

# Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 Volume 13

## Christmas Celebrations

As we rapidly approach the end of what has been a very busy half term, we at Ox Close are looking forward to all of the Christmas celebrations that we have planned over the next two weeks. Our Year 6 children are excited to let you know that this year, they will be hosting a Christmas fayre in our very own 'Winter Wonderland'. Out in our Community Garden classroom, there will be goodies available for the children to enjoy and buy, as they each visit with their class at some point in the final week of term. Further details about timings and spending money will be sent out at the end of next week. It promises to be a very special treat for the pupils...it is *most definitely* beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

## Braveheart Awards: Congratulations Jude

Last Friday, the Braveheart Awards took place. These awards saw 21 of the most incredible children from the region attend an online ceremony, where their bravery in battling illness or adversity from an early age was acknowledged. He is an absolute inspiration to not only fellow pupils but to all of the adults in school too. Well done Jude!

## Thank you for from the Food Bank

This week, we received a special letter from the volunteers at Spennymoor Food Bank thanking all of Ox Close for their generous donations. In the letter they wrote, "It is heart warming to know that local people are willing to donate food to give a helping hand to a family going through a difficult time. Your generosity will make someone's Christmas so much brighter." Well done Team Ox Close!

## Advent: Wraparound Care

This week, our Wraparound Care advent windows have started appearing around the local area. Yesterday, we sent the puzzle sheets home, upon which the children will produce their sketches of each window. The designs look fantastic and I would like to thank the children and staff for producing these. Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in displaying one of the scenes. It is an exciting project and I hope that everyone has fun while completing it.

## Poppy Appeal

We raised an incredible £608 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you for your fantastic support of this most worthy cause.

## Telephones

Unfortunately, the planned telephone works on Wednesday were cancelled and this was very frustrating. This was due to the availability of engineers. We have our mobile phone ready and so when the engineers are available we will inform you.

## Parent Surveys

Thank you for your contributions to the parent surveys. When we have closed the survey, we will share more specifics about the findings with you.

## Christmas Parties

The dates of our Christmas Parties are as follows:

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> 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	Brooklyn B	Year Four	Scarlett W
Year One	Lacy G	Year Five	Charley S
Year Two	Amelia D	Year Six	Danielle B
Year Three	Tyler D		

## 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 this week from the Director of Public Health, which we have shared with you today.** 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.** Durham Public Health are recommending that all schools review the measures which they have in place in light of the emergence of the Omicron variant. We have had all of these suggested measures in place at Ox Close for some time but we continue to be as vigilant as possible.

### 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

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Birthday Party – Reception
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Birthday Party – 1/2R and 1/2P
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Birthday Party – 3/4C, 5D, 5H, 6P
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Birthday Party – 1/2C, 3/4T, 3/4W and 6S
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Years 5 and 6
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day 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