



Ox Close Federation Newsletter

Friday 21st October 2022 - Volume 7

Thank you and Goodbye Mrs Ward

Today is Mrs Ward's last day at Oxclose Nursery after an amazing 48 years of loyal service. Mrs Ward has been an incredible servant and an ever present through the decades, providing a start to many a learning journey. I am sure that Mrs Ward will enjoy her retirement and we wish her every future happiness.

Colour Run

What a spectacular event we had across the Federation last week. It was great to be able to hold another event where we could invite people from home to join us – huge thank you to those who were able to. The weather might have caused us a few teething problems but that did not stop the fun and the smiles on the children's faces were priceless – that is the most important thing. Sponsorship has been coming in this week and we would be grateful if any further could be sent in on Monday 31st October. We will release the total once we have counted it all up!

Halloween – Monday 31st October

On Monday 31st October, all of the children are invited to come to school in Halloween themed clothing - this could be dressing up, orange/black/green clothing or just non-school uniform. We are not asking that you go out and purchase anything new – please use what you already have. We are not asking for donations for this event.

Dare we mention ... Christmas

We have been busy finalising our dates and we are so pleased to announce that we will be restarting productions for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. Further information will be sent nearer the time but here are the key dates to add to your diaries:

Wednesday 7 th December	10am and 5pm – Reception Performance
Wednesday 7 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 8 th December	10am and 5pm - Year 3/4 Performance
Tuesday 13 th December	10am and 5pm - Year 1/2 Performance
Wednesday 14 th December	10am and 2pm - Nursery Performance
Thursday 15 th December	10am and 5pm - Year 5/6 Performance
Friday 16 th December	KS2 Christmas Party Day
Monday 19 th December	Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas Party

What has been happening in Nursery?

The children at Nursery have exceeded all expectations of the settling in process - we have huge smiles and excited children every morning. We have been so busy already with our topic of Marvellous Me - thinking about ourselves and what our bodies can do. In the 2s room, they made special All About Me books of special photos which they share regularly with their friends. We've had some changes made to our Nursery environment - the children are ever so sensible and know that the new changes and rules are there to keep them safe - our number one priority! Recently we have been reading the story of Goldilocks and the 3 Bears and thinking about how the different characters might be feeling and how we could make them feel better. This week, we have introduced lots of Halloween activities and enjoyed our Spooky Storytelling session today.

What has been happening in Reception?

In Reception, we have been learning about signs of Autumn. The children have enjoyed collecting, counting and playing with conkers and sycamore keys. We have begun to learn about the Hindu celebration of Diwali and thinking about how it compares to Christmas celebrations. The outdoor water and mud kitchen continue to be very popular – the children make potions, cakes, hot chocolate and other goodies - using words such as gooey, splodgy, squelchy and dribbly. Well done to all of the Reception children for an excellent first half term at Ox Close.

What has been happening in Years 1 and 2?

Year 1/2 have been working hard this half term. We have been investigating shadows in Science and have been making shadow puppets to tell a well-known story. We have been learning about how Christians celebrate Harvest and we've been listening to some Bible stories in RE. We have continued to practise our ball skills, both dribbling with our feet and catching with our hands. Y1/2 you have worked so hard this half term and we are very proud of you all – keep up the hard work!

What has been happening in Years 3 and 4?

In Year 3/4 we have been writing our own version of the fairy tale 'Cinderella' and this moved on to us writing our own newspaper report about Cinderella's wedding. In Maths, we have been learning how to use column addition with regrouping and subtraction with exchanging. This is something we found a little tricky at first however, we have kept going and not given up! During our Science lessons, we have become expert scientists in rocks, soils, and fossils. We have even made our own fossils. In RE, we have been learning about Hinduism and what Hindus believe in. We have learnt all about the origins and importance of Diwali. During our History lessons, we have finished the topic of Ancient Egyptian's. We have learnt about how important Ancient Civilisation was and how it compares to other Ancient Civilisations. In PE, we have mastered our teamwork skills by learning to work one on one and cooperatively within a team, showing respect for our teammates, opposition, and referee. The children were given opportunities to select and apply tactics to outwit the opposition. During our Art lessons, children have been creating gestural drawing with charcoal. They learnt different drawing techniques and actions which can be done using charcoal. Finally, in French, children have been learning numbers, months, days of the week and classroom instructions. Excellent work so far Y3/4 - it has been a super busy half term!

