



Oxon Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter – Summer Term 2014

Introduction

The 2014 summer term will be memorable for many reasons. Our fantastic arts week with a theme of 'colour' was extremely well received by children and parents. Our wide variety of sporting competitions including athletics, cricket, school games, swimming and a football final at the Greenhouse meadow. Children from both key stages performing at 'Shropshire Sings' concerts was also a great experience for those involved. Winning 'The Big Pedal' for the school in the West Midlands with the highest number of children cycling to school was a great achievement and the children certainly enjoyed the prize of a BMX Stunt Show! Our excellent summer BBQ that came to a most spectacular end with an unbelievable thunder storm will, I suspect, be remembered for many years. Added to that was an appearance on the BBC's Countryfile programme for some of our Year 3 children. I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of school life this term.

Curriculum Development – A brief summary

- **New National Curriculum** – Staff have continued to plan for the introduction of the new National Curriculum from September 2014 onwards. We have worked hard to keep the best of our previous curriculum while incorporating the new required elements. Year 6 and Year 2 will still be assessed against the 'old' National Curriculum in summer 2015. From 2016 onwards Year 6 will be assessed against the 'new' curriculum. Significant changes to assessments are planned, we are still receiving information about these changes.
- **Marking** – For many years we have had a policy in place for this key area (Feedback and Reflection). In simple terms, teachers respond in a positive way to what the child has written and then identify the things the child needs to do to improve their writing further. The child is then given time to respond to those comments and is often asked to edit or extend work in response to the identified areas. From looking at your child's book you will have observed that teachers frequently use marking codes. This term we have worked as a staff to combine our slightly different systems into a whole school marking code. This code went into operation towards the end of term. Encouraging your child to fully engage with the guidance and direction from the teacher is really helpful, the children who are able to do this well are often the ones who make the most rapid progress in writing.



- **ICT** – All 32 computers in the ICT suite have been replaced with new machines. The children and staff are enjoying the increased speed and capacity of the new machines.
- **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. As you may be aware CRB checks have now been replaced by DBS checks. Our policy for how we use these checks remains very similar and is explained in the documents. If you have any questions about this area please do not hesitate to contact me.

Free School Meals for Infant Pupils

- From September 2014 onwards all children in English schools in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be entitled to free school meals.
- It is not compulsory and children may still choose to bring sandwiches, but national pilots suggest very high take up rates and that is what we are anticipating at Oxon.
- Considerable planning and preparation has been taking place this term. We have been working with Shire Services, our catering provider, and an independent government advisor to try and meet the significant logistical challenges we face. New equipment has now been ordered and plans are in place.
- This is a significant change for us and we may need to make further changes when the new system goes live in September.
- We are certainly looking forward to the end of Key Stage 1 children bringing purses of money into school each day!

Staff Changes

- Mrs McMichael will be leaving Oxon at the end of the summer term to undertake research and charity work with children and families. We will miss her and I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the last six years.
- Mrs Jo Aitken has been appointed to replace Mrs McMichael and also to be our Key Stage 1 Co-ordinator. Mrs Aitken currently teaches at Woodside Primary School in Oswestry.
- Mrs H Jones (Year 3) has returned from maternity leave. Miss Carswell has finished her maternity cover, but is continuing to do a substantial amount of work with the class.
- From next September Mrs Evans will teach for four days a week and Mrs Hepworth will move to teaching one day a week. They will continue to share a Year 1 class.
- Mrs Houghton will increase her teaching commitment and teach for an additional one day a week in Reception replacing Mrs Evans.
- We have appointed two additional teaching assistants, Mrs Jackie Semple and Mrs Melanie Cornes.

