



JULY 2026

OUR TRUST NEWS

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



Opportunity

Achievement

Kindness

Dear Parents, Carers, Colleagues and Friends of OAK

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on recent developments across OAK and thank everyone who continues to contribute to the success of our schools.

One of the highlights of recent weeks has been OAK being shortlisted for the Small MAT of the Year award. While we were not the eventual winners, being recognised amongst a small number of shortlisted trusts is something of which we can all be proud. It reflects the dedication of colleagues across every one of our schools, the support of our governors and trustees, and the partnership we value with our families and wider community.

We have also continued to receive encouraging external recognition of our work. Brookside's recent external review highlighted the many strengths within the school and the quality of education being provided. Across the Trust, we continue to see strong outcomes for our pupils, reinforcing our belief that collaboration, high expectations and a relentless focus on continuous improvement make a real difference for young people.

This year has also seen the continued development of Frontiers, our digital learning strategy. As the programme matures, it is increasingly clear that technology is at its most effective when it supports excellent teaching rather than replaces it. Across our schools, iPads are being used thoughtfully to enhance learning while ensuring that reading, handwriting, outdoor learning through our Forest Schools, creativity and the arts remain central to every child's education. Frontiers is simply one of the many tools that enables our teachers to provide the very best learning experiences for our pupils.

It has also been wonderful to see opportunities beyond the classroom continue to flourish. Manor High School's recent 500 Words celebration showcased the creativity and imagination of our young people, while the many sporting, musical, artistic and cultural events taking place across our schools continue to demonstrate the breadth of education we value at OAK.

I am also pleased that a new Interim Governing Body has now been established to serve both Overdale schools, in line with the wishes of the two governing bodies. This provides a strong foundation as we continue to strengthen collaboration between the schools while maintaining a clear focus on delivering the very best outcomes in all areas for pupils.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of our Year 6 and Year 11 pupils on completing their SATs and GCSE examinations. These milestones represent years of hard work, perseverance and determination, and they should all be proud of what they have achieved.

My sincere thanks also go to colleagues across the Trust for the expertise, care and encouragement they have provided throughout the year. Preparing young people for examinations is about far more than delivering lessons; it is about building confidence, providing reassurance and helping every child achieve their personal best.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. As we look ahead to the final days of the academic year, we are grateful for the part each of you plays in our community. Together, we will continue to grow great schools where every child is known, supported and inspired to achieve their very best.

With best wishes,
Andy Wilson
CEO, OAK Multi Academy Trust



Governance

New Interim Governing Board at Overdale Infant and Junior Schools

Following discussion and agreement across both governing bodies, a new Interim Joint Governing Body (IGB) has been established, bringing together governors from both schools. This reflects a shared view that closer working between the schools is the right step in supporting their continued development. The IGB will operate for an initial period of around two years, after which a longer-term governing structure will be confirmed.

Why this change?

Both governing bodies believe this approach will:

- Provide a strong, stable board drawn from both existing governing bodies
- Enable a clearer overview of pupils' journey from Nursery through to Year 6
- Strengthen support and challenge across the schools
- Allow time and space to carefully consider the future relationship between the schools

Importantly, there is no predetermined outcome. Over time, governors will consider whether it is best for the schools to:

- Remain as two schools working closely together, or
- Move towards a more formal alignment

This will be a thoughtful and measured process, with governors playing a key role throughout.

During this period, the IGB will work closely with school leaders and the Trust, including being fully involved in key decisions about future leadership.

Our focus

This is about supporting the Overdale schools to become even stronger by building on their many strengths.

This includes:

- A strong inclusive ethos
- Rich opportunities such as Forest School and wider enrichment
- A broad and balanced curriculum, including the appropriate use of digital tools
- Preparing pupils socially and personally, as well as academically

This is an opportunity to continue building on both schools' strengths, and we are confident this structure will support their ongoing development.

Meet the Governors... spotlight on our new IGB Executive Chair, Sarah Baker

Sarah Baker is the Executive Chair of the Interim Governing Board and currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of CamRARE. She brings over 20 years of leadership experience across education, SEND, inclusion, and the voluntary sector, having held senior leadership and CEO roles across multi-academy trusts and specialist provision.

Sarah has worked collaboratively across education, health, social care, and charitable organisations to drive meaningful change for children, young people, families, and communities. She brings both strategic expertise and lived experience of SEND, alongside a strong commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for people affected by rare conditions and special educational needs.



