



Oxon Church of England Primary School

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HEADTEACHER Mr Mark Rogers B.Ed (Hons), NPQH

Newsletter – Autumn Term 2016

Introduction

The fourteen weeks of the autumn term have been a busy and productive time. The school now has 420 pupils, which is the highest number ever, and is our full capacity. Highlights of this term for me have included our Church School inspection where we were graded 'outstanding' in all areas, a very successful year 6 residential visit to the Pioneer Centre, our great Christmas performances and the wide variety of educational visits taking place. The feedback we receive on visits out of school remains of the highest quality and has been replicated on the visits this term. I hope this letter gives you a flavour of the hard work, progress, fun and enjoyment of school life over the course of this term.

Curriculum Development – A brief summary

- **English** – Staff have been looking in detail at the new assessments that were introduced by the government last summer in year 2 and year 6. We have been checking our planning and provision, throughout the school, to ensure that the children's learning journey is an effective preparation for these end points. In writing we have two distinct elements the independent writing (as judged by the interim assessment statements) and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. The first element is currently assessed over a number of pieces of work in the children's books, the second is through a formal test paper. We have decided to change our end of year reports to include separate grades for these two areas.
- **Phonics** – Children in key stage 1 learn phonics through our 'letters and sounds' programme. We used the autumn PD day to invite a leading national speaker to provide a training day for all our teachers and teaching assistants involved in the delivery of this area.
- **Maths** – We have undergone an identical process of reviewing the children's learning journey as that described for English. We have made a number of small changes to our calculation policy in relation to the long division method. Key stage 1 staff also undertook training in relation to a practical resource called 'numicon' – ask your children they will explain!
- **Computing** – Staff have undertaken training and the policy has been updated.



- **Art** – At Oxon we have a strong commitment to all areas of the curriculum not just English and maths. We have undertaken a major review of our art teaching with a particular aim of integrating the areas of art study more directly to the other curriculum areas undertaken in a particular term. We are currently restructuring the planning for all year groups, new units of work will be introduced to the children from January onwards.
- **Worship and RE** – We were delighted with our ‘outstanding’ church school inspection that took place in October. A copy of the full report has been placed in the website.
- **French** –All children in key stage 2 have weekly French lessons that are currently delivered by the class teacher (all children in key stage 1 learn French informally). From January onwards, the lessons for children in years 4,5 and 6 will be delivered by a specialist French teacher. We have appointed Mrs Chloe Jones to start work in January for two afternoons a week. Mrs Jones is a language specialist and currently delivers a very similar provision in Coleham Primary School.
- **Website** – We update our website regularly. The search facility provides an excellent way to find out about different areas of school life.

Staff Changes

- Mrs Knight, one of our teaching assistants has returned from maternity leave and is working in year 4 (Monday to Wednesday).
- Mrs Cornes, one of our teaching assistants, has returned from maternity leave and is also working in year 4 (Thursday and Friday).
- Mrs Bartlett, one of our teaching assistants, who has worked at Oxon for eleven years retired at half term. I would like to thank her for her hard work over many years.
- Mr Beal has been appointed as a teaching assistant to replace Mrs Bartlett. Some of you may know Mr Beal, who completed an extended period of training in our Reception classes a few years ago and has also worked at Earlyworld. Mr Beal has joined us from St Giles CE Primary School.
- Mrs Vicky Tamplin, one of our teaching assistants, has moved to a teaching post at Lawley Primary School in Telford. Mrs Tamplin worked at Oxon for five years and I would like to thank her for her hard work over many years.
- Mrs Hamer-Lyttle, one of our lunchtime supervisors, has returned from maternity leave.
- We have appointed two new lunchtime supervisors Miss Jones and Mrs Wood.

