

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



December 10th 2021 Volume 14

Governor Mark

On Monday, The Ox Close Federation Governing Body were awarded with the prestigious Governor Mark which only a small number of schools across the country hold and we are led to believe that we are the only school in County Durham to hold the award. Huge congratulations to Mrs Sneath, who has been the Chair of Governors at Ox Close for many years, and the whole Governing Body for this excellent achievement. This award recognises their commitment to ensuring that they hold school leaders to account in order to ensure that outcomes for the pupils at Ox Close are the best that they can possibly be. There was a rigorous assessment process which took place in November which many Governors took the time to contribute to. Governance is an essential part of the leadership and management of the school and although they are volunteers, the expectations of Governors are now considerable and it is especially impressive that our Governing Body has achieved this award. Over the coming weeks, we will be looking to fill 2 parent vacancies – more information will be shared in the Governor Newsletter next week. Well done to all!



Winter Wonderland

By now you will have received a letter detailing our exciting Winter Wonderland experience that we have lined up for the children in our final week of term. All students will be visiting the grotto with their classes and will have the opportunity to buy 2-3 items from our stalls. We ask that the children bring no more than £4 in change on their designated day in a named purse or envelope. Reception and Key Stage 1 will be visiting on Monday (13th), and Key Stage 2 will do the same on Tuesday (14th). It promises to be a lovely Christmas treat for our children, I'm sure there will be plenty of photos to follow next week!

Christmas Songs

The children have all been busy rehearsing class Christmas songs which will be shared with you all next week via the SeeSaw Family App. They all sound fabulous and will be very excited for you to watch all together at home I am sure. If you have not got access to the SeeSaw Family app, please let your child's class teacher know so that we can send the login details home.

Computer Science Education Week

This week in school, we have been celebrating Computer Science Education Week. We started the week with a special assembly, where we learned about all of the amazing jobs and industries that rely on Computer Science. Technology is such an integral part of modern society, so it is important to inspire the next generation of Computer Scientists. To celebrate, all children at Ox Close participated in the 'Hour of Code' to try and learn some new computer science skills, and become part of a global event involving millions of people! We saw some excellent problem solving in action, and it was amazing to see so many children posting extra activities on Seesaw that they had completed at home.

Birthday Parties

This week we have held birthday parties in each class to celebrate Autumn Term birthdays. The children all looked wonderful in their party clothes and had lots of fun playing party games and eating cake! We look forward to continuing this new Ox Close tradition in the Spring and Summer Terms.

Advent: Wraparound Care

Last week, our Wraparound Care advent windows started appearing around the local area and it has been great to see this continue this week as well. 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.

Christmas Jumper Day

Our Christmas Jumper Day is taking place on Friday 17th December. Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper and bring a suggested donation of £1 for the Save the Children Charity. They do not need to wear school uniform. We would just like to stress that there is no pressure at all for donations - it is only suggested. The children can still all enjoy the event together.

Christmas Parties

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	Leo E	Year Four	Erin C
Year One	Shaun S	Year Five	Leo H
Year Two	Naava A	Year Six	Daniel V
Year Three	Caleb W		

COVID-19

As you are aware, the Government is moving on to Plan B over the coming days as a response to the new Omicron variant. Please continue to be vigilant for symptoms. 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. In addition, if anyone is positive and the Omicron variant is detected then there are different rules for isolation – please follow NHS Test and trace guidance for this as they will contact you directly.

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 parent evenings and performances etc. 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.

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 13 th December	Christmas Parties Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 14 th December	Christmas Parties Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 16 th December	Christmas Parties Years 5 and 6
Friday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day 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