

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



January 22nd 2021 Volume 18

Maintaining Learning

We are constantly monitoring our learning offer and the levels of engagement and the overwhelming majority of children are joining in and completing work. This will make a huge difference for when schools open more widely. Our aim is to maintain learning to the highest possible degree and to offer all children an authentic experience. I am very grateful for all of the positive messages from parents and I do feel that the current situation is giving everyone an insight into what teaching is all about at Ox Close and it is definitely showing how skilled and caring the teachers and Teaching Assistants are. Please do keep encouraging the children to join in and complete and return work - we really appreciate your support.

SeeSaw

We have used the SeeSaw app in Key Stage 1 for a number of years and in recent weeks we have rolled this out across the school. This app allows fantastic interaction between the children, parents and staff and especially for teachers and teaching assistants to provide feedback on work. I have loved looking through and seeing what each class has been getting up to and it is another fantastic way in which we can stay connected and maintain learning. Keep up the good work everyone!

YouTube Learning Videos: Mrs Harvey

Mrs Harvey has 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 and offer the key points covered during the input by the teacher. 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. Please follow the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz-cgNhnaE1qUhwllq-UNCw/playlists>

Assemblies

This week, Miss Bowden has started her programme of virtual assemblies as we continue to strive to connect the Ox Close community and these were a tremendous success. These will continue next week. 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'. Miss Bowden reported that the children were excellent at muting and that this helped the assembly to flow. I have arranged for Rev. Matt Tarling to do some assemblies for us and next week these will be on our YouTube channel on Monday morning. The week after next, Matt will also carry out some live assemblies. I am also hoping to have a whole school competition which we will launch through assemblies before half term. Watch this space!

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.

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.

Controlling the spread of the virus

The Government decision to restrict school access to key workers and vulnerable children only was as part of the effort to control the spread of the virus. As has been the case since the outset, we have a number of measures in place in school to help mitigate against the spread but ultimately COVID-19 is a community virus. In order to help control the spread of the virus, we ask if key worker parents can continue to only send the children into school if it is essential to do so – i.e. there are no safe alternative arrangements at home. Thank you for your continued support with this.

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