

Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

January 28th 2022 Volume 19

COVID Cases

As you are aware, there has been a rise in COVID case numbers locally recently and this has affected the number of cases that we have in school. Throughout the pandemic, we have liaised with Durham Public Health and followed guidance. It is vital that we continue to work together to minimise the spread of the virus in these challenging times.

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 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 5 days, following 2 negative LFT tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFT should not be taken until day 5 and children can return to school on day 6 if they are negative on day 5 and day 6.

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

Amazing Behaviour

I have always been very proud of the children here at Ox Close. The past couple of years have not been the easiest for anyone but Ox Close pupils continue to provide a ray of light for all. Recently, for obvious reasons, we have had slightly more supply staff in school than we would have under normal circumstances. Several of these supply staff have commented about how amazing the behaviour is at Ox Close and how happy and pleasant the children are compared to what they encounter typically elsewhere. This is lovely to hear. Well done to all of the children.

Great Team

Another thing which makes me very proud is the team work at Ox Close. We often see the true nature of a team when circumstances are challenging and staff are going above and beyond to try to do their very best to help. For example, several of our part time staff have come into work on days when they would not normally work, while others continue to help out in Nursery. This is not always the case in some other schools and organisations. Thank you to all concerned.

Welcome Miss French

This week Miss French has finally been able to take up her position as class teacher. I know how much that both Miss French and the children were looking forward to this. It has been great to see her with the class and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome her to Ox Close once again.

ELSAs at Ox Close

We are really lucky at school to have Mrs Walker and Miss Simpson who have accessed the county's ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) training to be our in-house support assistants. Across the year, they will be running sessions with children individually or in small groups to help children develop in their ability to cope with various feelings such as stress, loss or bereavement and anxiety. Children will work with them to achieve self-set targets and improve their emotional well-being. We are extremely lucky to have two such support assistants at school and look forward to hearing about their work as the year progresses.

Class Charts – Weekly Top Point Scorers

Reception	Anna W	Year Four	Oscar W
Year One	Joseph R	Year Five	Ryan F
Year Two	Elliott L	Year Six	Heidi H
Year Three	Amelia L		

School-Led Tutoring

Along with all schools, we have received an allocation of funding to carry out their School-Led Tutoring programme. This programme is aimed at helping children from across the country to accelerate progress, due to national concerns over 'lost learning' due to COVID. The funding is a relatively low amount but it will allow us to carry out some extra small group interventions with a small number of pupils over the coming months.

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.

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

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