

# Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

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## **Welcome Aboard: New Intake Meetings**

This week we held virtual meetings for the children who are starting Reception in September 2021. It was fantastic to meet the children and the parents. Thank you to Mrs Bowman, Mrs Paxton and Miss Bowden for joining the call. Transition arrangements are in place and we look forward to the children joining us in the new academic year.

## **Superb Learning**

This week Miss Bowden and I have been busy observing learning and looking at some of the amazing work which has been produced by the children. It is important to ensure that we have the very best possible provision in place and it has been excellent to have the opportunity, while carefully following COVID restrictions! We have seen a great variety of learning activities and have noticed the superb attitudes to learning, brilliant behaviour and a fabulous variety of subjects, showing that we are offering a full curriculum diet. The level of challenge has also been evident and all children and adults are trying to be the best that they can be. We are also delighted to see how much progress the children have made across the year despite the extreme inconvenience of lockdown. Well done to all of the children and adults!

## **Nursery**

Oxclose Nursery, which has provided such a good offer for so many years, has some spaces available for the new academic year. This limited numbers of spaces are available to children who are 3 at the start of the new term in September. If you know of anyone who is interested then please advise them to get in touch with the Nursery on 01388 814970 or to call in and see Nicola in the Nursery reception as soon as possible.

## **Pride Month Non-Uniform Day**

It's one of our favourite times of the Ox Close year at the moment, we are busy celebrating Pride Month through different activities and challenges linked to the 6 colours of the Pride Flag. The work that has been produced so far for the Red and Orange weeks, and uploaded on to the children's SeeSaw accounts, has been lovely and will be displayed in some of our local NHS centres on their Wellbeing Walls. We would like to invite you to continue our Pride theme into the last whole school non-uniform day on **Friday 9th July**. We would like you to "Wear a Rainbow". This can be interpreted in any way you like - simply wearing your favourite colour in the Pride Flag, wearing ALL of the colours at once, wearing something with a rainbow on it - be as creative as you like! We will have a special prize for the most colourful class! We want to fill the school with colour - something that will brighten all of our days!

## **COVID-19**

Unfortunately, there has been a recent upsurge in COVID cases and many Durham schools have been affected. 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.

## Class Charts

This week's top scorers are:

R - Isla B

1/2 - Anna G

3/4 - Freya W

5/6 - Danya E

## Smarties Challenge

Thank you to everyone for taking part in the challenge. The winners of the prize draw for two £10 Smyths Toy Superstore vouchers will be announced next week.

## Attendance

Classes 1/2C and 5/6T had the highest attendance this week with 100%. The overall school attendance this year is 97.4% while this week it has been 96.7%. 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

Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	1/2R Beach School Workshop
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	1/2P Beach School Workshop
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	3:15pm – Break up for Summer holidays
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Children back to school

*A Bowden*

Miss A Bowden  
Head of School

*D Harrison*

Mr D Harrison  
Executive Headteacher