

Oxon Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter – Autumn Term 2023

Introduction

The fifteen weeks of the autumn term have been a busy and productive time. Throughout the term I have been extremely pleased with the high quality of behaviour and the calm, purposeful atmosphere within school. Highlights of this term, for me, have included a very successful Year 6 residential visit to the Pioneer Centre, winning the Shrewsbury cricket competition, 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.

Staff Changes

- Mrs Smith (Year R) and Miss Cadwallader (Year 5) started work as teachers in September.
- Miss Beard, Miss Parry, Mrs Asterley and Miss Kelsall-Pugh started work as teaching assistants in September.
- Mrs Selley started work as a lunchtime supervisor in September.
- Miss Preston started work as a teaching assistant in October.
- Mrs Rayment (Year 3) will start her maternity leave at the end of term – we wish her well.
- In January, Miss Barber-Jones (Year 1) will return from maternity leave and Miss Hellin will move to Year 3 to cover Mrs Rayment.

Clubs

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Board Games – Y2	Mrs Aitken and Miss Lee
Choir – Y5, Y6	Mrs Houghton and Miss Hollis
Computer – Y1	Mrs Palin and Miss Jones
Football – Y2	Mr Davies and Miss Kelsall-Pugh
Football – Y3	Mr Davies and Miss Kelsall-Pugh
Football – Y4 Boys	Mr Davies and Mrs Asterley
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Mr Davies and Mrs Asterley
Football – Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Davies and Miss Lee
Gym – Y3	Mrs Luther
Gym – Y4	Mrs Luther
MyMaths – Y2, Y3, Y4	Miss Jewsbury, Mrs Beeson and Mrs Yapp
MyMaths –Y5, Y6	Miss Jewsbury and Mr Beal
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y1	Mr Davies and Miss Brechunec
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y2	Mr Davies and Miss Brechunec
Paper Crafts – Y3	Mrs Rayment and Mrs Quan
Tennis – Y3	Mr Creffield and Mrs Manterfield
Tennis – Y4	Mr Creffield and Mrs Manterfield

Music

The following music lessons have been taking place in school:

- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Violin

Visits out of school

- Year 2 have visited Think Tank in Birmingham as part of their science work.
- Year 2 have visited the town library as part of their English work.
- Year 2 have visited 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 churchyard 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 Shropshire 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 and exploring the Victorian town.
- Year 5 have visited the National Memorial Arboretum as part of their history work about the two world wars.
- Year 6 took part in a residential visit to the Pioneer Centre at Cleobury Mortimer. Their activities included climbing, abseiling, high ropes course, archery and caving.
- Year 6 visited the Shrewsbury Flaxmill as part of their history work studying 'Architecture through the ages in Shrewsbury'.

- The whole school are looking forward to visiting Theatre Severn to watch a performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.
- Unfortunately, the Year 1 visit to Acton Scott Farm was unable to go ahead due to the farm being closed throughout the autumn term.

Year 2 at Think Tank:



Year 2 at the library:



Year 4 at Blists Hill:



Year 4 at Blists Hill:



Year 4 at the Shropshire Archives



Year 3 at Chester:



Year 1 with the Guide Dog



Year 5 at NMA



Year 6 at the Flax Mill:



Year 6 at Pioneer:



Performances, Worship (Assemblies) and Visitors to School

- Year 3 to Year 6 enjoyed a live music performance by a 'Wind and Strings' group of Shropshire Music Service staff.
- Author Rachel Morrisroe visited the children in Years 1 and 2 to talk about her books.
- Author Anna James visited the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 to talk about her books.
- Rev. Charlotte has visited school regularly to lead worship.
- On Thursday 28th September, we held our Harvest Festival. Children in Years 3 and 4 took part in the service, which was held at Oxon Church. The event went well and details of the charitable collection is listed in the section below.
- Year R had a visit from the school nurse to talk about washing hands and keeping clean.
- Year 1 enjoyed a visit from the Guide Dogs charity as part of their science work.
- Year 2 had a visit from a nurse to talk about hygiene.
- Year 3 had a visit from Rev. Charlotte to talk about Christian Baptism in RE.
- Year 3 had a visit from the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- Egyptian workshop – children in Year 5 enjoyed a day spent working with Egyptian artefacts that was led by the museum service.
- Key Stage 1 Performance – this year's performance entitled 'Are we nearly there yet?' took place on 5th, 6th, and 7th December. It was, once again, great to see a performance of such quality taking place.
- Carol service – Year 6 led a traditional carol service at the church on Friday 8th December. As always, the reading and instrumental contributions were of a high standard and the singing (supported by Year 5) was fantastic.

Charity Fundraising

- Our **Harvest Festival** supported the Shrewsbury Food Bank and the children were asked to bring non-perishable produce. The quantity of produce brought to school was once again amazing.
- **Poppy Appeal** – We raised £181 in support of this important national appeal.
- **PTA Events** – Over the summer, our Year 6 children took part in 'Grow a Pound' and raised over £314. In December we held our 'Christmas Market'. The event was a great success and raised a fantastic £2,207. The children designed Christmas cards again and this raised over £335. My thanks go to Mrs Gill 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 £3,800 for the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pantomime visit and also bought all the food for the children's Christmas parties at just over £425.

Sporting Achievements

Mrs Luther writes:

U11 Girls Shropshire F.A. – E.S.F.A. 7 A Side County Cup

Oxon 0-0 Harlescott
Oxon 0-1 Belvidere
Oxon 0-1 Greenfields
Oxon 1-1 St. Winefrides
Oxon 1-2 Prestfelde

U11 Boys Shropshire F.A. – E.S.F.A. 7 A Side County Cup

Oxon 2-0 St Giles
Oxon 2-3 Trinity
Oxon 4-1 Belvidere
Oxon 2-1 Greenfields
Oxon 1-1 Oakmeadow

Year 5/6 Kwik Cricket Tournament

A huge well done to both cricket teams that represented us in the Kwik cricket tournament competing against fourteen other Shrewsbury teams. It was great to see a positive sporting attitude from all children involved. We are delighted that one of our teams progressed through the different rounds of the tournament to be the overall winners! This team is now the Shrewsbury Champions! This is a major achievement that has not happened in recent years, and we are looking forward to seeing them represent Oxon and Shrewsbury at the County finals in May.



Hall Extension Project

I am delighted to inform you that we have received significant capital funding from the government to extend our school hall. At Oxon, we have an excellent set of premises with the one weakness being that the hall is very tight for space. For many years we have attempted to secure funding to address this issue. The planned hall extension would provide an additional 60% more hall space. When seating 420 children on a Friday morning, this will make a huge difference! Other areas of school life such as lunchtimes, drama productions and PE lessons will also hugely benefit.

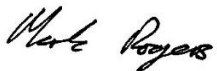
A planning application has been submitted and will go live on the Shropshire Planning Portal in the next few days. The plans show an extension in the direction of the wooden sheds. As part of the project, the sheds will be moved to different alignments or locations. The path from the car park to the demountables, that is used by parents to access Earlyworld, will be relocated closer to our boundary. The build is planned to start at Easter and be completed by the end of August 2024. We are anticipating a level of disruption in the summer term but the gain for the school for decades to come will be enormous.

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. Once again, I would like to thank our staff who have shown huge professionalism and commitment throughout the last fifteen weeks. 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