



Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness

SUMMER 2024

OUR TRUST NEWS

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
OAK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**



Opportunity

Achievement

Kindness

CEO Update – Andy Wilson

As we reach the close of the academic year, I am so proud of the support from our parents, colleagues and community. The summer fetes in our schools were a joy to witness and the development of extra-curricular activities and “happy lunchtimes” demonstrate the commitment of all our schools to developing the whole child.

I am looking forward to reporting on the Ofsted visit to Manor High School in our next newsletter; thank you to all parents and students who took part, it was a positive experience for all.

Our primary schools have once again achieved results well ahead of national meaning parents can have confidence that their children are receiving exceptional education day in and day out. Manor High School is also not resting on its laurels as one of the country’s highest performing schools, our teachers are delighted to be introducing high quality digital transformation including the move to 1:1 iPads in year 7 to 9 when students return.

We are honoured to have been awarded accreditation as a Steplab Hub from September. All our schools have the same high quality coaching as recognised by Steplab, who provide coaching for more teachers than anyone else across the country. We will be the only Hub across the midlands, which is an incredible achievement.

Overall, three of our five schools are committing to digital transformation next year, a huge investment for OAK to support our schools and pupils. Our other schools have a commitment to appropriate use of digital resources and will join this journey which sets us apart and ahead of others as we continue to put your children first.

Have a wonderful break and we look forward to working with you next academic year.

500 words

Every year, our pupils showcase their amazing creative talents in the OAK Trust 500 Words Competition. The awards ceremony for 2024 was on 4 July.

At OAK Trust, we believe it's crucial to give our children every opportunity to showcase their talents, and the 500 Words competition is a great example of this.

At the end of the summer term, Year 2 and Year 6 pupils at each of our schools get their creative minds in gear as they craft their submissions to our 500 Words competition. It is not easy to create an original story that holds you in suspense or makes you laugh, but our pupils do just that.

Each nominated finalist is included in a beautiful book, featuring each story wrapped up in professional illustration and design. Copies of the book are shared between the winners and each school, so everyone can have a read! Highly commended stories were awarded book vouchers, while bronze, silver and gold won trophies and a voucher. All finalists received a copy of the book to take home. Congratulations to everyone involved.

This year's trophy winners were:

Year 2

Bronze: Khush Joshi, Brookside Primary School, Year 2

Silver: Anaya Badiani, Woodland Grange Primary School, Year 2

Gold: Clara Miodrag, Overdale Infant School, Year 2

Year 6

Bronze: Tilly Brett, Overdale Junior School

Silver: Prasaea Athwal, Overdale Junior

Gold: Tehya Soni, Woodland Grange Primary School

500 words



Estates Management

Some of the projects completed this year across the OAK estate

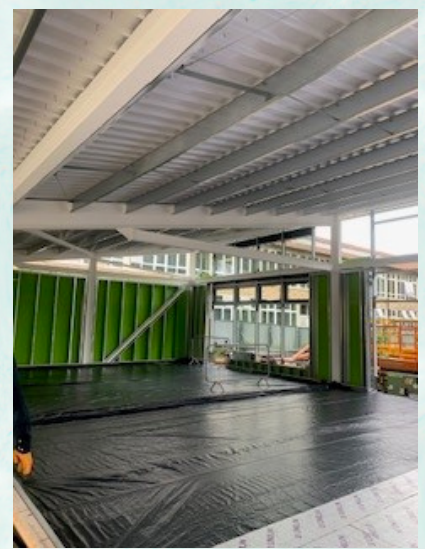
Overdale Junior School



1. These are the footings for the new Badger Building at Overdale Juniors. The new building sits on the footprint of the old swimming pool.



2. The steel frame goes up and much of the drainage is installed.



3. The floors are laid, the roof goes on and the walls go up.



4. The interior fit can now begin



5. The finished product is delivered. The new building incorporates air source heat pumps, heat recovery systems and efficient insulation to achieve the lowest possible carbon emissions for this type of building

Overdale Infant School



1. This is the interior of the new dual classroom extension at Overdale Infants nearing completion.



2. And this is the completed building prior to landscaping. It too achieves an incredibly low carbon footprint.

Brookside Primary School



Brookside have removed their old disused, dilapidated swimming pool and opened up the area for student use.

