

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



October 1st 2021 Volume 5

TAKE 10 at 10!

The National Literacy Trust have launched an event to encourage EVERYONE to take 10 minutes for themselves at 10am to stop and read for pleasure. As a school, we have decided to run this event on Thursday 7th October. The aim of the event is to ignite a love of reading coupled with raising awareness of the importance of taking time to do something for pleasure. This is a free event. Children will be invited to bring a book they love into school and all staff will join them to read for fun in a relaxing atmosphere for 10 minutes. If you can, why not take 10 at 10 yourself too?

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.

Miss Smith: Sweet Rose Ice Cream Parlour

Earlier this week I bumped into Miss Smith, who was Oxclose Nursery Headteacher for many successful years. It was lovely to see her and to hear that her business, Sweet Rose Ice Cream Parlour, which is based in Spennymoor, is doing well. This gives me great pleasure, firstly as I am delighted for Miss Smith and secondly as I am a big fan of ice cream! Seriously, I have sampled the delights of the ice cream and thoroughly recommend a visit if you are ever in need of a delicious sweet treat or something to do with the children on a weekend. I also have ordered cakes from there for Nursery staff in the past. If you pop in there, for ice cream or cake, I am sure that Miss Smith would love to say hello.

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. 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.

New Dinner Menu for November 2021 to February 2022

The new menus have gone out this week and you can now book meals on Parent Pay up to February 2022. If you are unable to book meals yourself, please return the meal choices form to school as soon as possible so that we can make bookings in advance for you. Thank you.

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

School Uniform Bank

We have been inundated with generous donations of uniform for all ages. Anyone is welcome to come and access the Uniform Bank via the school office or asking staff on the gate at drop-off and pick-up times.

Class Charts – Top Point Scorers

Reception	Ferne G	Year Four	Joshua W
Year One	Oliver C	Year Five	Holly C
Year Two	Heidi S	Year Six	Caitlin E, Katie-Mae S and Georgia C
Year Three	Rubymae G		

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

Classes 5D and 6S had the highest attendance this week with 100%. The overall school attendance this year is 96.5% while this week it has been 96.8%. 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 11th, Tuesday 12 th and Wednesday 13 th October	Parent Consultation Evenings (Virtual)
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