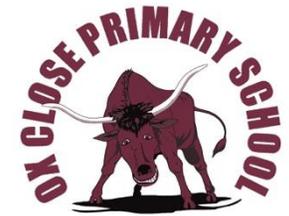


Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

November 26th 2021 Volume 12

Telephones: Wednesday 1st December

Next week, we are having some work done to upgrade our telephone system, linking the existing School and Nursery phone lines. This will allow calls for Nursery to go directly to the school office and for school office staff to transfer calls to Nursery. Originally, this work was due to be done on Monday, when there are no children in school. Unfortunately, due to the availability of engineers, the work is now due to be done on Wednesday (1st December). This means that for that day the phone lines will be down. **On Wednesday, if you need to contact school, please call 07898473569 or email us** as the internet should not be affected and we will keep a close eye on emails. I am going to speak to the parties involved again today and we will then confirm the contact arrangements for Wednesday on that morning via the School and Nursery websites and Facebook pages, while we will also send a text. Thank you for your understanding and I do apologise for the inconvenience, which is beyond our control.

Ox Close Friends

Ox Close Friends have been a tremendous support to the school during my time at the school. They raise funds which pay for many superb experiences, as well as treats at various times of the year and hoodies for the Y6 Leavers. In addition, they have paid for play time equipment and even sound systems and trips. The Friends urgently need new parents to come on board and there is a danger that the organisation will fold if Amy, the Chairperson, is unable to recruit others to assist. Amy has produced a leaflet which will go out with the newsletter tonight. Please help if you can!

Parent Surveys

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep improving our provision at Ox Close, I asked Miss Bowden to send our Parent Survey out this week. We both look at the findings and act upon them and we are grateful for all responses. The responses are overwhelmingly positive and also high in number, while there are some well-made points by parents which will be taken into consideration. I am also delighted that several parents have praised Miss Bowden for her excellent work and this is extremely well merited. When we have closed the survey, we will share more specifics about the findings with you.

Advent: Wraparound Care

As mentioned last week, we are looking for people who live close to the school and who are willing to display our Advent pictures in their windows. A letter will go home with a reply slip which can be returned by anyone who is interested! Thank you for your support!

Christmas Parties

Christmas is rapidly approaching and it is always an exciting time for children in school. The dates of our Christmas Parties are as follows:

Monday 13 th December	Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 14 th December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 16 th December	Years 5 and 6

Children can come to school in party clothes and kitchen staff will be preparing a special Christmas Buffet for the children. If your child normally has a packed lunch and you would like to order them a school lunch on their party day then please let the office know.

Class Charts – Top Point Scorers

Reception	Penelope T	Year Four	Chael F
Year One	Tommy D	Year Five	Ava C
Year Two	Rosie H and Poppie P	Year Six	Caitlin E
Year Three	Joseph H and Jacob B		

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.

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. 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. We have amended the policy and contact forms and these are being sent to all of those who have booked this term. We kindly request that these are signed and returned so that our records can be kept up to date.

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.

Training Day

As you know, Monday is a training day and so school will be closed. We hope that families have a pleasant long weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 29 th November	School Closed – PD Day
Monday 13 th December	Christmas Party Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 14 th December	Christmas Party Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 16 th December	Christmas Party Years 5 and 6
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