

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



September 24th 2021 Volume 4

Head for Change/Team Solan Charity Football Match

On Sunday, there is a unique Football match taking place at the Brewery Field, the home of our very own Spennymoor Town FC. Kicking off at 3pm, the game will feature teams representing Team Solan and Head for Change, a charity which was set up by Judith Gates. I met Judith in the summer and she told me her story, how the charity came about and what they were hoping to achieve. Judith's husband Bill, a former Middlesbrough centre back, is suffering from a degenerative disease and is one of many ex players of his vintage who are suffering from dementia. The evidence strongly suggests that this is as a result of heading the ball repeatedly. Unfortunately, the issue is also presenting with ex Rugby players and American Footballers, where aggressive close contact is part of the game. Judith is hoping to raise awareness and to help prevent future generations from suffering in the same way. Her organisation does not seek to ban heading, merely to introduce some restrictions to protect people. At 3pm on Sunday, the game will be the first ever in the world to take place without any heading. It will be an experiment and an interesting one at that but the publicity around the game will hopefully make a real difference. The funds raised from the fixture will go towards funding vital research and that research is really about helping the footballers of the future, as well as stalwarts of the past. If you do manage to attend, I hope that you enjoy the game!

Parent Queries: Telephone in the first instance please

Since COVID first struck, we have asked parents to help to lower the risk of spreading the virus by making any queries via telephone in the first instance. We would like to appeal to everyone to carry on with this procedure. We are entering the autumn and winter period and we are determined to do whatever we can to protect the children and staff and hopefully ensure that there is the minimum amount of disruption to learning this academic year. Office staff play a vital role in the functioning of the school and it is crucial that we all help to protect them too. Thank you for your understanding.

Bikeability

Last week Year 6 had their chance to take part in Bikeability and next week Year 5 pupils will have their opportunity. Have fun Year 5!

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 a household member tests positive then it is advised that the whole family takes a PCR test and children 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. We are mitigating against risk by limiting the number of adults on site, having virtual parents evenings and performances etc.

Start and End of the Day Arrangements

	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

Class Charts – Top Point Scorers

Reception	Robyn B	Year Four	Freya W
Year One	Lacy G and Tom D	Year Five	Zara B
Year Two	Amber O	Year Six	Danielle B
Year Three	Tyler D		

Nut Allergies

Could you please ensure that no food containing nuts are included in packed lunches as we have children in school with nut allergies. Thank you for your co-operation.

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.

Attendance

Class 3/4W had the highest attendance this week with 99.6%. The overall school attendance this year is 96.4% while this week it has been 96.4%. 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 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