



Oxon Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter – Autumn Term 2018

Introduction

The fifteen weeks of the autumn term have been a busy and productive time. Highlights of this term, for me, have included a great sponsored walk in aid of our partner school in Kenya, 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. Towards the end of this letter, you will read details about the way in which we commemorated the centenary of the end of World War I. I felt that our commemorations were a fitting tribute to this very significant milestone. 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

- **Maths** – Staff have spent time focussing on different areas of maths. Helping children to gain a deep understanding or ‘mastery’ of mathematical concepts is of vital importance. We have a robust policy in place for the teaching of calculations which, this term, we have been expanding to include calculations involving fractions, decimals and percentages. Fluency in number bonds and times tables remain of great importance and we value your support in this area. The national expectation is that all the times table up to 12x12 are learnt by the end of year 4 and we have always felt this was a very important goal. From summer 2020 onwards this will become a new national test for all year 4 children.
- **Computing** – Staff have undertaken training including work on e-safety. We held an ‘Internet Safety - Information Session for Parents’ in November. The meeting was hosted by Mrs Smith, our E-Safety curriculum lead, and an external consultant Richard Smith. Parents who attended, reported that the session had been very helpful. We are planning to run similar sessions in the future.
- **PE – ‘Daily Mile’** – You may be aware of a national initiative called the ‘Daily Mile’ aimed at increasing children’s levels of fitness. In June, I heard Mrs Elaine Wyllie, the founder of the ‘Daily Mile’, give a talk about the initiative. She described how it had begun in her school in Stirling. Some of the key aspects that she described included that the children should run in their ‘normal’ clothes, the activity should take 15 minutes from ‘desk to desk’ and that the school should be flexible in how it introduced the initiative. It is important to note that despite the name, children are not required



to run a fixed distance but are asked to run for a fixed amount of time.

In mid-September we started to introduce a Key Stage 2 run each Wednesday morning and an additional year 2 run at Wednesday lunchtime. We have noticed significant improvements in the length of time for which many children are able to run without a break over the term. We plan to continue this initiative in the future. Children in reception and year 1 will do some running as part of their class PE lessons.

- We have also spent time working on English, assessment, science and global learning.
- **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 Dowley has started work as a lunchtime supervisor.
- Mr Freeman, who has provided after school clubs and some curriculum sports coaching for many years, is retiring at the end of term. During his time with us Mr Freeman has made an extremely positive contribution to our school. We will really miss him and wish him well in his retirement.

Clubs

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Art and Crafts – Y1	Mr Beal and Miss Beasley
Art – Y4	Mrs Rayment
Book Fun – Y6	Mrs Thurston
Choir – Y5, Y6	Mrs Haycocks and Mrs Houghton
Football – Y2	Mr Freeman and Mr Beal
Football – Y3	Mr Freeman and Mr Beal
Football – Y4 Boys	Mr Freeman and Mrs Dugan
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Mr Freeman and Mrs Dugan
Football – Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Jones
Gym – Y3	Mrs Luther and Mrs Dugan
Gym – Y4	Mrs Luther and Mrs Williams
Hand chimes – Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Mrs Burgess
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 Lee
Reflections – 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 Shrewsbury library as part of their English and history work.
- Year 2 have visited Techniquist as part of their science 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 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 visited the Redwood Centre to sing two songs at the start of their carol service.
- 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, archery and raft building.
- Year 6 visited the Shrewsbury Flaxmill as part of their history work studying 'Architecture through the ages in Shrewsbury'. This year we added a visit to the Shropshire Archives to support and enrich this project. 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 Meole Brace School to watch a performance of 'West Side Story'.
- The whole school will be visiting Theatre Severn during the last week of term to watch a performance of 'Mother Goose'.

Assemblies, Performances and Visitors to School

- Key Stage 2 enjoyed a live music performance by a 'Soul' group of Shropshire Music Service staff.
- On Friday 28th September we held our Harvest Festival. Children in years 3 and 4 took part in the service, which was held at 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- The year 6 classes have started to prepare for a new creative writing initiative, which is part of the Schools' Week project. In November, the year 6 teachers attended the Shrewsbury Bookfest Creative Writing Conference, to prepare them for the task of promoting and planning for an author workshop in school, in the spring term. The

leading children's author Emma Carroll will be working with both year 6 classes in early March, with the children learning first-hand about the 'real' writing process. As part of the initiative, the children will be encouraged to enter a creative writing competition.

- Fabulous Fables - Year 6 had a visit from a member of the English team at Meole Brace Secondary School to carry out a creative writing workshop and launch a creative writing competition.
- Class assemblies have taken place for children in years 3, 4 and 5.
- Lieutenant Colonel Richard Jones, one of our governors and a parent, led assemblies about World War One at the start of our commemoration week. My thanks go to him for those sessions.
- **'Mother Goose'** - in late November we had a visit from 'Mother Goose' aka Brad Fitt. He arrived to the surprise of the children at a Friday morning whole school assembly. The visit was partly in connection with some of our year 6 children successfully winning a competition to name Shropshire Council gritters, one of which has been named 'Brad Gritt'. He was also keen to develop the strong links we have between our school and the Theatre Severn pantomime!
- Key Stage 1 Performance – this year's performance entitled 'The Inn-Spectors' took place on 10th, 11th, and 12th 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 14th December. As always, the reading and instrumental contributions were of a high standard and the singing was fantastic.

