

Orford CEVA Primary School and Nursery

Sowing faith, Growing Learners, Inspiring Futures

Half Term Newsletter - Autumn 2023



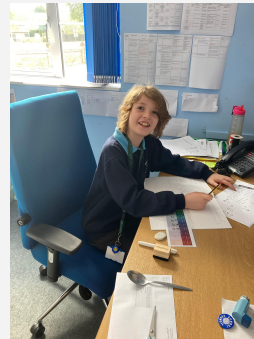
Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

This half term has certainly been yet another busy one and it has been heartwarming watching our new reception children settle so quickly into the demands of "big" school. Our Year 6s have also stepped up to take on more responsibilities this year including setting up the hall for worship each day - a task they have risen to admirably.

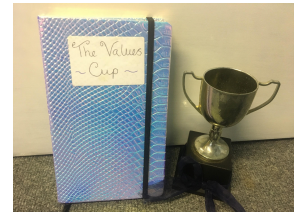
Erik, as part of the weekly Headteacher Award raffle, won the ultimate responsibility - the chance to be Headteacher for the day! Pros included getting to sit at a big desk with a swivel chair, cons included lots of boring paperwork (apparently!)

*As we venture into the second half of the Autumn Term, we are looking forward to also starting our journey with the Tilian Partnership as an Academy. The letter sent home last week details the benefits and (very minimal!) changes to expect from this transition. Most importantly, this conversion will allow us to spend more time focusing on teaching and learning to continue to provide the very excellent education and start in life to help all of our pupils truly flourish. Have a lovely half term, see you all on Tuesday 31st October. With best wishes,
Miss Cannon*



Values Cup Award Winners

- **Mrs Smy** - Service and Wisdom
- **Freddie** - Friendship, Creativity and Wisdom
- **Bobby** - Justice and Courage
- **Averie** - Forgiveness, Perseverance and Responsibility
- **Jacob** - Compassion, Service and Humility



Our whole school value next half term will be: **peace**.

Whole School News

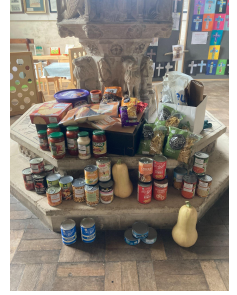
Today we hosted our second 'Books, Buddies and Biscuits' event - thank you to everyone who came along to share a story with us. The children loved spending time together and it was wonderful to watch children read our new books with sensitivity and an open mind. The adults who attended also got to hear about our PSHE programme *No Outsiders*. [Please click here to head to the website with information for those who were unable to attend.](#)

On 19th September, Class 2 received a visit from Joe at the Red House to learn about the Stone Age, and more specifically, the music. The children got to try different musical instruments like a lithophone, ice age flute, a horn and a musical bow. They also got to touch some flint tools like arrowheads, and were given a masterclass in how to classify flint as stone age or not! Joe says, "It was really cool!" (which translates as a top notch review in our books).



Thank you to all families who came along (and/or donated to) the Harvest Service. It was an uplifting afternoon:

Class 1 shared an excellent rendition of 'Big, Red Combine Harvester', Class 2 presented their own retelling of 'Stone Soup' and Class 3 read their harvest poems which are still on display in the church. A big "shout out" to Zack, Bradley, George and Isla who very kindly took all of the donations and placed them in the Orford Free Pantry.



On Monday 3rd October, we held our Macmillan Coffee Morning and open day. We hosted more than 30 visitors across an hour and a half - the Class 3 children did us very proud leading 'informative' tours of the school and serving tea, coffee and homemade cake! Two children even got caught helping with the washing up!! More importantly, we raised a staggering £337 for such a worthy cause, thank you to everyone for supporting.



Photos of all of the above can be found on the school website in the 'gallery':

<https://www.orfordprimary.co.uk/gallery/?pid=0&qcatid=7>

Class 3 got to attend Crucial Crew on 19th October: a series of valuable workshops helping develop life skills in preparation for high school and becoming more independent. This year the workshops included water safety, fire safety, electrical safety, the dangers of alcohol and drugs and healthy living. A year's worth of PSHE in one!

Class 1 News

Class 1 have had a busy first half term and have worked really hard across all areas of learning. We have introduced our 'Rainbow challenges' for Reception and Year 1 which are enabling the children to demonstrate a high level of independent learning. We have also been working with Nursery children to develop our provision linked to their current interests. The changeable weather recently has encouraged us to spend extended periods of time outside where we have especially enjoyed exploring the sand and water trays and the mud kitchen. All of Class 1 have an ongoing fascination with our defunct ICT equipment box and use it daily (**donations welcome!**) and Reception and Year 1 have been putting this curiosity to good use as they have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to input instructions to direct the Beebots through mazes and out of dead ends. We look forward to next half term and the run up to our Nativity performance!



