Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School MESSENGER Friday 19th January 2024



It has been lovely to receive updates on how hard everyone is working this term. It is, study wise, the most intense term of the year, especially for Y6 who are well underway with their preparations to be secondary school ready. Unfortunately for Ziggy and I, it is not quite the same working remotely and I very much miss seeing the children, which after all, is what it is all about. However, I hope to visit today and from thereafter I will begin a phased in person return to school. We will be travelling by train, so you may not see us on the gates but I am sure Ziggy will

soon make his presence known to all—he really has missed all the fuss and I know many of the children have asked about him too.

It is testament to the strength of our leadership and staff team that the school has continued to progress in my absence. It has been demanding for everyone but especially Mr Longworth, and I greatly appreciate everyone's hard work and dedication to Overleigh! I look forward to reconnecting with you all very soon.



Staff News



We are very sad to report that Mrs Duggan leaves us today for pastures new. She has been successful in her appointment to a role in the NHS and they are certainly very lucky to have her! It is difficult to appreciate quite how demanding a role in a school office is until you actually experience it. It requires multi-tasking in noisy and very busy circumstances dealing with poorly, upset and unwell children, supporting staff who often ask the impossible and of course multiple parents and visi-

tors, phonecalls and gate buzzers! Mrs Duggan has the patience of a saint, always remains calm and has been extraordinarily dedicated to her role. It is clear she cares about us all and her job very much and has made such a difference to so many children and families during her time with us.

Mrs Duggan has also always been willing to take on additional roles and responsibilities, joining us on visits and events in and outside of school time and helping to develop new ideas for school. She is one of the main adult pet sitters for Ziggy and, I know, they will greatly miss each other. I often interrupt their *chats* and they seem to enjoy a very special understanding—or maybe he just knows who keeps treats on hand!!

It is also time to reveal that *On Time Tilly Bear's* special helper was Mrs Duggan! So many people guessed it incorrectly over the years. I have very fond memories of standing on the gate with Tilly including during the dreaded Covid pandemic, where she worked so hard to keep everyone smiling and bringing cheer to tricky times. We will need to recruit a new Tilly next term!



We had hoped we had appointed to Mrs Duggan's role, allowing a handover period. However, sadly this has not come to fruition so we await another round of interviews. With Mrs Norbury on maternity leave this leaves the admin team being Mrs Beaumont all week and Mrs Horrocks as bursar Monday to Thursday. Please be especially patient and understanding in requesting information etc from them, and if possible email rather than ring school. For example, if snow is going to impact on the operation of the school we will message you as soon as possible. Please do not phone the office to ask—it just takes up everyone's time while they are trying to make practical arrangements.

Mrs Duggan has passed on as much of her knowledge as she can and, we hope, will stay in touch. We wish her the very best and the success she deserves in her new career!

<u>Mrs Evans</u>

Baby news! Mrs Evans had her baby on Monday 8th January, a beautiful little boy. He is called Rory and doing really well. His arrival was rather eventful with labour starting in school so we are so





pleased he's here safe and sound and can't wait to meet him soon.

<u>Miss Sayers</u>

More baby news! Miss Sayers closely followed Rory's arrival with little Edward, on Tuesday 9th January. Mum and baby also doing really well and we are very much looking forward to a cuddle soon! We are sure

his big brother is enjoying helping out and send special congratulations to him too!.

<u>Uniform</u>

Please ensure your child is wearing black school shoes NOT black trainers or patterned shoes/trainers to school. Shoulder length or longer hair should be tied back, preferably with red hair slides / bobbles. Miss

Drew usually has a spare supply of bobbles in her office so please come and ask if you need one.

Earrings can ONLY be 1 set of studs - no hoops or dangly earrings are permitted. Please ensure your child has the correct type of earrings and can remove them, by themselves, for PE.

