

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

January 10th 2020 Volume 16

Happy New Year

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year and new decade. I would like to wish everyone associated with the school a very successful 2020 on behalf of myself, Miss Bowden and the Governors. I have enjoyed hearing about the various gifts and experiences which the children have relished over the festive season. I trust that you all had a wonderful break. 2020 is set to be another busy and exciting year for Ox Close and we look forward to tackling all of the challenges which come our way and continuing in our efforts to provide the very best possible provision for all of the children.

ITV and Handwriting

Handwriting is one of our many strengths at Ox Close. On Monday, representatives from ITV will be visiting us to talk to some of the children about their handwriting and to record some of them in action. This is a terrific accolade for our school and the footage will form part of a feature which will go out on ITV on Thursday 23rd January. Further details will follow.

Access to school

Some parents have passed on concerns to us with regard to other parents blocking the path as the children are entering school on mornings. They report that other parents are gathering at the bottom of the entrance path into school, children are struggling to get past and then, once through, parents are unable to see that their children are getting into school. Please could everyone keep the pathway clear. Thank you.

Parking

We have also had complaints that a minority of parents are parking on the small pavement next to the Reception entrance gate. This is causing an obstruction and danger to the Reception children coming into school. We have spoken to the PCSO with regard to this issue previously and we would appeal to people to exercise common sense in the interests of the safety of all of the children.

Congratulations Mr Crowther

We would like to offer our warm congratulations to Mr Crowther and his wife, Stacey, upon the birth of their beautiful daughter, Esme Rose. Esme was born on December 19th, an early Christmas gift if ever there was one!

Welcome to Mrs Paxton and Miss Lanagan

I would like to welcome Mrs Paxton and Miss Lanagan, our two new teachers, to the Ox Close family. Both have made an excellent start and are already proving to be great assets to our team.

Deadline for Reception admissions

The deadline for making applications for Reception places in September 2020 is this coming **Wednesday, the 15th January**. As you all know, this is handled by Durham County Council. Applications which are submitted after the deadline have much less chance of being successful in achieving the preferred school, especially in schools that are likely to be oversubscribed such as Ox Close. For example, any applicant who has a sibling link but who is late in submitting won't gain a space if the preferred school is full. This would be a nightmare scenario for parents. It has been a pleasure to show so many prospective new parents around and we wish all well with their applications.

Reading - The Sun Challenge

At Ox Close we aim 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.

Wraparound Care

Bookings for next half term are now open on our online booking system. If you require a log in for this system, then you can collect a form from either the Nursery or School office. Please remember that although doors open at 7.40am on a morning, 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. **Staff cannot be responsible for the children until 7.45am so it would be appreciated if all could adhere to this arrangement. I will be amending the Wraparound care policy in light of this and will send an amendment home soon.**

Class Charts

Anja H was the highest Class Charts point scorer in Reception this week, while our top scorer in 1/2 was Caleb W, in Key Stage 2 Lois G scored highest in 3/4 and Harry D was the top scorer in 5/6.

Attendance

Classes RS and 3/4D had the highest attendance this week with 100%. The overall school attendance this year is 95.1% while this week it has been 98.0%. Three classes were perfectly punctual and 139 minutes were lost due to lateness. The threshold for what is termed as persistent absence has been determined as 90%. **Unfortunately, we are also unable to authorise term time holidays as we have to follow the Government and Durham County protocol. The Durham County protocol explains that penalty notices must be issued 'in instances of unauthorised holidays in term time (where the holiday gives rise to 7 days or more unauthorised absence in any period...)**. The school processes absences and then the County Council pick up on unauthorised absence.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 12 th February	1/2C Class Assembly
Wednesday 12 th February	Valentine's Discos 3:30 – 4:30pm EYFS and KS1 5:00 – 6:30pm KS2
Friday 14 th February	3:15pm School closes for half term
February Half Term	
Children return to school on Monday 24th February at 8:45am	
Thursday 5 th March	AM – Image Musical Theatre
Wednesday 11 th March	5/6S Class Assembly
Wednesday 18 th March	5/6P Class Assembly
Monday 23 rd , Tuesday 24 th and Wednesday 25 th March	Parent Consultation Evenings – more details will follow
Monday 23 rd March	AM – EYFS Mother's Day Activities
Wednesday 25 th March	5/6T Class Assembly
Monday 30 th March	9 – 10:30am EYFS Easter Craft Session
Tuesday 31 st March	9 – 10:30am EYFS Easter Craft Session
Tuesday 31 st March	Y1 – 6 Egg Decorating Day – more details to follow
Wednesday 1 st April	3/4D Class Assembly
Friday 3 rd April	3:15pm – School closes for Easter
Easter Holidays	
Year 6 SATS Easter School – Monday 6th April	
Monday 20 th April	Children back to school

A Bowden

Miss A Bowden
Head of School

D Harrison

Mr D Harrison
Executive Headteacher