Climate and Nature Action in Education

There is some wonderful sustainability work taking place across the Trust, led by Sophie Bodycote. Below is an update from Sophie on what we have achieved so far this year:

All of the schools who have supplied Let's Go Zero with their data have shown **improvement** in their carbon footprint. New climate action plans have been written for the next year. We have held five sustainability lead meetings this year and are really working well as a team. We have discussed ways to complete targets on the climate action plan, collaborated on a whole trust traffic pollution survey and shared good practise within our schools. The majority of the schools have worked on targets of waste, water and biodiversity this year.

WASTE

All schools (and Trust offices) now have dedicated food waste bins in their playgrounds/lunch area and more waste is now recycled thanks to the support and advice from Veolia. Manor are looking into purchasing new bins for the outside area to allow for easier recycling.



WATER

All schools have purchased water butts and most are fitted. Some schools have been visited by Severn Trent water to talk to the children about the importance of saving water.

GREEN FLAG

All schools have participated in the green flag award this year. Brookside and Overdale Junior School have achieved distinction and the other schools are awaiting their results.



GREEN CAREERS

Following a meeting with the careers lead at Manor we have identified some ways to improve pupil access to green careers. One focus is to link with the waste management company Veolia. Links have been made between the headteacher at Manor and Paul Edmond, the sustainability lead at Hearts Trust and co-chair of the UKSSN. It is hoped that this link will support Manor in their sustainability journey.

BIODIVERSITY

The primary schools have participated in activity workshops and a staff meeting delivered by Becky from the Nature Education Nature Park, focussing on how to embed outdoor learning into the curriculum. The children really enjoyed the hands-on outdoor learning opportunity and the staff were interested in the activities shared by the NENP team. Becky has now met with the sustainability lead at Manor and attended our final sustainability lead meeting to discuss ways forward for next year. I have been into three of our schools to demonstrate to the eco-team how to collect data using a FIT (flower insect time) survey.

All hedgerows ordered from the Woodland Trust have been planted with the support of premises and the children. More hedgerows have been ordered for Manor and the Overdale schools. Each of the school ponds have been surveyed. New pond plants were bought and a timetable for clearing excess growth and leaf litter has been set for later in the year. The only school without a pond (Overdale Infants) is due to have one installed in the next academic year. I have held a meeting with Zoe from the grounds maintenance team and discussed biodiversity improvement measures we could take (with minimal cost) e.g. leaving a 1–2m strip of rewilding land along hedgerows where possible.



Focus for next academic year:

Utilise the traffic pollution survey results to promote walking to school and anti-idling for parents.

Analyse staff travel to school data to establish possible car sharing links.

Collect evidence of energy/water surveys carried out in schools.

Climate action plan target focus: food, travel, biodiversity, green careers and sustainability in the curriculum.

Install a pond at Overdale Infants in collaboration with parents and the green governor and improve the pond at Manor High.

500 WORDS Awards Ceremony

Every year, our pupils amaze us with their creativity and 2026 was no different! The initiative brings together Year 2 and Year 6 pupils from across the Trust, encouraging them to craft original stories of up to 500 words on any theme they choose. Schools run their own judging rounds, with Headteachers nominating standout entries to go forward to the cross-trust final. The panel of judges then decide from these 30 entries the overall winners – highly commended, bronze, silver and gold. All 30 entries selected are celebrated in a beautifully illustrated, professionally designed book—copies of which are given to the winning pupils.

This year, the competition culminated in a celebration event held in the new Manor High School sports hall. Pupils, parents and staff gathered together to hear readings of the winning entries and see the overall winners receive their prizes—including trophies, book vouchers, and a copy of the published anthology.

Trophy Winners

Year 2

Bronze: Arlo Simpson-Childs, Overdale Infant School

Silver: Arshdeep Kaur, Brookside Primary School

Gold: Sara Omar, Overdale Infant School



Year 6

Bronze: Faris Imrani, Woodland Grange Primary School

Silver: Abdussamad Musa, Overdale Junior School

Gold: Nur Affandi, Woodland Grange Primary School



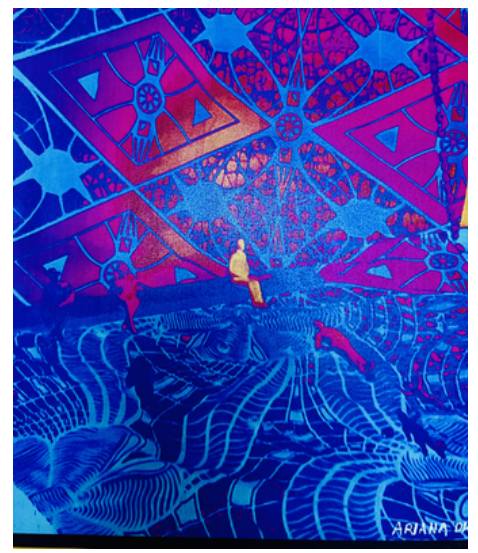
Exhibition Showcases Children's Creative Work

