



Oxon Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter – Summer Term 2015

Introduction

The 2015 summer term will be memorable for many reasons. Academically, end of year test results were strong across the school with particularly high results from our current Year 6 (figures posted on our website). Our fantastic arts week with a theme of 'India' was extremely well received by children and parents. A visit from Mrs Mary Kunisia from our partner school in Kenya was once again a wonderful experience consolidating the deep and sustained links between our schools. Our wide variety of sporting competitions including swimming, athletics, rounders, cricket and school games. Our excellent summer BBQ and sports days all blessed with wonderful weather as was our Year 6 'Race for Lloyd' event. I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of school life this term.

Curriculum Development – A brief summary

- **Assessment** – In September 2014 the government abolished National Curriculum levels for all schools. Year 6 and Year 2 were assessed against the 'old' National Curriculum this summer and awarded 'levels' but that will be the last official use. Designing new assessments and tracking systems that match the new National Curriculum has been our focus for the term and we have made substantial progress.

Part of the philosophical thinking behind removing levels was that children should be focussed on targets that were related to actual learning rather than levels. For example a Year 3 child might say 'my target is to learn all my times tables' rather than 'my target is to achieve a level 3a'. At Oxon, we have always talked to children about targets that relate to actual learning rather than levels; because of this your children should not be aware of a significant change.

From a parent's perspective the removal of levels does slightly change some of the conversations we have, particularly as children move between schools. You will by now be aware of the report grades relating to attainment that hopefully provide you with the key data about the performance of your child without reference to levels. For the interim period, teachers, particularly in the older year groups, will continue to make use of some assessment materials that record attainment in levels.

I apologise for the very technical nature of this curriculum update section which is usually much more accessible. If you are slightly baffled then don't worry too much I think you will



find that many parents across the country are in a similar position at this point. If you have any specific questions about this process then please do not hesitate to ask me.

- **Safeguarding** – Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies have been updated to meet new national requirements. Copies of both documents can be found on our website. If you have any questions about this area please do not hesitate to contact me.
- **British Values** – A statement explaining how our school promotes British Values has been added to the school website. As a reminder, British Values are defined by the government as ‘the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.’

Staff Changes

- Mrs S Davies (Year 1) will be retiring at the end of this year. Mrs Davies has worked at Oxon for fourteen years in a full time and part time capacity. She has organised all of our arts weeks and I know that both staff and children would identify her kind, gentle nature as a key quality she has brought to our school. We will miss her and I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years.
- Miss Reeves, our deputy head, will not have a class responsibility next year but will work across the school as a whole. Some of her time will be spent teaching groups of Year 6 children.
- Miss Eaton will be leaving for maternity leave a few weeks into the September term but will not teach the Year 5 class in those weeks.
- Three strong appointments have been made to cover these classes (Miss Hollis, Miss Morgan and Miss Hughes). All new staff have commenced their induction process and will be well supported as they join our school.
- Mrs Aitken returns from maternity leave to teach in Year 2.
- Mrs Bowyer has slightly changed her role in school moving to reception for one day a week.
- Mrs Hamer-Lyttle, one of our lunchtime supervisors, leaves for maternity leave in September. Two additional supervisors have been appointed.

Clubs

Art Club – Y1	Mrs Lovatt and Mrs Williams
Art Club – Y5	Priory School staff
Athletics Club – Y3	Miss France and Miss Lee
Cricket Club – Y5,6	Miss France and Mrs Dugan
Eco Club – Y3,4	Mrs Thurston and Mrs Kolze-Jones
First Aid Club – Y5,6	Mr Reynolds and Mrs Sear
Gardening Club – Y1	Mrs Shirra and Mr Laux
Gym Club – Y1	Mr O’Hagan and Mrs Knight
Gym Club – Y2	Mr O’Hagan and Mrs Lovatt
Maths Club – Y5	Miss Eaton
My Maths Homework Club	Mrs Davies
Rounders Club – Y5	Mrs Dugan
Summer Circuits (Fitness) – Y3	Miss France and Mrs Kolze-Jones
Summer Circuits (Fitness) – Y4	Miss France and Mrs Kolze-Jones
Tennis Club – Y1	Mr Creffield and Mrs Dugan
Tennis Club – Y2	Mr Creffield and Mrs Cornes
Tri Golf Club – Y4	Sports Jam and Mrs Davies
Tri Golf Club – Y5,6	Sports Jam and Mrs Davies

Visits out of school

- Year R have visited Park Hall Farm.
- Year 1 have visited the Wyre Forest and worked with the forest rangers as part of their science work about trees and plants.
- Year 2 have visited The Secret Hills Discovery Centre to support their science work about habitats.
- Year 2 have visited the parish church to explore the church as a place of worship.
- Year 3 have visited Telford as part of their geography work.
- Year 3 have visited Llangollen as part of their geography work.
- Year 4 have visited Ingenuity to support their design technology work on moving toys.
- Year 4 have visited Attingham Park to support their art work by looking at natural sculptures and their PE work by completing an orienteering session.
- Year 5 have visited Cardingmill Valley to carry out a river study. This work was led by staff from the Preston Montford Field Study Centre.
- Year 6 have taken part in 'Crucial Crew' at Nesscliffe Camp.

