



Oxon Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter – Spring Term 2017

Introduction

The spring term has once again been packed with different activities which I am pleased to report about in this letter. A particular highlight of the term was our fantastic production of 'The Lion King'; the photos on the school website really capture the outstanding quality of this performance. It was also wonderful to have our choir performing again at 'Young Voices' in Birmingham. Our sports teams have once again been active in a wide range of competitions. As ever, it has been great to hear fantastic feedback about the quality of the children's behaviour particularly when working with visitors, or on the many school visits that have taken place this term. I hope this letter gives a flavour of school life over the last few months.

Curriculum Development – A brief summary

- **Computing** – We have replaced all our interactive whiteboards throughout the school. Our previous boards had been in operation for over ten years so it was becoming time to upgrade. The quality of image and flexibility of the new boards is excellent as your children will be aware. All teaching staff have been involved in training from an external consultant in the use of the new boards. In March we held a whole school 'raising awareness' initiative for 'Internet Safety Day', this was in addition to the planned work that happens each term.
- **English** – Development work in English has included a detailed focus on children's reading ages. We regularly carry out reading age assessments for all children and check that each child is continuing to make good progress. Many things contribute to that progress but a key element is the time a child spends reading outside school. We greatly value the support so many of you give to your children in this area. Please be encouraged that time invested in this way does really impact on your child's learning in a measurable way. In addition to 'decoding' (saying) the words it is vitally important that the children understand what they are reading (comprehension). We routinely provide a range of teaching to develop this key skill but this is also supported by parents having conversations with children about what they have just read. For many of our stronger readers it is these conversations that are of the greatest importance.
- **Other activities** – We have reviewed and strengthened maths 'reasoning' work, reviewed thirteen policies, continued to upgrade our art planning and completed fire safety training.



- **Defibrillator** – We have purchased a defibrillator that is sited outside the school office. A core group of staff have undertaken training in how to use it. As you may be aware, the machines are designed to be used by members of the public who have not had previous training. Should an emergency occur then obviously school staff should be alerted. If an incident happens out of school hours when a member of staff cannot be immediately located then please feel free to use the machine yourself, without delay.

Staff Changes

- Mr Laux, our site manager, retired in March. Mr Laux had worked at Oxon for the last six years, during that time he made an exceptional contribution to our school. His work in improving and maintaining our school building and grounds, providing scenery for drama productions and helping with countless school events has been of an extremely high standard. In addition to this, both staff and children have appreciated Mr Laux's very positive attitude, willingness to help, strong sense of humour and amazing World Book Day costumes! I would like to thank Mr Laux for his exceptional contribution to our school over his time at Oxon.
- Mr Bill has started work as our new site manager.
- Mrs Jones started work at the beginning of term as a specialist French teacher for two afternoons a week.
- Mrs Linda Davies, one of our teaching assistants, who had worked at Oxon for sixteen years, left to start work in a different employment sector at the end of January. I would like to thank her for her hard work over many years.
- Miss Beasley started work in February, as a teaching assistant, to replace Mrs Davies.
- Miss Vann started work in March, as a teaching assistant, to replace Mrs Tamplin.
- Mrs Yakhoul, one of our lunchtime supervisors left in February to work as a specialist teaching assistant (EAL) across a number of Shropshire schools. I would like to thank her for her hard work.

Clubs

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Art – Y1	Mrs Lovatt, Mrs Williams
Basketball – Y3	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
Choir – Y5, Y6	Mrs Haycocks and Mrs Houghton
Dance – Y4	Miss Morgan
First Aid	Mrs Sear and Mr Reynolds
Football – Y1	Sportsjam and Mrs Dugan
Football – Y2	Sportsjam and Mrs Dugan
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
Football – Y3, Y4, Boys	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
Football – Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Jones
Gym – Y5	Mr O'Hagan and Mrs Lovatt
Gym – Y6	Mr O'Hagan and Mrs Lovatt

Hockey – Y4	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
My Maths Homework Club	Miss Jewsbury and Mr Beal
Netball – Y5, Y6	Mrs Hayward and Mr Beal
Reflections Prayer Group – Y3, Y4	Mrs Shirra, Mrs Bowyer and Mrs Mann
Tennis – Y5	Mr Creffield and Mrs Dugan
Tennis – Y6	Mr Creffield and Mrs Semple

Music

The following whole class instrumental lessons have been taking place:

- Year 6 – Ukuleles
- Year 5 – Ukuleles
- Year 3 – Recorders

The following individual music lessons have been taking place in school:

- Strings
- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Percussion

Visits out of school

- Reception children have visited Weston Park to explore historic toys.
- Year 1 have visited Attingham Park and the local area to support their work about homes.
- Year 1 have visited the church to find out about baptisms.
- Year 2 have visited Liverpool to support their '1960s' history work and their geography focus.
- Year 2 have visited Techniquest in Wrexham to support their science work.
- Year 3 have visited Shrewsbury to work with the museum service as 'rock detectives'.
- Year 4 have visited Cosford RAF museum to support their science work.
- Year 5 have visited the World War II experience at Weston Park to support their study of this area.
- Year 6 have visited Green Acres Farm, near Shifnal, to support their geography study of farming.