This month, schools across the Trust came together to celebrate creativity at our Trust-wide Art and Design Technology Exhibition, held over two inspiring evenings. The event showcased the very best of student achievement, with Year 11 students proudly presenting their final pieces alongside a stunning selection of work from our most talented artists in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The exhibition was also an opportunity to showcase the artwork of primary children from across the OAK Trust. Young artists from Overdale Junior School, Overdale Infant School, Woodland Grange Primary School and Brookside Primary School were selected to exhibit their work, highlighting creativity from pupils as young as Foundation. With over 350 visitors attending across the two evenings, the exhibition was a true celebration of artistic talent and community. Despite the hot weather, the event remained vibrant and well-attended, providing an inspiring experience for all who visited.

A particularly special feature of the event was the opportunity for visitors to engage directly with the artwork by voting for their favourite piece from each school. This interactive element encouraged conversation and reflection, and allowed students of all ages—from Year 2 through to Year 11—to feel recognised and valued for their creativity.

Overall, the exhibition was a fantastic success, showcasing the breadth and quality of art and design across the Trust while inspiring the next generation of young artists.



Free School Meals

We would like to inform you of important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) from the start of the 2026–27 academic year and to encourage all eligible families to apply as soon as possible. **This is necessary even if your child is currently in receipt of FSM.**

From the autumn term 2026, FSM eligibility will expand to all households receiving Universal Credit, regardless of household income. There will be two categories:

- Targeted FSM – existing eligibility, which attracts additional school funding (Pupil Premium)
- Expanded FSM – new eligibility under Universal Credit, which provides free meals only

What this means for families

- Current free school meal eligibility ends for all pupils at the end of this term in July 2026 and **parents must reapply to retain eligibility from the start of the autumn term**
- If you do not complete this check, free school meal entitlement will end
- Families who believe they may now be eligible for FSM under the new expanded scheme should submit an application as soon as possible
- Going forward, applications for FSM must be rechecked annually between 1 June and 1 October to retain eligibility (schools will send reminders each year)
- The new scheme for FSM also applies to pupils in school-based nurseries
- If your child is in KS1 (Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2) you should still undertake the eligibility check if you meet the criteria even though your child currently receives free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meal programme. This status will then follow them into Year 3 so the school knows that the family is likely to be eligible for FSM from the start of KS2

Applications

- Applications open from 1 June 2026
- We encourage all eligible families to apply as soon as possible
- The application process is quick, easy and confidential and will not affect any other benefits you receive
- To complete an application, you will need your national insurance number (or national asylum support service number), your date of birth and your legal name

If you require further information, please contact the school office.

To apply or re-apply please visit:

Leicestershire schools: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>

or

For Leicester schools: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals>





PRE-SCHOOL PLACES AVAILABLE FOR AUGUST 2026

Give your child an exceptional foundation for their future at Overdale Infant School, part of the trusted OAK Multi Academy Trust. We aim to offer a high standard of care and education for under 5s providing a safe, stimulating and enabling environment. Play allows children to lead their own learning and socially interact. We ensure play opportunities and activities encompass the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

What We Offer:

- Led by a dedicated qualified teacher
- A lively, happy, successful school with extremely enthusiastic learners and staff
- A nurturing and innovate learning environment where every child can flourish
- Engaging and inclusive learning opportunities through play developing communication skills
- Wrap around care from 7:45am to 6:00pm

Admissions for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) are NOW OPEN. Spaces are limited. Call or visit us online to secure your child's place today!

Visit or Apply:

Website: www.overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk/ • **Telephone:** 0116 2882724

Location: Overdale Infant School, Eastcourt Road, Knighton, Leicester, LE2 3YA



SCAN QR CODE &
FIND OUT MORE



We are delighted to announce that Brookside Primary School has once again been awarded the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction, recognising an outstanding commitment to environmental education and sustainable practices across the school community.

This year, one of our greatest successes has been the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our pupils in taking meaningful environmental action. Following an inspiring assembly with the Wombles, pupils participated in a large-scale litter-pick around the local area. They were fascinated by the waste they discovered, some of which had been hidden for many years, and this experience motivated many children to continue litter-picking during lunchtimes and encourage their peers to get involved.

Our commitment to sustainability has also led to significant energy savings across the school. Through the work of classroom energy monitors and careful monitoring of heating and ventilation, pupils and staff have worked together to reduce energy consumption and make a positive impact on the environment.

