



Ox Close Federation Newsletter

Friday 11th November 2022 - Volume 9

Children in Need – Friday 18th November

This year, the BBC are holding a SPOTacular event for the Children in Need cause. We would like to invite children to come to Nursery and School wearing as many spots as they can. This could be something as simple as spotty socks or as “spotacular” as you like!

Last year, we asked you to donate an item to the local food bank - this was so successful that we would like to do this again this year. We ask that you send in an item of non-perishable food (e.g. dried rice or cereal) or item of self-care (e.g. toothpaste or feminine hygiene products) on Friday morning - we will then collate the donations and take them to a local food bank. Thank you in advance for your support.



Remembrance

Today we marked Remembrance Day, as we do each and every year. It is important that we remember the efforts of those who have given service and their lives to protect us. As ever, Mrs Shepherd organised our commemoration and the children observed their minute of silence at 11am. We also placed 2poppy wreaths at the War Memorial in the town, one from school and the other one from Nursery. Well done to all concerned!

Open Events Success

Last Saturday morning, we held open events for the school and the Nursery and these were fantastic successes. It was so enjoyable to meet the parents and children and I know that Miss Bowden felt the same too. We will hold further events like this as we were delighted with the turn out. At this point, only 60% of prospective Reception parents have completed their applications. There is plenty of time to talk to us and to apply and with the recent fall in birth rate more parents have a great chance to successfully apply for a place. We are really excited by the future of the school and I feel very passionate about what we will offer to children and families in the new build. Thank you to all of the families who attended and also to the amazing staff who gave up some of their weekend to support the event.

Springmoor Grange

As noted last week, in September 2024 we are scheduled to be moving to our brand-new state of the art school and Nursery, which is on a new site. The school will be known as Springmoor Grange, a decision that was taken by Governors. It is an exciting prospect and there is much hard work ahead of us. There will be a new uniform and a logo. I will be holding an assembly in a couple of weeks and launching a competition for the children, the task being to design the new logo for Springmoor Grange. It would be a fabulous honour to design this and see it come to fruition. The children can start getting their thinking caps on and I look forward to seeing how this unfolds.

Springmoor Grange Uniform

When we have our logo, we will be able to move onto our uniform. We are fully aware of the financial pressures which face everyone and so we will make the new uniform available from September 2023 as we transition to our new building. There will also be a uniform bank by the time that we move to the new building. In addition, parents will be able to buy unbranded sweatshirts and polo shirts from supermarkets which are in the same colours of the new uniform We met with Durham County Council and the project is still on schedule, with work due to begin in March 2023.

Springmoor Grange Plans

We look forward to sharing the plans for the new building with existing parents. I was delighted to have the opportunity to do this at our Open Day for prospective parents and there was a real buzz around the hall. The school will be incredible and will really benefit the community. I am excited by the provision that we will be able to offer right across the day and in holidays. We will let you know when we have organised our events for parents to see the plans.

Little Wandle

This week, we have been looking at the quality of provision across the Federation and it is heartening to see the children being so well taught, cared for and challenged. One key focus has been Little Wandle, our new systematic synthetic phonics scheme. This week, Reception parents attended a session where Mrs Phillips showed them Little Wandle and how it works. We will offer a similar arrangement for the children in Years 1 and 2 in the spring term.

Nursery

I am delighted to see how far Nursery has progressed since September and Mrs Phillips and the team are working so hard to provide the very best possible offer to the children. Many much-needed changes have been put in place this year and we are now beginning to see the benefit of these. Lots of improvements have been made to the environment and this is especially the case outside, where we have a new fence which allows us to restrict the space if necessary and where activities are now more closely linked to indoor learning and more controlled and directed. The curriculum in general has been overhauled and this work started before we welcomed the children to Nursery in September. I have been really impressed by how stories are at the heart of the curriculum and how the children get a chance to talk about their learning and to 'remember more'. The 'Show Me 5 for Learning', which Mrs Phillips introduced at the beginning of the academic year and the high expectations have allowed for routines to be embedded and the children are very settled within groups and are focussed both in the indoor and outdoor environment. I know that the team are determined to continue following the Federation mantra of 'Be the best you can be' and I would like to thank them all for their continued commitment.

School Meal Orders- deadline - Saturday at midnight

The deadline for placing orders for Monday's school meals is Saturday at midnight. It is important that parents ensure that orders are placed by this time in order to ensure that all is in hand for serving 200 meals. We will absolutely ensure that all children are fed and so if we have no meal booking from parents by the deadline, the child will automatically be offered a sandwich, with one option being vegetarian. Please note that the office will no longer be checking bookings over the weekend, if bookings are not made then sandwiches will be ordered. Thank you for your support - the situation has been much improved this week.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Year 1	Sophie S	Year 4	Caleb W
Year 2	Kaeson D	Year 5	Riley B
Year 3	Anna G and Xander M	Year 6	Lucy G

Attendance and Punctuality (add details)

Attendance for the current school year currently stands at 93.8%, while the national average attendance is 94.7%.

Miss Simpson has been working with some parents and families to support them and this is going really well, this has made a massive difference to the attendance of the children involved. I am also delighted that Miss Bewick is also working with families too.

3/4W was the class with the highest attendance this week, while Reception has had the highest overall attendance this year so far.

Traffic outside of Ox Close

We have been made aware of parking issues and also cars being bumped outside of the school. Please can we ask that parents/carers are considerate of others and mindful of parked cars so that incidents do not occur. Thank you in advance for your support with this matter.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 21 st November	Phototronics (Nursery)
Monday 28th November	Nursery and School Closed – PD Day
Wednesday 7th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 7th December	10am and 5pm – Reception Performance
Thursday 8th December	10am and 5pm - Year 3/4 Performance
Tuesday 13th December	10am and 5pm - Year 1/2 Performance
Wednesday 14th December	10am and 2pm - Nursery Performance
Thursday 15th December	10am and 5pm - Year 5/6 Performance
Friday 16th December	KS2 Christmas Party Day
Monday 19th 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