



Overstone Primary School Newsletter

27/02/26

Welcome to Overstone's Monthly Newsletter

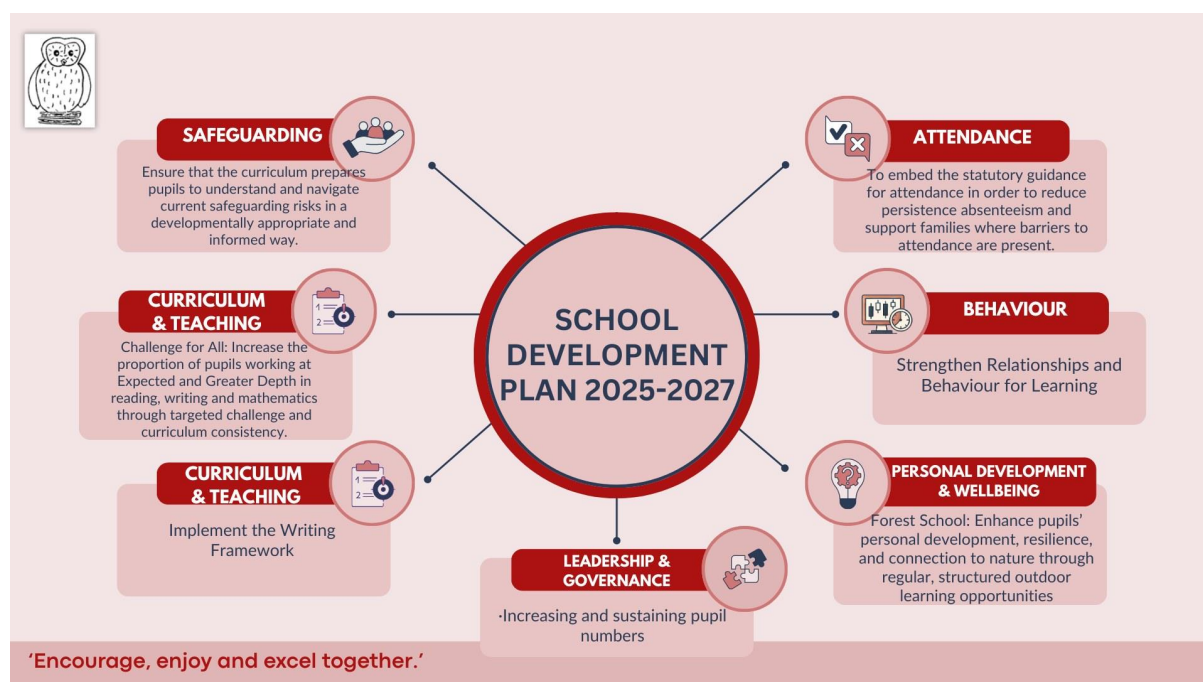
February 2026

In This Issue



- **Headteacher's Welcome**
- Friends of Overstone Primary School (FOOPS)
- Overstone's Got Talent
- School Term and Key Dates
- Attendance Update
- Pets As Therapy

Headteacher's Welcome



Dear Parents,

This month's newsletter is a little shorter than usual due to the half-term break falling in between, but I wanted to take the opportunity to share a few important updates with you.

Despite the continued wet weather, it has been lovely to notice the early signs of spring beginning to appear; birds chirping in the mornings, buds and bulbs starting to flower, and the days gradually becoming lighter for longer. These small seasonal changes always seem to lift spirits, and it has been wonderful to see that same positivity reflected in school, with children continuing to approach their learning with enthusiasm and smiles.

In school, we are already preparing carefully for our Year 6 pupils as they work towards their SATs in May. A number of booster sessions are taking place after school to further support and build confidence. We are also preparing for Year 1 children who will be taking their Phonics Screening Check in June and Year 4 who will be taking their Multiplications Check also in June. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and determination the children are showing, and we thank parents for your ongoing encouragement at home, it really does make a difference.

