writers Shine!

Our Year Six pupils have been exploring the art of storytelling, working hard to draft, revise, and publish their very own short stories. Inspired by *A Giant's Necklace* by Michael Morpurgo and *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll, one of our pupils has created a gripping tale set on a beach, where the main character finds themselves trapped. Through clever problem-solving and thoughtful reflection, the story not only entertains but also shares an important life lesson with the reader.

Writing is a key focus of our School Development Plan, and we are thrilled to see our pupils' creativity and skills flourish. We look forward to sharing more of their stories and achievements in the months ahead!

## Safeguarding

### First Lockdown Practice Completed

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk/curriculum/view=article&id=119:writing-examples&catid=80>

We held our first lockdown practice in school. The practice was completed successfully and allowed our children and staff to become familiar with the procedure in a calm and safe way.

The focus of the session was on helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. Assemblies explained that, while there are times when it is safer to be outside the building (for example during a fire), there are also occasions when staying inside is the safest option. Staff were careful to use age-appropriate, reassuring language and avoid any mention of frightening scenarios.

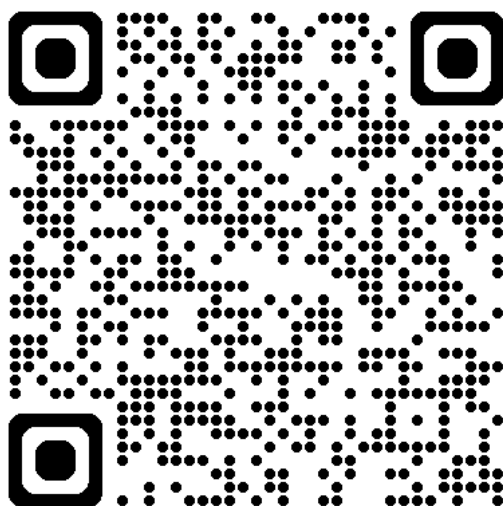
The practice went smoothly overall, and it has helped us identify a few minor adjustments to improve our procedures in the future. These will be implemented to ensure everyone's safety and confidence.

We encourage you to talk with your children at home about the practice, reassuring them that it is simply a way to stay safe, similar to a fire drill, and to allow them to ask any questions they may have.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community safe and prepared.

## School Term<sup>2</sup> and Key Dates

Please note - we have updated our Term Dates for 2026-27 to include the INSET Days (scan the QR code or select the hyper link). Please be mindful of this when booking holidays to ensure that these do not fall within term time.



Please click on this link to take you our Term Dates: Overstone Primary School - Term Dates<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk/news-dates/term-dates>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk/news-dates/term-dates>

**Please note FOOPs Valentines Disco is on Tuesday 10th February - Details have been sent out on Parent Pay where you can also book your child's place. Our last day of half term is Friday 13th February. School will re-open on Monday 23rd February.**

## **Exciting News: Our School Joins the PINs Programme for Neurodiversity**

We are thrilled to share that this year, our school will be taking part in the **PINs Programme**, a national initiative focused on supporting neurodiversity in schools. The programme aims to increase understanding, awareness, and inclusion of all neurodiverse learners, helping every child to thrive.

It brings together health and education specialists, expert parent carers, and schools to create supportive learning environments. The programme focuses on strengthening relationships between schools and parent carers, improving environments to better meet the needs of neurodiverse children, and fostering whole school SEND provision. The PINS programme is designed to be needs-led, including children without a formal diagnosis, and aims to improve positive outcomes for neurodivergent children, helping them achieve and thrive.

The programme will be **led by Miss Lockey**, SENDCo who will work with pupils, staff and parents to embed strategies that celebrate differences, foster understanding, and create an even more inclusive learning environment. Thank you to parents who completed the feedback forms as part of this initiative.

We look forward to sharing updates with you throughout the year as we progress through the programme and explore exciting activities and learning opportunities linked to neurodiversity.

