



Oxon Church of England Primary School

RACECOURSE LANE • BICTON HEATH • SHREWSBURY • SHROPSHIRE • SY3 5BJ

telephone 01743 351948

fax 01743 272645

email admin@oxon.shropshire.sch.uk

website www.oxon.shropshire.sch.uk

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

Newsletter – Autumn Term 2014

Introduction

The fifteen weeks of the autumn term have been a busy and productive time. Highlights of this term for me have included our excellent year 6 children visiting Pioneer Centre for their residential visit, great success in the Britain in Bloom awards, the introduction of free meals for Key Stage 1 children, the many excellent visits and fantastic Christmas productions and carol service. The feedback we receive on visits out of school remains of the highest quality and has been replicated on all the visits this term. We have heard stories of museum staff changing their days off so that they can work with Oxon children and also experienced guides stating that the children from Oxon are the best behaved and the most engaged with the learning. 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

- **New National Curriculum** – We have introduced the new curriculum from September. We have worked hard to keep the best of our previous curriculum while incorporating the new required elements.
- **Special Educational Needs** – Significant national changes have taken place in this area. Our school website section ‘Pupils with Special Educational Needs’ contains a detailed explanation of the new arrangements at Oxon. The most visible change to parents is that the categories of ‘SEN concern, School Action, School Action Plus’ have been removed, as have Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The support for children is now organised through year group based ‘provision maps’. Some, but not all, children who previously had IEPs will now have Pupil Centred Plans (PCPs) and over time, statements will be replaced with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP). If you have specific questions about this area please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher or Mrs Hutchinson our Special Need Co-ordinator (SENCO).
- **Medical Needs** – New government guidelines about this area have been introduced. We have had a long standing commitment to be fully inclusive to all children including those with significant medical needs, as such, the systems we have operated for several years match very closely with the new raised



expectations. A number of minor changes have been made and our policy document updated. If your child does have significant medical needs you will already have been involved in writing an Individual Healthcare Plan, children with asthma have asthma care plans in place and details about medicines in school can be found on our website. If you have any questions about this area please do not hesitate to speak to the school office or the class teacher.

- **RE and Worship** – We have reviewed these areas and focussed particularly on a system of ‘Christian Value of the Month’ that we have recently introduced. The new ‘jigsaw’ display in the hall is the focus of this initiative.
- **British Values** – We have spent time looking at these values that have been identified by the government. All schools are now required to ‘actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.’ We believe that these are well established in our school particularly through our whole school ethos, the work of the school council, PSHE lessons and through the wider curriculum.
- Staff have also spent time working on English, maths, computing, assessment and learning and teaching.
- **Reviews** – We have a frequent cycle of reviews to ensure that all areas are functioning effectively, this term we have reviewed thirteen policies including E-Safety, Equality Scheme and all our risk assessments.
- **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 Hepworth will be retiring at Christmas after sixteen years teaching at Oxon. During that time she has taken a lead role in developing RE and worship within school, been very involved in charitable work including our Kenya project and has taught hundreds of children. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and commitment over those years and wish her well for her retirement.
- Mrs Watkin has been appointed to teach in year 1 alongside Mrs Evans to replace Mrs Hepworth.
- Mrs Aitken started work teaching in year 2 in September; she left to start maternity leave at half term. Mrs Bogle was appointed to replace her and started work after half term.
- Mrs Semple started work in September as a teaching assistant in year 1.
- Mrs Cornes started work in September as a teaching assistant in year 2 and reception.

Free School Meals for Infant Pupils

- From September 2014 we introduced free meals for all key stage 1 children. In preparation for this change a significant amount of new equipment was installed in the kitchen, additional kitchen staff were employed and the size of our food deliveries increased significantly.
- Despite all our detailed plans the first week was a challenge! By Friday of that week we had developed a system that works very efficiently to feed around 300 children each day. My thanks go to the kitchen staff and staff from Shire Catering who have worked extremely hard to introduce this new initiative.
- We continue to develop our menus, which are planned in consultation with the School Council and to listen carefully to the feedback you give us through the parental surveys.