<u>Please check that your child has appropriate PE kit in</u> <u>school. It is shocking how many children returned this</u> <u>half term with no suitable kit. If they do not bring their</u> <u>kit to school they will be sent a letter he to remind them</u>



<u>and thereafter will be provided with spares from lost property if the kit is still not</u> <u>brought to school.</u>

Class Assemblies

There will be regular class assemblies on a Tuesday afternoon throughout the Spring and Summer Terms. The envisaged list of dates is on the following page. You will be notified if any of these need to change. The classes not listed so far will have their class assemblies in the Summer Term and a list of dates will follow. The children and staff look forward to welcoming you in to share in their learning through these assemblies. Next week it is Heptatonic's turn.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you to everyone who has supported positive attendance last half term. All the primary and secondary schools in our local area are working together on securing strong attendance. We are sharing ideas and have instigated a half termly award for the school with the highest attendance. We were thrilled to be told that Overleigh won the award for last half term and our local MP will present it next week. How exciting!

DO REMEMBER THAT ANY LATE ARRIVAL AFTER 9.15 COUNTS AS HALF A DAY'S ABSENCE. ALL CHILDREN SHOULD ARRIVE PUNCTUALLY EVERY DAY. IT SHOULD ONLY BE VERY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MEAN A CHILD ARRIVES AF-TER 8.50AM.

Key Dates:

1 st - 2 nd February	Mathematics & Computing Theme Days
Friday 16 th February	Last Day of Half Term - usual 3.20pm Finish
Monday 26 th February	First Day of Half Term - Values Day - Friendship

Class Assembly Dates: All at 2.30pm (unless stated) in the main school hall.

Tuesday 23rd January:-	Y6 Heptatonic
Tuesday 30th January:-	Y6 Joyeux
Tuesday 6th February:-	Y5 Allegro
Tuesday 13th February:-	Y5 Pizzicato
Tuesday 5th March:-	Y4 Maestoso
Tuesday 12th March:-	Y4 Note
Tuesday 19th March:-	Y3 Harmony
Tuesday 26th March:-	Y3 Maestro

In Love & Peace,

Emma Drew and Colin Longworth

Attendance Data

Class	WB	WB
	08/01/24	15/01/24
Quavers	100	99.4
Crochet	96.3	94.1
Minim	95.4	90.4
Ballad	98.3	97.6
High Note	90.4	93.0
Glissando	94.7	89.7
Melody	91.3	100
Maestro	94.5	98.3
Harmony	97.4	96.3
Note	98.3	95.3
Maestoso	100	96.7
Allegro	96.3	92.0
Pizzicato	94.2	91.0
Joyeux	94.0	93.0
Finale	91.0	96.0
Heptatonic	100	94.3

Attendance Key

96% and above Green

95—90% Amber

Less than 90% Red

It is very important that attendance is maintained at 96% and above, please note some of the classes that have fallen below this. Household Support Fund

The government's Household Support Fund is there to support households in the most need, especially with energy costs, food, water bills and other related essential items.

The current round of funding is open until 31 March 2024 and is available to a broad range of low-income households across the borough, including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.

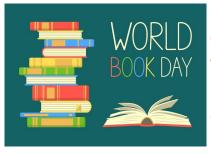
If you haven't already applied for support through the Household Support Fund, there is still time to do this. To find out if you're eligible to apply, visit: <u>http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/household-support-fund</u>

Additional support and advice is available for anyone who is struggling to pay their bills, requires debt advice or who's health has been affected by the rising cost of living.

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Parent's Evening - March

Look out in the coming weeks for a letter about our upcoming Parent's Evenings in March . As a response to parental feedback, we are arranging in person meetings in March, which will be in school between class teachers and parents. This is a result of split opinion in terms of some parents preferring zoom meetings and others suggesting a preference for in person meetings. Therefore moving forwards, it is our intention to offer a zoom meeting at the October Parent's Evenings and an in person meeting at the March Parent's Evening. The scheduling and running of the parent's evenings will be shared with you soon via a letter.



Miss Jones and Mrs Dixon, our English leads while Mrs Evans is on maternity leave, are finalising our World Book Day theme this year. They will send out details as soon as they have completed preparations so that your child can prepare in good time. Please don't be confused by the CWAC library service advert later in the newsletter. Clwb Cymraeg (Welsh Club) have been learning lots of new Welsh words and songs. The children were awarded with their Welsh badge to celebrate their learning. Da iawn!



