

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

January 7th 2022 Volume 16

Happy New Year

It has been wonderful to see the children and staff this week as we have commenced another calendar year. 2022 promises to be a very interesting year for Ox Close and for the world in general! I hope that you managed to have a lovely family Christmas, although I am aware that many have suffered from COVID over the festive period. Best wishes to you all for 2022 from me and Miss Bowden and I hope that it is a good one for you all! In terms of the Federation, we have lots of plans and we will also hear about the planning for our potential new build this year.

Ox Close Needs You!

In this particularly interesting year, are you interested in helping to shape the future of our amazing school and Nursery. It is an especially exciting time and a vacancy has arisen for a Parent Governor to join our dedicated team of Governors. Recently, the Governing Body became the first in the county to receive the coveted Governor Mark award and support and induction will be given to the new Governor. If you are keen then please get in touch with the school office by the end of next week in the first instance to register your interest. We would love to hear from you!

Reception Places 2022-23

The Durham County deadline for applying for Reception places for the academic year 2022-23 is fast approaching. We understand that there is a lower birth rate this year across Durham, something which may mean that more applicants will successfully apply for their first choice school this year. There has never been a better time to join the school and, if you are interested in applying and have not done so yet, or know someone else who has these circumstances, then please do get in touch next week. We are always happy to share information about the school and to talk to interested parties. **The deadline for applications is Saturday 15th January. Thank you!**

Earrings and Nails

Just a reminder that earrings should not be worn on PE days. If they have just been pierced, then please send your child to school with plasters to cover them. Children must be able to do this themselves. In addition, we have noticed some children have acrylic nails on that are very long – please can these be removed over the weekend. Thank you for your continued support.

Class Charts – Weekly Top Point Scorers

Reception	Oliver B	Year Four	Joseph C
Year One	Ethan D	Year Five	Joshua E
Year Two	Alaia H	Year Six	Lucy V
Year Three	Lewis B		

COVID-19

As you are aware, the Government has made recent changes to their guidance but are continuing with Plan B as a response to the spread of the Omicron variant. Please continue to be vigilant for symptoms. If your child presents any COVID symptoms then please keep them at home and ensure that they take a lateral flow test in the first instance and, where appropriate, arrange a PCR test. Similarly, if a household member tests positive then it is advised that the whole family takes lateral flow tests. 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 a need to close any bubbles 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.

Extra Layers

As part of our COVID risk assessment, we must ensure that the school is well ventilated with windows in classrooms and communal areas open at all times. The weather is rather cold at the moment so we recommend that the children wear extra layers under their clothes to ensure that they are warm in class. We are also recommending the same to staff!

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

Wednesday 26 th January 2022	Year 1- Virtual Vision Screening
Friday 18 th February 2022	School closes for half term
Monday 28 th February 2022	School re-opens after half term
Monday 21 st , Tuesday 22 nd and Wednesday 23 rd March	Parent Consultation Evenings (provisionally virtual)
Friday 8 th April 2022	School closes for Easter holiday
Monday 25 th April 2022	School re-opens after Easter holiday
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