Assemblies and Visitors to school

- **Kenya** – We were delighted to welcome Mrs Mary Kunisia from our partner school Kamukuywa AC Primary School in western Kenya for a week's visit. Links between our schools are extremely strong and it was great for the children to spend time talking with her during her visit. Over the summer half term holiday Mr Morgan made a return visit to Kenya. As part of the visit he was able to see how some of the money we have donated to the school has been used to improve the building and support orphans. I am delighted that our work in this area is being identified nationally by the British Council and that we have been asked by them to take a lead role in our region.
- **Zulu Dancers** – Key Stage 1 children enjoyed a demonstration followed by a workshop of Zulu dancing. The visiting dancers were part of the Shrewsbury Morris 'Day of Dance'.
- Library staff worked in school with Year 5 and 6 on the Bookquest project.
- Year 6 have undertaken cycle training courses.
- Rev. David O'Brien has visited school regularly to lead assemblies. He has also spent time talking to Year 3 about colours in the church.
- The Shrewsbury Youth for Christ team have visited to lead an assembly and workshop for Year 6 about transition to secondary school.
- Staff and volunteers from the NSPCC have led workshops for Years 5 and 6.

Sporting Achievements

- **Swimming Gala 2015** – Ten teams competed at the gala this year. Huge congratulations to our swimming team for finishing in a magnificent 4th position with a grand total of 20 points. With Oxon being the host school for the event it was fitting that the team gave the strongest performance at the gala for quite some years. Particular mention to Sian McEwan, Cerys Daniels, Kyle Wilcox and Jonny Underwood for getting to the finals of their individual events. Credit also to all the relay teams for getting to their finals also.
- **Rounders Tournament 2015** – Our Year 5 team really enjoyed the competition held at Presfelde. It was always going to be difficult with the children competing against children from an older year group. They more than rose to the challenge and finished in sixth position – well done!
- **School Games Day 2015** – A group of 26 children enjoyed the experience of competing at the event. We had competitors in the golf, athletics and cricket competitions who gave their absolute best. Special mention to the Year 4 cricket team who proved invincible! Unbeaten in the group games and posting incredible scores, they progressed to the final against Greenfields. They played with style and confidence and never looked like they were going to be beaten. So it proved – Oxon being crowned the champions!

- **Area Sports** – A team of 27 children enjoyed the opportunity of competing at this event. The weather conditions proved difficult but that didn't impact on the quality of their performance. Special mention to Jacob Jones for making it to the final of his individual sprint event finishing in 3rd place. Credit also to the U10 Girls and U12 Boys relay teams who also progressed to their finals finishing 3rd and 2nd respectively.

Other Achievements

- **Arts Week** – We took the theme of 'India' this year. Class teachers planned a wide variety of activities to develop this theme and we invited professional artists to further enhance the week. A particular focus was the sessions led by a professional dancer who produced some fantastic 'Bollywood dances' with the children. My thanks also go to Mrs Davies for her work in organising the week and also to a number of our parents who are of Indian heritage and made a massively positive contribution to the week. Once again it was extremely successful and the feedback from children and adults was excellent.
- **Year 6 Leavers Assemblies** – The Year 6 leavers delivered two great final assemblies. It was fascinating to look at the many photos included in the PowerPoint presentations showing the huge amount of different activities they have been involved in during the last twelve months. We will certainly miss them when they move to secondary school.
- **Big Pedal** – We did fantastically well to be awarded eighth place in the West Midlands for this competition which measured the number of children cycling to school over a period of time in May. The school was given two balance bikes as a prize for being 'first' in Shrewsbury. Please remember that children cycling to school should have a cycle permit, an application form is available from the school office.

Fundraising

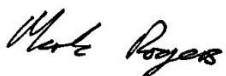
- **Summer Barbeque** – We enjoyed a fantastic, well supported, summer barbeque. My thanks go to Mrs Nicholls, her team and all those who worked to make the evening a success. I am delighted to inform you that the event raised a fantastic £3,307 (the highest figure ever). It is planned that a large amount of this money will be used to subsidise the pantomime visit at Christmas.
- **Sports days** – My thanks go to the PTA who sold drinks and ice pops at both sports days. The total raised was £180.
- **'Race for Lloyd'** – Year 6 children completed a sponsored run to raise money for Cancer Research. Lloyd Burton was a local boy who passed away in April after a courageous battle with cancer. One of our children Sian McEwan knew Lloyd well and had the idea for a charity event. My thanks also go to Mrs Kolze-Jones and Mrs Hayward who worked with the children to organise this event. The event raised an amazing £815.
- Thank you for bringing in the many different school vouchers which are being put to good use. We had in excess of 18,000 Sainsbury vouchers which will be put towards PE equipment. Many thanks to Mrs Webb who counted the vouchers!

Summary

The autumn term starts on Tuesday 8th September.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the support the school has received, in so many different ways, throughout the year. I trust that you and your children will have a great summer vacation and look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Rogers