

Dear parents and carers,

This week I participated in a Challenge Partners review at a school in London. I found the experience very useful, being able to observe lessons and evaluate the leadership of the school. I was also able to take some time to reflect on the strengths and areas of development for our own school and think about possible changes we could make to improve our school.

Mrs Coplin kept me updated throughout the week and it was pleasing to hear that the children have been enjoying Arts week creating paper sculptures using a variety of materials and techniques.

Bereavement Support

We have recently had bereavement training from Child Bereavement UK. Staff have been provided with information about how to support children and families with grief particularly around how to have conversations with children about grief and how to support children expressing their feelings. We also have a range of books we are able to share with children and can recommend these to families. Please contact support@overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk if you or your child requires bereavement support, we are here to help.



Road Safety and Parking

It has been Road Safety Week this week and it is a good time for us to think about the journey to school and what we can all do to make it safer and healthier for everyone. As you know, we are always working hard to reduce traffic congestion near the school gates to make them a safer place for all. Thank you to all families and children who are already helping to make this happen by walking, scooting and cycling. We understand that not all children are able to walk the whole way to school due to distance, parental work commitments or a variety of other reasons.

One alternative to driving all the way is by doing a Park and Stride. A Park and Stride is a simple initiative, where parents/carers are encouraged to park their car about 10 minutes away from school so that the journey can be completed with a short walk. We would like to share a reminder that our school has ongoing permission from Leicester City Council Parks and Open Spaces, to use the carpark at Knighton Park, Palmerston Way, Leicester LE2 3RE at drop off and pick up times. We are asking parents/carers who need to bring their children by car to park at the Park and Stride site and walk the rest of the way to school.

When using the Park and Stride and walking to school:

- Please be mindful of pedestrians and other vehicles when entering and exiting the car park.
- Vehicles and contents are left at the owner's risk.
- Please supervise children around vehicles.
- Please walk sensibly to school and be aware of your surroundings and road safety advice. If this is not a convenient site for you, we encourage you to choose another suitable place, 10 minutes away from the school gates.



Please always follow the Highway Code when choosing a parking space and remember to park safely away from road junctions and dropped kerbs.

We do know that some families are still choosing to park in unsafe ways or dropping children off in the middle of the road. We are aware that our neighbours are still frustrated by the lack of respectful parking on the streets nearby. This is a great shame as it does spoil the walk to or from school for the many and does have an impact on the well-being of our pupils and those living nearby.

We do have the school streets closures which some are ignoring. **Northfold and Eastcourt Road** are closed Monday to Friday during school run times (**8-9am** and **2:30-4pm**). Only residents, the emergency services and those eligible to receive a School Street access permit, are allowed to pass into the closure. If you do so without a permit – you could be fined (and this has happened).

Christmas Cards

In our continued efforts to be environmentally conscious we would like to reduce Christmas Card waste again this year across the entire school site. We are suggesting that children do not send Christmas cards to each other this year. Instead, the children will make a Christmas card in class and each child will receive one Christmas card from the class as a whole.

In the UK we buy over one billion Christmas cards and on average send 18 cards each. Meanwhile, Royal Mail deliver around 150 million cards all around the country over the festive period. The majority of these will be thrown away once Christmas is over, causing a huge amount of environmental waste.

School staff have not sent Christmas cards to each other for many years and instead choose to donate the money spent on Christmas cards to the Rainbow Trust Children's charity. If families wish to join staff in this donation, you can donate directly or send your donation to school.

Health and Safety

We had a fire evacuation practice today; the children were told about this before it happened and staff talked to them about what to do when the fire alarm sounds:

- Children line up and leave the classroom using the external door to the playground.
- Staff who are fire marshals check all internal rooms and toilets
- Children walk in a line to their designated spot on the playground near the football pitch, staff then check all children are present.
- A member of SLT will speak to the children about how well they did and remind them that it was a practice and there was not a real fire.

It is important that we carry out regular fire evacuations in order to ensure all children and staff are familiar with the process and highlight any issues. We were very pleased with how well the practice went and how sensibly the children behaved throughout.

Reminders

- Overdale Experience Parent Forum – Thursday 30th November at 9am – Please confirm your attendance to Miss Francis at bfrancis@overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk by Tuesday 28th November
- Please complete the survey by Friday 30th November. Our Senior Leadership Team will then spend time looking at the results of the survey and discussing next steps.
[OAK Parent and Carer Survey \(surveyhero.com\)](https://surveyhero.com)

Class Assemblies

This week Gold Class participated in a brilliant assembly about Diwali. They performed a beautiful dance with coloured scarves and sang a song about Diwali. Class assemblies will start promptly at 9:20 and may last around 30 minutes. Unfortunately photographs and video recordings will not be permitted during the assembly but there will be an opportunity for this at the end of the assembly.

Friday 1 st December	Green Class
Friday 19 th January	Indigo Class
Friday 26 th January	Violet Class
Friday 2 nd February	Blue Class
Friday 9 th February	Rainbow 1
Friday 1 st March	Rainbow 2
Friday 8 th March	Rainbow 3

I am looking forward to the art exhibition next week where we are able to share all of the wonderful creations from each year group with you.

Take care,

Mrs Holmes

Tuesday 28 th November	Art Exhibition in the hall – 3pm – 5pm
Thursday 30 th November	Overdale Experience Parent Forum – 9am
Friday 1 st December	Flu vaccinations No reading session on this day. PA Cake Sale 3:30pm in the hall
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – Children and staff to wear Christmas jumpers. Handmade/Pre-loved jumpers are encouraged.
Tuesday 12 th December	Reception Nativity pm 1:45pm–2:45pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Reception Nativity am 9:20am–10:20am
Friday 15 th December	Year 1 Party
Monday 18 th December	Pre-school party
Tuesday 19 th December	Reception Party
Wednesday 20 th December	Trip to Pantomime
Thursday 21 st December	Year 2 Party
Friday 22 nd December	Church visit School closes for Christmas.

New dates added