

# Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



November 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 Volume 12

## School Closed Monday

Please remember we are closed on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November as it is a PD Day.

## Christmas Performance Recording Days

As noted last week, COVID permitting, we will be recording the Christmas Performance over the course of two school days early in December. All children will be involved through the various practices etc. but we will obviously only film those for whom we have permission.

On recording days, we are asking if the children can come to school wearing any colourful Christmas jumper / top / shirt / dress. If not a full dress, then the bottom half should remain black (your school uniform trousers, skirts, shoes will be perfect). Black leggings would be fine too. If you've not got anything with Christmassy patterns, then any red, green, silver, gold or white upper half will still look great! If you happen to have any Christmassy outdoor extras (e.g. hat, gloves, scarf) please bring along too as some filming may take place outside. I would like to stress that we are not expecting people to go out and buy/order new clothes, especially at this difficult time.

**The Christmas Performance Recording Day for Reception, 1/2C, 1/2P and 1/2R will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, while 3/4C, 3/4H, 3/4W, 5/6P, 5/6S and 5/6T will record on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.**

Brendon has worked with us for many years and the children have enjoyed their rehearsals. Fingers crossed that we are able to finalise the project as I think that the end product will be a welcome boost to us all!

## Parent Consultation Evenings

Virtual Parent Consultation evenings seem to have been a great success - I was delighted to hear about how many parents had engaged. We will be sending a survey soon to gather your thoughts on this in order to help us to continue to look to improve.

## Prospective Reception starters for September 2021: Virtual Tour Video

Our initial programme of virtual open meetings for prospective parents is now over and we have had a number of people who have tuned in! We now have a brand-new virtual tour video, which can be seen on our Facebook page. The video captures a day in the life of Ox Close and also features some superb overhead drone footage. Choosing the correct school for your child is vital so if prospective Reception parents have any questions then they can still get in touch with either me or Miss Bowden.

## Wraparound Care

Bookings for after the Christmas break will be live on our online booking system from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 10am. Each club continues to be limited to 15 places in line with our COVID Risk Assessment.

Here is a link to the website in order to book a place for your child: <https://oxclosenursery.schoolcloud.co.uk/>.

If you require a log in for this system, then you can collect a form from either the Nursery or School office

## Christmas Cards

Class post boxes will open on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December – these will be in the entrance to each classroom so that children can post their cards and then sanitise their hands. All cards will be left in the post box until the last day of posting on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. No cards will be accepted after this date. Cards will then be quarantined over the weekend and handed out to children in the final week. Please ensure that your child only brings in cards for **their** class as they will not be able to wander around and post cards in other post boxes like in previous years.

## Allergies and Dietary Requirements in School

We have several children on our medical records who have allergies. Please inform the school immediately if you know your child has an allergy or if they have had an allergic reaction to anything at home. Where children have dietary requirements, they will not be offered any food produce containing this product and wherever possible, an alternative will be provided. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that we do have children in school with nut allergies and therefore it is very important that no foods containing nuts are brought into school.

## Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

This is a national day and one we love to join in with. Children can come to school in their Christmas Jumper or non-school uniform - whichever they prefer. We will **not** be collecting donations this year.

## Christmas Parties

The parties will take place on the following days:

Reception	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Years 1 and 2	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Years 3 and 4	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December
Years 5 and 6	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December

Children can come to school in their party clothes. At lunchtime, Karen and her team will provide the children with a party lunch. If your child does not stay for lunch and you would like to order this one-off menu then please log on to Parent Pay and select the red option for the party. Alternatively, you can phone the school office and book through Mrs Smart and Mrs Ozturk.

### **Team Solan/Ox Close Primary Christmas Jumper Competition**

Thank you for all of the amazing entries for the above competition. We look forward to looking at them closely and announcing the winners!

### **COVID-19**

If you or anyone in your family are displaying COVID-19 symptoms then the following link is useful in order for you to be able to book a test: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Alternatively, you can also call 119. Under these circumstances, please keep us informed. It is also important that if anyone in your household, child or adult, displays symptoms or has a test all within the household self isolates. This means that all siblings who live with a child or adult who is displaying symptoms should not attend school until the end of the self-isolation period or after the affected person has had a negative test. Please check by calling the school office if you are unsure. Thank you.

### **Virtual Classroom**

Our Virtual Classroom continues to be available on our school website. There are some children that, as we go through the term, may need to self-isolate for numerous reasons. To ensure that these children are still learning whilst at home, we will upload planning on a weekly basis. These plans contain suggested activities to complete with your child and links to useful websites. In addition, we are also making arrangements to COVID-proof our curriculum in case of further significant longer-term lockdowns. Mrs Harvey has started recording some Geography lessons and she has completed a Years 3/4 unit and is now tackling 1/2 and 5/6. She will then move onto recording Spring Term Foundation subject lessons so that we are ready for any eventuality after Christmas.

### **Class Charts**

I am delighted to announce our Class Charts winners of the week. In Reception Lacy gathered the most points while our top scorer this week in 1/2 was Jacob B. In Key Stage 2, Joshua W was the top scorer in 3/4, while Harry D scored highest in 5/6.

### **Attendance**

Despite the particular challenges of COVID-19, our attendance has been excellent since the beginning of term. Once again, I would like to thank parents for their support with this and also to pay tribute to the children and the staff. Class 3/4W had the highest attendance this week with 99.6%. The overall school attendance this year is 97.8% while this week it has been 97.6%. 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. The Government have now reinstated fines for unauthorised absences and their expectation is that all children will attend school.

### **Dates for the Diary**

<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>	<b>PD Day – School Closed</b>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	School closes for Christmas holidays
<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>PD Day – School Closed</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Children back to school

*A Bowden*

Miss A Bowden  
Head of School

*D Harrison*

Mr D Harrison  
Executive Headteacher