Estates: Some of the projects completed this year across the OAK estate

Woodland Grange Primary School



1. Woodland Grange have secured their site by installing new electric gates with access control



2. The new fencing and gates continue around the site.

Manor High School



New graphics have been installed in many locations across the school, including in English, Science and reception corridors which look amazing.



The Estates team will be very busy over the summer break with PV projects planned at Brookside Primary school and Manor High school, a full re-vamp of the EYFS play area at Woodland Grange Primary, a brand new state of the art catering kitchen at Manor High school, all new cladding and insulation to the pre-school at Overdale Infants school, new fencing at Brookside Primary school, new signage at both Overdale schools, new flooring at both Overdale schools and of course the long awaited new sports hall and four classrooms at Manor High school, plus much more! Watch this space for more updates.

GOVERNANCE

A heartfelt thanks to Paul Saville, Chair of Governors at Brookside Primary, who has been a governor for 25 years and dedicated his time to support the school and, in later years, the wider Trust. Paul attended every strategy day to support OAK Trust and the School as they navigated the changes brought by being in Trust. Not only that, but he supported the school through one of the most challenging times in education – the COVID-19 pandemic – and helped the school ensure that, in keeping with our values as a Trust, the wellbeing of the children and staff has continued to be paramount. He hands over his role with the school in a great position. The Challenge Partners reviews alongside Damian Hinds' letter are a great legacy for his time with the school. Thank you, Paul.

From 1 September we welcome our new Trustee, Sean Morris. Sean is currently Head of Operations at Learning Today Leading Tomorrow Multi Academy Trust. As the lead for central operational functions such as HR, estates and communications, we are thrilled to add Sean and his extensive experience to the team to help us keep striving for the best educational experience for our pupils. Sean is also a Chair of Governors for a local governing body and therefore brings experience from all angles.

Please remember that Governors and Trustees are contactable via your school office, or admin@oaktrust.org, and are always ready to hear from you.

Could you become a governor?

- **Make a real difference to the outcomes for young people**
- **Gain a variety of professional and personal skills**
- **Access to a wide variety of training and CPD**
- **Contribute to shaping the education of the next generation**





Being a governor is a hugely rewarding form of voluntary work and can offer you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the education of children and young people in your community.

What are we looking for?

We are not looking for specific experience, we need people with enthusiasm and a commitment to the role, willing to provide both support and challenge to the Headteacher and the drive to continually strive to make things better.

What difference will you make?

A strong governing board ensures robust debate and dynamic ideas, which in turn lead to better educational outcomes for children.

What's in it for the volunteer?

Being a school governor is challenging and rewarding. You will make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills.

What will you be doing?

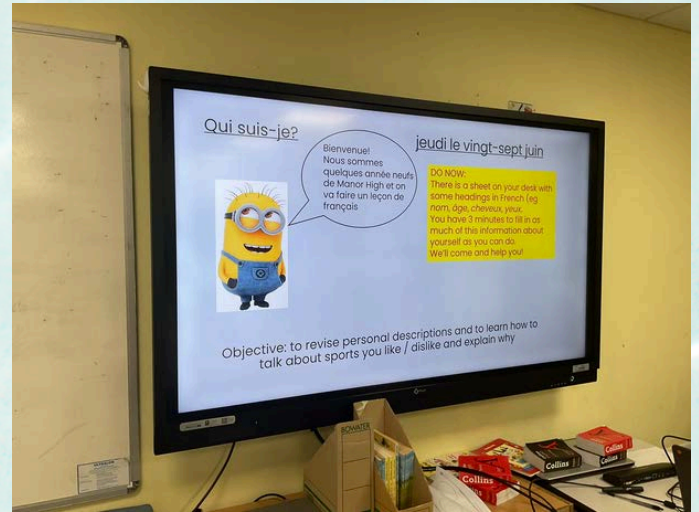
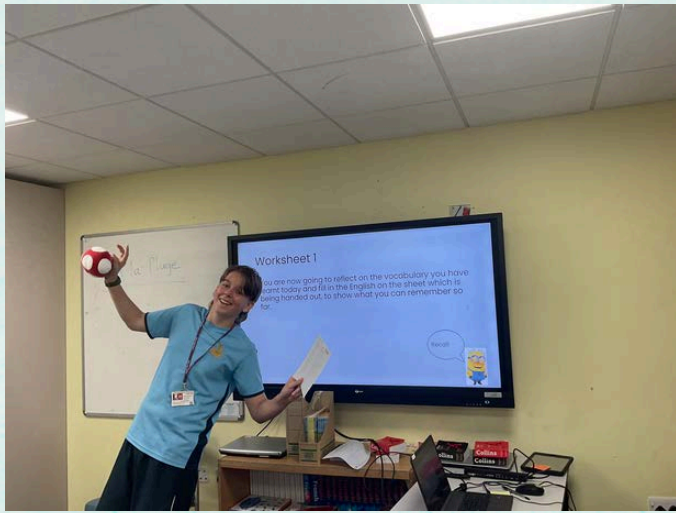
You will be required to attend 3 meetings per year, in person. There is an expectation that documents are read in advance. Training and support is readily available and can be undertaken at a time that suits you. In time, you may be asked to take on a role relating to a statutory requirement like safeguarding and will be asked to visit the school once a year in this capacity.

