

OVERCHURCH INFANT SCHOOL

Spring 2018



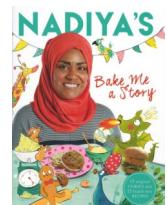
Dear Parents, it was great to see so many of you at Parents Evenings this week. Thank you for completing the questionnaires on the iPads - the analysis of this feedback will be published on the website when completed.

This past week has been Art Week in school and it has been amazing to see all the children expressing themselves and enjoying being creative. Nursery created owls from 'Owl Babies', Reception have been weaving using different materials, African masks have been designed and created by Year One, and Year Two children have complimented their trip to Liverpool with watercolour paintings of the waterfront. These different pieces will be displayed around school and as a focal point in the main entrance.

Last September we expanded our offer in Nursery to include 30 hours provision for those families either eligible for free 30hours childcare or wishing to pay for the additional 15 hours. This has been extremely successful with Nursery children now staying for lunch in our beautifully revamped classroom. Nursery applications for this September are due in by Friday 2nd March and our application forms are available from the school office.

The launch of the 'Families Connect' programme has worked really well. So far the Reception families have: explored emotions and how to identify them, talked about how we are feeling, and made family superstar awards to be achieved at home. Thank you to all those parents who have really engaged with the sessions. We were overwhelmed by the numbers wishing to attend and will start the programme for Year One and Two families after Easter!

After half-term we will once again celebrate World Book Day and this year create opportunities for the children to also write for a purpose as they become chefs and cooks for the week. They will be showcasing their writing and their culinary creations for you to come into school and taste from 2:30pm on World Book Day.



If you ever need any help, support or have a question that you would like answering—just pick up the phone! We pride ourselves in how approachable we are. Have a good week and hopefully the weather improves to enjoy a fun and active half-term break with friends & family! **Mr S Elliott Headteacher**



As you may have seen on our attendance boards outside school, we are closely monitoring how late children are arriving at school. Many families arrive in good time and ready to enter the building at 8:50am. This is really important as learning activities start literally as soon as the children come in. Every minute counts! **This year a staggering 116 hours have been lost through lateness.**

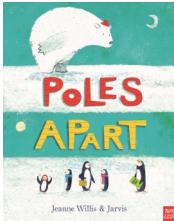
I'm sure you'll agree that this is unacceptable and we will be seeking guidance from Education Social Workers on how we can reduce this. If you are struggling to enter school on time and need support please let us know. We want to help!

Nursery



The children have loved exploring the changing weather while learning about Winter and cold places. It has also been a great reason to practice putting on our own coats and doing our own zips up! Brrr.

The children have found out about penguins and polar bears and loved learning about why the two would never really meet through our story Poles Apart. We also had a rather large penguin visitor who was lots of fun to cuddle! He made us want to find out some information about penguins so we learned all about information books.

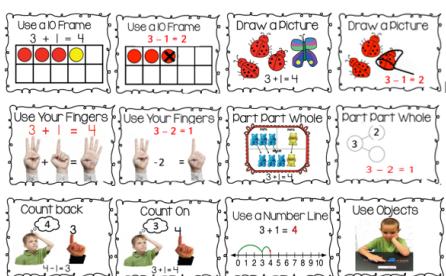


We have also explored our favourite book, Owl Babies, by learning the story to retell it ourselves. This book was the inspiration behind our art week where we did tree rubbings, line drawings, mark making and weaving.

The children have loved finding out about Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and Pancake Day too!

Year One

This half term in Maths we have been focussing on adding and subtracting numbers to 20, using a range of different methods to help us. You may hear your child talking about how we can...



We have been learning all about Africa, focussing on the country Kenya. We have located Africa and Kenya on a world map and used iPads to find facts about Kenya.

Children enjoyed finding out about rural Kenya and drew a typical rural Kenyan village. We have linked our topic work with our English text '*Lila and the Secret of the Rain*', a story all about a young girl who is part of the Masai Mara tribe in Kenya. Our African art is amazing and the masks the Year 1 children have brought in from home are works of art.



Foundation Stage 2



This half term reception have been focussing on reading a variety of Traditional Tales. The start of the term involved the children following instructions to make a Gingerbread Man. They were amazed to find he had run away from the oven, which was a fun hook into the new topic for all!

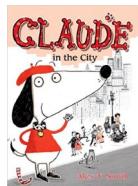
Each class used this topic to promote discussions about different characters making the right or wrong choice, and were extremely excited to welcome Merseyside Police Force into school to answer their questions.



Reception ended the term with 'Childrens Mental Health week', which provided opportunities for them to explore their feelings and emotions and convey these through Art.

