

# Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 Volume 8

## **Well done Miss Day and Miss Rowlands**

I would like to congratulate Miss Day and Miss Rowlands upon completing their first half term in school. Miss Day has made a superb impression with her Year 5 children and parents too - her enthusiasm is a pleasure to see. Miss Rowlands has also settled superbly into life at Ox Close and is proving to be a very able Teaching Assistant. It has been a draining half term, very busy but also within the backdrop of COVID. I am sure that they will both enjoy their week and all of the staff certainly deserve a well-earned rest ahead of what will be a very hectic half term leading up to Christmas.

## **Welcome Miss Shaw**

I am delighted to welcome Miss Shaw to our Reception team as our latest Teaching Assistant. She has really enjoyed working with this fantastic group of children this week. It is also fantastic to see her settling in under the expert guidance of the Reception staff and forming a bond with our other new member of staff within the team, Miss Rowlands. Both were enthusiastic participants in Mr Football's somewhat lively session on Wednesday afternoon!

## **Fire Drill**

We held a fire drill on Wednesday, our first whole school one for some time due to COVID. I must praise the children for how sensibly they approached this process and I would like especially to praise Reception, who were taking part in their first drill, and Year 6, who were incredible role models.

## **Reception 2022-23**

Although we have just welcomed our new Reception intake, the process for parents to apply for Reception places in September 2022 has started. We hosted one after school event for prospective parents recently, an event which was held in small groups. There are further visits to follow, with our next event being on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. We always publicise these events through our Facebook page. Please do share this information with anyone who may be interested in sending their child to us in Reception. Making this choice is vital and so I would encourage all to look carefully at the choices. From our school's perspective, we are able to offer many strengths and there are exciting times ahead.

## **Nursery - January Starters**

I will be attending an open evening for prospective parents of January starters at Oxclose Nursery which will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021. Times will be available between 4pm and 5.30pm. If your child qualifies and you would like to visit, please book a slot by ringing 01388 814970 or by emailing [n1021.admin@durhamlearning.net](mailto:n1021.admin@durhamlearning.net). Please spread the word!

## **School Photos**

On Tuesday we hosted Phototronics as they took photographs of the children. I know that this is something which is popular with both immediate and extended families. It was great to see this work very efficiently and I would like to thank the staff involved for helping to make it happen, despite COVID.

## **Non-Uniform**

Today we have had a non-uniform day to raise funds for our Christmas activities, which Mrs Shepherd has organised. I am delighted that we have plans in place for the festive season as it is a special time of year in school. Due to the rising number of cases nationally and locally, it would not be sensible to have hundreds of parents in school as we usually love to do. Please rest assured that we are very keen to ensure that the children have a memorable time.

## **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.

## **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. It is crucial to manage the situation 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.

### Class Charts - This Week:

#### Class Charts – Top Point Scorers

Reception	Arya B	Year Four	Denver E
Year One	Daisy B and Isla B	Year Five	Joshua E
Year Two	Nancy T	Year Six	Lucy VDM
Year Three	Caleb W		

#### Class Charts- Overall Half term

Reception	Sophie S	Year Four	Joshua W
Year One	Scarlett M	Year Five	Holly C
Year Two	Joe B	Year Six	Katie-Mae S and Lucy V
Year Three	Caleb W		

Well done to all of the above winners from this week but also over the half term!

### 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 done so already, please book meals on Parent Pay by Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### 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).

### Happy Half Term

Thank you to all of the children, staff and parents for making this half term a huge success, despite the ongoing challenges which are being presented by COVID. Have a fabulous half term!

### Dates for the Diary

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