**Contact us: for more information please contact Governance Lead
Danielle Benyon-Payne on dbenyon-payne@oaktrust.org**



Last Thursday, Manor held its Culture Day, which proved to be a wonderful experience for all involved. It was heartening to witness the celebration of diversity and the rich tapestry of our community. We are immensely proud of Manor's students and the efforts they made to engage with and embrace the various activities on offer. The day featured a range of experiences, including Bhangra sessions, Gatka demonstrations, and a presentation on Black History. We also welcomed religious teachers from the Muslim School Oadby, who generously gave up their time to answer questions from students. The entire day was a resounding success, exemplifying the inclusive and culturally rich environment Manor strives to maintain at its school.





Manor High's Modern Foreign Languages department have thoroughly enjoyed building links with the primary schools within the OAK MAT and, this term, their Student Ambassadors planned and delivered a Year 6 French lesson at Woodland Grange school to give students a flavour of what to expect when they join Manor High School in the future.



Later the same day, fifteen Year 5 Woodland Grange pupils visited Manor High school for a Spanish cookery lesson and prepared some delicious gazpacho - perfect for the summer weather! They were again assisted by fabulous Student Ambassadors, who demonstrated fantastic leadership skills throughout.



In the summer term, 41 students participated in the long-awaited Manor High School Barcelona trip! The visit was an opportunity for students to broaden their cultural horizons through visits to a local Spanish restaurant for a Tapas tasting experience, Las Golondrinas boat trip around the port of Barcelona, a visit to Poble Espanyol to appreciate architecture from all over Spain, a Paella cookery class, a look at Gaudí's work in Parc Guell, and exploration of Barcelona's famous Las Ramblas. The week was finished off with an adrenaline-packed visit to WaterWorld in Lloret de Mar and there were plenty of opportunities for souvenir shopping and exploration of traditional Spanish streets whilst staying in our base of Tossa de Mar. Students and staff made lots of memories and it was a fantastic experience for all!





Students had a great time at the residential multi-sports trip to Plas Gywnant in Wales while the Duke of Edinburgh's Award students undertook their expedition in Derbyshire, demonstrating their resilience and determination in completing this challenging endeavour.



Many enrichment activities have taken place this term, including the school's talented musicians participating in the Leics Make Music Festival and the Big Sing at De Montfort Hall, showcasing their musical abilities. Additionally, a group of students had the opportunity to watch the acclaimed production of Blood Brothers at the Curve Theatre in Leicester, providing them with a memorable and enriching experience.



The Department of Design, Food Technology and Art celebrated the end of this academic year with their very first Art and Design Exhibition. This was a fantastic evening where students and their families were invited into school to explore that outstanding evidence of Art and Design work produced by this years GCSE cohort. Also on offer was an array of canapés made and served by current year 10 Food preparation & Nutrition students. The work is evident of just how talented and creative the students are at Manor High School. The school were able to reward selected students with certificates and cinema vouchers as a small gesture to some stand out talents. They hope to make this a regular event of the DTFA calendar. Thank you to all of those involved in both the organisation and attendance.



Finally, we bid our farewell and congratulations to Manor High's year 11 students. The school celebrated their remarkable accomplishments with their 'Prom' held at Shearsby Bath. This lovely occasion marked a fitting conclusion to their time, allowing them to create cherished memories that we hope will live long in their minds.