Following the exceptionally wet weather we have experienced recently, we will also be carrying out repairs to the roof above the Key Stage 2 extension block to prevent any future leaks. You may notice scaffolding being erected at the beginning of March. Please be assured that we will put a clear safety plan in place for children working or moving in and around this area. This is likely to include an alternative drop-off and collection arrangement for our Reception, Year 5 and Year 6 children. We will communicate full details nearer the time to ensure the arrangements are clear and manageable for families.

Over the coming weeks, we will also be completing our next round of assessments across all year groups. We look forward to sharing your child's progress and attainment with you at our Parent Consultation Evenings on 23rd and 25th March, which will take place during the final week of term. These meetings are an important opportunity to celebrate successes and discuss next steps together. This will also be the final Parent Consultation Evenings for this academic year, as the final reporting in the Summer Term is presented in the form of the Annual Report in July.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. It is greatly appreciated and plays a vital role in the strength of our school community.

Mrs Mushtaq

Friends of Overstone Primary School

FOOPS (Friends of Overstone Primary School) recently held a very successful Valentine's Disco, raising just over £700 for the school - a fantastic achievement! Thank you to everyone who supported the event by volunteering their time, purchasing tickets or buying treats and merchandise on the evening. Every contribution, no matter how small, truly does make a difference.

The funds raised will go towards developing our planned Forest School provision, something we are very excited about as it will further enhance our outdoor learning opportunities for all children. There are more exciting events coming up this term. FOOPS will be hosting a Mother's Day Afternoon Tea on Thursday 12th March and the Easter event on Thursday 26th March. In preparation for the Easter event, FOOPS will be holding a Mufti Day with a chocolate donation on Thursday 19th March. FOOPS will sharing further details with you soon. FOOPS is currently run by a small group of dedicated volunteers, and these events can only take place because of their goodwill and commitment. If any parents are able to spare a couple of hours during an event, help with preparations beforehand, or support with packing away afterwards, it would be hugely appreciated. As always, many hands really do make light work. Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Overstone's Got Talent



We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievements of Sebby Stevenson, who was invited by his table tennis club to take part in the Northamptonshire Schools Individual Table Tennis Competition and we are incredibly proud to share that he came **2nd overall**.

To compete at county level is an accomplishment in itself, and finishing as runner-up reflects Sebby's dedication, skill and commitment to his sport. We are always delighted to celebrate achievements beyond the classroom, and this is certainly one to recognise.

Well done, Sebby — we are very proud of you! 🎉



We are also very delighted to share some incredible news about Sophie Rees's recent achievements at the County Swimming Championships.

Sophie has now completed the competition and what an outstanding performance it was! She achieved an extraordinary **15 out of 15 gold medals**, an accomplishment that reflects not only her talent but also her dedication, resilience and hard work in training.

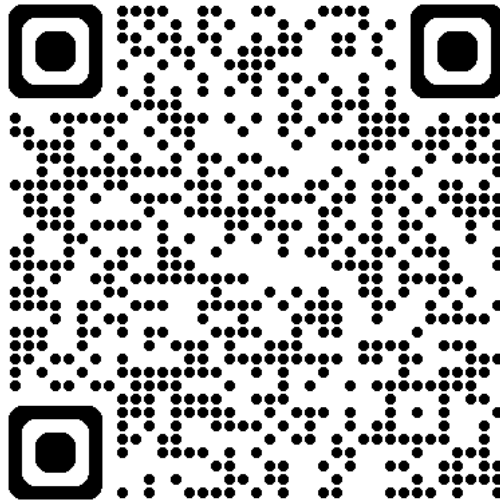
As if that wasn't impressive enough, she also secured a bonus win in a challenge relay, earning herself (and no doubt her teammates!) a huge bar of chocolate — a well-deserved reward!

To top it all off, Sophie added her **fifth regional qualifying time**, achieved in the 200m backstroke. This is a fantastic milestone and a testament to her continued progression in the sport.