Assemblies, Performances and Visitors to School

- **'The Lion King'** – The performance by Years 3, 4 and 5 was a great success, with fantastic singing and acting. This performance was of the highest standard and contained some exceptional dramatic and musical moments. Photos on the 'gallery' section of the website capture some of the exceptional quality of this event. Once again my thanks go to all involved for delivering a production of such quality.

- **‘Young Voices’** – The choir, once again, took part in a major national music event called ‘Young Voices’ which was held at the LG Arena in Birmingham. This involved them performing as part of a huge, six thousand strong choir, to an audience of thousands!
- **World Book Day** – We celebrated the day with a ‘dress as a book character’ event. Both children and staff came wonderfully dressed for the event! Thank you for your help in providing such great costumes.
- **‘Stepping Out’** – We were delighted that all our Year 3 pupils took part in a local authority initiative related to pedestrian safety. The project involved children being trained and then assessed on how to cross roads safely.
- **‘Blue Skies’** – Year 5 enjoyed taking part in a business and enterprise project run by staff from The Priory School.
- **Author Visits** – Earlier this term, the children enjoyed visits from two authors as part of our ‘World Book Day’ celebrations. The children in Years R, 1 and 2 benefitted from a visit from the children’s author and illustrator **Duncan Beedie**. The children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, were treated to a visit from the children’s author **Andy Griffiths**, who was visiting from Australia. The children were able to listen to both authors talking about their writing and ask questions about their books. They also had the opportunity to have books signed and dedicated by the authors. Both events were in partnership with ‘Booka Bookshop and Café’, Oswestry.
- **Blists Hill Museum** – Year 1 enjoyed working with a member of staff from Blists Hill Museum who brought a collection of Victorian artefacts.
- Rev. David has visited school each week to take assemblies.
- Mrs Yakhoul spoke to Year 1 about Muslim naming ceremonies.
- Class assemblies have taken place for all Key Stage 1 classes; reception class assemblies will take place next term.

Fundraising

- **Sponsored Walk** – Our sponsored walk raising money for Kamakuya AC Primary School is planned for Thursday 6th April - am
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – An Easter egg hunt, organised by the PTA, is planned for Wednesday 5th April.
- **Fashion Show** – The PTA organised a very successful fashion show that raised £437.

Sporting Achievements

Sportshall Athletics 2017

A team of twenty children enjoyed competing in a range of athletics encompassing both track and field events. A special mention to Ruby Fulgoni for finishing second in the standing long jump and to Rhys Daniels for finishing first in the soft javelin. Credit is also due, to the entire team, for winning an unprecedented eight out of the ten relay races in our heat – a stunning achievement!

Cross Country – Shrewsbury High Prep

Our cross country team enjoyed the opportunity to compete at Kingsland Grange. Well done to the whole team and a particular mention to Jaylun Cheng-Williams (6th) for being our top placed boy and to Gracie Brayne (15th) for being our top placed girl. Team results will follow.

Football

Inter House Yr5/6 Football Competition - Boys

Position	House	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Red	4	0	2	12
2	Green	2	3	1	9
3	Yellow	1	3	2	6
4	Blue	0	4	2	4

U10 Boys SFA County Plate

Oxon 0 – 0 Much Wenlock

Oxon 0 – 2 St Georges

Oxon 0 – 1 Oakmeadow

U10 Boys Phil Lewis Cup

Oxon 0 – 2 Greenfields

Oxon 0 – 0 Mereside

Oxon 0 – 2 Harlescott

U11 Girls Challenge Cup

Oxon 0 – 0 Greenfields

Oxon 0 – 2 Harlescott

Oxon 0 – 0 St Winifrides

Oxon 0 – 0 Mount Pleasant

U10 Girls County Shield – 2nd Round

Oxon 0 – 4 St Georges

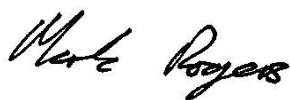
Oxon 0 – 0 Grange Park

Summary

I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to all those who have helped to support and encourage 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 summer term. The summer term starts on Monday 24th April.

I trust that you will have a good Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Rogers