



# Oxon Church of England Primary School

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

## Newsletter – Spring Term 2018

### 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 'Beauty and the Beast'. Our sports teams have once again been active in a wide range of competitions, our indoor cricket team achieved significant success coming second in the Shropshire final. It was also wonderful to have our choir performing again at 'Young Voices' in Birmingham. 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

- **Maths** – Staff have been focussing on children's 'reasoning' and 'problem solving ability'. It is obviously important that children have secure calculation strategies (four rules) and know their times tables but it is also important that they can apply that learning. In 'real life' both children and adults need to apply their mathematical skills in a way that solves problems. This requires confidence, resilience and some strategy skills. In my experience, it is a sense of not panicking, staying calm and trying a few, fairly obvious, things. External and internal assessments all have an important focus on this vital life skill.
- **English** – This term's work has included a focus on reading, including comprehension and individual reading.
- **Learning and Teaching** – The importance of children being involved in understanding their learning and being central in the process (meta-cognition) is consistently highlighted by educational research as one of the most powerful elements in children making rapid progress. For many years we have used 'success criteria' with children. These enable us to explicitly share what successful learning will look like (I can statements) with the children before they start work and to give opportunity for them to reflect on these during the work and at the end of it. We have spent time reviewing our policy and procedures in this area to ensure effectiveness of practise and continuity between the different phases of the school. Please ask your children about this – they should be able to explain (Year 1 upwards).



- **Computing** – In March, we held a whole school ‘raising awareness’ initiative for ‘Internet Safety Week’, this was in addition to the planned work that happens each term. As part of that week you should have received a parent’s information sheet about this important area.
- **Religious Education** – We have updated our policy in line with our introduction of the ‘Understanding Christianity’ scheme in September 2017.
- **Other activities** – We continued to upgrade our RE planning and completed whole staff child protection training.

### Staff Changes

- Mrs M Cornes, one of our teaching assistants, is currently on maternity leave after giving birth to twins. She has decided not to return to work and has resigned her post. I would like to thank her for her hard work during her time at Oxon.
- Miss N Jones started work at the beginning of term as a teaching assistant supporting an individual child each morning.
- Mrs S Savage started work at the beginning of term as a teaching assistant supporting an individual child each morning.

### Clubs

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Art and Crafts – Y1	Mr Beal and Miss Crowley
Basketball – Y3	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
Choir – Y5, Y6	Mrs Haycocks and Mrs Houghton
First Aid – Y6	Mrs Sear and Mr Reynolds
Football – Y1	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
Football – Y2	Sportsjam and Miss Crowley
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Sportsjam and Mrs Dugan
Football – Y3, Y4, Boys	Sportsjam and Mrs Dugan
Football – Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Jones
Gardening Club	Miss Hollis and Miss Barber-Jones
Hockey – Y4	Sportsjam and Miss Lee
My Maths Homework Club	Miss Jewsbury, Mr Beal and Miss Crowley
Netball – Y5	Mrs Hayward and Miss Crowley
Netball – Y6	Mrs Hayward and Mr Beal
Reflections Prayer Group – Y3, Y4	Mrs Shirra, Mrs Bowyer and Mrs Mann
Strumming Club (Ukulele)	Mrs Burgess
Tennis – Y2	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 2 have visited Liverpool to support their '1960s' history work and their geography focus.
- Year 2 have visited Techniquet 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

- **'Beauty and the Beast'** – The performance by Years 3, 4 and 5 was a great success, with fantastic singing and acting. This performance was of a very high standard and contained some wonderful 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.
- Rev. David has visited school each week to take assemblies.
- Mr McMichael spoke to Year 4 about the Jewish faith.
- Mrs Yakhoul spoke to Year 1 about the Islamic faith.
- Class assemblies have taken place for some Key Stage 1 classes; the remaining assemblies will take place next term.

## **Sporting Achievements**

### **Shrewsbury and Central District Indoor Cricket Competition**

Oxon 48 – 27 Kinnerley  
Oxon 62 – 67 Radbrook  
Oxon 64 – 47 Nescliffe  
Oxon 69 – 61 Meole Brace  
Oxon 74 – 31 Pontesbury

Oxon crowned as Shrewsbury and Central District Indoor Cricket Champions – finishing top of the league with 13 points. A magnificent achievement of which we are all very proud. The team then went forward to represent the district at the county finals!

