

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



October 15th 2021 Volume 7

This week in school

It has been another busy week in school – the children continue to work very hard and it is great to see them progress. We also have a number of children self-isolating at home – a huge well done to you for continuing to work hard. On Monday we celebrated World Mental Day – raising awareness around the importance of mental health and emotional well-being is very important to us at Ox Close. Virtual Parent Consultations have also been held this week. I know that there was a little blip to the system initially but once that was solved they seem to have been a great success – we had a record number of parents attend this term!

Great Staff Team

It has been a very successful start to the year. The children and staff are working so hard and the dedication shown by all concerned is paying off. We are fortunate to have staff who are so committed to achieving the very best possible outcomes for our wonderful children. Parent Consultations are always a key landmark and we appreciate the time and effort which the staff make, both in terms of the evenings themselves but, more importantly, throughout the year. Keep up the good work everyone!

School Photos - Tuesday 19th October

Due to the restrictions we currently have in place (due to the prevalence of COVID in the area), we will be taking individual photos and school sibling groups only. Please can all children come to school in full uniform this day – even if it is normally your PE day.

Ssh...Christmas is Coming! Non-Uniform – Friday 22nd October

Yes, it is only October, but there are plans afoot in school involving the C-word. And for once, that's not COVID! Without giving too much away, we are thinking ahead to some of the lovely activities we will be able to offer this year and to support us in this, we are inviting the children to come in non-uniform on Friday 22nd October, with a small donation made to the school. A further letter has been sent out by Mrs Shepherd today with more information in it.

M and M Productions – Jack and the Beanstalk

All children in school will watch a streamed version of this pantomime on the afternoon of Tuesday 2nd November. I am sure that the children will all enjoy the performance.

KS1 Pickup

Please could we remind parents that pick-up time for Year 1 and Year 2 children is 3:05pm. Children are being reminded that they must walk down the path once they have seen their adult, rather than climbing over or under the fence. We appreciate your support with this. We would also ask that once children have been collected, they do not come back up the path to wait for their siblings to ensure that there is no confusion about which children have been collected! Thank you.

Halloween – Monday 1st November

On Monday 1st November, the children are invited to come to school in Halloween themed clothing - this could be dressing up, orange/black/green clothing or just non-school uniform. We are not asking that you go out and purchase anything new – please use what you already have. In school, we will then complete Halloween activities in classrooms. We are not asking for donations for this event.

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 on a regular basis over

the last couple of weeks. While we cannot control the virus outside of school, we have all possible appropriate measures in place within school, something which we review and check with Durham Public Health and Health and Safety regularly.

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

Thank you to those parents who have already booked meals for their children in advance. If you haven't booked yours on Parent Pay yet, could you please do so as soon as possible so that our cook knows how much food to order for after the half-term holiday. 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	Emily F	Year Four	Joshua W and Thomas A
Year One	Harry P	Year Five	Holly C
Year Two	Joe B	Year Six	Sam W
Year Three	Sonny K		

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.

Head Lice

As we have had reports of head lice in school, we would ask that parents check and comb their child's hair regularly and purchase treatments if appropriate. If anyone would need any further advice then please contact Miss Bewick, our School PSA, and we can ask the School Nursing Team to contact you.

Dates for the Diary

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