Environmental learning has been embedded throughout the curriculum.

In Year 1, pupils developed their understanding of living things by growing cress and learning about the essential conditions plants need to thrive, including sunlight, water, soil and space. The opportunity to take their seedlings home further enhanced their enjoyment and confidence in Science.



Green Flag 2026

School Name

Brookside Primary School

Award Level:
Distinction

Year 5 pupils took part in an exciting investigation into air pollution by placing collection cards in different locations around the school, including near roads, playgrounds and nature areas. By analysing the particles collected over a week, pupils gained a deeper understanding of how traffic affects air quality and the environment around them.

Pupils across the school have also explored energy and electricity through their Science learning, identifying electrical appliances, understanding how energy travels through cables and batteries, and creating informative electrical safety posters to share their knowledge with others. These activities have helped pupils make meaningful links between classroom learning and real-world environmental issues.

A key strength recognised by the Eco-Schools assessors was the way we engage pupils, staff and families in our environmental work. Through Class Dojo, regular updates, eco-news, posters, assemblies and our dedicated sustainability class, we have ensured that environmental awareness remains at the heart of school life. Our eco-members regularly share updates with their classes, helping to create a strong sense of ownership and responsibility throughout the school community.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and would like to thank our pupils, staff, families and Eco Committee members for their continued enthusiasm and commitment. Together, we are making a real difference and helping to create a more sustainable future for everyone. Let's Go Zero also recognised the impact of our Climate Action Plan so far:

In the areas where you have focused action, as a school, you have reduced an estimated 15.20 tCO₂e which is equivalent to 3% of your baseline result

- *Electricity:* 6.70 tonnes saved.
- *Waste:* 0.10 tonnes saved.
- *Uniform:* 8.40 tonnes saved.
- *Student commute:* The percentage of students walking/cycling to school has gone up 28%. Congratulations!



You have also made significant culture changes and improved your school's biodiversity. Many congratulations to you and the team for your hard work and dedication!



Creative Arts Club 2026

During the Spring Term 2026, we ran a Creative Arts Club for children in KS2. This was linked with the English National Opera on a project called Finish This: Plant This Seed. [Finish This... - ENO](#)

The project was centred around a short opera focussing on a young girl discovering Mother Nature in a store cupboard in the cellar of her school. Mother Nature sang to her about what the natural world was, is and could be in the future. We were then tasked with creating our own Song of the Future to finish the opera off. During the ten weeks of the club, held on a Monday after school, we planted our own seeds, created our own vision of what the world can be, wrote poems and songs to explain own thoughts and feelings and created our song called 'Our Beautiful Garden'.

[Listen to Brookside Primary School - Creative Arts Club - Our Beautiful Garden by ENO Engage in Finish This... PTS 25/26 East Midlands playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

We were thrilled when our composition was chosen as 1 of only 10 from over 250 schools to have our very own piece of artwork created by Lena Yokoyama, to go alongside it.

We had this fantastic feedback from the composer of 'Plant this Seed', Elif Karlidag, "The vocal writing is very expressive and memorable. I loved the percussion and the way you introduced it into the piece. There is a wonderful connection between the words and the music."

And from Ellie Wood, ENO Engage Programme Coordinator, "This was such a jolly, uplifting piece - it reminded me a little of a sea shanty with that waltzy 3/4 time! Your pictures, graphic scores were an idyllic vision of a beautiful garden."



There have been lots of enrichment activities at Brookside this term, with trips to the seaside, the warning zone, Cresswell crags, the zoo and a residential to Beaumanor. The Warning Zone is always a fantastic day out and incredibly important as children start to transition to a more independent way of life. Linking to our PSHE curriculum, this trip provided the children with the opportunity to develop their understanding of risk, safety and responsibility, applying this to both the real world and the online world. All of our pupils left knowing a lot more about how to keep themselves safe - a truly enriching experience!



Our year 6 have had their treat from the ice cream van and are having a disco (with red carpet) with a proper DJ - not just Bettys Boom box!

We have been lucky to be awarded £1500 from the Tesco grant award which we can use for some extra resources for our Riverbank children.

We have been at area sports where we had a lot of success, particularly with Year 4 and Year 6 runners!



Celebrating Success and Rewarding Our Students

This has been an incredibly positive term at Manor High School, and we are delighted to celebrate the fantastic efforts of our students.

Recognising and celebrating success is an important part of our school culture. This term, around 500 students have enjoyed reward experiences including trips to Alton Towers, Hollywood Bowl and our hugely popular Inflatables Experience. We are also looking forward to welcoming another group of students to our final Inflatables reward event next Thursday.

