

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

March 26th 2021 Volume 26

Eggs Factor: Superhero Takeover

Yesterday was a magical day in school as we held our Eggs Factor finals. The finals were broadcast live on Microsoft Teams and, not only was a great array of talent on show, a good time was had by all. Congratulations go to Harry P, from Reception, who was crowned as champion for 2021!

The arrival of superhero judges made for a very entertaining episode in school. Batman and Robin made their way around school live on the results show and delivered eggs to the top 3 winning entries. The children loved it and Reception could barely get their words out as they were so excited when they were telling me all about it. Well done to all of the entrants and thank you to all of the staff, especially the organiser, Miss Simpson, and the host, our Children's Champion - Emily C! After all that we have endured over the past year, it was fabulous to see the fun and excitement yesterday.

Birthday Parties

This week we have held birthday parties for all of the children who have had them this term. Cakes were enjoyed by all, while special thanks go to the Ox Close Friends as they have funded presents for the children.

Well-being support

The pandemic has brought the issue of Mental Health to the fore and it is great that it is becoming more widely spoken about, with stories in the news every day. There is no doubt that many children and adults across the country will have suffered with anxiety as a result of the pandemic and it is something which we have been keeping a close eye on since September. Miss Bewick, our PSA, has counselling qualifications and is available to speak to, in confidence, if either you or your child need support or advice in this area. She also has a background in working for Families First so has a good knowledge of available support services. I know that she has arranged some support for families already and is very keen to help others.

Miss Bewick would also like me to share her email address with you so that you can contact her directly: r.bewick300@oxclosespennymoor.uk. Please feel free to get in touch with her about this or any other matters which she would normally assist.

Pupil Well-being

This week Emily C, Harry and Paige (Y6 CLT) had a meeting with me and Hannah Dowley from SAS Insurance. We discussed the 'Be a Champion' programme, which will be available for pupils. This well-being programme is organised by former Rugby League star Jamie Peacock. Jamie is running an introductory webinar on Tuesday 30th March at 1.30pm - please register by following this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tUxmeiNCTbq5r-Uk_6czXA

In addition, we are also looking at doing some mindfulness work with some of the older children, as well as some Yoga too!

Parent Consultations

We will be holding virtual parent consultations after Easter. This will be a great opportunity for parents to find out about their child's learning, progress and welfare and to ask questions. We are proud of our partnerships with parents and these partnerships are going to be ever more important when we eventually begin to return to normality. We will be in touch with the details of the virtual parent consultations soon.

Class Charts Points

Over the past 5 days, Matthew B finished as top points scorer in Reception, while Joe B scored highest in 1/2. In 3/4 Lois G gathered the most points while Skye S achieved the same feat in 5/6. Well done to all concerned!

School Meals Ordered on Parent Pay

Meals can now be ordered for 12th April up to 28th May 2021 on Parent Pay. Please order meals in advance if possible.

Collection and Drop Off

We respectfully ask that only one parent/carer 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. **In addition, we would respectfully request that adults do not stand and gather together in groups outside of the school gates as this presents a clear COVID risk. 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 still very important at this point in time as the return of all pupils to school across the country will inevitably see a rise in the infection rate.

End of term

Today marks the end of the most unusual and challenging of terms. The children have worked hard throughout the term, be that in school or at home. It has been an exhausting term from the point of view of the staff and has thrown up many unique challenges. There is no question that the staff have had to work harder than ever and they have been under a lot of pressure due to the COVID situation. Despite the fact that they have been expected to be at work throughout, the vast majority of staff have still not had the vaccine. I would like to thank all of the staff for their skill, dedication and bravery. Our objective was to ensure that the children continued to engage and progress and, ultimately, limit the amount of lost learning. The virtual learning offer, the commitment of the children and the outstanding support of parents has ensured that objective has been met.

Governance

Last week, I mentioned about the role of Governors and this week a Governor newsletter has gone out. Our Governors, including our Parent Governors, do a terrific job of carrying out a very demanding role. Parent Governors are elected for an initial term of 4 years and then can seek re-election. The term of one Parent Governor is about to end, although the Governor is also entitled to stand for re-election. If you are interested, please let us know by Tuesday 13th April at midday and then we can arrange for you to have an initial interview with me (Mr Harrison) and Mrs Sneath, Chair of Governors, who will explain the full commitments needed for our regular meetings, committees, the training we would like you to undertake and the process which is involved in the election. Thank you.

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.

In addition, if there is a positive Lateral Flow Test result, the procedure is to self-isolate and to book a COVID test in the same manner as previously. Full details are given in the link above.

If this occurs over this weekend, please inform school immediately by emailing oxcloseprimary@durhamlearning.net

Thank you.

A Bowden

Miss A Bowden
Head of School

D Harrison

Mr D Harrison
Executive Headteacher