Sports Superstars

Twenty of our Year 5 and 6 children represented our school at the Indoor Athletics Tournament at Ellesmere Port Sports Village. Miss McFaul and Miss Morgan were delighted with their sporting attitude and athletic ability on the day. We came a very respectable 4th overall, after the boys' and girls' team scores were combined. In the individual events we had lots of first places, which was a credit to those children involved. Well done to everyone for keeping going as some of the events were highly competitive and exhausting to complete. As ever, we could say that we were truly proud of our children in terms of their behaviour and team spirit.



SEND Support



Cheshire West and Chester Carer Breaks

We are really excited to launch our new parent/carer breaks for 2024 in Cheshire West and Chester. More details on each activity can be found below. All these activities are free for you to access and offer great opportunities for you to spend time with others that may face the same challenges that you do.



Activities for Families

These activities are for the whole family, including siblings.

CHESTER:

Mindfulness Movement with Lee

Thursday 18th January, 7-8pm at Queens Park High School, CH4 7AE

My Time

Saturday 20th January, 10am-12.30pm at St Mary's Handbridge Centre, CH4 7HL

Parents' Meet

Wednesday 24th January, 10am-12pm at Lache Community Centre, CH4 8HX

Yoga with Laura

Monday 29th January, 1.15-2.15pm at St Mary's Handbridge Centre, CH4 7HL

Activities for Autistic Children

These activities are for autistic children only

CHESTER:

Kids Club (7-11 years old)

- Monday 8th January, 4.30-6pm at St Mary's Handbridge Centre, CH4 7HL
- Monday 22nd January, 4.30-6pm at St Mary's Handbridge Centre, CH4 7HL

Youth Club (11-17 years old)

- Monday 15th January, 4.30-6pm at St Mary's Handbridge Centre, CH4 7HL
- Monday 29th January, 4.30-6pm at St Mary's Handbridge Centre, CH4 7HL

Helpful websites for families...

https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/send/send-info/

https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Services/1279/Information-Advice-a

https://www.pcfcheshirewest.org/our-impact

CW&C January Activity Timetable:

Date & Time	Activity	Location
Thursday 11 th January 7 -8pm	Purestretch with Donna	ChAPS Autism Ark, Northwich
Saturday 13 th January 10am-12.30pm	My Time	ChAPS Autism Ark, Northwich
Thursday 18 th January 7-8pm	Mindfulness Movement with Lee	Queens Park High School, Chester
Saturday 20 th January 10am-12.30pm	My Time	St Mary's Handbridge Centre, Chester
Friday 26 th January 1.45-2.45pm	Yoga with Sarah	ChAPS Autism Ark, Northwich
Monday 29 th January 1.15-2.15pm	Yoga with Laura	St Mary's Handbridge Centre, Chester

SEND Drop In Sessions

A quick reminder that if you would like to talk to our SENCO, Mrs Jones, she is available after school on Thursday afternoons. Please turn up at the school office where Mrs Jones will be waiting to help.

In partnership with Knowsley CLCs, all parent/carers are invited to an:

Online Safety Information Session

Current trends – / what children are doing online and what apps/games are popular amongst children. Understanding the Risks – a look at the risks associated with using technology, in particular when using social media, online gaming & live streaming.

What can you do? suggestions on how you can support your child with their online lives and what parental controls are available to help you.

Further Support – signposting to services that are available to help you.

WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY 2024

9.30AM - 10.15AM



Our big hearted heroes pa



gift of £20 could do for people living with o

out gifts like yours, Sarah. Your su

all of us at Macmillar

pporters like you, our team of experts are on h ving with cancer when they need them. Call the ort Line free on 0808 808 00 00 seven days a w

Kind-hearted Isla in Year 6 spent some of her own personal holiday time producing her own. Isla went to the Scilly Isles and was really inspired by lots of little roadside stalls she saw there raising money or selling crafts etc. Isla and her sister sat outside their own house a couple of times selling little bags she'd put together, shells she painted etc. They raised £45!! She donated some to MacMillan and some to the Dogs Trust - see attached photos.