Class 2 News

Class 2 have had an excellent first half term back at school and have worked so hard and achieved a huge amount!

We've been busy learning about the Stone Age; by learning through the text "Stone Age Boy", writing a non-chronological report, creating Neolithic clay coil pots, Stone Age cave paintings and we've experienced Stone Age music and musical instruments. In science we have been Super Scientists learning all about Living Things and their Habitats and have been busy classifying Living Things and designing our own classification keys. We have also carried out a practical investigation on the effect of deforestation on soils!

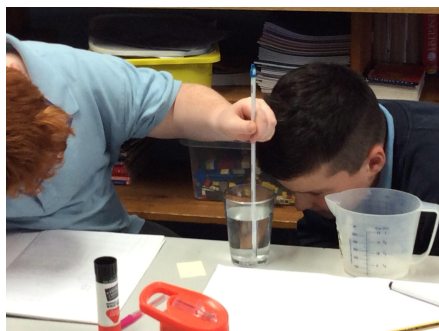
Maths has found us working hard on the foundational skills of Place Value before moving onto Addition and Subtraction - all important steps in our journey to become Marvelous Mathematicians.

Keep this great learning up, Class 2, and we look forward to welcoming you back after half term!



Class 3 News

Class 3 have been super busy this half term! The children really enjoyed and engaged with the class text Macbeth. Not only have they studied parts of the original play script and the adaptation, exploring vocabulary, character motives and predicted plot twists, but they have also completed some fabulous writing! The children have written a letter from Macbeth to his lady, composed a persuasive speech, types a newspaper article to relay the details of the final battle, and finally we all had some fun by writing a poetic chant in the style of the weird sisters spell and had fun making up all kinds of disgusting ingredients for our potions! We followed the Macbeth theme with our music, and have been learning songs inspired by the story, in different genres and styles. In science the children have



explored dissolving and solutions, thermal insulators and properties of different materials. Through investigations, they have learned about different variables, taking accurate measurements and presenting results mathematically. As part of our Maya topic in history, we have: compared the Maya timeline to other world history; looked at various historical sources and deduced what they tell us about the people from that time; explored how the geography of the area affected trade; and researched how their cities were formed around significant buildings within their culture. In art, we have looked at shading, tone and form; first looking at fruit, and then creating self-portraits, viewing light or dark areas on our own faces, and then representing those areas with different tones of a colour with super results!

Governors' Message

I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Chairman of Governors succeeding Reverend Giles in this role. I look forward to spending more time with teaching and other staff, with pupils and parents, to learn more about the excellent standards you achieve, in an ethos of togetherness and mutual support and help. The Governors' primary objective is to enable the school to flourish and it is to this end that we have applied and been accepted to join the Tilian Partnership Multi Academy Trust from the beginning of the second half of this term, that is from 1 November 2023. As Miss Cannon says, there will be few obvious changes, but the Governors are agreed that the support offered by the Trust and in partnership with all its constituent schools, will strengthen Orford School to ensure its place into the future.

Janet Bishop

Chair of Governors

OSLOF Orford School League of Friends

Raising money to provide our children with the extras they need for their educational wellbeing

We have had a wonderful 2023 so far with the Easter Egg Hunt and Orford Fest. We're now looking forward to the festive season and hosting a table at the Church Bazaar on 2nd December and the Christmas Fayre in school on 8th December. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

We had a very successful meeting on the 13th October with some great new ideas put forward for the coming year, both for raising money and for how to best use the funds being raised. Please do come and talk to me if you have any ideas you would like to share with us. So far this year the OSLOF fund has provided book bags for the new starters, hoodies for the leavers, a year 6 school trip and is helping with the Class 3's bus travel for their residential trip.

Volunteers are always needed and we currently have a vacancy for Secretary. If you could spare some time to help raise money for the children's extra needs please do let me know.