Clubs

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Hand chimes – Y3, Y4	Mrs Burgess and Mrs Davies
Choir – Y5, Y6	Miss Eaton, Mrs Haycocks and Mrs Houghton
Eco Club – Y3, Y4	Mrs Thurston and Mrs Kolze-Jones
French – Y2	Mrs Bowyer
Football – Y2	Sportsjam and Mrs Tamplin
Football – Y3	Sportsjam and Mrs Tamplin
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Mrs France and Mrs Kolze-Jones
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Jones
Gym – Y3	Mr O'Hagan and Mrs Knight
Gym – Y4	Mr O'Hagan and Mrs Knight
MyMaths – Y4	Mrs Davies
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y1	Mrs France and Mrs Lovatt
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y2	Mrs France and Mrs Dugan
Tennis – Y3	Mr Creffield and Mrs Semple
Tennis – Y4	Mr Creffield and Mrs Cornes
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 the Shrewsbury library as part of their literacy 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 4 will be visiting the Redwood Centre to sing two songs at the start of their carol service.
- Year 5 have spent a day working at the Preston Montford Field Study Centre to support their science work on habitats.
- Year 6 visited the Priory School to see a production of 'Fame'.
- Year 6 visited the Meole Brace School to see a production of 'Honk'.
- Year 6 visited 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.
- Our hand chimes club will be performing at St Chad's church on Tuesday 16th December.
- The whole school will be visiting Theatre Severn to watch a performance of 'Peter Pan' at the very end of term.

Britain in Bloom

We were delighted to receive a number of awards in connection with our school grounds.

- We have been awarded a 'Gold Award for a school grounds' as part of the 'Heart of England in Bloom 2014' awards.

The report for our school was as follows:

'Oxon CE Primary School – Shrewsbury Gold Award

Judge: Stan Sedman

In pouring rain, sheltered by umbrellas, the visit was valiantly led by students from School Council, ECO Group and Garden Club who, regardless of the conditions, were keen to show off their grounds. The large area from the entrance throughout was immaculate and enhanced by some beautiful mature trees. Maximum use had been made of the space and it was obvious that pupils, through their School Council, had regular and positive input into the development. The Judge was particularly impressed by:

- Garden Club members showed off their raised beds and produce, including the unusual container entries, in a knowledgeable manner
- ECO Group introduced the wildlife aspects which were excellent with a brilliant Forest School area complete with pond (inhabited by crested newts) which is used by all the pupils.
- Recycling obvious throughout with some great birdfeeders made out of milk cartons and beautifully decorated.
- Impressive reading chair with pupil benches located under shelter of mature trees.
- New planting of trees donated by Woodland Trust and developing orchard.

A great all round standard which is giving obvious pleasure and support to all the pupils.'

- In addition I am delighted that our Site Manager Mr Laux was awarded an 'exceptional contribution' award, one of only two awarded in the West Midlands. Mr Laux makes a fantastic contribution to our school in countless ways, including through his work on the school grounds, and I am delighted that he has received the wider recognition he truly deserves.
- Mr Stan Sedman visited school to present the awards to Mrs Shirra and Mr Laux. It was massively encouraging to hear his extremely positive comments about our school including his comments about how positive the Shrewsbury town guides (one of his other roles) are about the behaviour and attitude of children from Oxon.

Assemblies, Performances and Visitors to School

- We were delighted to welcome into school Mr Charles Hart, father of Joe, to speak at a whole school assembly. As part of the assembly he presented the school with Joe's signed England shirt from the recent game against Slovakia. As ever, Mr Hart was able to emphasise Joe's strong links with Oxon and use this as a way to inspire the children to meet their goals and ambitions whether they be sporting or in other areas. Mr Jones' status as Joe's first football manager also got a mention! The shirt is a wonderful gift and will be mounted and displayed in our entrance hall, I can't imagine that many schools in the country are the proud owners of two signed England shirts! We are extremely grateful to Joe and the Hart family for their ongoing support of the school over many years.

