

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



October 8th 2021 Volume 6



World Mental Health Day - Sunday 10th October

World Mental Health Day falls on a weekend this year, so we would like to invite children to wear something green with non-uniform on Monday 11th October (or something brightly coloured if you have nothing green). We are working very hard at school this year to promote positive mental health in our children. To support this at home, you might like to take part in some of the activities suggested on the BBC website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/teach/childrens-mental-health-week/zk37bdm>.

Parent Consultations

Next week we are holding our autumn parent consultation evenings. We are holding them at this point following feedback from parents. Now that we are over 5 weeks into the new term, teachers will be able to give comment upon how the children are learning, as well as how they have settled in. These consultations are virtual and we are trying our new system for the first time. The 10 minute deadline on the call will hopefully ensure that things run completely on time, something which would be a first for all school parents evenings! I hope that you find the consultation to be a useful experience.

Nursery Appeal

In late 2018, we federated with Oxclose Nursery and, now that COVID guidance allows, I am spending a considerable amount of time in there. Yesterday, I was looking at various learning activities and noticed the use of cake tins to develop subitising in Maths. Nursery would like to appeal for cake tins/Yorkshire pudding tins which would help develop subitising of numbers other than 6 or 12. If you have any which you don't use, please could you donate to Nursery? They would also like any dried goods such as seeds, oats and cornflour for their sensory area. Any donations would be very gratefully received at the Nursery office.

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. There has been a significant rise in cases in the community and we have been liaising with Durham Public Health. While we cannot control the virus outside of school, we have all possible appropriate measures in place within school.

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.

New Dinner Menu for November 2021 to February 2022

Please start booking meals in advance on Parent Pay for after the half-term holiday 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 for you. Thank you.

Class Charts – Top Point Scorers

Reception	Bobby B	Year Four	Danny C
Year One	Isabella W and Scarlett M	Year Five	Leo H
Year Two	Amelia D and Alaia H	Year Six	Lucy V
Year Three	Caleb W		

Healthy snacks

Could you please ensure that snacks within packed lunches are healthy ones? We have a duty to promote healthy choices and lifestyles and now, even in Nursery, we have to promote education about looking after teeth etc. Thank you.

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 3/4T and 3/4W had the highest attendance this week with 100%. The overall school attendance this year is 96.1% while this week it has been 94.2%. 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