Daisy - Amelia and Lily's Mum

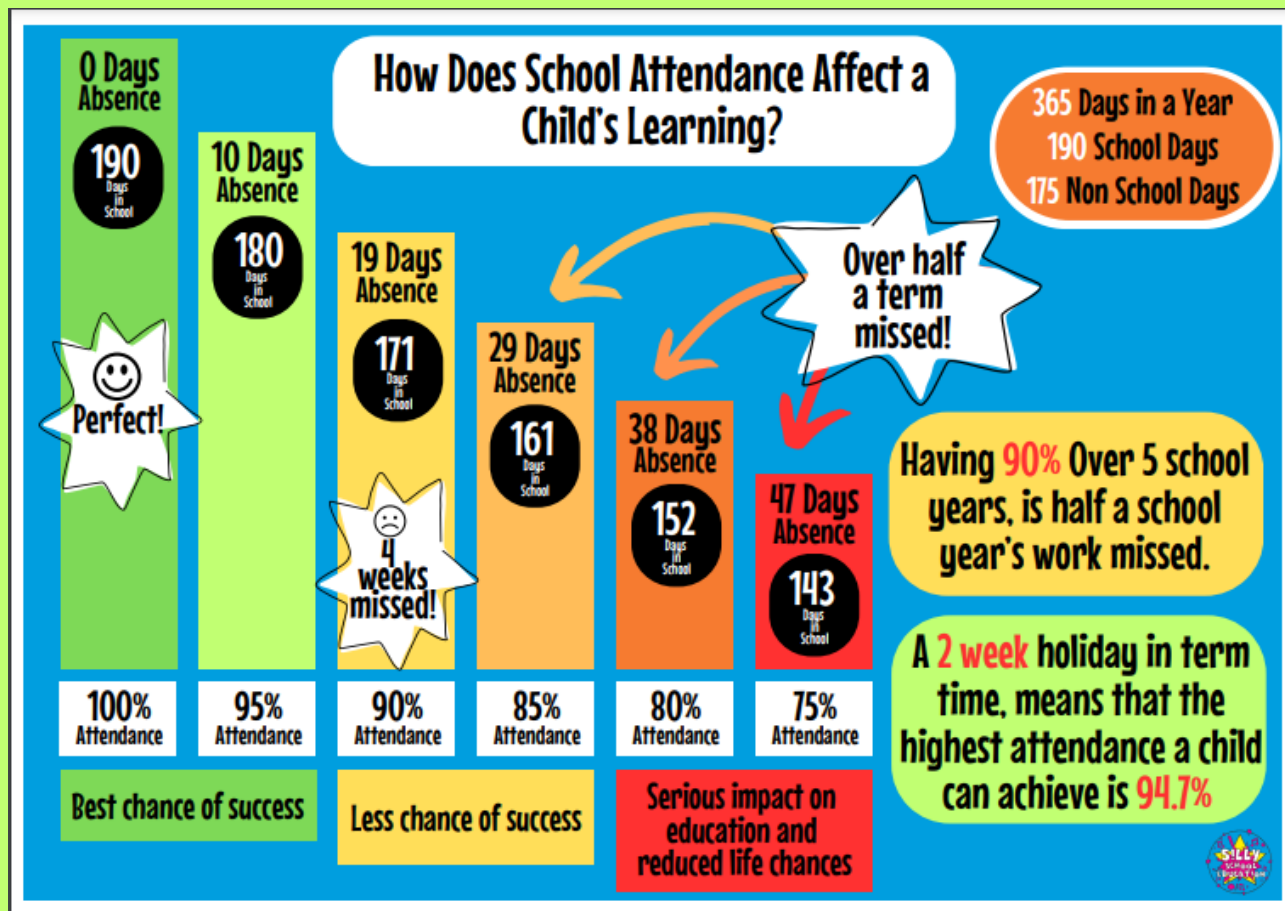
Other Reminders

- With colder weather approaching please send your child into school with a coat every day and gloves/hats/scarves if necessary. We always try to have break outside where possible
- Celebration assemblies are every Friday at 8.45am - all are welcome every week, not just if your child is receiving an award

We understand that this time of year children do get headaches, coughs, colds etc. but good attendance has a strong correlation with achievement.

Did you know you can sign a medical consent form and keep calpol in school for your child? If they have a minor illness, we can administer a dose at lunchtime to help see them through the day. Once in school and occupied, you'd be surprised how many children do "perk up" and manage, even if they aren't feeling 100%.

(The exception is sickness/diarrhoea - your child must stay away from school for 48 hours after the last bout)



KEY DATES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023

Please remember to check the **'Weekly Notices'** email which is circulated **every Friday**. It gives all information for the coming week and the most up-to-date list of events.

Monday 30th October - PD day for all children

Tuesday 31st October - first day back and website photographer in school

Wednesday 1st November - Academy conversion day, please see letter sent home 13.10.23

Friday 3rd November- Open Morning (prospective parents) 9:30-11am

Monday 7th November - Forest Schools Starts for Class 2

Friday 10th November - Autumn Term Reports to Parents

****Day Change**** Monday 13th and Thursday 16th November - Face to Face Parents Evenings, information to follow shortly. No phone option available.

Monday 4th December - Flu Immunisations

Friday 8th December - OSLOF Christmas Fayre in School 3-6pm

Wednesday 20th December - Christmas Service at Church 1:30pm; end of term