- In addition to the Britain in Bloom Awards, I am pleased to inform you that we have also achieved the following results in the Shrewsbury 'Town of Flowers' competition:
 - Schools Unusual Floral Containers – First Place
 - Schools Wildlife Garden – First Place
- Year 2 - year 6 enjoyed a live music performance by a Brass ensemble of Shropshire Music Service staff.
- On Friday 3rd October we held our Harvest Festival. Children in years 3 and 4 took part in the service, which was held in Christchurch Shelton and Oxon. The event went well and details of the charitable collection are 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.
- The Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service brought a fire engine to school and spent time working with years 2 and 3.
- The school has continued to be involved in a cycle to school promotion called 'Bike It'. This has involved competitions, promotions, assemblies, surveys and 'Wheellie Wednesdays'. Please remember that children cycling to school should have a cycle permit, an application form is available from the school office.
- Class assemblies have taken place for children in years 3, 4 and 5.
- Key Stage 1 Performance – this year's performance entitled 'Are we nearly there yet?' took place on 8th, 9th, and 10th December. It was, once again, great to see a performance of such quality taking place.
- The Key Stage 1 performance was the first performance on our new stage that was purchased in the summer. The new stage is taller than our previous stage, which is massively beneficial to the audience who now have a much better view of our smaller children. My thanks to the PTA who generously contributed half the cost of the stage.
- Carol service – Years 5 and 6 led a traditional carol service at the church on Friday 12th 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 once again delighted to be able deliver over 61 boxes.
- **Children in Need** – We supported this charity with a non-uniform day that raised £293.
- **Poppy Appeal** – We supported this important national appeal raising a total of £107.
- **Christingle Candles** – We are once again supporting The Children's Society through this collection.
- **PTA Events** – The PTA held two discos that raised £243 and held another very successful Christmas Fayre which raised an excellent £2,432. This term money raised by the PTA has been used to provide a generous subsidy to our 'Peter Pan' visit and provide £4,000 towards the new stage. My thanks go to Mrs Nicholls and her team for all their hard work in organising these events that are enjoyed so much by the children.

Sporting Achievements

Football

U11 Boys ESFA Nations Cup
Oxon 0 – 2 Redhill
Oxon 0 – 2 Market Drayton

U11 Boys SFA Football League Cup (First Round)
Oxon 2 – 1 St Peters
Oxon 3 – 0 Trinity
Qualified for final round!

U11 Boys SFA Football League Cup (Final Round)
Oxon 0 – 0 Mount Pleasant
Oxon 0 – 2 Coleham
Oxon 0 – 0 Mereside
Oxon 0 – 3 St Lawrence
Oxon 0 – 0 Harlescott

U11 Girls SFA County Plate
Oxon 0 – 0 Coleham
Oxon 0 – 1 Ladygrove
Oxon 0 – 1 Longnor
Oxon 0 – 2 St Lawrence
Oxon 0 – 1 St Giles

Cross Country – Year 5 and 6 – Shrewsbury High Prep. School

18 schools competed at this event. The school cross country teams worked hard to achieve the following results.

Year 6 Boys – 7th
Year 6 Girls – 8th
Year 5 Boys – 5th
Year 5 Girls – 11th

A particular mention to Jacob Jones (5th) and Anna France (8th) for individual top ten finishes.

Tag Rugby – Year 5 and 6 - Tournament

Oxon 4 – 7 St Georges
Oxon 6 – 3 Radbrook
Oxon 7 – 4 Wilfred Owen
Finished 2nd in group and qualified for 3rd v 4th play-off.
Oxon 6 – 9 Meole Brace '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	Points	Won	Drawn	Lost	For
1	Blue	15	5	0	1	12
2	Red	15	5	0	1	11
3	Green	10	3	1	1	11
4	All-stars 'B'	7	2	1	3	8
5	Yellow	6	2	0	4	4
6	All-stars 'A'	0	0	0	6	1

Inter-House Y4, 5 and 6 Football Competition - Girls

Position	House	Points	Won	Drawn	Lost	For
1	Yellow	9	3	0	0	9
2	Green	6	2	0	1	5
3	Blue	1	0	1	2	3
4	Red	1	0	1	2	1

Inter-House Tag Rugby Competition

Position	House
1	Green
2	Blue
3	Red
4	Yellow

Individual Achievements

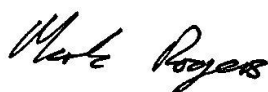
Kai Davies – Congratulations to Kai Davies (Year 6) who is playing the part of Michael Darling in the production of 'Peter Pan' at Theatre Severn. Unfortunately Kai's team is not performing on the day we visit the theatre so he will be joining us in the audience for that performance.

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 next year. The spring term starts on Tuesday 6th January.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mark Rogers