It has been a pleasure to see the excitement, enthusiasm and pride our students have shown during these events. They have worked hard to earn these opportunities and thoroughly deserve the recognition.

Alongside these larger rewards, we have continued our weekly 100% attendance prize draws, with students receiving shopping vouchers as a reward for their excellent attendance and commitment to learning.

Our Reward Store has also proved extremely popular this year, with over 200 students choosing rewards that matter to them. From vouchers and stationery to queue jump passes, revision guides and many other items, students have been able to exchange their reward points for prizes they genuinely value.

Importantly, many of these rewards have been shaped by feedback from our Form Representatives and the excellent work of our Student Leadership Team, ensuring that our reward system continues to reflect what motivates and celebrates our students.

A huge thank you to all our students for making this such a successful term. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and look forward to celebrating even more success in the year ahead.



Barcelona Trip 2026

Forty of our Year 9 and 10 students enjoyed an unforgettable four-day visit to Barcelona, experiencing the city's rich culture, famous landmarks and exciting attractions. Throughout the trip, they were exceptional ambassadors for the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and respect wherever they went. We are incredibly proud of them all. The trip was packed with sightseeing and cultural experiences, including a paella workshop. They also enjoyed a Las Golondrinas boat trip around Barcelona's harbour, explored the stunning Parc Güell to admire Gaudí's unique architecture, and sampled a variety of traditional tapas. Day three provided a change of pace with a fun-filled visit to WaterWorld - a well-earned day of leisure after the previous day's busy itinerary. On the final morning, students enjoyed some time at the beach and picked up last-minute souvenirs before making their way to the airport for the journey home. The trip provided countless opportunities for students to broaden their cultural understanding, create lasting friendships and make memories that will stay with them for years to come.



It has been a fantastic final term for Design Technology, Art and Food Technology. Students have successfully completed their major practical projects, including creating ceramic pots in Design Technology, accompanied by handcrafted wooden stands made using traditional joints, hand tools and woodworking techniques, while Art students produced expressive clay faces.

This term also included inspiring trips to London, where students visited the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery before enjoying sketching activities around Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden.

Science

It has been another busy and exciting year. A visit from ZooLab gave our students the opportunity to get hands-on with a variety of fascinating animals, including tarantulas, snakes and cockroaches. They discovered how nature inspires engineers and scientists through the exciting world of biomimicry.

More recently, we were delighted to welcome our feeder primary schools to Manor High School for an engaging science show delivered in partnership with BAE Systems and the Royal Air Force. The interactive presentation explored the amazing materials that surround us and how science and engineering shape our everyday lives.

We are incredibly proud of our students' enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the year and look forward to another exciting year of scientific discovery ahead!

Year 7 Football

After a year full of success, the Year 7 boys football team enjoyed their day in the Seagrave spotlight against Lutterworth College in the County Cup Final. Both teams were unbeaten going into the game, but with the majority of the crowd supporting Manor the boys were loving the atmosphere and couldn't wait to get started. Unfortunately, despite some excellent efforts, Lutterworth won 3-1. However, the whole squad should look back at the great memories from the season and the victories claimed.



Athletics

14 Manor students qualified this year for the County Finals held at Loughborough University. All finalists performed superbly against the best athletes from all around Leicestershire and Rutland. Charlie took bronze in the year 10 long jump and Kodi (year 7) a bronze in the 800m. But the standout star of the show for Manor was Rosie (year 7) who triumphed winning an inspirational gold in the shot put.

Brookside Primary School Maths Afternoon

Earlier this year, we were delighted to welcome students from Brookside Primary School for a fun and engaging Maths Afternoon.

The event was organised and led by Ms Burney and Mrs Patel, with invaluable support from our Manor High School students. The afternoon centred around a mathematics relay race, where teams worked collaboratively to solve a variety of mathematical challenges and puzzles. The event provided an excellent opportunity for primary pupils to experience mathematics in a different environment, while our own students demonstrated fantastic leadership, teamwork and communication skills. We thoroughly enjoyed hosting Brookside and look forward to future opportunities to work together.