Lots of school trips have taken place this term, above are just some of the examples as students experienced Warwick Castle, Hunstanton and a residential at Beaumanor Hall. The students were all so well behaved and had a wonderful experience at all venues.



The school council has introduced a *shout out box*; this is a very special box that anyone can write a shout out to recognise somebody for being kind, helpful, making someone feel special or just to say well done or thank you for doing a good job. it could be school staff, another pupil, dinner ladies, office staff, management or even another parent. The box is located in reception in main school. Staff can't wait to read them and post these shout outs on dojo!!

The school council have taken it upon themselves to 'sort out' ongoing parking issues! Pupils have been out in high visibility jackets, with placards, and made their feelings known about how they feel about inconsiderate parking! We're not sure who enjoyed it most, the children or the staff!





The year 6 children were treated to an afternoon of inflatables on the field to say congratulations for finishing their SATs. Well done year 6's for all your hard work and good luck as you move on to your new schools.



Their Eco members wanted to share their hard work with everyone! They've collected empty bottles and measured the sugar content in each to create a display. The pupils did some research and found that a child should have around 24g of sugar a day! They were quite shocked that a can of coke has more than that in it! 📊



Happy Lunchtimes has had a bit of a revamp, calling their lunchtime staff, lunchtime teachers who give out pom poms as rewards. The pom poms are then collected and the class with the most in the jar wins the glitter lunchbox and golden time! This term they have had the bubble machine working overtime and polka dot balloons as part of the activities.



Think outside, no box required

Forest School continues to be a popular part of Woodland Grange's school curriculum in EYFS and KS1. The sessions allow the children to build key life skills such as fire safety, using tools and learning how to look after the environment that surround us.

Both Year One and Two classes have shown over the summer term that they are keen to be free and explorative in nature. The sessions have seen huge growth in confidence, imaginative play and the willingness to try new outdoor experiences. Highlights include making friends with the local robins, handling frogs, cooking sweet toast on the camp fire, making natural gifts for loved ones, acting out stories and playing many silly team games.

Staff at Woodland Grange are proud that their learners love what the outdoors can do for their minds and bodies, creating calmness and patience but also maximising physical development, key for being active, confident and alert.

The outdoor classroom also creates curiosity and kindness "Why does the sky look like it has been painted?", "Will the robins miss us when we go back inside?" and "Can I leave my biscuit for the creatures to enjoy?" Just a few of the inquisitive quotes from learners this year.



POETRY BY HEART



Woodland Grange's Key Stage Two children have participated in the National Poetry Competition run by Poetry By Heart.

From the children selecting their poems in January, practising ready to perform, March when in-school winners were selected by a panel of judges, to July and the Grand Finale Celebration at Shakespeare's Globe, it has been lovely to see the children enjoy and embrace Poetry across Key Stage Two.

To celebrate the efforts of all the children, the classes have all received poetry books to continue to build their love for words. Runners-up received certificates, whilst the children whose recitations were uploaded received a poetry book prize, certificate and Record of Achievement for PBH's judges.

From their 16 entries, one child made it to the National Final, representing Leicestershire in the Classic two-poem competition. The school secured 10 tickets to take a group of children down to London to experience the PBH celebration and support their peer. It was a fabulous day, taking the train and the tube to Shakespeare's Globe for a feast of poetry



Sporting Moments

Woodland Grange have been able to celebrate some real successes this year in sport and were incredibly proud to be asked by Hussein Khan, Partnership Development Manager to present a workshop on 'Inspiring, Developing and Excelling through PE, School Sport and Well-being Conference' on 6th June. Being able to share good practice with other schools was a really positive experience. The school introduced a new PE curriculum in February 2023 that we can already see having an impact. Teachers have found this easier to implement, the activities are far more developmental and the children have really engaged more with the lessons.

Having Mr Berridge at Woodland Grange to support Mr Evans has meant that we are able to support children more effectively in class and widen the clubs offer before and after school. The school have introduced more supported break and lunchtimes to help keep children physically active and playing through their free play.

It was wonderful to see all of this extra work and dedication recognised at the South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership annual awards with Mr Evans winning the 'Sports Coach of the Year' award.

A pupil was also recognised as 'Primary Sports Performer of the Year' for excellence in swimming at a county and regional level. The awards were presented by a special guest, Laura Sugar, a Paralympian canoeist. She delivered such an inspiring speech about facing challenges and never saying no to things – you don't know what doors they might open!