### **PINS Parent/Carer Survey – Key Findings**

Thank you to the 34 parents and carers who completed our survey. Here's a brief summary:

#### **Profile of Need**

- 44% reported their child has identified or emerging additional needs.
- A further 20% were unsure, suggesting potential unmet or emerging needs.

#### **Strengths**

- The school is seen as welcoming, inclusive, and supportive.
- Parents feel listened to and confident raising concerns.
- Staff, particularly Miss Lockey, our SENCo, were praised for exceptional care and communication.

## Areas to Develop

- Earlier identification of SEND and clearer explanation of support pathways.
- Guidance for supporting learning and emotional regulation at home.
- More staff training on neurodiversity.
- Consistency and clarity in communication.
- A small number of parents felt the school could improve in being inclusive – please do come and speak to me so we can work together to address this.

## Engagement Preferences

- Most parents (73%) prefer PINS sessions in school, with some suggesting local community venues.

## Overall

The survey shows a strong, inclusive culture with high parental trust. Next steps include enhancing SEND clarity, early identification, and strengthening communication and partnership with parents.

## Reminders



### Breakfast Club Reminder

A reminder that our Breakfast Club starts at **7:45am** each day. To ensure your child has a place, please **book by 3:00pm the day before via ParentPay.**

For **safeguarding and registration purposes**, children must be handed over to a member of staff when arriving, for the children to be registered.

If you have **not pre-booked**, and spaces are available, the charge will be **£6.00**. Please note that we maintain an adult-to-child ratio, so if the club is full, **your child may unfortunately be unable to attend**. Some days we are fully booked, so early booking is strongly recommended.

Thank you for your support in keeping Breakfast Club safe and enjoyable for all.

## Smartphone Free



We, the schools detailed below, collectively support the ideals behind the *SmartPhone Free Childhood* campaign (<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>) and are actively promoting it in our schools.



### Smartphone-Free Initiative

Our school is currently working with the Cluster Schools to explore a **Smartphone-Free initiative**. This comes in response to increasing evidence and discussion in the news about the risks and potential harm that devices can have on young children. We are committed to ensuring our pupils' wellbeing and will keep parents informed as discussions progress.

## Attendance



Attendance is also a vital part of our safeguarding responsibilities. When a child is absent from school, especially without explanation, we have a duty to follow this up quickly and thoroughly. Monitoring patterns of absence or lateness helps us ensure that children are safe, supported, and not experiencing any underlying difficulties.

As part of our ongoing commitment of keeping every child safe and thriving, we will be closely monitoring attendance and punctuality this year. This includes the introduction of **home visits** in situations where no contact can be made, where a wellbeing check is needed, or where a safeguarding concern arises.

These visits should be seen as a **supportive measure** to ensure that children and families are safe and that we can offer help where it may be needed. Thank you for working with us to support your child's wellbeing and education.

Our current overall attendance is 96%, our aim is to reach and remain at/above 97%. Year R - 97.21% Year 1 - 97.18% Year 2 - 96.28% Year 3 - 95.49% Year 4 - 95.14% Year 5 - 95.54% Year 6 - 95.95%

We are pleased to report that our youngest children are doing exceptionally well with attending school daily and arriving on time. This positive start to the day is having a direct impact on their learning and academic progress.

We are delighted to share the attendance having a strong correlation with phonic assessments show strong achievements in early reading skills:

- **Reception:** 79% of children are at or above expected in Phonics
- **Year 1:** 65% of children are at or above expected
- **Year 2:** 73% of children are at or above expected

This term is a particularly important time for our **Year 6**, who now have just **11 school weeks** before taking their SATs this year, and for Year 5 who are preparing for SATs next year.

Maintaining good attendance and punctuality during this period will play a huge role in supporting academic progress and ensuring that children are fully prepared for their assessments. secondary school and adult life. Every day in school counts, and being present allows children to benefit from teaching, interventions, and collaborative learning with their peers.

We thank families for continuing to support their children in attending school regularly, arriving on time, and establishing strong routines that will help them succeed.