

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

January 17th 2020 Volume 17

ITV and Handwriting

On Monday, we had a visit from ITV, who are running a feature on handwriting. This ties in with National Handwriting Day, which is on Thursday 23rd January. ITV interviewed me and some children and filmed us as we practised some handwriting. They will have visited some other schools so it is not certain that our school will be included in the footage which goes out. It is due to be aired on the Tyne Tees News on Thursday 23rd January. Handwriting is something which we do value and practise and we are very proud of the standard of presentation at Ox Close, while acknowledging, of course, that content is more significant than style. Ideally, we aim for great content and great presentation!

Access to School

As I mentioned last week, 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 reported 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. There have been further complaints this week. I appreciate that the vast majority of our parents are considerate and polite and, while we have no direct control over the actions of those who are causing the issue, we would appeal to all to show consideration to all. In addition, I would note that the access to our site is not ideal at all and I have spoken to the County Council with regard to this many times but there are no obvious solutions - underground car parks and road closures are unfortunately not permissible! In order to try and improve the situation, we decided to survey Year 5 and 6 parents on some new home time arrangements.

Y5/6 Home time arrangements Trial

We have decided to trial a new system for the Years 5 and 6 children starting next Monday (20th January 2020). We had an excellent response to the survey which we sent out via text yesterday, with 92% agreeing to this trial. Children in Years 5 and 6 will now leave school at 3:15pm via the Nursery gate. **Morning arrangements remain unchanged.** If you have a child exiting from both of the gates on the main footpath, we would recommend standing on the path between the two gates and letting your children know roughly where you will be stood. The trial is initially up until February half term but the review will be ongoing. We will continue to seek opinions from parents, carers, staff and children throughout and at the end of the trial. If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your continued support.

New Cricket Sessions for Girls

Tudhoe Cricket Club have been in touch to let us know about an exciting new cricket training session for girls. These sessions are on Mondays at Spennymoor Leisure Centre from 5.15-6.15pm. They start on Monday 20th January. The first session is free and after that sessions will cost £2. The sessions will be led by Rebecca Lawrence and her details are available from the school office if you require further information.

5/6L Class Assembly

As we now have an additional class in Y5/6, a date has been set for their assembly. 5/6L's Class Assembly will be Wednesday 4th March at 10:10am.

Wraparound Care

Bookings continue to be 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.**

Class Charts

Thea Z was the highest Class Charts point scorer in Reception this week, while our top scorer in 1/2 was Eva B, in Key Stage 2 Kaiden P scored highest in 3/4 and Morgan B was the top scorer in 5/6.

Attendance

Class 5/6S had the highest attendance this week with 99.5%. The overall school attendance this year is 95.3% while this week it has been 97.4%. Three classes were perfectly punctual and 245 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	
Wednesday 4 th March	New – 5/6L Class Assembly
Thursday 5 th March	AM – Image Musical Theatre
Wednesday 11 th March	5/6S Class Assembly
Wednesday 18 th March	5/6P Class Assembly
Wednesday 18 th March	Mother's Day Lunch – Reception, Y1 and Y2
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
Wednesday 25 th March	Mother's Day Lunch – Siblings and KS2
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