### **Shropshire Cricket Board - Indoor Cricket County Finals**

Oxon 59 – 47 St Lawrence  
Oxon 37 – 24 Priorslee  
Oxon 67 – 80 Castlefields  
Oxon 56 – 55 Hollinswood  
Oxon 54 – 53 Radbrook  
Oxon 28 – 82 Ludlow Junior  
Oxon 65 – 35 St Patricks

Winning five out of the seven games played in a county final is a wonderful achievement. There were terrific batting and fielding performances to be enjoyed. The 17 points earned was enough to secure second place in this county final – well done team!

## **Football**

### **Inter House Yr5/6 Football Competition - Boys**

Position	House	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Yellow	4	1	1	13
2	Blue	3	2	1	11
3	Red	2	1	3	7
4	Green	1	5	0	3

### **U10 Girls County Shield – 1<sup>st</sup> Round**

Oxon 0 – 2 Greenfields  
Oxon 0 – 0 Harlescott  
Oxon 0 – 0 Longden  
Oxon 0 – 0 Mount Pleasant  
Through to the final round!

### **U10 Girls County Shield – Final Round**

Oxon 0 – 2 St Georges  
Oxon 0 – 1 Prees  
Oxon 0 – 3 St Georges  
Oxon 0 – 2 Prees

## **U9 Boys ESFA County Cup – Final Round**

Oxon 0 – 1 Greenfields

Oxon 0 – 0 Newtown

Oxon 0 – 1 St Giles

Oxon 0 – 0 Whitchurch

## **Cross Country – Shrewsbury High Prep**

Unfortunately this event was cancelled due to bad weather.

## **Kenyan Partnership**

As you will be aware, Oxon has had a partnership with Kamukuywa AC Primary School, in Western Kenya since 2010. We have had four staff visits from Oxon to Kamukuywa and three teachers from Kamukuywa have come to visit us at Oxon. Throughout that time it has been repeatedly suggested by those in Kenya and in the UK that I should visit! After many years of ‘almost going’ I made the decision that 2018 was time to go.

Mr Morgan and I spent the half term holiday visiting and teaching in Kamukuywa School. I was struck by many things. Firstly, the incredible warmth of the welcome we received throughout our visit to the school. This partnership is exceptionally strong, we know each other’s schools very well and relationships between staff in both schools are excellent. It was great to spend time with Kenyan staff who have visited Oxon and to share insights and perspectives while in their country. By Kenyan or UK standards, the quality of our partnership is exceptional.

The opportunity to teach classes in Kamukuywa School was a life changing experience for me. Children who often walk three miles to school each day (without adults) for an 8.00am start, sat on narrow wooden benches listening intently to what was taught. I identified enormous similarities with children at Oxon but also some significant differences. Puzzling through those elements and reflecting upon why they happen, goes to the very heart of the educational partnership for both schools.

Our partnership is based on learning not on fund raising and that has been the long standing understanding of both schools. Having said that, you will be aware of the significant fundraising we have undertaken in previous years (mainly through sponsored walks). I was able to observe the children using the huge water tanks that we purchased to avoid the children carrying water to school. I heard a teacher explain how our funding of the electricity connection to the school, long before neighbouring schools, transformed the school and also resulted in the local area receiving electricity. I saw the computer and photocopier that we funded that are also used by neighbouring schools that do not have similar resources. We have funded additional furniture; as a consequence I did not see children sat on the floor as we had in previous years. Our external decoration of the school was also evident.

I used a recent Friday assembly to talk to the whole school about the visit and show hundreds of photos. Please ask your children about this and their perception of the school and the classrooms. Despite seeing many photos before my visit, I was deeply shocked by the material needs of the school and the conditions in which the children were learning. We will be looking to continue with the exchange of teachers in the future and I will also be exploring ways of fundraising to further support the practical needs of Kamukuywa.

On behalf of the staff and pupils at Kamukuywa AC Primary, I want to pass on their massive thanks to you for all the generosity you have shown them and the warmth of partnership they feel between our school communities. (I have some wonderful video of these comments and speeches that I hope to be able to share with you in the coming months.)

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> April.

I trust that you will have a good Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mark Rogers