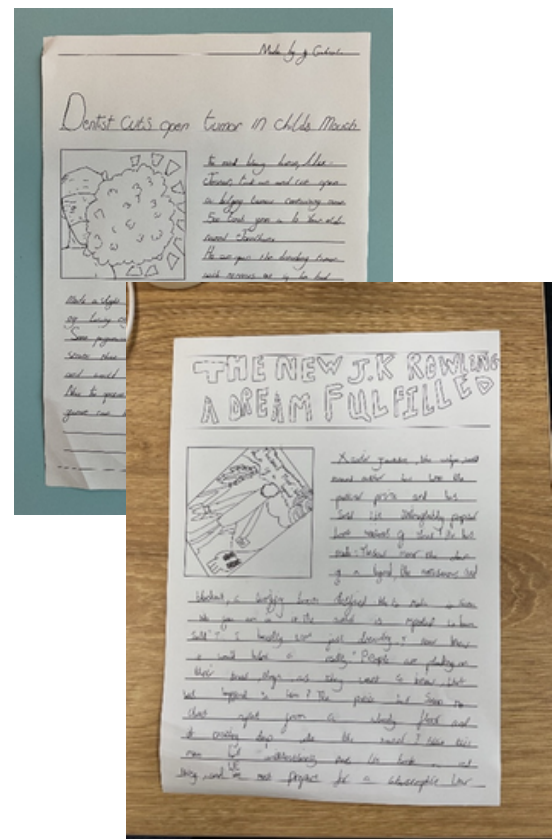
Performing Arts

A group of our Year 8 and 9 students attended the dress rehearsal of De Montfort University's Dance Festival performance. The event was produced and managed by students at the university, and featured live performances and installations, including new works created by visiting artist Sara Macqueen-Radford and Christopher Radford from Linden Dance Company, and Mel Knott from the University. This was a great opportunity for our students to experience contemporary dance, and the pieces were thought-provoking; telling stories and giving powerful messages. The standard was very professional with some highly accomplished performers, giving our students an insight into dance as a career pathway. A great afternoon was had by all.



Welcoming Brookside for an Article Writing Workshop

The month of June in the English department saw a class of Year 5 students from Brookside visit Manor High for an article writing workshop. Envisioning themselves as successful in the future, the students wrote some excellent articles about all their (future) achievements, based on their current goals and ambitions. Throughout the entirety of the session, the students were enthusiastic, respectful and thoroughly absorbed in the workshop; we hope to welcome them back one day as Manor High students!

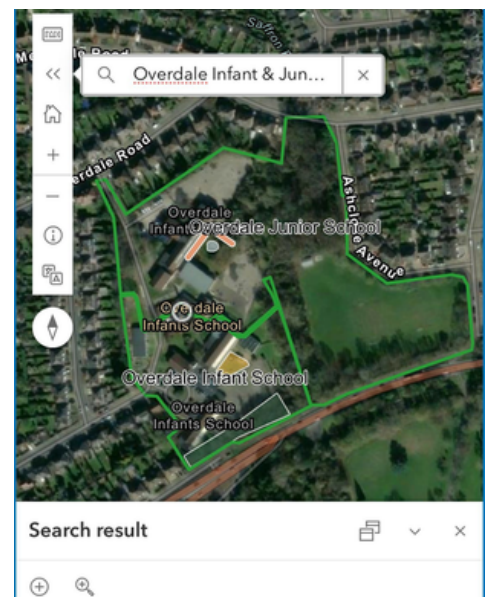


The National Education Nature Park came to visit pupils at the Infant School this term. The children were delightful and enjoyed being scientists, working outside and investigating the habitats before returning to the classroom to add their findings to the National Education Nature Park map.

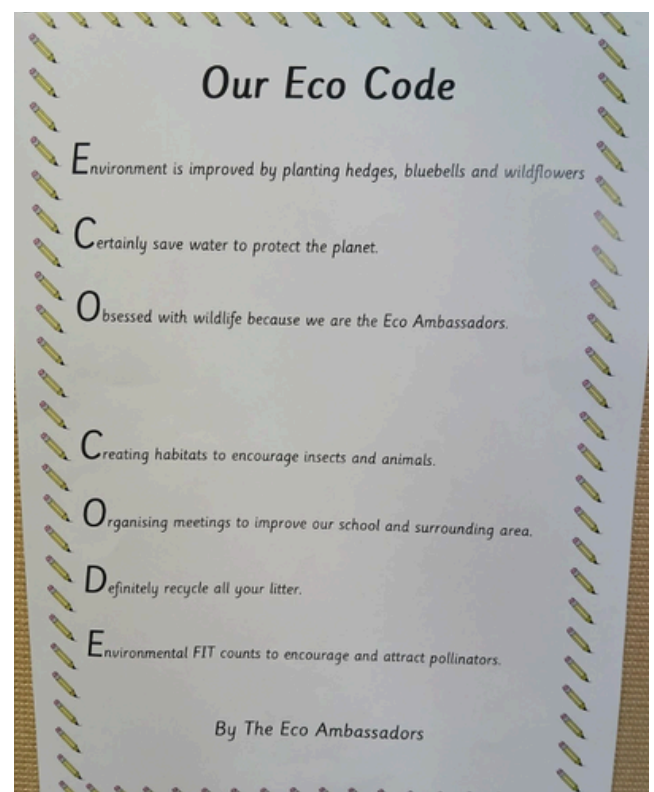


The workshop was well and truly led by the pupils. Whilst exploring their grassland and collecting various leaf shapes to help identify the specific habitat, one pupil had the idea of turning their collections into bookmarks - so that's exactly what they did!