Clubs

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Art – Y1	Mrs Lovatt and Mrs Williams
Art – Y6	Mrs Hayward
Choir – Y5, Y6	Mrs Haycocks and Mrs Houghton
Drama – Y5, Y6	Mrs Thurston
French – Y2	Mrs Aitken and Mrs Luther
Football – Y2	Sportsjam and Mrs Tamplin
Football – Y3	Sportsjam and Mrs Tamplin
Football – Y4 Boys	Mr Freeman and Miss Lee
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Mr Freeman and Miss Lee
Football – Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Jones

Gym – Y3	Mr O'Hagan and Mrs Dugan
Gym – Y4	Mr O'Hagan and Mrs Dugan
Hand chimes – Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Mrs Burgess and Mrs Davies
Maths – Y6	Miss Eaton
MyMaths – Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Mrs Davies and Miss Jewsbury
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y1	Mr Freeman and Mrs Dugan
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y2	Mr Freeman and Mrs Lovatt
Reflections – Y5, Y6	Mrs Shirra and Mrs Bowyer
Tennis – Y3	Mr Creffield and Mrs Semple
Tennis – Y4	Mr Creffield and Mrs Dugan
Tag Rugby – Y5, Y6	Mr Morgan

Music

The following music lessons have been taking place in school:

- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Percussion
- Violin

Visits out of school

- Year 1 have visited Acton Scott Farm as part of their work about harvest and farming in the past.
- Year 2 have visited Secret Hills Discovery Centre as part of their work on habitats.
- Year 2 have visited the Shrewsbury library as part of their English and history work.
- Year 2 have visited the Gains Park shops as part of their geography work about the local area.
- Year 3 have visited Chester to view some of the archaeological remains and take part in a number of interactive workshops to support their work on the Romans.
- Year 4 have visited the old Oxon School and the current church hall, as part of their local history work about the Oxon area in Victorian times.
- Year 4 have carried out research, using primary sources, at the county archives to further their studies about the history of the local area.
- Year 4 have visited Blists Hill Museum to experience a day as Victorian school children. The children enjoyed spending time in costume.
- Year 4 will be visiting the Redwood Centre to sing two songs at the start of their carol service.
- Year 5 have visited the National Memorial Arboretum as part of their history work on the world wars. We are grateful to Lieutenant Colonel Richard Jones (one of our governors and a parent) who assisted with this visit along with some of his military colleagues.
- Year 6 visited the Priory School to take part in a business and enterprise activity called 'Blue Skies Challenge'.
- Year 6 have visited the Shrewsbury Abbey to take part in an event for schools called 'Open Door' run by the Lichfield Diocese.
- Year 6 took part in a residential visit to the Pioneer Centre at Cleobury Mortimer. Their activities included climbing, abseiling, high ropes course, caving, fencing, archery and a night walk.

- Year 6 visited the Shrewsbury Flaxmill as part of their history work studying 'Architecture through the ages in Shrewsbury'. The development of the Flaxmill as a visitor site has been very high profile in the town over the last few years. We were the first school to visit and were very well supported by the Shropshire Museum service and members of the 'Friends of the Flaxmill' development team. It is great to see our already excellent history curriculum further enhanced by the addition of this visit and the linked work back at school.
- The whole school will be visiting Theatre Severn to watch a performance of 'Cinderella' on 14th December.

Assemblies, Performances and Visitors to School

- Mrs Karen Bradshaw – we were pleased to welcome Mrs Bradshaw who is the Director for Children's Services at Shropshire Council and came to tour school and congratulate us on our Ofsted inspection report.
- The children from years 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed a visit from the author Matt Haig. Matt read extracts from his latest book, 'The Girl Who Saved Christmas', and talked to the children about his writing and the work of his illustrator Chris Mould.
- Year 2 - year 6 enjoyed a live music performance by a 'Vocal' ensemble of Shropshire Music Service staff.
- On Friday 30th October we held our Harvest Festival. Children in years 3 and 4 took part in the service, which was held in Christ Church Shelton and Oxon. The event went well and details of the charitable collection are listed in the section below.
- Rev. David O'Brien has visited school regularly to lead assemblies.
- Egyptian workshop – children in year 5 enjoyed a day spent working with Egyptian artefacts that was led by the museum service.
- The Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service visited school to spend time working with year 3.
- Class assemblies have taken place for children in years 3, 4 and 5.
- Key Stage 1 Performance – this year's performance entitled 'Hey Ewe' took place on 5th, 6th, and 7th December. It was, once again, great to see a performance of such quality taking place.
- Carol service – Years 5 and 6 led a traditional carol service at the church on Friday 9th December. As always, the reading and instrumental contributions were of a high standard and the singing was fantastic.