Clubs

Athletics Club – Y3,4

Cricket Club – Y4,5,6

First Aid Club – Y5,6

Gardening Club – Y1

Gym Club – Y1

Gym Club – Y2

Maths Club – Y5

Rounders Club – Y5,6

‘Shropshire Sings’ KS1 Choir

‘Shropshire Sings’ KS2 Choir

Tennis Club – Y1

Miss France and Miss Lee

Miss France and Mrs Kolze-Jones

Mr Reynolds and Mrs Sear

Mrs Shirra and Mr Laux

Mr O’Hagan and Mrs Knight

Mr O’Hagan and Mrs Lovatt

Miss Eaton

Miss Lee and Mrs Dugan

Mrs Houghton, Mrs Evans and Mrs Sear

Mrs Burgess, Mrs S Davies, Mrs L Davies

Mr Creffield and Mrs Kolze-Jones

Tennis Club – Y2
Tri Golf Club – Y3,4
Tri Golf Club – Y5,6

Mr Creffield and Mrs Bartlett
Sports Jam and Mrs Davies
Sports Jam and Mrs Davies

School Sport and PE Grant

We have now come to the end of the first year of our school sports grant and are reviewing the impact of our plan and actions. As part of that process Mr Jones and I were astonished to calculate that 719 places of free sports clubs had been allocated to children at Oxon this year. In recent years, many local schools have moved to charge for clubs. At Oxon, with very strong support from governors, we are committed to maintaining and expanding a very wide range of free clubs. Our updated website entry about this area is printed below:

‘From September 2013 onwards all schools have received additional money from the government to support this area. The £10,000 Oxon has been given has been used in the following ways:

We have appointed our experienced PE co-ordinator, Mr Wayne Jones, to lead this area as a Specialist PE/Sport Teacher.

Key elements of his role include:

- Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs – designing our programme of clubs, commissioning staff and managing this important area.
- Competitive Sport – taking a lead role in co-ordinating our involvement in a wide variety of sporting competitions.
 - The ‘Extra-Curricular Activities’(About Us) section of the website and end of term newsletters (Parents) provide a summary of our provision in these areas.
- Curriculum – provide support for colleagues in the delivery of high quality PE.

The school has used a substantial element of this money to enhance our extra-curricular sports provision. The school and governors are committed to the widest possible access to sport, as a consequence, all school clubs at Oxon are free.

Impact 2013-2014

- 32 different free sports clubs were funded.
- 719 places at free sports clubs were taken up by children at Oxon during the year.
- The termly newsletter summarises the school’s significant commitment to competitive sport.’

Building Developments

- The planned air conditioning has now been installed in Year 5 and additional vents have been added to the entrance hall.
- Significant work, including a new cooker, has taken place in the kitchen and hall to prepare for the anticipated increase in school meals numbers.

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 Shrewsbury as part of their history work about famous people.
- Year 2 have visited the parish church to explore the church as a place of worship.
- Year 3 have visited Ludlow to work with the museum service as 'rock detectives'.
- Year 4 have visited Enginuity 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 National Trust.
- Year 6 have taken part in 'Crucial Crew' at Nesscliffe Camp.

Assemblies and Visitors to school

- Year 2 and Year 5 enjoyed a visit from a mobile planetarium to support their science work.
- Library staff worked in school with Year 5 and 6 on the Bookquest project.
- Year 5 have worked with staff from the Priory School on a business and enterprise project called 'Blue Skies'.
- Caroline House from the road safety team has visited to lead assemblies about road safety.
- 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.
- Jess Holohan, our link 'Bike It' officer, has cycled with groups of our Year 6 pupils from our school to Priory and Meole Brace secondary schools to prepare them for September.

Sporting Achievements

Football

Boys – World Cup 1st Round

Oxon (Switzerland) 3 – Longnor (Ivory Coast) 0

Oxon (Switzerland) 4 – Church Preen (Portugal) 0

Oxon (Switzerland) 1 – Newtown (Australia) 0

Through to second round.

Boys – World Cup 2nd Round

Oxon (Switzerland) 0 – Coleham (Brazil) 0

Oxon (Switzerland) 1 – Greenfields (Ghana) 0

Oxon (Switzerland) 0 – St Georges (Iran) 0

Lost out on a place in the semi-final on penalties!

