

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

November 12th 2021 Volume 10

Congratulations Mrs Harvey

Mrs Harvey has been successful in applying for a new role as Assistant Head in another school in Co. Durham. We are sure that you will join us in congratulating Mrs Harvey and wish her the best of luck in her new adventure, something which represents a promotion for her. While she will be a big loss, we are delighted for Mrs Harvey on a personal and professional level. Mrs Harvey has served Ox Close well and has been with us for 10 and a half years after joining us as a newly qualified teacher. We are lucky to have had the benefit of her skill and care over such a period and this role is a fantastic opportunity for her. Our priority over the next couple of weeks is to recruit an outstanding teacher who can take over Mrs Harvey's class and that process is already well under way. We will inform parents when we have an appointment confirmed and will do our best to ensure that the transition is smooth.

Children in Need – Friday 19th November

To celebrate Children in Need, we would like to invite the children to come to school in non-uniform with a theme of spots and stripes. This year, rather than asking for cash donations, we are asking for donations of food to help our local food bank in Spennymoor. Examples of food that can be donated include cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk and fruit juice.

Farewell Miss Grundy

Miss Grundy leaves her role as Nursery secretary today and all within the Federation wish her well for the future. Mrs Smart, and Mrs Ozturk are now taking over most aspects of Miss Grundy's role and, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, will operate mainly from the school office. Miss Bewick, who has extended her hours, will be in Nursery all day Tuesday and each morning Wednesday to Friday. If the Nursery office is unmanned, there will be a sign on the door and enquiries will be directed to the school office. From the end of November, the Nursery number will be the same as the school one, something which will be useful as we increasingly work together towards the eventual amalgamation of School and Nursery in 2024.

Wraparound Care

We are busy reviewing all aspects of the School and Nursery and always like to gather the views of the children and the parents. I have been consulting with the children and parents of those who do currently attend this week - a survey link was sent out by Miss Grundy earlier this week. The service is a very important one, especially for working parents. Currently, the service is available daily from 7.45am in the morning and from 3.15pm to 5.30pm on an evening. Mrs Ozturk has now taken over the administration of the Wraparound and is more than happy to answer any queries that you might have. I am also keen to consult with parents and children who do not currently use the service to see what, if anything, would persuade them to use the service. Allison, Marjorie and Susan do a great job and this is reflected in feedback from the parents and children. As we move to amalgamation and the potential new building, Wraparound Care will have to be of the highest quality.

SeeSaw

Earlier in the week, a letter was sent out with updates on how to update this system if you have more than one child in school. We are really pleased at how many families have already signed up to view the accounts and we look forward to continuing to share your child's learning with you. If you have misplaced the code, please ask your child's class teacher for a new one.

Reception 2022-23

Our next open event for the parents of prospective Reception children for 2022-23 takes place this Monday (November 15th) at 5pm. Applications across the county are lower than normal at present, perhaps as an after effect of lower Nursery numbers which resulted from COVID and a lower birth rate, so I would encourage interested parties to apply for a space as soon as possible. The lower birth rate may mean that the chances of accessing a place are higher than normal this year. It is always a pleasure to speak to parents and to discuss what we can offer here at Ox Close. There are exciting

times ahead. Please spread the word to anyone who you know who is eligible and advise them to call the school on 01388 814860 should they have any queries.

Anti-Bullying Week - Week Commencing Monday 15th November 2021

As mentioned last week, the theme of this year's anti-bullying week is **One Kind Word**. We will be thinking about the importance of spreading kindness to help others, particularly those who might feel alone or isolated. All staff and children are invited to wear odd socks on **Monday 15th November** to raise awareness and celebrate differences. No donation is required to take part. We can't wait to see your odd socks. For more information about anti-bullying week, please visit <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

Platinum Jubilee Celebration - Additional Day

Schools have been requested to have an additional closure day to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We have decided to take ours on Friday 27th May 2022. We wanted to give as much notice as possible and so thought that we would let you know now.

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. This was mentioned in the communication which came through to school last week from the Director of Public Health, which Miss Bowden shared with you.** 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 – Top Point Scorers

Reception	Nate D	Year Four	Lily-May H
Year One	Sonny B	Year Five	Holly C
Year Two	Erin Y	Year Six	Lily G, Katie-Mae S, Lucy V and Danielle B
Year Three	Ella B		

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.

Dates for the Diary

WC 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week – One Kind Word
Wednesday 17 th November	Flu Immunisation - EYFS to Year 6
Friday 19 th November	Children in Need (see above information)
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
Friday 27 th May 2022	School Closed - Platinum Jubilee Celebration

A Bowden

Miss A Bowden
Head of School

D Harrison

Mr D Harrison
Executive Headteacher