Let there be music

Music has always been a big part of life at Woodland Grange. The schools has prided themselves on the musical opportunities that children are offered during their time at the school.

Recently, the school was treated to a music concert showcasing some of our amazing, talented pupils and their music skills. There were groups of children playing the piano, guitar and violin and everyone was fantastic. Families were invited in to celebrate their children's achievements. The event was organised by Mrs Bowe, with Mr Parker as compere. Mrs Boddison and Mr Shaw (2 of the external music teachers) were on hand to introduce each child and talk about what they had achieved with their instruments. Many of these children go through music exams (some children had exams on the day of the concert!) There were some lovely comments from families and messages of thanks to the music teachers. In total there were over 40 children taking part.





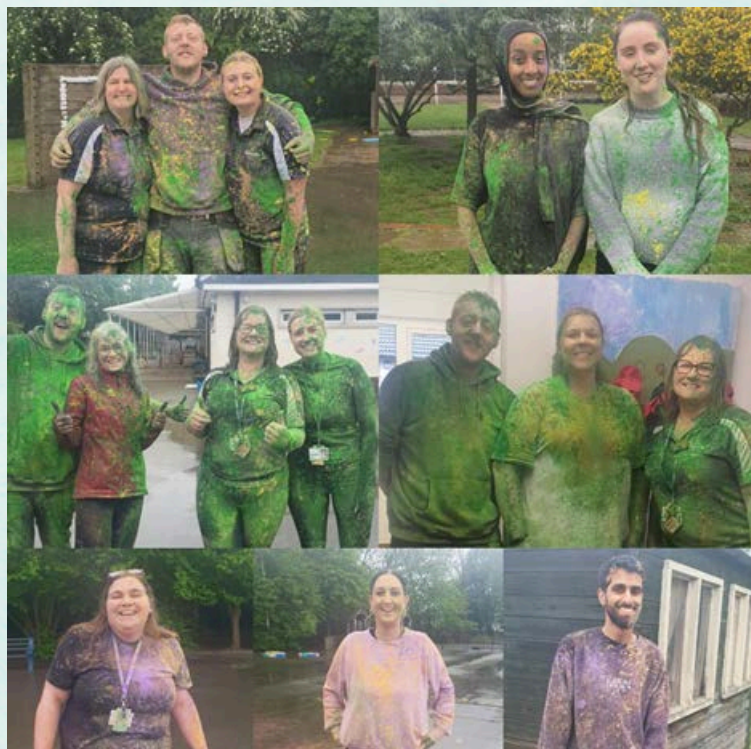
Year 2 sleepover: On 24th May Overdale Infant's Year 2 children had the chance to sleep over at school. They had a wonderful time of games, stories, pizza, popcorn and a film. The children were all brilliant.



Earlier this term, one of the parents, Kauser, delivered an Eid celebration assembly for the whole school. Children were told all about Ramadan and about how Eid is celebrated. Kauser did a fantastic job at making the assembly exciting, informative and engaging, even including some confetti

We would like to thank Kauser for her hard work in delivering a brilliant assembly! We would also like to extend our thanks to Salam Occasions, BDB Sports and Input Consulting for sponsoring the celebration!

Thank you all for a truly memorable celebration for the children!



On 3rd May the school took part in the Sparkle and Shine Colour Dash in support of Leicester Children's Holidays. Overdale Infant school raised a massive £2,540 and the whole event has raised in excess of £103, 000 for the charity.