We are sure that anyone who bought an item

from the girls will be delighted to see the good

causes that they have contributed to. Isla has

earned a Service and Stewardship badge from

school for her actions in helping others in the

Thank you for your kind donation 23 inbox Dogs Trust 23:01 to me



Hi Miss Stables

Thank you for your kind donation of: £25.00

We're so grateful for your support, especially at a time when our resources are more stretched than ever.

For over 50 years, we've promised to never put down a healthy dog. In our rehoming centres, we look after thousands of dogs every year, giving





The Super Mario Bros. Movie (PG)

local community.

Nednesday 24th & Thursday 25th January Mixed year groups (excluding nursery)

Tickets £5 including pizza and a drink.

Popcorn and sweets will be available to purchase at the event with cash.

Tickets can be booked via Ticketsource:

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ overleigh-st-marys-pta

(booking closes at midday Monday 22n January)

UR PTA H Our wonderful PTA are once again busy organising events. The PTA would really welcome any additional support from other parents as they are quite short-handed at the moment. Please let the school office know through the school email address if you would like to help out with some of the extra events they put on.

The school is always grateful to the PTA as they have helped to fund some amazing ventures for school in the last few years, that we otherwise would have struggled to achieve such as:-

- Special software for Movie Night
 - The indoor Forest School provision
- Christmas Pantomimes
- Disco Night
- Movie Night
- Nursery Software Provision



"Do your bit to help save the environment and money this year, by donating unwanted World Book Day fancy dress costumes at Barnton, Blacon, Frodsham, Hope Farm, Lache, Little Sutton, Neston, Northwich, Sandiway and Wharton libraries. Donated costumes will be quickly checked and put out for those who need them (no donation or payment required) from Thursday 1 February to Wednesday 6 March. And, while you're there, make **Sure to** get a library card, no ID required, or take out a book."



CHESTER Cathedral Message



BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

BOYS | SATURDAY 27 JANUARY | 1.30 - 5PM GIRLS | SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY | 1.30 - 5PM

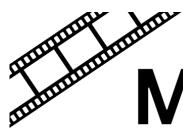
Does your child love to sing? Chester Cathedral is seeking boys and girls aged 5-11 to join the prestigious Cathedral Choir.

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of singing games and rehearsals culminating in a service of Choral Evensong at the end of the afternoon.

All welcome, no experience necessary.

For more information and to register for this free event, please contact Dan Mathieson on dan.mathieson@chestercathedral.com

chestercathedral.com 🍠 f 回 🖬









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Tickets £5

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(booking closes at midday Monday 22n January)

TITLE















Overleigh Tots.

Come and join us every Wednesday afternoon 1:30pm till 3pm in the school hall. Tea , chat, toys and craft.





