OLIVE AP ACADEMY SUFFOLK NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2023/24
Edition No. 1

A Message from our Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Ellen Watson as Head of Academy for Olive Academies Suffolk with effect from December 1st 2023.

As you will be aware Ellen has been Acting Head of Academy since Easter of 2023 following two very successful years as Deputy Headteacher and was instrumental in ensuring the academy achieved a 'Good' Ofsted rating in February 2023.

Ellen's significant knowledge and experience in relation to SEND and Safeguarding will ensure the Academy continues to be a safe and engaging environment where young people can thrive and make progress. Ellen will continue to lead a highly effective senior leadership team and dedicated group of staff to ensure your children have access to the best possible educational experience at Olive Academy Suffolk.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

Ryan Kelsall
Executive Headteacher

Update from the Head of Academy

Dear families,

I am thrilled to be writing to you as the new Head of Academy, I have been the Deputy Headteacher here for over two years and love working with you and your children. As I settle into my new role I will continue to place safeguarding and learning at the heart of all we do.

Our focus for next term will be developing links with you, we know that communication between home and school is vitally important in children's progress. I am pleased to have already started developing family voice with the first 'Family Hub' meeting last week. A special thank you to those who attended, I found the meeting very useful and I hope you did too. There will be termly opportunities for families to engage in these to make sure your voice is heard in the Academy's work, as well as other opportunities including maybe even a Parent Teacher Association (PTA)!

Although the holidays are joyful they can also place a lot of pressure and stress on a family, I have included some links at the end of this Newsletter which may be useful to some of you.

Details of the terms dates for the rest of this academic year are on the next page for your information and a reminder that pupils return on **Friday 5th January 2024** for the start of the Spring Term**.**

Wishing you and you family a wonderful, restful and safe festive season.

I look forward to working with you in the new year to continue to support your children.

Ellen Watson
Head of Academy

Key Dates For Your Diary

TERM DATES 2023-24

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Last day of term for pupils: Wednesday 20th December 2023

SPRING TERM 2024

Wednesday 3rd January - Thursday 28th March 2024

INSET DAYS: 3rd & 4th January 2024 (academy closed to pupils)
First day of term for pupils: Friday 5th January 2024
Half-term: Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February 2024
Last day of term for pupils: Thursday 28th March 2024

SUMMER TERM 2024

Friday 12th April - Friday 19th July 2024

First day of term for pupils: Friday 12th April 2024
Half-term: Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024
Last day of term for pupils: Friday 19th July 2024

BEACH Class News

Every week pupils from Beach class have been going to Forest School which is at the Food Museum in Stowmarket.

As the weeks went on the class decided to walk down to the museum supervised by the adults stopping of at the local park. On the 13th November Beach class visited the War Memorial which linked in with our Olive Way theme for that week.

In class James has been able to plan a visit to Pleasurewood Hills - working out the route and the coast if the whole class went.

Most lunch times the class likes to play football, the adults also join in!!!. Puppets have been a firm favourite in reward time.

Friendship is important to everyone in our class and sometimes we miss those who have gone to their forever school.

Every week the pupils learn about art then they can choose a medium they like to create their own work.

Leighton has been making a puppet and bought one with his character points. His birthday meant a day at Forest School hammering and building things including a reindeer.

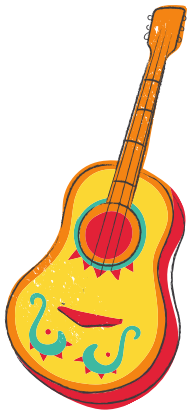
RIVER Class News

Outdoor Education: Trying New Activities!

River Class have attended Outdoor Education this term. For some pupils they experienced new activities such as archery, mountain biking and map reading; these activities have allowed the pupils to learn new skills and find new hobbies.

Cooking

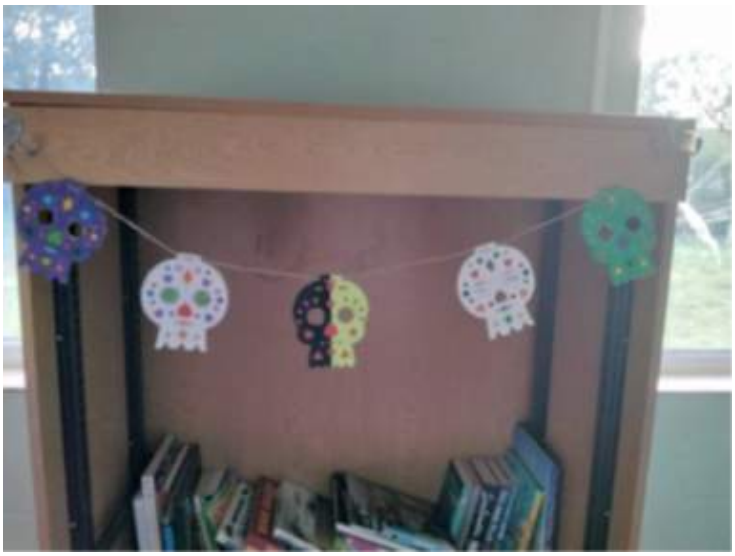
This term River Class made a variety of dishes this includes **Fajitas** and **Chilli Nachos**. The dishes have allowed them to expand their cooking skills, create new dishes and taste new flavors.



