

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter

November 29th 2019 Volume 12



Next Week

As has been noted in the dates for the diary section all year, the school is closed for teacher training on Monday. We look forward to seeing all of the children back at school on Tuesday.

Wraparound Care

Breakfast and After School Care is provided by the Federation at Oxclose Nursery and it is very well attended. We are also very pleased with the way our new booking system is working - thank you all for your support with implementing this successfully. Next week, the bookings for next half term will open so parents can log in and book places. If you wish to use Wraparound Care and require a log in for this system, then you can collect a form from either the Nursery or School office. We have also requested that the doors open at 7.40am on a morning, although the start time is 7.45am and parents remain responsible for the children until this time. The earlier opening will allow parents to drop off, hang coats up and accompany until 7.45am, at which time they will be able to leave the children in the very capable hands of the staff.

Miss Smith

Miss Smith will be a huge loss to Ox Close and this week we have been recruiting. We were fortunate to attract an incredibly strong field and many talented teachers. I am delighted to say that we have been successful in our process of recruitment and that we will share the news as soon as all of the standard checks and paperwork have been completed. As mentioned previously, Miss Bowden will take over as SENDCO in January for the remainder of the academic year. Miss Bowden is an experienced SENDCO and will do a fantastic job. Naturally, this will have knock on implications for her in terms of her usual commitments and this is something which we will also be addressing.

Year 6

Year 6 have worked hard this term and are making good progress in their final year at Primary School. The SATs tests are in May and it is important that people do not panic over these. At the end of the day, the only pressure is for the children to do their best. After Christmas, we will, as normal, arrange the Year 6 classes in a manner to support them. In the past, there have been 2 teaching groups for Year 6 and this will be the case once again, although we are looking at ways of enhancing this further for this academic year. This procedure benefits the Year 6 children and also enhances provision for the Year 5 children, who end up being taught in even smaller class sizes. We will give further details when we have finalised our plans.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Parent Consultation evenings took place last week and, as promised, we commissioned a SurveyMonkey questionnaire to gain feedback from parents. All feedback was valuable and the responses were very positive, reflecting that it was a positive experience for the overwhelming majority. One or two people feel that the appointment times are not long enough. On the other side of the argument, parents and teachers are always conscious of how these events can run late, with implications for parents who have children in more than one class. Interactions with parents are vital and I would say that if you have any issue, concern or even would just like an update which will take more than 10 minutes, then to make an appointment with the teacher. We do listen to and consider all feedback and I would like to thank everyone who completed the survey.

Parent Surveys

As part of our current work on School Self Evaluation, we have also commissioned a SurveyMonkey questionnaire for parents. Once again, we have received a high number of responses and Miss Bowden and I are already beginning to analyse the findings. Thank you for taking the time to help us to try to continue improving all aspects of the school.

Reading - The Sun Challenge

At Ox Close we want to develop a love of reading. We are always trying to get more books into our library and classrooms that are interesting for the children to read. We have become aware of an exciting challenge in The Sun newspaper and we need your help! The Sun has teamed up with Harper Collins to provide primary schools with a free pack of 106 books, worth more than £600. All we have to do is collect 3,500 tokens from The Sun and The Sun on Sunday between Saturday 23rd of November 2019 and Saturday 18th January 2020. We would be very grateful if you could please cut out the tokens and send them into school. We appreciate your time and support with this challenge.

Carbon Emissions and Parking

From time to time we receive complaints from neighbours of the school with regard to parking. This is something which is an issue outside of most schools. I do know that most of our parents park sensibly and show consideration. Recently, one resident has pointed out that some cars park outside of his house waiting for children and leave their car engines running and he asked me to pass on his concerns. Naturally, this is not positive for either fuel consumption or the environment! I am sure that most parents would agree that this is something which is not ideal and that parents will continue to park responsibly. Thank you for your support!

Head Lice

As we have had reports of head lice in school, I would ask that parents check and comb their child's hair regularly and purchase treatments if appropriate.

Christmas Post Box

Children may bring their Christmas cards to post at school from 4th December. Each class will have their own post box. Please ensure all cards are addressed clearly, with names and classes. Thank you.

Reception Children Decorating the Christmas Tree

Children in the Reception Classes are invited to bring a Christmas decoration into school on Tuesday morning, 3rd December, so they can decorate the School's Christmas tree.

Poppy Appeal

We raised an amazing £469.62 for the Poppy Appeal – this is our highest figure ever!

Class Charts

Hallie M was the highest Class Charts point scorer in Reception this week, while our top scorer in 1/2 was Elliott S. In Key Stage 2, Luke D scored highest in 3/4 and Emma B was the top scorer in 5/6.

Attendance

Class 1/2P had the highest attendance this week with 96%. The overall school attendance this year is 94.7% while this week it has been 91.4%. One class was perfectly punctual and 273 minutes were lost due to lateness. The threshold for what is termed as persistent absence has been determined as 90%.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 2nd December	School Closed – PD Day
Wednesday 4th December	School Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 11 th December	10am and 5pm – EYFS Christmas Production
Thursday 12 th December	10am and 5:30pm – Years 3 and 4 Christmas Carols at St Paul's Church
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 17 th December	10am and 5:30pm – Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production
Wednesday 18 th December	10am and 5:30pm – Years 5 and 6 Christmas Production
Thursday 19 th December	AM - EYFS and KS1 Christmas Party
Friday 20 th December	AM – KS2 Christmas Party
Friday 20 th December	3:15pm – School closes for Christmas holidays
Christmas Holidays	
Monday 6 th January 2020	Children back to school

A Bowden

Miss A Bowden
Head of School

D Harrison

Mr D Harrison
Executive Headteacher