

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

December 17th 2021 Volume 15

Merry Christmas

This week has seen a number of Christmas themed events in school and it has been lovely to see the children enjoying themselves. Although, due to COVID, we have not been able to host our traditional Christmas shows, the Winter Wonderland and class songs have provided festive cheer, while today's Christmas Jumper Day has provided a nice backdrop to our final day of the term. I would like to wish all of the children, staff and families a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Winter Wonderland

This week brings to a close our Winter Wonderland experience and what a week it has been! As is characteristic of Team Ox Close, this has been a huge group effort to bring together, from the donations of wrapping paper and decorations, to making many, many items to sell, to helping our youngest students through the grotto to make their purchases. It has been so lovely to see the children return with their items, full of smiles and excited to show us all what they have bought, bringing so much joy against an ever-changing backdrop of uncertainty. Mrs Shepherd would like to thank OCF for their special donations of treats for the pupils and all of the staff for helping with the organisation of the event. With an incredible £900 raised for school funds, we truly hope that this might become an annual tradition here at Ox Close. Well done everyone upon a magnificent effort which will benefit the children of the school! Special thanks must go to Mrs Shepherd who has done a marvellous job in organising this landmark event.

Christmas Songs

It has been fabulous to see and hear the Christmas songs which each class has produced this week. See Saw is a fabulous app and allows us to share learning and experiences with parents. Mis Bowden commented upon how many positive comments there have been from parents. Well done to everyone!

Thank You Helen

Unfortunately, due to increased work commitments, Dr Helen Collingwood is no longer able to continue as a parent governor. Helen has been an extremely dedicated Governor and has fulfilled her role with great skill and commitment. We are very grateful for all of Helen's hard work as a Governor over the past 5 years and wish her every future success. As mentioned on the Governor newsletter, please get in touch if you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor.

Children's Leadership Team and Children's Champion

Today, we were able to announce the results of our recent pupil elections! We believe in the children having an active voice and our Children's Leadership Team play a very important part in the life of the school. Our Children's Leadership Team members for this year will be as follows:

1/2P - Joe B

1/2R - Lily R

1/2C - Rosie K

3/4W - Freya W

3/4T - Noah B

3/4C - Adam O

5D - Charley S

5H - Jude G

6S - Esmay J

6P - Kacie P

Children's Champion

I am delighted to announce that Olivia R of 6S has been elected as Children's Champion for 2021-2022. Congratulations Olivia - I look forward to working with you.

Class Charts – Weekly Top Point Scorers

Reception	Jack M	Year Four	Alice H
Year One	Lacy G	Year Five	Jessica C
Year Two	Willow B	Year Six	Laila D
Year Three	Andrew F		

Class Charts- Half Term Top Scorers

Reception	Oliver S	Year Four	Joseph C
Year One	Harry P	Year Five	Holly C
Year Two	Rosie K	Year Six	Danielle B
Year Three	Caleb W		

Well done to all concerned both this week and across the half term!

COVID-19

As you are aware, the Government is moving on to Plan B 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. We have contingency plans in place in case there is another lockdown although we hope that we do not need to carry them out! Whatever happens, we will do our utmost to protect the learning of the children.

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.

Best Wishes for 2022!

This is the final newsletter of 2021, a year which has been very challenging for all but which has been successful at Ox Close. Miss Bowden and I would like to thank all of the staff and to wish you all the best for 2022!

Dates for the Diary

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