Girls – World Cup 1st Round

Oxon (Australia) 0 – Longnor (Belgium) 0

Oxon (Australia) 0 – Adderley (Brazil) 0

Oxon (Australia) 1 – Trinity (Netherlands) 0

Kerrison Jones Cup Final – Greenhous Meadow Stadium

Oxon 1 – Oakmeadow 4

Primary School Games Day

A team of twenty eight children represented the school at the Sports Village in cricket, athletics and golf. It was a great day with all of the children involved competing really well.

- The Year 4 cricket team enjoyed great success during the group stages of their competition and managed to get to the final where unfortunately they were narrowly beaten.
- The Tri-Golf team performed really well too and finished runners-up in their competition.
- The athletics team scored really well in their competition and finished in third place.

Swimming Gala

The swimming team can all be proud of their performances this year with the girls making both the medley and freestyle relay finals and the boys making the freestyle relay final. Special mention also to Darvin Magundayao for making the individual butterfly final.

Area Sports

Twenty four children competed at the area sports competition. The team performed extremely well with a large number of children reaching finals. I would particularly like to highlight the following results:

Boys Under 12 – 100m Relay Final – Second Place
Boys Under 10 – 80m Relay Final – Third Place
Girls Under 10 – 80m Relay Final – Second Place
Boys Under 10 – 80m Final – Kyle Wilcox – Second Place
Boys Under 10 – 80m Final – Cameron Sherman – Fourth Place
Boys Under 12 – 800m Final – Alfie Fulgoni – Fourth Place
Girls Under 12 – 800m Final – Mae Blower – Sixth Place
Girls Under 12 – Long Jump – Carys Crowther – Fourth Place
Boys Under 12 – 80m Final – Jacob Jones- Fourth Place
Girls Under 12 – 150m Final – Poppy Jarvis – Third Place
Girls Under 12 – 80m Final – Emily Smart – Third Place

Rounders Tournament

Well done to the rounders team for competing so well at the recent tournament that was held at Prestfelde. Although results didn't quite go our way I was pleased with the spirit of sportsmanship and sense of fair play that was demonstrated by the team.

Prestfelde 11½ – Oxon 2½
Coleham 7½ – Oxon 5
Meole Brace 9½ – Oxon 7
St Giles 9 – Oxon 8

St Georges 6 – Oxon 3

Trinity 3 – Oxon 2

Shrewsbury Cathedral 3 – Oxon 7½

Other Achievements

- **Countryfile** – A group of Year 3 children enjoyed a visit to Charles Darwin's garden to carry out a bug hunt organised by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. I am grateful to Mrs Lanyon from the trust for arranging this event. The children worked with Matt Baker for over four hours, they were fantastically well behaved throughout. An extract from that time was shown on Countryfile with the presenters making lots of really positive comments about the children.
- **Shropshire Sings!** – We were delighted to see two school choirs (Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) take part in these events at The West Midlands Showground that were organised by the Shropshire Music Service. Both evenings were very well received by parents with some wonderful, uplifting singing. It was great to hear extremely positive reports about the behaviour and engagement of the Oxon children on both nights, throughout the rehearsal time and in the performance.
- **Big Pedal** – We did fantastically well to be awarded first 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 prize for this was an 'Extreme Mountain Bike Stunt Show' performed by an act that had been a finalist in a previous 'Britain's Got Talent'. The children certainly enjoyed the show and to the best of my knowledge have followed my advice not to try it at home! Please remember that children cycling to school should have a cycle permit, an application form is available from the school office.
- **Arts Week** – We took the theme of 'Colour' 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 work with the children. We are very grateful to the PTA for a donation of £1,000 that helped to fund this week. My thanks also go to Mrs Davies for her work in organising the week. Once again it was extremely successful and the feedback from children and adults was massively positive.
- **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.

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. Thanks also all those of you, particularly our sodden governors on the BBQ, who helped us clear up after the storm. It was a great team effort in rather challenging conditions! From the children's point of view, I am told the storm made it the best Summer Barbeque ever! I am delighted to inform you that the event raised a fantastic £2,500. 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 £175.
- Thank you for bringing in the many different school vouchers which are being put to good use. We had in excess of 27,000 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 2nd 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,

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

Mark Rogers