Year Two

This half term we have explored a range of different genres through our English lessons. We have read poems, produced non-fiction posters and created our own imaginative stories based on the adventure of 'Claude In The City'.



We have also enjoyed 'Liverpool Legends' - from football to art, music to special buildings, we have covered a range of subjects during our learning. This culminated in a visit to Liverpool where we sketched the Three Graces, visited the Museum of Liverpool and caught the Ferry across the Mersey.

The children enjoyed participating in Safer Internet Day, as they were challenged to find ways to make the Internet a better place. We created a Year 2 jigsaw for display showing how we can all fit together to make the internet a happier and safer place.



Finally, we finished the half term with Art week, using a range of materials to create a Liverpool skyline, focusing on our favourite landmarks. We created magnificent displays in our classrooms and also around school.



Premier Sports Spring Clubs

After half-term we are offering the following after school clubs:

- ***On Tuesdays**, Year 1 children can attend Tennis.
 - ***On Wednesdays**, Tennis is also available for children in Year 2.
 - ***On Thursdays**, Reception children can enjoy Multisports.
- A text message will be sent out in the first week back to enable you to book and pay online.



WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 1st March we will once again celebrate World Book Day. Our theme this year is '**reading and writing recipes**'. We will be using this opportunity to follow instructions, bake and create dishes of our own to share with parents.

On World Book Day we are inviting all staff and children to dress as chefs and cooks (although they can still dress as their favourite book character if they prefer!).

Parents are invited in at either 2:30pm or the end of the day to see the children's writing and taste their creations!

#overchurchlovesreading



Claire from Multi Ethnic Advisory Service visited school this week to help us celebrate and learn more about Chinese New Year. The Year One children listened to a story in both English and Cantonese before exploring and investigating some traditional Chinese artefacts. The children loved finding out about how cultures celebrate different festivals!



On Tuesday 6th February, we recognised Safer Internet Day focussing on making the internet a place of kindness and respect.

We take our responsibility for eSafety very seriously and it is vital that young people today understand the world that we live in and even though technology can be used in some fantastically creative ways, it is also a dangerous place if we are not careful. It is important that we balance having fun and staying safe.

Last week Julie Merry ran a workshop for parents and the resources from this session are on the website (under eSafety) in case you could not attend.

There are also helpful guides to Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram and many other apps designed for parents that are available to download from the school website.

Tom, our technician, also answered any parents questions about devices and privacy settings in the Community Room too.

If you have any further worries or questions, please ask.

LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

As part of our Health & Safety policy and procedures, the school has an Emergency Response Plan, which includes procedures and protocols that will be followed in the event of a situation that requires a “Lockdown” of the school. A lockdown is a precautionary measure in response to a threat directly to the school or in the surrounding community.

On very rare occasions it may be necessary to seal off the school so that it cannot be entered from the outside. This will ensure pupils and staff are safe in situations where there is a hazard on the school grounds or in the near vicinity.

Our aim is that lockdown procedures (full or partial) should be a sensible and proportionate response to any internal or external incident that has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of pupils, staff and visitors in the school. Procedures aim to minimise distress and anxiety for pupils, whilst ensuring the safety of all.

Partial lockdown drills will be practised at least once a year to ensure staff know exactly what to do in such a situation. Monitoring will take place and staff will be debriefed to identify required improvements.

Given the age of the children we work with, full lockdown drills will not be undertaken unless the threat level locally is felt to be high enough to warrant such a drill.



Safety matters

At the moment there seems to be an increasing number of children wearing earrings, bangles, rings and other inappropriate jewellery. On Health & Safety grounds, children are not permitted to wear any jewellery to school. This includes stud earrings which pose a Health & Safety risk during active learning especially PE lessons. In the event of children wearing earrings on PE days, parents will be phoned and asked to come and remove the earrings or the child will not be allowed to take part in the lesson. This is to prevent serious accidents.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Dates for your diaries

School starts again

Monday 26th February

Open Afternoons

Year 2: Monday 26th March

FS2: Tuesday 27th March

Year 1: Wednesday 28th March

Spring Break

Friday 30th March - Friday 13th April

INSET Day

Monday 16th April

School Starts again

Tuesday 17th April

ABSENCES / HOLIDAYS

Please inform us before 9am on your child's first day of absence. Absences which are not explained will result in a letter home and the possibility of it being recorded as unauthorised. Any unusual patterns of absence and frequent 'lates' will also result in a letter home.

In line with Government policy **we are no longer allowed to authorise holidays in term time. Exceptional circumstances will be very rare and a disregard for this policy may result in a fixed penalty fine.**

