

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

February 28th 2020 Volume 22

Adam Bushnell

Adam Bushnell has been in school this week and the children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with him. Adam is an inspirational figure and children and staff alike look forward to his annual visits. I know that Adam himself loves to work at Ox Close, especially in our fabulous outdoor classroom. The children have produced some terrific work and we will build upon this in future weeks. Ox Close also features prominently in Adam's new book about Greater Depth Writing. School will be receiving some copies of this very soon and Adam has been inundated with requests from teachers in other schools.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. This year we have decided to have a theme of significant authors. Please could we ask that children bring in an old white t shirt (old school or PE top) on Monday 2nd March. Then, at some point during the week, the children will decorate their t-shirts with a link to their significant authors – we will assist the children with materials and their design. Everyone will then wear their T-shirts on World Book Day as part of their uniform. In addition, we also have a visit from a theatre company that day which we are all very excited about. Reading is an essential life skill and something which is and always will be a key priority for us at Ox Close.

Book Fair

Please see Dates for the Diary overleaf to check when your child's class will be visiting the book fair. You are welcome to come along and help them choose a book or you can send money in a named envelope for them to spend themselves.

Parking

I have received a complaint from a resident concerning the parking on the triangle of grass between his property and the school. Unfortunately, this is damaging the edge of the road and causing stress to the residents due to the flooding issues to their property and the grassed area. I do appreciate that school does not have jurisdiction over these matters and that access and parking around the school are far from ideal. I also know that the vast majority of parents do park responsibly and avoid parking in inappropriate or dangerous places and would request that everyone continues to park considerately. This is something which is discussed regularly with the PCSO. Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

5/6L Class Assembly

On Wednesday at 10.10am, Class 5/6L will step into the limelight and perform their class assembly. We wish them well and look forward to seeing parents and carers. Class assemblies are an important part of our annual calendar and offer a great opportunity for children to share learning with parents and for the children to perform, another key life skill. I was discussing this with the Headteacher of another school yesterday and said how our intent and ambition is to nurture confident, articulate pupils and regular opportunities to perform are an important part of that.

Eat Them to Defeat Them

Our school is supporting the Eat Them to Defeat Them campaign to encourage children to eat more vegetables. It is an award winning and proven scheme to make eating vegetables more fun! The campaign has been created by Veg Power in partnership with ITV, Channel 4 and Sky and is well-supported by celebrities and chefs. Miss Lanagan will be working with the School Nutrition Action Group, school cook Karen and Taylor Shaw to implement the campaign across our school. There will be vegetable of the week themes with activities and competitions. To find out more and for great recipes and expert tips please visit <https://eatthemtodefearthem.com>

Parents/Carers Drop-in Session

Miss Bewick will be holding a Drop-in Session on Wednesday 4th March between 5-6pm. This will focus on children's mental health and well-being. This will also be an opportunity to find out about a new supportive programme we are running in school called 'Connecting with Children'. If you cannot attend this session and would like some information about it please contact the school office to arrange a chat with Miss Bewick or Miss Dewey.

Newsletters

Just a reminder, that as well as sending out paper copies, we always save our newsletters online in case you ever lose the newsletter and need to refer to it. You can find newsletters at <http://www.ox-close.durham.sch.uk/parents/school-newsletters/>

Class Charts

Heidi S was the highest Class Charts point scorer in Reception this week, while our top scorer in 1/2 was Joseph W. In Key Stage 2 Tommy H scored highest in 3/4 and Ava G was the top scorer in 5/6.

Attendance

Classes 3/4D and 5/6T had the highest attendance this week with 100%. The overall school attendance this year is 95.8% while this week it has been 98.2%. Three classes were perfectly punctual and 196 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

Monday 2 nd March Book Fair	9.15-9.45am 3/4W 2.00-2.30pm 3/4D 2.30-3.00pm 3/4C
Tuesday 3 rd March Book Fair	9.15-9.45am 1/2C 2.00-2.30pm 1/2P 2.30-3.00pm 1/2R
Wednesday 4 th March Book Fair	9.00-9.30am 5/6L 2.00-3.00pm 5/6P, 5/6S and 5/6T
Wednesday 4 th March	10.10 am 5/6L Class Assembly
Thursday 5 th March	AM – Image Musical Theatre
Wednesday 11 th March	10.10 am 5/6S Class Assembly
Wednesday 18 th March	10.10 am 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	10.10 am 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	10.10 am 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