The NENP remained at the school to deliver a staff meeting to teachers at the Infants and Juniors to talk about the curriculum, sustainability and outdoor learning.



All the work we have been doing with sustainability has inspired the Eco-Council, who wrote their own Eco-Code for everyone to follow. Maybe this could be followed outside of school too.



Overdale Infant School had an amazing Colour Dash in the sunshine! Children and staff enjoyed the event and memories will last a long time.



Foxes and Hedgehogs were able to visit the Health Hub at Overdale Junior School to make delicious flapjacks. We are proud to invest in essential life skills. Our dedicated cooking space allows all pupils to participate. Here, children develop practical skills, learn hygienic cooking, and gain the nutritional understanding vital for healthy eating.

On 19th June we held our annual Year 2 sleepover. Children arrived armed with pillows and sleeping bags ready for sleeping in the school hall. They enjoyed pizza slices after playing outside in the sunshine with some music 🍕 🎵. They were so excited watching Finding Nemo with some tasty popcorn and had a bedtime story before lights out. In a new sleepover record, everyone was asleep by 10:30pm and didn't fully wake up until 6:00am!



Pupils at Overdale Junior School recently took part in an inspiring outdoor learning session with the National Education Nature Park. Year 3 pupils explored their school grounds, identifying trees and investigating how different surfaces affect water movement, discovering first-hand how soil absorbs water while playground surfaces do not. Back in the classroom, pupils mapped their findings using the Nature Park platform, contributing habitat data that will be shared with the Natural History Museum. The National Education Nature Park then focused their delivery on the teachers, who were equally enthusiastic about exploring some key resources, the digital tools and engaging in discussions about where and how Nature Park resources fit within their curriculum.

Experiences like this bring science and sustainability to life, helping pupils connect with the natural world while developing curiosity and understanding through hands-on learning.



Recently, the amazing staff at Overdale Junior School raised funds to sponsor an incubator with the Leicestershire Wildlife Hospital. As you can see, there is already a prickly inhabitant receiving treatment!

With our school grounds teeming with wildlife, we recognise how important it is to care for nature in the world around us, and consider it a key message to share with the children



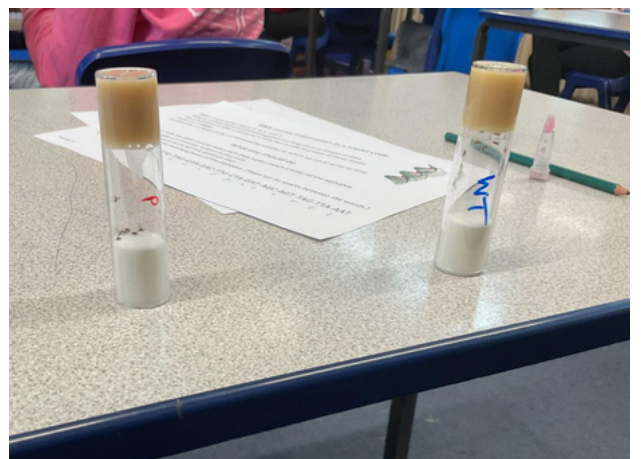
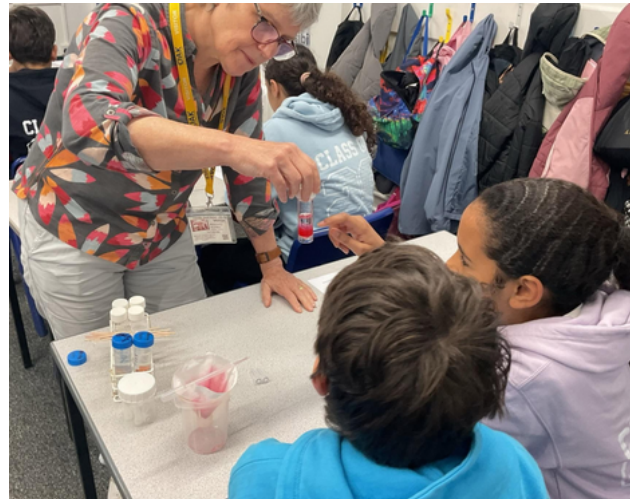
Overdale Junior School

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Overdale Junior School has been awarded the Platinum School Games Mark in recognition of our commitment to PE, physical activity and school sport throughout the year. This is the third consecutive time that we have achieved this prestigious award, making it a fantastic accomplishment for our school and wider community.