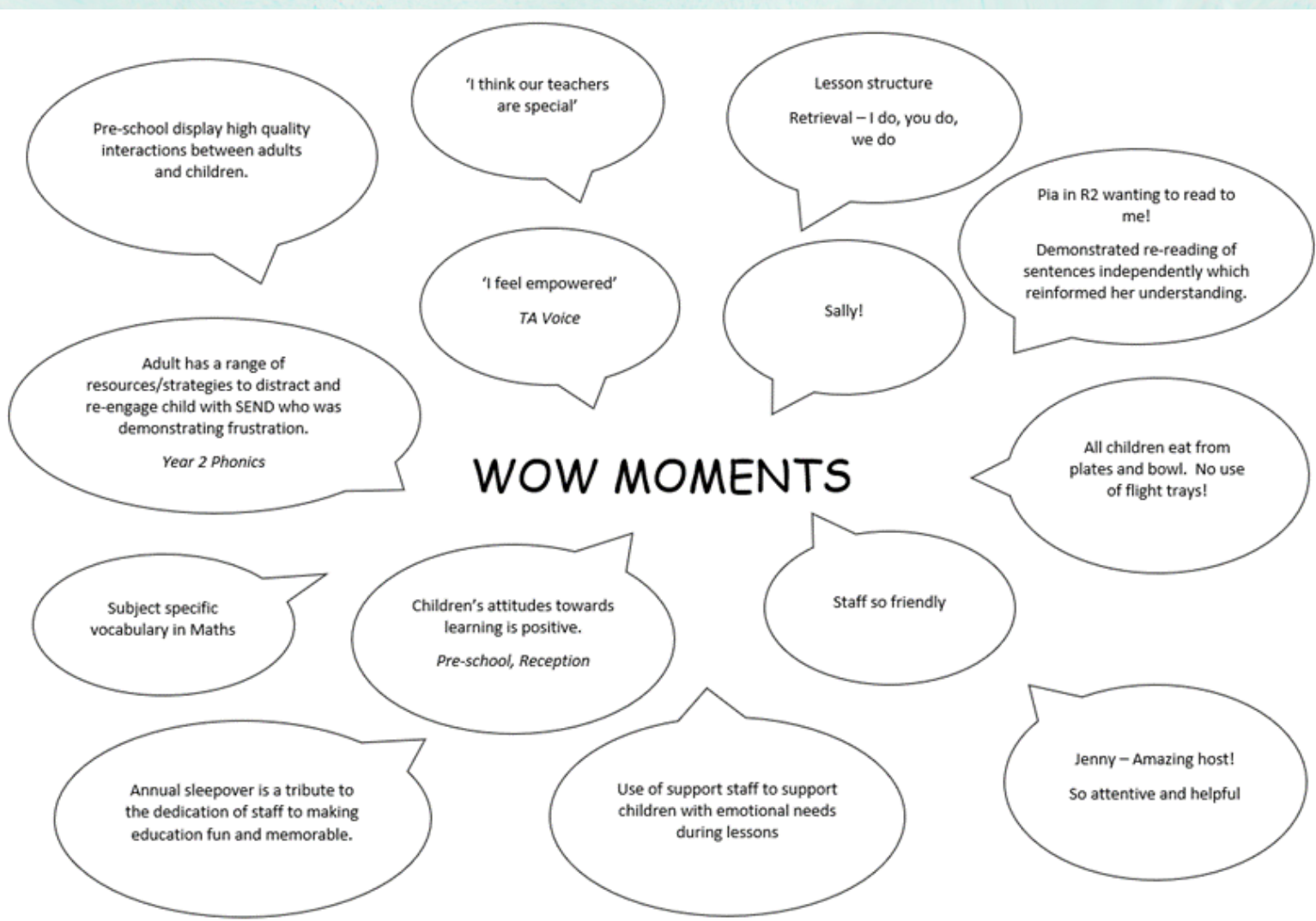


Active Travel School Pledge Event

On Tuesday 11th June, after school, families were invited to make a pledge to walk to school more. This also helped the school to raise the profile of their park & stride location at Knighton Park. This event was facilitated and supported by the team at Living Streets. There were around 75 pledges made on the day.



On 26th April the school held their PA Bingo event which was very well attended. Families had a fun time playing Bingo and enjoying dinner together all while raising money for the Overdale Parents Association.



Overdale Infant school welcomed a Challenge Partner Review in April and were thrilled with the positive outcomes from it. There were so many wow moments recorded by the reviewers which show the wonderful job our school is doing.

Challenge Partners is just one way we work towards school improvement across the Trust. You can find out more about the scheme here: <https://www.challengepartners.org/about-us>

Overdale Schools Fete

On Saturday 22nd June the Overdale Schools held their annual summer fete organised by the Parents Association. The day was a huge success with the sun shining and the whole community coming along to support. We are now waiting to hear how much has been raised to be shared between Overdale Pre-School, Infant School and Junior School.



