

# Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

November 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 Volume 9

## Welcome Back

It has been a very busy week as we have welcomed the children back to school following half term. This is another important term learning wise and I have seen the children working very hard this week. Next week, Miss Bowden will be looking at work samples and visiting lessons and the welfare of the children and quality of education are always our priority. However, it has also been fantastic to see the children having fun with Halloween costumes and the pantomime, while tonight is also Bonfire Night! Please take care and stay safe this weekend, while having a good time!

## Reception 2022-23

As mentioned on the last newsletter, 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. Applications across the county are lower than normal at present, perhaps as an after effect of lower Nursery numbers which resulted from COVID, so I would encourage interested parties to apply for a space as soon as possible. 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

This year, the theme of 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>

## Online Safety – Acceptable Use Policies

Teaching and promoting children to stay safe online is an integral part of our curriculum at Ox Close. As part of this, it is important that the children understand how best to use the internet. We have updated our Acceptable Use Policies and they have been sent out with this newsletter. We would be grateful if you could spend a few minutes going through this document with your child and return the contract part signed by yourself and your child next week. Thank you for your support with this.

## Extra Layers

As part of our Covid management plan, we are required to keep the school well ventilated by opening windows. This means that it is a little chilly in school at times. You may wish to consider adding an extra layer of clothing underneath your child's uniform.

## Nursery - January Starters

I attended an open evening for prospective parents of January starters at Oxclose Nursery on Wednesday and it was fantastic to meet parents and, especially, the children. At this stage, spaces are still available for January and we would welcome applications.

Please email [n1021.admin@durhamlearning.net](mailto:n1021.admin@durhamlearning.net) for further details.

## M and M Productions – Jack and the Beanstalk

The children loved the production of Jack and the Beanstalk, which was delivered virtually. We have had to learn to adapt during COVID and I am delighted that we could go ahead with the experience.

## Halloween – Monday 1st November

It was a colourful start to the half term as the children came in to school in their Halloween costumes - a great effort was made by all.

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022. I wanted to give as much notice as possible and so thought that I would let you know now.

### ‘Additional Measures’

Earlier this week, all Durham Schools were sent advice from Public Health and this recommended ‘additional measures’. This has caused much consternation amongst Headteachers. As noted in Miss Bowden’s letter, we have had all of these measures in place throughout the year and so thankfully there will be no change to procedures at Ox Close.

### 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 earlier this 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	Ava R and Addelynn Y	Year Four	Freya W
Year One	Harry P	Year Five	Lucy G
Year Two	Nancy T	Year Six	Caitlin E
Year Three	Jack J and Katie S		

Well done to all of the above winners from this week!

### 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).

### Dates for the Diary

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
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	School Closed - Platinum Jubilee Celebration

*A Bowden*

Miss A Bowden  
Head of School

*D Harrison*

Mr D Harrison  
Executive Headteacher