We are also delighted to announce that Overdale Junior School has been awarded the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction. A fantastic achievement which reflects the hard work and effort of staff and pupils alike.

Scientists from the University of Leicester Genetics Department visited the school to engage Year 6 in a series of fun and fascinating activities that open up the world of genetics. Activities included Go Bananas: extracting DNA from fruit, Decoding DNA and the Mutation of Fruit Flies! The workshop was hands-on, engaging, and gave the pupils a real insight into the fascinating world of genetics. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience life as a scientist and sparked lots of curiosity and enthusiasm for science and research.



Woodland Grange Primary School

A fantastic example of community support and opportunity at Woodland Grange Primary School. Thanks to the work of the school's Friends of Woodland Grange (PTA), a mobile swimming pool has been installed on site, enabling all pupils to access swimming lessons within the school grounds. Delivered in partnership with Elite Swimming (Pools to Schools), this approach removes common barriers such as travel time and access to facilities, ensuring more pupils can benefit from high-quality swimming provision.



Author Visit

We had a wonderful afternoon on Tuesday 16th June when Tor Freeman, illustrator and author of *Boss of the Underworld: Shirley vs The Huge Menace*, visited the school. Our Year 2 and 3 children, along with some children from across Key Stage Two, enjoyed a draw-a-long session, in which they created their own characters, followed by a Q&A session. Children who had bought the book also had their copies signed. We then showed Tor around our library and she became the second author added to our library visitors' gallery!

We love working with independent bookshop 'Kibworth Books' to bring these events to the children. They are a real inspiration, sparking excitement and awe in the children, creating moments they won't forget that will encourage them to engage in reading for life.



Maths – getting things right from the moment children start at Woodland Grange. Miss Motiwaras has recently completed the NDNA Math's Champions course. This is designed to improve practitioners' knowledge, skills, and confidence in supporting early mathematical development in preschool. It focuses on embedding math's into everyday play, routines, and learning experiences, helping children develop positive attitudes towards mathematics from an early age.

The training has resulted in enhanced opportunities for mathematical learning, greater reflective practice and the creation of a maths-rich environment that supports children's development and school readiness. This good practice has been shared with the whole team to enhance children's mathematical thinking, curiosity, and problem-solving skills.



Musical Celebrations

Over 60 pupils have taken part in peripatetic music lessons this year, learning a range of instruments. This is a fantastic number of young musicians and they were able to showcase their hard work and talent at our Summer Showcases. These were fantastic shows and a wonderful reflection of the commitment of our musicians. Our school choir has also continued to go from strength to strength, meeting weekly during lunchtime to rehearse and share their love of singing. They performed beautifully at our Summer Showcases and at our Summer FOWG Fun Day.

We would also like to celebrate Lila, who, alongside two former Woodland Grange pupils, Daiya and Mila, had the pleasure of performing at Stoneygate Baptist Church on 27th June as part of Cantamici's 'Feel the Spirit' concert. They all played superbly well on the Bechstein grand piano. Mila was even invited to help conduct the choir with their final encore! Here they are, pictured with the mezzo-soprano soloist, Wendy Moore.



Sporting Opportunities

Sport and being physically active is highly valued at Woodland Grange and Mr Evans has been a fantastic part of building this culture. In June we said a very sad goodbye to him as he left to start a new chapter of his life as a children's pastor. His impact at school has been huge and it is difficult to sum up in a few short sentences the difference he has made to children at this school. Throughout his time at Woodland Grange, he has always put the children first. Organising numerous competitions and running after-school clubs, and holiday clubs were all par for the course. He has also taught PE to every year group and supported Mrs Pearce, our PE Lead, when we implemented our new PE Curriculum. Staff also benefitted from his support - building everyone's confidence in teaching PE, this includes two apprentices. He leaves with sport shining brightly and physical activity continues to shine.

We are also thrilled to announce that Woodland Grange has received the School Games Mark Platinum Award, recognising our sustained excellence in this area, having consistently achieved the gold award for five consecutive years,



We were lucky enough to welcome into school Becky and Polly from the National Education Nature Park recently. They worked with pupils in Year 3 to carry out a tree survey and look for micro-habitats in the wildlife area. Becky said that the children were impeccably behaved and demonstrated a good knowledge and enthusiasm of the natural world. The children also enjoyed the visit and learnt a lot about encouraging biodiversity on our school site



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