Friday Certificates 12.01.24



	Mala	
Class	Value	Comment
Crotchet	Respect	Molly is our star of the week this week for the Christian value of respect. She always has a can-do attitude, tries her best with her work and is a friend to everyone. Well done Molly!
Minim	Respect	Maraya is constantly seen showing respect for others in our class and our school. She can always be seen following the teacher's instruction right away and shows great respect for our classroom resources.
Ballad	Justice	Zoey for completing some fantastic activities during Values Day and has a good under- standing of what it means. She always treats people fairly and kindly and always makes good choices. Zoey is a kind friend with an amazing attitude to learning and al- ways makes good choices. Well done Zoey, we are very proud of you.
High Note	Respect	Darcey is always a superstar, but this week she has particularly shone! During our art and DT days, Darcey came up with some great ideas and demonstrated a passion for creativity - which was fantastic to see! Darcey, is always ready to learn and listen and this shines through in her work. Well done!
Melody	Respect	This week's nomination is to Jakub for respect. Jakub has really been in engaged in every aspect of his learning by always supporting, contributing to discussions and help- ing us who may find it difficult. What a pleasure it is to have you in Melody Class every day Jakub. Well done!
Glissando	Integrity	Finn has had a great start to the term and has been working really hard to make the right choices and follow instructions. We are really proud of you Finn, keep it up!
Harmony	Love	Sophia is an absolute dream to have in the classroom because she works hard, helps others and has a fantastic attitude to learning.
Maestro	Respect	Jacob has been working so hard since he come back to school to be ready, respectful and safe. He does the right thing even when no one is watching. You are a superstar, Jacob! You should be proud of everything you have achieved this half-term because I know I am.
Note	Friend- ship	The star of the week in Note class is Juliette for the Christian value of Friendship. Juli- ette is kind and friendly to everyone she meets, she is a caring member of the class and always greets people with a smile. Well done Juliette on being such a fantastic member of our school!
Maestoso	Wisdom	Fatima always tries her work. She listens carefully to the learning and is making really good progress in all her work. She is gaining in confidence to give here ideas and has a great attitude to her learning.
Pizzicato	Wisdom	The nomination for Pizzicato class this week is Ollie. I have been pleased with how well he has started the term and in particular how well he was able to work in groups during the art and DT day.
Allegro	Integrity	Saman has made a really sensible and hard working start to the year and showed ex- cellent team work on the Marble Run challenge. Keep up the brilliant effort!
Joyeux	Respect	Basset is one of those pupils who is always respectful to those around him. He will use his manners and act with kindness. Basset makes a conscious effort to make sure he follows the school rules and encourages his peers to follow his path. Well done, Basset, keep it up!
Hep- tatonic	Wisdom	Sam was so excited, confident and knowledgeable as we started our new learning about WW2. It was great for him to share his knowledge and ideas with the class. We can't wait to discover what else he shares!
Finale	Respect	Leighton is a relatively new member of our class, having started at our school only in September. He has settled into our school life exceptionally well and always uses im- peccable manners when communicating with his teachers and peers.
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Friday Certificates 19.01.24



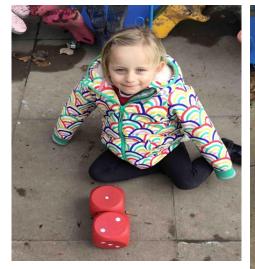
Class	Value	Comment
Crotchet	Respect	Winter Rose for being kind to everyone and always being ready to learn.
Minim	Wisdom	Sophia has been trying extremely hard to practice and apply her phonics sounds. She has impressed her teachers with her hard working attitude. Sophia has been carefully listening for each phoneme and correctly forming each letter in her Naugh- ty Bus writing. Well Done Sophia!
Ballad	Wisdom	Harry for working carefully in Geography to label his map of China. Well done Harry you worked very well hard - amazing
High Note	Wisdom	Eli always listens and has his hand up to answer every question in all lessons. He is currently enjoying asking lots of questions about our topic China. He loves learn- ing and this week he has been working super hard on his writing linked to our book on Chinese New Year. Great Work Eli keep it up!
Melody	Wisdom	This week's nomination is to Imogen for Wisdom. Imogen has been working exceptionally hard in all aspects of her learning. She is someone who is always showing great enthusiasm in our lessons, and supporting others around her. What a superstar you are!
Glissando	Wisdom	I would like to nominate George for the value of wisdom. George has been working really hard at home and in school on his reading and we have seen him make huge progress recently. We are really impressed with the effort you have been putting in to your learning. Well done George, keep it up!
Harmony	Wisdom	My nomination this week is for Dennis for the value of wisdom. Dennis has returned to school after Christmas (despite being very poorly) with a fantastic attitude to learning, displaying a real sense of dedication to all the work he produces! Well done Dennis.
Maestro	Wisdom	Kyla has been working extremely hard in every subject this week and has been contributing to all class discussions. She has been especially hard working in Eng- lish where we have been learning to use inverted commas to punctuate speech. You are amazing Kyla! You definitely deserve to be our star of the week because you make Maestro class proud! Keep up the great work!
Note	Justice	Berkay is the star of the week in Note class for the Christian value of Justice. Berkay can always be seen doing the right thing around school. Walking sensibly down the corridor, being polite to all adults and treating everyone with kindness and respect. Well done, Berkay!
Maestoso	Integrity	This week I am nominating Esme for integrity. Esme is always doing the right thing, listening, joining in and trying her hardest. She has particularly impressed me this week with her willingness to put her hand up and answer more difficult questions. Well done Esme, you are a great role model for others.
Pizzicato	Wisdom	The nomination for Pizzicato class this week is Elaina. She always tries her best in every lesson and she has really impressed me this week with the excellent work she has been doing in Maths lessons looking at written methods of multiplication.
Allegro	Justice	Cleo has been working really hard keeping a very positive and resilient atti- tude. She is also making amazing progress with her reading so we are really proud of her. Well done Cleo
Joyeux	Love	Penny always comes to school and shows Love towards everything she does. Pen- ny will always answer questions in class and regularly contribute to class discus- sion. She will always make a conscious effort to look out for those around her and make sure they are ok. Well done Penny, please continue with this love of learning and everything you do!
Heptatonic	Integrity	Sophia is a mature, kind member of the class who keeps us well organised and takes great care of others in the class. She tries her hardest in ALL tasks, all day, every day. Just what we want in Year 6!
Finale	Integrity	Alex has been trying very hard this half term to do the right thing, even when no- body is watching. He encourages his friends to also do the right thing and he is making good choices in class. It has been such a pleasure to teach Alex- keep it up!