What has been happening in Years 5 and 6?

What a great first half term we have had in Y5/6. In Science, Year 5 have been learning about friction including air and water resistance and have enjoyed conducting investigations to further develop their understanding. Year 6 have enjoyed learning more about the heart and the way it functions. We were very lucky to have the opportunity to dissect a heart with Mrs Cox and we were able to identify different parts of the heart. In PE, we have worked hard to master the skills required to play handball. We have held mini tournaments within our classes and some of us have even challenged teams from other classes. In Art, we have continued to look at typography and different ways of presenting text. Not only have we been working hard in English this half term, we have also developed our French speaking and listening skills, including telling the time and using our French language to talk about our daily routines. Great work Y5/6 – keep it up next half term!

Parking

We have had some concerns raised by local residents about inconsiderate parking, with some people parking on a grass verge which is then leading to problems with the road and gardens. We fully realise how busy Ox Close Crescent becomes but we would appreciate it if people could be considerate when parking.

School Culture

We have been focusing upon all aspects of school recently. I have been impressed with the way in which the children have been conducting themselves in the dining hall, going to and from assembly and while moving around the building. Ox Close children really stand out as being good citizens and we will continue to look to improve and to follow the mantra of 'Be the best you can be'.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance for the current school year currently stands at 93.7%, while the national average attendance is 94.5%. Reception have had the best attendance so far this year.

Punctuality is also really important and this week over 5 hours of learning have been lost with lateness. However, once again we had 3 classes that were perfectly punctual, with every child being on time every day. Thank you to everyone for your support!

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Year 1	Brooklyn B	Year 4	Rubymae G
Year 2	Scarlett M	Year 5	Denver E
Year 3	Lily R	Year 6	Ava C

Open Events

WILL YOUR CHILD BE DUE TO START NURSERY IN 2023?



OPEN EVENT

SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2022
10:00AM - 11:30AM

We would like to invite families to join us at our open event. It will be a chance for the children and adults to look around our Nursery and take part in lots of fun activities.

Refreshments will also be available in the School Hall.

There will also be staff on hand to answer any questions.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Team Ox Close.



PARENTAL PARTNERSHIPS
SUPPORTIVE ETHOS
WELCOMING STAFF
EXCELLENT BEHAVIOUR
HOLISTIC PROVISION
COMMUNITY LINKS

Ox Close Nursery
Ox Close Crescent
Spennymoor
DL16 6RU
Telephone:
01388814860

Further information can also be found on our website and Facebook page.

DOES YOUR CHILD START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2023?



OPEN EVENT

SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2022
10:00AM - 11:30AM

We would like to invite families to join us at our open event. It will be a chance for the children to look around our Reception classroom and take part in lots of fun activities.

Refreshments will also be available.

There will also be staff on hand to answer any questions and provide tours of the school.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Team Ox Close.



Dedicated to Excellence

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HOLISTIC PROVISION
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Dates for the Diary

Friday 21 st October	Break up for the Half Term Break
Monday 31 st October	Children return following Half Term Break Halloween Fancy Dress
Tuesday 1 st November	PM - M and M Production – Jack and the Beanstalk (School)
Wednesday 9 th November	Flu Immunisation - Reception to Year 6
Monday 21 st November	Phototronics (Nursery)
Wednesday 7 th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 7 th December	10am and 5pm – Reception Performance
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Friday 16 th December	KS2 Christmas Party Day
Monday 19 th December	Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 20 th December	Break up for the Christmas Holidays
2023	
Wednesday 4 th January	Closed – PD Day
Thursday 5 th January	Children return following Christmas Holidays

D Harrison
A Bowden
J Phillips

Mr Harrison - Executive Headteacher
Miss Bowden - Deputy Executive Headteacher
Mrs Phillips - Assistant Executive Headteacher