We could not be more proud of her achievements. Well done, Sophie — you are an inspiration to us all! 🏠👩🌟

[School Term](#) 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](#)

Our last day of term is Friday 27th March. School will re-open on Monday 13th April.

Friday 27th February - Home Assembly Monday 2nd March - Y6 SATs Booster session
Thursday 5th March - World Book Day (dress up as a book character) Friday 6th March -
School Assembly Week commencing 9th March - Roof Scaffolding put up Monday 9th March
- Y6 SATs Booster session Wednesday 11th March - Reception Trip to West lodge Farm
Thursday 12th March - FOOPs Mother's Day Tea Friday 13th March - Home Assembly
Monday 16th March - Y6 SATs Booster session Wednesday 18th March - YR visiting
Overstone Care Home Thursday 19th March - FOOPs Mufti-Day (chocolate donation) Friday
20th March - School Assembly Week commencing 23rd March - Bikeability for Years R, 3, 4
and 5? Monday 23rd March - Parent Consultation Evening Wednesday 25th March - Parent
Consultation Evening Thursday 26th March - FOOPs Easter Friday 27th March - Home
Assembly and break up for Easter

Attendance Update



In our last newsletter, we were pleased to report that our overall attendance stood at 96%, with our aim being to reach and remain at or above 97%.

Since then, our attendance has declined slightly over the term and currently stands at **95.84% overall**. The breakdown by year group is as follows:

- Year R – 96.8% (previously 97.21%)
- Year 1 – 96.78% (previously 97.18%)
- Year 2 – 96.32% (previously 96.28%)
- Year 3 – 95.14% (previously 95.49%)
- Year 4 – 94.62% (previously 95.14%)
- Year 5 – 95.51% (previously 95.54%)
- Year 6 – 95.91% (previously 95.95%)

While these figures remain broadly positive, even small percentage drops represent a significant number of learning hours lost across the school.

Previously, we highlighted the strong attendance of our youngest pupils and the positive impact this was having on their phonics outcomes. There continues to be a clear correlation

between attendance and attainment. When children are in school consistently, they are more likely to achieve well academically, particularly in core areas such as early reading.

Good attendance not only supports academic progress but also nurtures a strong sense of belonging. Being present each day helps children build friendships, develop confidence, engage fully in collaborative learning and establish positive routines. Regular attendance is also an essential life skill, preparing children for secondary school, further education and ultimately the workplace.

This term remains particularly important for our Year 6 pupils as they approach their SATs, and for Year 5 as they build the foundations for next year. Every lesson, intervention and opportunity for discussion contributes to their readiness and confidence.

We understand that winter illnesses can impact attendance at this time of year, and we appreciate your support in ensuring children attend school whenever they are well enough to do so. Every day truly does count.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping us to prioritise attendance and ensure the very best outcomes for all of our children.

Pets as Therapy



We're writing to share an update about our much-loved **Pets as Therapy** visits.

Many of you will know our wonderful therapy dog, Nellie, who has brought so much comfort, calm and joy to the children over the years. Sadly, Nellie has had to retire from the Pets As Therapy programme due to ill health following a recent diagnosis of Addison's disease. While we are very sorry to see her step back, we know this is the right decision to ensure she can rest and focus on her wellbeing. We are incredibly grateful for all the special moments she has given our pupils — she truly has made a lasting difference.

On a brighter note, we are delighted to introduce two new members of our school community — Rusty and Bentley! They are both gorgeous Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and

have already begun their journey with Pets As Therapy through the Read 2 Dog scheme at other local primary schools. They share the same gentle nature and calm temperament that make therapy dogs so special and have completed the same rigorous assessment process as Nellie. We know the children will soon grow to love them just as much.

As always, these visits will be carefully supervised and will continue to provide wonderful opportunities to support children's wellbeing, confidence and love of reading. The group of children who previously had sessions with Nellie will continue their sessions on a Friday morning.

We look forward to sharing more updates about Rusty and Bentley's visits very soon!

Miss Cox