

# Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

September 17th 2021 Volume 3

## Start and End of the Day Arrangements

There has been a little confusion with the start and end times this week so here is a reminder of the information that has previously been sent out via letter and email:

	Start Time	Finish Time
Reception	9:00am via Reception Gate	3:00pm via the Reception Gate
Years 1 and 2	8:45am via Reception Gate	3:05pm via the Main Gate
Years 3 and 4	8:45am via the Main Gate	3:10pm via the Main Gate
Years 5 and 6	9:00am via the Main Gate	3:15pm via the Main Gate

Siblings that are in different year groups are asked to arrive together at the later time where possible. All children will come out with their own class at the end of the day. Please can we ask that you do not arrive earlier than 5 minutes before your start time – this will ensure that there are no crowds and that all children can enter school safely. Please also make sure that you do not crowd around the gate and fence so that teachers are able to clearly see all adults. This was an issue prior to COVID when all children were leaving at similar times through the main gate but should not really be an issue now. We really appreciate your support with this as we keep everybody safe.

## North East Primary Research Group

This week I organised a conference for the Headteachers of the schools in the North East Primary Research Group project. Our aim is to bring about ongoing improvements across all of the schools and, as leader of the group, it is fabulous to be able to bring Ox Close into partnership with other strong schools from across the region. We are looking at how children think and learn and also at provision in Music, as well as developing leadership. It will bring benefits to children and staff alike as we continue to seek to be the best that we can be.

## Fabulous Reception

Our Reception are continuing to make a brilliant start to their school lives and our new Teaching Assistant, Miss Rowlands, is loving being part of the team. Keep up the great work Reception!

## Bikeability

It has been great to see our Year 6 children taking part in Bikeability this week - it seems like ages since we had the team in school. They have been learning important life skills and also having fun and keeping fit. Well done to all concerned!

## 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 due to self-isolation.

## Great North Run

Last weekend saw the return of the Great North Run, albeit it with a different and, I must say, more challenging course. It is an incredible event and I always feel a great sense of pride that the Great North Run is on our home turf and is part of our local culture. The real story is the amazing amount of money which is raised for charities every year and it is always quite poignant to see the causes which have inspired people to run in the event. I would like to congratulate Miss Thompson, Miss Todd and Mrs Cox

who all ran for the Stephen Thompson Foundation. They all did amazingly and we are proud of their efforts. For me personally, I decided on the Thursday beforehand to run as I have had an injury but I am pleased that I did as I was able to raise some money for the Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF), which is based at the Freeman Hospital. The last 6 kilometres were really challenging, and especially hilly, but all who finished the race will have felt a sense of satisfaction. Over the 40 years of the race, £1.3 billion has been raised for charity, which is an astonishing figure.

### Class Charts – Top Point Scorers

<b>Reception</b>	Arthur M	<b>Year Four</b>	Eva B
<b>Year One</b>	Skylar J	<b>Year Five</b>	Joshua E
<b>Year Two</b>	Coby W	<b>Year Six</b>	Katie-Mae S
<b>Year Three</b>	Daileigh M		

### 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](mailto:r.bewick300@oxclosespennymoor.uk).

### Attendance

Class 1/2P had the highest attendance this week with 98%. The overall school attendance this year is 96.4% while this week it has been 95.4%. 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

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

*A Bowden*

Miss A Bowden  
Head of School

*D Harrison*

Mr D Harrison  
Executive Headteacher