

# Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 Volume 17

## COVID Cases

As you are aware from the letter sent earlier in the week, we have an increasing number of cases in school. We know that the guidance is changing regularly so here is a summary of the key information:

- If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk). If positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. You may choose to test your child on LFTs on day 6 and 7, if they are negative on both days then the isolation period can be ended.
- We advise that parents test children regularly using lateral flows. Daily LFT testing for 7 days for is also recommended for primary pupils aged 5 years and older who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. The testing of primary age pupils is at parental discretion. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive.
- If your child has a positive test result on a lateral flow but does not have symptoms they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. As mentioned above, it is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFT tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFT test should not be taken before the sixth day.

As ever, please keep us informed – you can text the school, email or phone the school office. 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.

## Reception Places 2022-23- Deadline to apply TOMORROW!!

The Durham County deadline for applying for Reception places for the academic year 2022-23 is tomorrow! 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 ensure that you make your application. Good luck to all concerned!

## Parent Governor Vacancy

Thank you to those of you who have expressed an interest in becoming our new Parent Governor. I am planning on discussing this with the Chair of Governors next Thursday so there is still time for people who are interested and who haven't got in touch yet. If you would like to be considered, please get in touch via the school office by Thursday.

## Eligibility for Free School Meals

The COVID crisis has resulted in many more families qualifying for Free School Meals. Nationally 420,000 extra children are now in receipt, while 21% of children are in receipt across the country. 75% of families who are in receipt of Free School Meals, have someone who works in their household.

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you think you might qualify, please supply the school office with the Surname, Date of Birth and National Insurance Number of the eligible parent and the names of all children. We will carry out a check via Durham County Council's online system for you.

### **Children's Champion and the Children's Leadership Team (CLT)**

I am delighted that we have elected our Children's Champion and Children's Leadership Team for this year. I have spoken to some of the CLT and I know that they are excited to get started. It is crucial that we take account of the views of the children. I had a brief conversation with Olivia, our Children's Champion, and look forward to hearing more of her ideas soon.

### **Volleyball**

Mrs Payne, our PE leader, has ordered some volleyball nets. It has been fantastic to see the children beginning to enjoy using these this week.

### **Class Charts – Weekly Top Point Scorers**

<b>Reception</b>	Heidi C	<b>Year Four</b>	Bethan H and Jake H
<b>Year One</b>	Peter S	<b>Year Five</b>	Ellen D
<b>Year Two</b>	Amber O	<b>Year Six</b>	Katie-Mae S and Caitlin E
<b>Year Three</b>	Frankie M		

### **Advent Challenge**

Huge well done to everyone who submitted entries to our Christmas window challenge – it was lovely to see all of the drawings and we hope that you all enjoyed spotting the designs in windows around the town. We are very pleased to announce that the winner was Emily in 1/2R – Emily was presented with her prize during our virtual assembly today.

### **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**

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