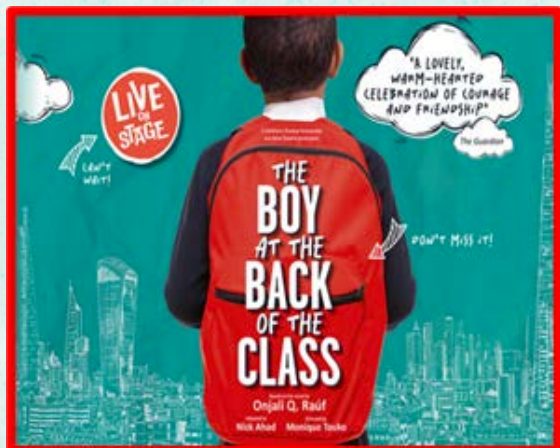
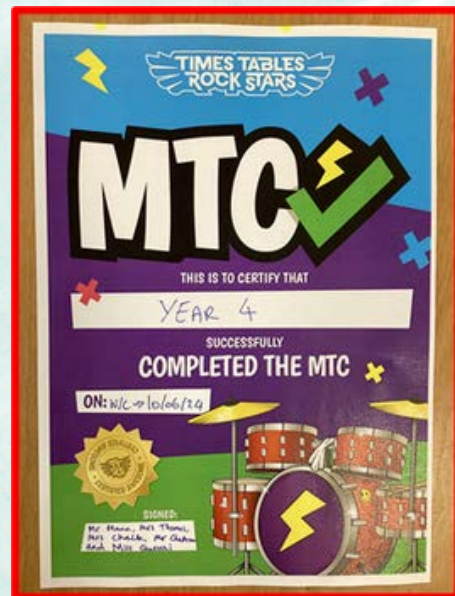
Pyramids in DT

In DT, pupils have looked at understanding and creating their own shell structures. They have been able to link this to their history learning of ancient Egyptians to create pyramids! Children drew a net of a square-based pyramid with given measurements accurately on a cardboard box and carefully used their cutting and sticking skills to put their pyramids together!



Year 4 National Multiplication Check

Well done to all of year 4 for their hard work in learning and recalling their times tables. Their attitude, effort and enthusiasm around wanting to learn their times tables was fantastic this year! They have all done superbly well in their multiplication check and the school is thoroughly proud of all their year 4 children.. Thank you to parents for supporting your child with learning their times tables and as a result they are all ready to tackle maths in upper key stage 2 and beyond as children will find out that their times tables knowledge will link to lots of different areas in maths!



Trip to the Curve Theatre!

Year 4 had the opportunity to go on a school trip to the Curve Theatre to watch The Boy at the Back of the Class. This story was Year 4's class read and was one of the focus books for their English work this term. This show complimented beautifully the work pupils were doing in class. Cross-curricular wise, it allowed them to engage in watching a live performance and also let pupils demonstrate their wonderful character curriculum when out in the local community!

Music tuition at OJS

Overdale Juniors have had a wonderfully musical year this year! This year, they have had who class ukulele lessons for Year 4, whole class recorder lessons for Year 3, turntablism for Year 5 and of course the wonderful Year 6 productions. Each year group has had the opportunity to perform to the school community. A very musical year for each year group!



Music Award

This year the school have been awarded a Silver Music Award for all their enthusiasm for music. Next year, the school will start work on moving to Gold