RIVER Class News Continued

Olive Way

During Olive Way this term River Class have learnt about the Day of the Dead - an important festival held each year in South American countries, especially in Mexico, to celebrate the cycle of life and death. During the colourful festival big parades are held and people often paint their faces to look like skulls. Pupils created decorations for the classroom.



Learning about Remembrance Day

We also learnt about Remembrance Day and pupils coloured in different pictures in honour of the day.

OCEAN Class News

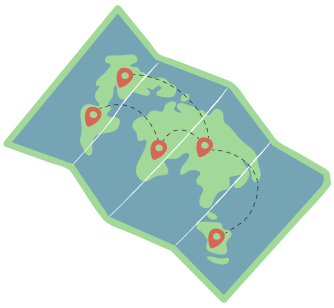
Outdoor Education

During this term Ocean Class have been actively involved in weekly Outdoor Learning sessions.

Pupils have engaged in class theory, listening carefully to instructions to complete tasks independently, contributing to discussions and demonstrating a good knowledge of the different ways we use maps and how they can be of benefit to us.

The class have participated in a cone activity where they had to show their understanding of how a compass works. Pupils enjoyed studying the various maps and learning how a compass works by going to the correct cone when instructed to.

During Geotagging pupils took turns with their peers to find locations using the co-ordinates, not deterred by being outside in the heavy rain - the hot chocolate and biscuits were welcome refreshments though!



FOREST Class News

At the beginning of term, Forest class took part in paddle boarding and map reading which was thoroughly enjoyed by all; learning new skills and having fun at different locations.

Forest class have made a start on mock English and Math's GCSE papers.

They have created some wonderful dishes in Home Cooking skills such as Cornish Pasties, Tomato Risotto, Halloumi, Chorizo and Homemade Pesto Toasties and plenty of Sweet Baked Treats.

As a class we are looking forward to continuing to support our pupils with post-16 transition work, more visits to colleges and applying for courses.

RAINBOW BRIDGE News

Space Week

During Space Week pupils took part in some space themed sensory activities. We started off by making 'moon rocks' with bicarbonate of soda and glitter glue and then made them burn up entering the atmosphere using vinegar.

We then made a nebula sensory bottle with colouring, cotton wool and glitter.

Sensory Bottles

We created a calm down sensory bottle using washing up liquid, glitter glue, baby oil and food colouring to create his bottle.

Decorating Biscuits

Oscar enjoyed decorating biscuits in the Rainbow Bridge - he was able to practice his fine motor skills by using writing icing pens. His favourite decorations were the chocolate buttons!

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

As an Academy we celebrated Christmas Jumper day on 7th December with staff and pupils eager to participate. Workshops were held for pupils to allow them to show off their creative talents by decorating Christmas themed hoodies.

We used a variety of hoodies including red, blue and grey hoodies . Ms Baker used a lovely white top and Ms Hale chose a silver/grey top. Members of the school brought in old Christmas decorations which were keenly repurposed if not on tops around the classroom. I pleased to say everyone seemed to get into the flow of the theme.

At the suggestion of the well-being committee staff were asked to donate items of food to the local foodbank rather than bring in the usual £1. This proved very successful as the picture shows.

Volunteers from the local food bank came in to the Academy to collect the food.

Holiday Activities

The holiday season is often associated with joy, celebration, and togetherness. However, for some young people, it can be a time of increased stress, anxiety, and loneliness.
This year, to help navigate and support young people's mental health during Christmas and through to the New Year, Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's Engagement Hub team have created an Advent 30 Day What's Up Challenge.

https://thesource.me.uk/your-mind/adventchallenge/

The Blank Page Project
If you are looking for something to do over the festive period there are several free events taking place locally as part of Suffolk Libraries 'The Blank Page Project':

- Multi-sensory Storytelling Workshop https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/multi-sensory-storytelling-workshop-with-kirsty-tallent-at-stowmarket-library

Useful Links

https://suffolkwestcab.org.uk/suffolk-domestic-abuse-helpline/

Suffolk Domestic Abuse helpline - Suffolk West Citizens Advice

Anglia Care Trust (ACT), in partnership with Suffolk County Council have launched a free, 24/7 Suffolk Domestic Abuse helpline: 0800 [...]

suffolkwestcab.org.uk

www.kooth.com - mental health support for 11 - 18 year olds

www.samaritans.org

Homepage

Samaritans works to make sure there's always someone there for anyone who needs someone. Read more.

www.samaritans.org

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - CEOP online safety

0800 917 1109 - Customer First is the **first point of contact for social care in Suffolk County Council**

You can call the **freephone** National Domestic Abuse Helpline at **0808 2000 247**.

The service is **confidential** and available **any time, day or night**.