

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

September 3rd 2021 Volume 1

Welcome Back

I would like to start this week's newsletter by welcoming everyone back to school after the summer break. We are always delighted to see the children and it was lovely to see them all yesterday. Miss Bowden and I visited all classrooms. For many, the return to regular routine is welcomed and much needed. Although I am sure that this year will have its challenges, both COVID and other, we are all hoping that this school year is another very successful one. We will do our best to keep ahead of the game and manage what is still a very tricky situation. As ever, the staff have been working hard to prepare and will be looking to ensure that every child has the opportunity to be the very best that they can be.

Welcome Reception

Yesterday, Mrs Bowman's Reception class had their first day in school, while today it was the turn of Mrs Paxton's Reception children. The first day at school is a momentous occasion for the children and for families too and it has been fabulous to welcome the new starters to school. Our Reception team do a terrific job at making the children feel welcomed and safe, which is so important. Well done to all of the Reception children on your first day and good luck next week and for the year ahead.

School Organisation, Risk Assessments and Outbreak Contingency

Last year was exceptionally successful despite the constant spectre of COVID and the disruption which it brought to school and to families. Children across the school made exceptional academic progress. While the guidance has changed over the summer, we need to manage the situation very carefully in order to try and ensure the very least disruption to the learning of the children. Before we broke up for summer, many schools were decimated by the number of cases and many children were self-isolating, which we all know is very frustrating. We are naturally keen to avoid a situation where we have COVID outbreaks which then lead to children and staff being poorly and learning being disrupted. Miss Bowden and I have planned very carefully, have consulted with the Health and Safety team, and we have maintained measures such as separate phase breaks and lunches, have staggered starts (although times in between have been greatly reduced), we will still have one way systems in school and, while we monitor case numbers as the children return to school, we are continuing with our arrangements with parents being asked to contact school by telephone in the first instance. These measures won't in themselves stop what is a community transmitted virus but they will help us to control the controllables and limit risk as best we can and we will review progress at the end of September. We also have the capacity to move to remote learning for individuals or groups should it be necessary so all contingencies are in place. Ox Close parents really helped us to make last year a success and I am sure that they will continue to do so this year. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Bikes and Scooters- Key Stage 2 Trial

A number of parents have been asking about children bringing bikes and scooters to school. From Monday, we are happy for children in Key Stage 2 to bring their bikes and scooters to school as a trial, with Key Stage 1 and Reception to follow later. This is as the Key Stage 2 children come into school and leave via the main gates and access is easiest for them. The bikes and scooters should be stored in one of the bike shelters by the children. We are looking at a plan for Reception and Key Stage 1 children and we will keep you informed of this.

School Uniform Bank

This year at Ox Close, we are going to be offering the use of a Uniform Bank. We would like to ask parents and carers, if they have any outgrown items of Ox Close uniform in wardrobes at home which still have plenty of life left, to donate these to the school uniform bank. We plan to have the following sections; EYFS and KS1 Boys and Girls, KS2 Boys and Girls and PE uniform.

If you feel you would like to access our school uniform bank, please make contact with the school office in the first instance. If you would like to make a small donation for any uniform used, this would of course be voluntary. We will then collate any monetary donations and give to a different local charity each term. If you have any questions or queries, please contact the school office.

Birthday Celebrations at Ox Close

Celebrating birthdays with a party every term was a great addition to our calendar last year and one that we want to continue. At each party, the children will take part in some fun activities, play traditional party games, enjoy a cupcake with their friends and the children who have a birthday during that term will receive a small gift. Please note that we are still asking for cakes **not** to be brought into school. However, children can now bring in small individually sealed bags of sweets to hand out if they wish.

Parent Support

Miss Bewick, our Parent Support Advisor, is available to offer support. She can be contacted via the school office or on 07584072973 and can also be emailed: r.bewick300@oxclosespennymoor.uk.

COVID-19

New guidance was introduced by the Government during the summer break. If your child presents any COVID symptoms then please keep them at home and take them for a PCR test. Similarly, if parents test positive then they must take the children for a PCR test and they should only return to school when a negative result is confirmed. As ever, please keep the school office informed. Collectively, we have done a fantastic job in helping to limit the spread of this community virus and we must continue to do so now that schools have returned as a rise in the number of local and national cases is inevitable. It is crucial to manage this well and to avoid a situation where many children are absent from school due to COVID illness, which would be even worse than children missing school during to self-isolation.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th September	Y6 Bikeability – 6S (AM) and 6P (PM)
Monday 27 th – Thursday 30 th September	Y5 Bikeability – 5D (AM) and 5H (PM)
Monday 11 th , Tuesday 12 th and Wednesday 13 th October	Parent Consultation Evenings
11 th – 12 th October	Y1/2 – Captain Chemistry
Tuesday 19 th October	Phototronics
Friday 22 nd October	3:15pm School closes for half term
October Half Term	
Monday 1 st November	Children back to school
Tuesday 2 nd November	PM - M and M Production – Jack and the Beanstalk
WC 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week – One Kind Word
Wednesday 17 th November	Flu Immunisation - EYFS to Year 6
Monday 29 th November	School Closed – PD Day
Friday 17 th December	3:15pm – School closes for Christmas holidays
Christmas Holidays	
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	School Closed – PD Day
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Children return to school

A Bowden

Miss A Bowden
Head of School

D Harrison

Mr D Harrison
Executive Headteacher