



Oxon Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter – Autumn Term 2017

Introduction

Our very snowy ending to the term was dramatic and unexpected. I had hoped to go my entire career as a headteacher without ever closing the school for snow but I'm afraid I had to admit defeat on this occasion! Thank you for your patience and understanding during the snow disruption. Highlights of this term for me have included a very successful year 6 residential visit to the Pioneer Centre, our great Christmas performances, 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 a number of elements of English including reading and writing. I am sure that you will appreciate the massive importance of reading for a child's future success not just in English but across the curriculum. We regularly assess children's 'reading ages' and also their comprehension. It is essential that children have the ability to read (decode) the words but also that they can understand what they are reading.

A vital component of progress is children reading at home each night. This applies across the school including our most able readers. For younger children they will need to read aloud to an adult, older children will generally be able to read silently although some children, including some Year 6 children, will still benefit from reading aloud to an adult. We ask you to ensure that this reading is recorded in the reading record which is of vital importance in helping us to support and develop the children as readers. We are extremely grateful for the support many children receive from parents with reading. The parental role of supporting reading is without question the single most important thing you can do to support your child's learning.

Improvements in children's reading are measurable. For your encouragement, I would observe that rapid rises in reading test scores frequently follow a few months of regular, quality reading at home.

- **Maths** – Staff have spent time focussing on different areas of maths. The balance between accurately calculating and solving problems by reasoning remains critical. Learning all the times table up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4 is the national



expectation and an important priority for us.

- **Computing** – Staff have undertaken training and medium term planning has been updated.
- **Global Learning Partnership** – Mr Morgan works in this area, training teachers across Shropshire and the wider region. This work grew out of our partnership work with Kamakuya AC School in Kenya but is now much wider in scope than that. The work focuses on challenging children’s thinking about ideas in relation to global issues. Many of these activities are genuinely engaging to adults as well as children and add real depth and richness to our curriculum. During the term we have undertaken additional staff training and spent time embedding activities in planning.
- **Science** – Quality science work is based on supporting children to work as scientists and carry out investigations as well as helping them to acquire scientific knowledge. Both elements are important and over the years we have worked hard to ensure we provide quality provision in both elements. This term, staff have received training from an outside speaker, in the planning of all the different types of scientific investigations that are included in the National Curriculum.
- **RE** – Staff have continued to spend time reviewing and updating RE plans. We have been making use of new national resources produced by the Church of England to enhance the learning the children undertake.
- **Website** – We update our website regularly. The search facility provides an excellent way to find out about different areas of school life.

Staff Changes

- Miss Barber-Jones joined us at the start of this year teaching in Year 1.
- Mrs Aston was appointed to the role of ‘School Business Manager’ in October. The demands on school offices, across the country, continue to increase year on year. This appointment was designed to increase our capacity in this area in a role that is also the new leader of our office team. Mrs Molin will continue in her current role working alongside Mrs Aston.
- Mrs Cooper-Abbs joined us at the start of this year as an administrative assistant in the school office.
- Miss Crowley joined us at the start of this year as a teaching assistant.
- Mrs Knight, one of our teaching assistants, has moved to a teaching post at Ellesmere Primary School. Mrs Knight worked at Oxon for nearly five years and I would like to thank her for her hard work over many years.
- Mr Freeman (sports coach) has been employed to deliver Year 3 outdoor PE.
- Mrs Beeson joined us at the start of this year as a lunchtime supervisor.

Clubs

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Art and Crafts – Y1	Mr Beal and Miss Crowley
Art – Y4	Miss Morgan
Art – Y6	Mrs Hayward
Choir – Y5, Y6	Mrs Haycocks and Mrs Houghton
Drama – Y5, Y6	Mrs Thurston
French – Y2	Mrs Aitken

Football – Y2	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
Football – Y3	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
Football – Y4 Boys	Mr Freeman and Mrs Dugan
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Mr Freeman and Miss Lee
Football – Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Jones
Gym – Y3	Mrs Luther and Miss Lee
Gym – Y4	Mrs Luther and Mrs Williams
Hand chimes – Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Mrs Burgess
Maths – Y6	Miss Eaton
MyMaths – Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Miss Jewsbury and Mr Beal
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y1	Mr Freeman and Mrs Dugan
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y2	Mr Freeman and Miss Crowley
Reflections – Y3, Y4	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 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 are one of the very few schools 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.
- Year 6 have visited The Priory School to watch a performance of 'The Wizz' and Meole Brace School to watch a performance of 'Bugsy Malone'.
- The whole school will be visiting Theatre Severn during the last week of term to watch a performance of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.