Charity Fundraising

- Our **Harvest Festival** supported a local debt relief charity called 'Shrewsbury Food Bank' and the children were asked to bring non-perishable produce. The quantity of produce taken to the church was once again amazing.
- **Christmas Child Appeal** – This year we have again been supporting this charity which aims to send decorated shoe boxes packed with presents to parts of Eastern Europe where children receive little or no presents. We were once again delighted to be able deliver over 75 boxes.
- **World Diabetes Awareness Day** – Our non-uniform day (wear your pyjamas or onesie) raised £300 for the JDRF charity that carries out research into childhood diabetes. We have a number of children in school who have diabetes. I was delighted that Harry Smith, in year 5, was able to plan and deliver an excellent presentation to the whole school about diabetes and his experience of living with the condition.
- **Poppy Appeal** – We supported this important national appeal, we are awaiting information about how much money was raised.

- **Christingle Candles** – We are once again supporting The Children’s Society through this collection.
- **PTA Events** – The PTA held two film nights that raised £661 and held another very successful Christmas Fayre which raised an excellent £2,774. My thanks go to Mrs Nicholls and her team for all their hard work in organising these events that are enjoyed so much by the children. This term money raised by the PTA has been used to provide:
 - a generous subsidy of over £3,000 for our ‘Cinderella’ pantomime visit;
 - recorder books for year 3 costing £200.

Sporting Achievements

Football

U11 Boys ESFA Trophy (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 0 Short Wood

Oxon 0 – 0 Belvidere

Oxon 0 – 0 Longnor

U11 Girls SFA County Plate (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 2 Windmill

Oxon 0 – 0 Oakmeadow

Oxon 0 – 0 Wilfred Owen

U11 Boys Football League Cup (6-A-Side)

Oxon 0 – 2 St Giles

Oxon 0 – 0 Mereside

Oxon 1 – 0 Castle House

U10 Girls SFA County Shield

Oxon 0 – 6 St Georges

Oxon 0 – 0 Longnor

Oxon 1 – 1 Longden

Oxon 0 – 1 St Peters

Tag Rugby

Shrewsbury Schools Games Year5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament

Oxon 4 – 1 Martin Wilson

Oxon 2 – 1 Longden

Oxon 4 – 2 Martin Wilson

Oxon 2 – 2 Longden

Quarter Final

Oxon 5 – 4 Greenfields

Semi Final

Oxon 2 – 2 Longden

Lost in extra time to a golden try!

Bronze Play-off

Oxon 8 – 4 St Giles

A magnificent effort from the team who did well to lift their heads and win bronze after the disappointment of losing out on a place in the final to a golden try.

Inter-House Competitions

All children are allocated to houses and house points are awarded on a daily basis, this culminates in the Friday morning awarding of the House Cup to the current leader during Friday morning assembly. We are currently increasing the number of inter-house sports competitions. Listed below are the results for this term:

Inter-House Y5 and 6 Football Competition - Boys

Position	House	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Yellow	3	3	0	12
2	Red	1	4	1	7
3	Blue	1	3	2	6
4	Green	1	1	4	4

Inter-House Tag Rugby Competition

Position	House
1	Red
2	Yellow
3	Blue
4	Green

National Support School

Over the last twelve years we have provided support to a number of different schools in Shropshire, in recent years this was through my role as a 'Local Leader in Education'. In November, I was appointed by the government (NCTL) as a 'National Leader in Education'. Linked to my appointment, Oxon has been designated as a 'National Support School' in recognition of the work that other members of the school team undertake. Roger Pope, Chair of the National College for Teaching and Leadership, said: *"It's fantastic that heads like Mark Rogers have the passion and ambition to help improve the life chances of young people, not just in their own but in other schools as well. The aim of national leaders of education is to drive improvement in underperforming schools. We now have over 1,200 NLEs and we're working to increase this number further to spread educational excellence everywhere."*

This role is mainly in recognition of the support work that is already taking place by Oxon. My guess is that most of you are unaware of the work we have undertaken over the years and my hope would be that this continues with our school operating in a very similar way to now. Our experience of supporting other schools, matches many schools nationally, where we observe that the process leads to benefits and improvements in our school as well as those we are supporting.

Summary

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who have helped to support the school in so many different ways throughout the term. I will write to you early next term with information about the events that are planned for the spring term which starts on Tuesday 3rd January.

I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'R'.

Mark Rogers