

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



January 15th 2021 Volume 17

Maintaining Learning

I would like to congratulate children, parents and staff for the way in which they have adapted to the challenges of learning during lockdown. A huge amount of time, effort and planning went into ensuring that we had a comprehensive virtual learning offer and this has evolved over the past 10 months. Our objective has to be to ensure that we manage to make the learning experience as authentic as possible, ensuring that we maintain learning and, at the very least, minimise the amount of lost learning. Problems with WiFi or global issues with Microsoft Teams are beyond our control and learning at home is always going to throw up some challenges. However, I have been so impressed when I have seen the live lessons in full flow, with excellent engagement from the children both in school and at home. From a teacher's point of view, it is not easy to balance classroom and online delivery but the staff are doing an incredible job. I am also grateful to parents for their patience and support in helping us to make the best of the current situation. The overwhelming majority of families are engaging and work is being completed and this is so important as we must do everything within our power to ensure that we are not disadvantaging the children, while keeping everyone safe at the same time. We are all learning and adapting and we will continue to look to improve further, in line with our mantra of 'Be the best that you can be'.

Exercise Books

To assist with home learning, we are making exercise books available for the children and these can be collected on allocated days next week. Miss Bowden has sent an email which includes full details.

Assemblies

Next week, Miss Bowden is going to begin weekly virtual assemblies with the children. The days and times are as follows:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	Thursday at 2pm
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Friday at 9:30am

Your child will just need to log in in the usual way. On the Class Channel, a link will appear just before the assembly that will say 'Click to Join'. Please can you make sure that children enter the assembly muted or it may be rather loud – Miss Bowden will set it up like this and keep muting all as well. The virtual assemblies have worked well in school and I am sure that they will be successful, giving the opportunity to connect wider sections of the school community. I am also thinking of further innovations in this area - watch this space!

Drop off and Pick up

We respectfully ask that only one parent accompanies the children to and collects the children from school. In addition, in the interests of minimising the risk of the spread of the virus, we ask that parents do not arrive early at school and that they leave as soon as they collect the children. While schools do not have jurisdiction over parents off site, the advice from Durham County Council is that parents may choose to wear a face covering or mask if they feel as though it is difficult to maintain social distancing at the school gate. **We do require visitors to the office to wear a mask at this time, just as they would be asked to wear one in a shop or garage.** Thank you for your continued co-operation and for working with us to slow the spread of the virus, something which is especially important at this point in time.

Virtual Classroom

Please remember that all of the planning is here for you to access:

<http://www.ox-close.durham.sch.uk/virtual-classroom/weekly-plans/>

It is updated every Friday afternoon with the planning and resources for the week after. There is an explanation of what task the children have to complete for every lesson.

YouTube Learning Videos: Mrs Harvey

Mrs Harvey has also recorded some more fantastic Geography, History and RE videos for children who are in Years 1 and 2, 3 and 4 and 5 and 6. We asked Mrs Harvey to begin producing these in September and she has done a great job. These short videos are on our YouTube channel. Please check them out, I am sure that they will be useful. Teachers may also use some of them as an aide in their wider curriculum lessons.

Prospective New Starters

Today is the deadline for the parents of prospective new starters for September 2021 to express their school preferences. Our virtual tour video, which can be seen on our Facebook page is still available.

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 if your child has been in school. 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, even if children are eligible to attend, 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.

A Bowden

Miss A Bowden
Head of School

D Harrison

Mr D Harrison
Executive Headteacher