Assemblies, Performances and Visitors to School

- We organised a visit for the children in Years 1 and 2, from the children's author and illustrator Tom Percival in September. The children listened to Tom talk about his writing and illustrations. They had the chance to work with him, as he drew a sketch of a character from one of his books. There was an opportunity to pre-order his latest picture-book 'Perfectly Norman', before the event. Tom signed and dedicated books for the children on the day of his visit.
- Year 2 - year 6 enjoyed a live music performance by a 'Rock and Pop' ensemble of Shropshire Music Service staff.
- On Friday 29th September 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 is 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.
- Bookfest - A number of the Year 6 children have taken part in the initial stages of the Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest 'Big Book Award 2018' project. The children have been involved in selecting the shortlist of books, ready for the 'Big Book Award 2018' event. They have been busy reading a selection of titles and voting for their favourites. After Christmas, other members of Year 6 will be able to read the shortlisted books and participate in the project. The 'Shrewsbury Bookfest' work focuses on inspiring children to read for pleasure, which is something we see as a very important for all the children.
- Class assemblies have taken place for children in years 3, 4 and 5.
- Key Stage 1 Performance – this year's performance entitled 'Sparkle' took place on 4th, 5th, and 6th 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 which was rescheduled to Wednesday 13th 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 pleased to be able deliver 32 boxes.
- Children in Need – We supported this charity with a non-uniform day that raised £312.
- **Poppy Appeal** – We supported this important national appeal and raised a fantastic £140.58.
- **Christingle Candles** – We are once again supporting The Children's Society through this collection.
- **PTA Events** – The PTA held two film nights that raised £603 and held another very successful Christmas Fayre which raised an excellent £2,729. My thanks go to Mrs Ure 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 £2,500 for our 'Snow White' pantomime visit. The autumn term's AGM saw the transition of a couple of posts in the PTA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Nicholls, who has been our chair for the last five years, for her outstanding commitment. My thanks also go to Ms Tasker who has served in a number of roles over that time and most recently as treasurer.

Sporting Achievements

Football

U11 Boys ESFA Trophy (1st Round)

Oxon 1 – 1 Bicton

Oxon 0 – 0 Mereside

Oxon 1 – 0 Harlescott

Oxon 0 – 0 Mereside

Group winners – through to next round!

U11 Boys ESFA Trophy (Final Round)

Oxon 1 – 0 St Giles

Oxon 1 – 1 Trinity

Oxon 0 – 0 Greenfields

Finished joint top of group but missed out on a place in the final on goals scored!

U11 Girls SFA County Cup (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 2 Wilfred Owen

Oxon 0 – 0 Coleham

Oxon 0 – 3 Longnor

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

Oxon 3 – 0 Longnor

Oxon 0 – 1 Mereside

Oxon 0 – 1 Radbrook

U9 Boys ESFA County Cup

Oxon 3 – 0 Hadley L.C.

Oxon 0 – 0 Oswestry School

Oxon 0 – 0 Grange Park

Qualified for next round!

U9 Girls ESFA County Cup

Oxon 0 – 0 Longnor

Oxon 0 – 0 St Lawrence

Oxon 0 – 0 Mereside

Finished third in group – unbeaten!

Tag Rugby

Shrewsbury Schools Games Year5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament

Oxon 3 – 4 Trinity 'B'

Oxon 6 – 5 Coleham

Oxon 5 – 1 Greenacres

Qualified for quarter finals!

Quarter Final

Oxon 5 – 7 St Giles

Play-Off

Oxon 2 – 4 Trinity 'A'

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

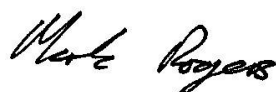
Position	House	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Green	4	2	0	14
2	Blue	3	1	2	10
3	Yellow	2	1	3	7
4	Red	1	0	5	3

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 Wednesday 3rd January.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mark Rogers