

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

November 19th 2021 Volume 11

Superb Learning

Miss Bowden has been exceptionally busy this week and has been monitoring the quality of teaching and learning across the school. I know that she has been so impressed by what she has seen and we have both been telling visitors how proud we are of the wonderful children at Ox Close. The quality of teaching and learning has been of such a high standard, both in lesson observations and work scrutinies. As ever, the children have been so enthusiastic about their learning. Well done to all concerned!

Mrs Harvey replacement

Last week, we brought news of Mrs Harvey's promotion to the position of Assistant Head at another Durham school. This week, we have been recruiting a new teacher, who will take over in January. It has been a thorough process and I am delighted that we have managed to find a good replacement. 5H were involved in part of the process yesterday as candidates taught a lesson and it was clear that they are a lovely class, with so many amazing and talented children. The appointment is subject to the usual checks and procedures, which are now well underway. We will let you know the name of the successful candidate when these checks are complete.

Children in Need

Today we have celebrated Children in Need and the children came to school in non-uniform with a theme of spots and stripes. This year, rather than asking for cash donations, we asked for donations of food to help our local food bank in Spennymoor. We were absolutely overwhelmed with the amount of donations and the volunteers at the food bank were very grateful. THANK YOU!

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. This week I have been consulting with the children and parents of those who currently attend – also a survey link was sent out by Miss Grundy last 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.

Advent: Wraparound Care

Mrs Cool has been helping out with the Wraparound Care on Tuesday and Thursday over the past 2 weeks and she is also helping the children to come up with some advent picture ideas. Our aim is to create scenes which will be displayed around the local area in house windows. We will then create a puzzle sheet, where the children from across the school can sketch the appropriate picture for each advent day. All entries will then be entered into a prize draw. Watch this space!

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.

Reception 2022-23

On Monday, we had our latest event for the parents of prospective Reception starters for September 2022. 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. Good luck everyone!

Anti-Bullying Week

This week we have held an anti-bullying week and the theme has been One **Kind Word**. On Monday, the children and staff attended wearing odd socks. For more information about anti-bullying week, please visit <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

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	Freddie L	Year Four	Adam O
Year One	Frankie W	Year Five	Olivia P
Year Two	Martha G	Year Six	Danielle B
Year Three	Amelia L		

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

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