Charity Fundraising

- **Sponsored Walk** – We had a very enjoyable sponsored walk just before half term. I am delighted to inform you that we raised £2,463 for Kamukuywa AC Primary School, our partner primary school in Kenya. The money will be spent on a number of projects at the school over the next couple of years. I will keep you informed as each project is planned and completed.
- 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.
- **Poppy Appeal** – We raised £201 in support of this important national appeal.
- **Christingle Candles** – We are once again supporting The Children's Society through this collection.
- **PTA Events** – The PTA held two film nights that raised £517 and held another very successful Christmas Fayre, we are awaiting the final total raised. 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 £3,000 for our 'Mother Goose' pantomime visit and to contribute £1,000 for the School Council to use to purchase playground toys. The PTA have also been supporting a 'reverse advent calendar' for Shrewsbury Foodbank.

Sporting Achievements

Football

U11 Boys Football In The Community Cup (1st Round)

Oxon 1 – 0 Longden

Oxon 1 – 3 Market Drayton

Oxon 0 – 0 Priorslee

Group winners – through to next round!

U11 Boys Football In The Community Cup (2nd Round)

Oxon 0 – 0 Grange Park

Oxon 0 – 1 Harlescott

Oxon 0 – 0 Mereside

U11 Boys ESFA Nations Trophy (Qualifying Group)

Oxon 3 – 0 Grange Park

Oxon 1 – 0 Condover

Oxon 0 – 0 St Giles

Group winners – through to final!

Final

Oxon 0 – 0 Oakmeadow

We lost out on a place in a regional final on a penalty shoot out – so unlucky!

U11 Boys County Plate (1st Round)

Oxon 1 – 0 John Fletcher

Oxon 0 – 0 HLC

Oxon 0 – 0 John Fletcher

Oxon 2 – 0 HLC

Group winners – through to the next round.

U10 Boys County Shield (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 0 Mereside

Oxon 2 – 1 Whixhall

Oxon 0 – 0 St Georges (Telford)

2nd in group – through to next round!

U10 Girls County Shield (1st Round)

Oxon 1 – 0 Oakmeadow

Oxon 0 – 2 Redhill

Oxon 1 – 0 Oakmeadow

Oxon 1 – 0 Redhill

2nd in group – through to next round.

U9 Boys County Shield (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 3 St Giles

Oxon 0 – 4 Oakmeadow

Oxon 0 – 1 Newtown

Inter-House Y5 and 6 Football Competition - Boys

Position	House	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Blue	3	3	0	12
2	Yellow	1	4	1	7
3	Red	1	3	2	6
4	Green	0	4	5	4

Tag Rugby

Shrewsbury Schools Games Year5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament

Oxon 2 – Oakmeadow 3

Oxon 2 – Prestfelde 4

Oxon 3 – Mereside 4

Oxon 3 – Coleham 2

Sports Kits

We have purchased new Oxon sports kits for all our teams which look fantastic.

Remembrance

Our commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War was an event that I don't think any of the adults involved and many of the children will ever forget. In preparation for the day, the children had created wonderful poppies made from recycled plastic bottles. On the day before our commemoration, each class went out and placed their poppies around our reflection area.

During our whole school act of worship on Friday morning, we started by looking at a picture of children at Oxon CE Primary School in around 1900 and reflecting on what part they may have played in the war. I then used the names of those from the local area who died, as recorded on the church war memorial, as my focus. I went through the names and addresses linking them to the stages of the war in which they were involved. We then led the school out to the reflection area where the children stood in silent horseshoe lines. As all 420 children moved through the school and out to the reflection area the school staff were struck by the fact that every child, without prompting or reminding, moved in absolute silence. To those involved, this was exceptionally powerful and very moving.

Once the school had reassembled outside, four of our year 6 children read the names of the fallen with great dignity and respect. While I cannot be absolutely certain, it seems highly probable that many of the names read out were pupils who had attended Oxon CE Primary School. One of our oldest and one of our youngest children then lay a wreath in a simple act of remembrance.

**Names of those from our parish who gave their lives
1914-1918**

Ernest Salmon Price
Frederick Bownes
Edward John Killan
George Frederick Dodd
Henry Jones
Frederick Rivers Currie
William Thomas Hudson
Samuel Andrews
John Richard Hudson
William Matthews
Robert Eli Morris
William Robinson
Percy Craggs
William Bashall
Frank Price
William Henry Lee
Cecil Ernold Lines



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 Monday 7th January.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mark Rogers

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