Nursery

We have been enjoying exploring and playing in the snow, making "snowy pancakes" in the mud kitchen as well as making and painting a large scale crocodile after reading our book for this half term 'Crocodile Creek' and going on a journey outdoors exploring the environment and drawing maps of the route they took.



In writing, we learned about the Naughty Bus and have been applying our newly acquired phonics sounds! We also made our own bus using reclaimed materials. We sang songs and rhymes about vehicles and found the pulse using musical instruments.









In

maths, we explored finding one more and one less than a number.



In Maths we have been thinking about the number 10 when presented in different ways. We could see that one full frame is one ten.

Year

In English we looked at the suffix 'ing' and how to add it to a root word.









In DT we explored different vegetables that you would find in a Chinese stir-fry!











We enjoyed having fun outside in the snow!



used different materials to build a bridge. We then tested the bridges to see which ones were the strongest. Also, in maths, we started our unit in shape, looking at sides and vertices of 2D shapes.





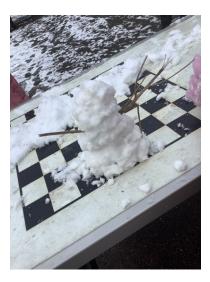


What a wonderful treat the snow has been this week! The children enjoyed playing outside, thinking of activities that Tom from Winters Child could do alone?



Years





We also did some drama in small groups that helped us to decide what activities you cant play in the snow alone. These helped us to plan our diary entry in English.



I wonder whether you can guess what activities the children are doing?



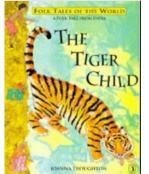


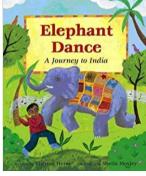


During our Art day, each child made the own Modroc person. They created a wire figure, then covered it with Modroc, before painting them. They will join the rest of the school's figures in a whole school display.









In English, we have been studying stories from other cultures. We have looked at similarities in the stories and thought about how we can create our own story based on these.

















In DT, we designed and created our own marble runs. We tried to think of as many interesting ways of making the marble move as possible. Year 5 have been researching the Ancient Maya civilisation in preparation for writing Non-Chronological reports. Brilliant teamwork has been evident between the children as they have begun their tasks.

Year 5







In English this week, the children have been focust sing on cohesive devices. We examined our text Star of Fear, Star of Hope to identify different examples of cohesive devices. Then, we applied these into a diary entry, writing in role as one of the characters.





Linking to our theme of World War 2, Year 6 have started their DT topic by researching Anderson Shelters. They worked together in groups to create a success criteria for an Anderson Shelter, so that they understand what makes a good and strong shelter.





