

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

July 2nd 2021 Volume 37

End of Year Reports

I have been busy adding my comments to the end of year reports to parents this week and it has been fantastic to read about all of the successes which the children have had this year. The fact that, despite the inconvenience caused by the pandemic, we will have more children working at and beyond age related expectations at the end of the year than at the beginning is fantastic. This year, more than ever before, the progress made by the children has been down to a huge team effort between the children, staff and parents. I would also like to thank staff in advance for the time which they have taken in completing the reports, which also show how we have maintained a balance in our curriculum. This has also been verified when I have looked at work with Miss Bowden and talked to children too.

Class Organisation

This week Miss Bowden and I have finalised our teaching recruitment for the next academic year. We are fortunate enough to have the funding to recruit an extra teacher for the next year. Year 6 is an especially crucial year as it is the year that children prepare to move to secondary school and, ordinarily, complete end of Key Stage assessments. In order to help those children, who have the least amount of time left with us, we will have 2 smaller Year 6 classes and 2 smaller Year 5 classes. We are delighted to announce that Miss Day is joining us and she will work in Year 5 alongside Mrs Harvey. Congratulations to Miss Day. Mrs Payne and Mrs Shepherd will teach the Year 6 children. Miss Bowden is finalising class lists for next year and full details of your child's class and teacher will be included with their end of year report, which goes out next Friday (9th July).

RB	Mrs Bowman
RP	Mrs Paxton
1/2C	Mr Crowther
1/2P	Mrs Phillips
1/2R	Miss Robson
3/4C	Mrs Cox
3/4T	Miss Todd
3/4W	Mrs Woods
5D	Miss Day
5H	Mrs Harvey
6P	Mrs Payne
6S	Mrs Shepherd

COVID-19

Unfortunately, there has been a recent upsurge in COVID cases and many Durham schools have been affected over the past week and cases numbers are rocketing. As you are aware this morning we had notification of a positive case in 5/6T. It seems clear that the Delta variant is going to cause further disruption across the summer months, which is extremely disappointing and frustrating. At this point, we must continue to take all sensible precautions, no matter how annoying this is. 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.

Birthday Celebrations at Ox Close

We understand that birthdays are usually a time for lots of celebration and would like to offer the children an opportunity to celebrate their birthday, with their friends, in school. As in previous terms, each class is going to have a 'Birthday Day' before the end of term. The children will take part in some fun activities, play traditional party games and enjoy a cupcake with their friends. Each child whose birthday is from 1st April 2021 – 31st August 2021 will also receive a small gift. Huge thank you to Ox Close Friends for supplying us with the funding for the cupcakes and the gifts.

This term, the celebration for each class will be on the following day:

RB – Mrs Bowman	Thursday 8 th July
RP – Mrs Paxton	Thursday 8 th July
1/2C – Mr Crowther	Friday 9 th July
1/2R – Miss Robson	Thursday 15 th July
1/2P – Mrs Phillips	Monday 12 th July
3/4C – Mrs Cox	Friday 16 th July
3/4H – Mrs Harvey	Monday 12 th July
3/4W – Mrs Woods	Friday 16 th July
5/6P – Mrs Payne	Thursday 8 th July
5/6T – Miss Todd	Tuesday 13 th July
5/6S – Mrs Shepherd	Thursday 8 th July

Congratulations to Miss Dewey

Following on from last week's news on appointments, I would also like to congratulate Miss Dewey, who will be covering Miss Hunter's Higher Level Teaching Assistant maternity cover in Reception. Miss Dewey is another very talented and committed member of our outstanding support staff and this is a great opportunity for her.

Class Charts

Congratulations to our top scorers this week, who are:

R – Megan L
1/2 – Rosie K
3/4 – Oliver Y
5/6 – Ethan S

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!

Attendance

Class RB had the highest attendance this week with 98.4%. The overall school attendance this year is 97.3% while this week it has been 96.3%. 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

Friday 16 th July	3:15pm – Break up for Summer holidays
Thursday 2 nd September	Children back to school

A Bowden

Miss A Bowden
Head of School

D Harrison

Mr D Harrison
Executive Headteacher