Musical Events

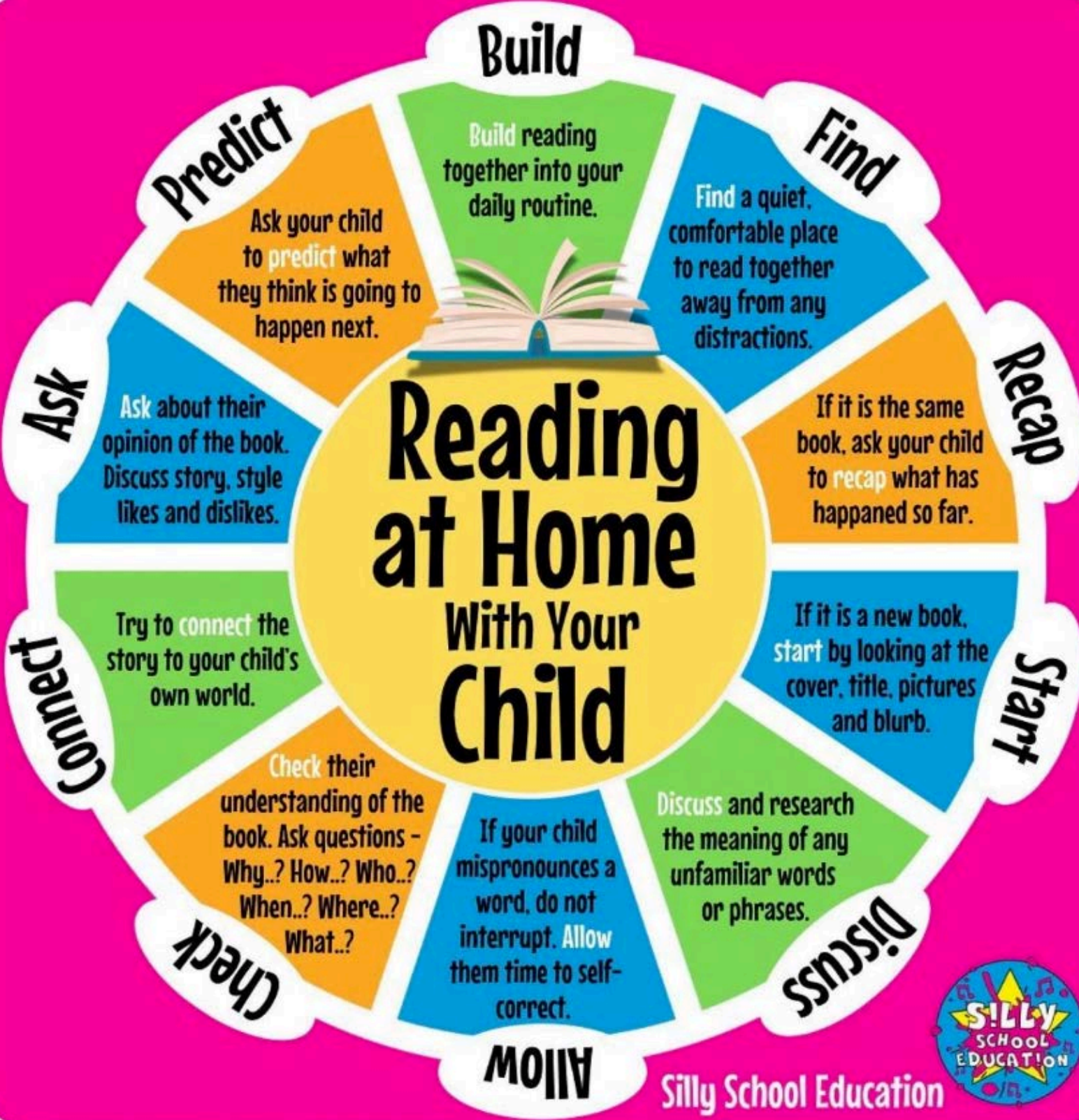
This year, Overdale Juniors have taken part in the ever-popular Young Voices in Birmingham with their upper school choir, as well as visits to Overdale Infants, local care homes and a concert in St James the Greater with the lower school choir.

The Nativity is a highlight of the calendar and this year their Nativity was better than ever before, with a choir on stage and a performing arts group presenting the story.

Whole school singing assembly every week has encouraged a love of singing across every year group and Overdale Juniors is definitely a singing school now!



To year 6 – as you move on to new schools and exciting adventures, we want to take a moment to say THANK YOU and goodbye. We really do wish you all the best. We are incredibly proud of you and confident that you will thrive in your new environments. Good luck, Year 6, and may your future be bright and full of success.



Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust has put together a short animation video to help with transition. View [here](#).

Supporting your child as they move on to secondary school

With Year 6 pupils set to leave primary school behind in the coming weeks, we've created a [short animation for parents with advice on how you can support your child as they make the move to secondary school](#).

Filled with lots of hints, tips and advice, hopefully you can help make the transition as smooth as possible for your child.



Contact a school nurse by text message during the holidays

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust runs a dedicated, confidential and secure text messaging service called ChatHealth for parents/carers of children aged 0-19 in Leicester City, which enables you to get professional health advice and support.

Text a Public Health Nurse (School Nurse) on:

07520 615 381



inourplace

NHS

Supporting emotional health and wellbeing from 0-19+

Free online courses for all parents, carers, grandparents and teens

- Antenatal and postnatal baby bonding
- Understanding your child or young person
- Your child or young person with additional needs
- Teenager's feelings and brain development
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