



Oxon Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter – Autumn Term 2015

Introduction

The fourteen weeks of the autumn term have been a busy and productive time. Summary headlines are very positive, the school now has 413 pupils which is the highest number ever! Analysis of the test performance of children at the end of last year in national tests indicate high levels of performance and the huge number of visitors I have shown around school this term have been extremely positive, as they viewed our school in action on a normal working day. Highlights of this term for me have included our excellent year 6 children visiting the Pioneer Centre for their residential visit, 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. 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

- **Learning and Teaching** – Staff have continued to focus on this key area. We have revisited the work of Professor John Hattie which has been very influential in our thinking in recent years. His work focusses on teachers understanding which approaches have the most impact on children based on a summary of 900+ pieces of international research. We have looked again at the elements of this ‘visible learning’ and in particular focussed on viewing the learning through the eyes of the child. Professor Hattie advises education ministers throughout the world and I was delighted to listen to him speak this autumn and had the opportunity to discuss some of our approaches at Oxon with him.
- **Computers** – We have purchased 50 i-Pads and staff have undertaken training on these. Additional i-Pads will be purchased in the spring.
- **Assessment** – As you will be aware from previous newsletters National Curriculum levels have now been abolished. Staff have continued to develop and refine our new systems. The targets that you have seen in children’s books this term all relate to the new curriculum.



- **British Values** – As I explained last term, 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.’ Linked to this staff have undertaken ‘Prevent’ training relating to radicalisation.
- **Kenya** – We continue to develop our partnership with Kamukuywa AC School in Kenya. We were sad to be informed in October that Mr Ben Wanjala, the previous head of Kamukuywa, had died. We had known Ben well since Mr Morgan’s first visit in 2010; memorably, Ben visited us at Oxon in 2012. We have very fond memories of Ben, who was a man dedicated to doing his best for the children he was responsible for in a very challenging situation. We will also remember, with fondness, his warmth, friendship and humour. Oxon is now a lead Global Learning Partnership ‘Expert Centre’ for this area/region, as part of this Mr Morgan is leading training for other schools.
- **Reviews** – We have a frequent cycle of reviews to ensure that all areas are functioning effectively. This term we have reviewed seventeen policies including English and maths.
- **Website** – We update our website regularly. The search facility provides an excellent way to find out about different areas of school life.

Staff Changes

- Miss Hollis (Y1), Miss Morgan (Y4) and Miss Hughes (Y5 – covering Miss Eaton) joined us as class teachers at the start of term.
- Miss Eaton left for maternity leave in mid-September.
- Mrs Bogle who was covering a short term contract in Year 2 has left for maternity leave in December.
- Mrs Luther has been appointed as our permanent Key Stage 1 Co-ordinator, she will teach in Year 2, teaching the class that was taught by Mrs Bogle this term. She will join us at the start of the spring term.
- Mrs Cornes, one of our teaching assistants, has left for maternity leave in November, Mrs Palin has been appointed to cover her absence.
- We have appointed two new lunchtime supervisors Mrs Yapp and Mrs Yakhoul.

Clubs

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Art – Y1	Mrs Lovatt and Mrs Williams
Choir – Y5, Y6	Mrs Haycocks and Mrs Houghton
Computer – Y2	Mrs Bogle
French – Y2	Mrs Aitken
Football – Y2	Sportsjam and Mrs Tamplin
Football – Y3	Sportsjam and Mrs Tamplin
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Miss 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
Hand chimes – Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Mrs Burgess and Mrs Davies

MyMaths – Y2,Y3,Y4,Y5
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y1
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y2
Reflections – Y3
Tennis – Y3
Tennis – Y4
Tag Rugby – Y5, Y6

Mrs Davies and Miss Jewsbury
Miss France and Mrs Dugan
Miss France and Mrs Lovatt
Mrs Shirra
Mr Creffield and Mrs Semple
Mr Creffield and Mrs Dugan
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 Secret Hills Discovery Centre as part of their work on habitats.
- 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 Meole Brace Secondary School to see a production of 'Beauty and the Beast'.
- 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, fencing, archery and a night walk.
- Our hand chimes club will be performing at St Chad's church on Wednesday 16th December.
- The whole school will be visiting Theatre Severn to watch a performance of 'Dick Whittington' on 14th December.

Assemblies, Performances and Visitors to School

- We were pleased to welcome our mayor, Councillor Miles Kenny, to a whole school assembly to present us with the award for third place in the Shrewsbury 'Town of Flowers' competition in the category of 'Schools Unusual Floral Containers'.
- Year 2 - year 6 enjoyed a live music performance by a 'Rock and Pop' ensemble of Shropshire Music Service staff.
- On Friday 2nd October we held our Harvest Festival. Children in years 3 and 4 took part in the service, which was held in Christ Church 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 year 3.
- Class assemblies have taken place for children in years 3, 4 and 5.
- Key Stage 1 Performance – this year's performance entitled 'Prickly Hay' took place on 7th, 8th, and 9th 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 11th 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 64 boxes.
- **Children in Need** – We supported this charity with a non-uniform day that raised £261.
- **Poppy Appeal** – We supported this important national appeal raising a total of £105.
- **Christingle Candles** – We are once again supporting The Children's Society through this collection.
- **PTA Events** – The PTA held two film nights that raised £450 and held another very successful Christmas Fayre which raised an excellent £2,688. 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. This term money raised by the PTA has been used to provide:
 - a generous subsidy of over £3,000 for our 'Dick Whittington' pantomime visit;
 - £1000 to wet play toys for each class;
 - £1,830 to purchase a set of 62 ukuleles to be used in music lessons.

Sporting Achievements

Football

U11 Boys SFA Football League Cup (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 1 Radbrook
Oxon 1 – 0 Longnor
Oxon 1 – 1 Grange Park

U11 Girls SFA County Plate (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 0 Longnor
Oxon 0 – 5 Newport
Oxon 0 – 0 Pontesbury
Qualified for next round!

U10 Boys SFA County Shield (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 0 Prees
Oxon 0 – 0 Longden
Oxon 0 – 2 Belvidere

U10 Girls SFA County Shield (1st Round)

Oxon 0 – 0 St Lawrence
Oxon 1 – 0 Longden
Oxon 0 – 1 Longnor
Qualified for next round!

U10 Girls SFA County Shield (2nd Round)

Oxon 0 – 2 St Peter's
Oxon 0 – 1 St George's
Oxon 0 – 1 Redhill
Oxon 0 – 0 Longnor

Tag Rugby

Shrewsbury Schools Games Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament

Oxon 20 – 10 Harlescott
Oxon 30 – 30 Meole Brace
Oxon 5 – 25 St Georges
Oxon 30 – 10 Oakmeadow
Finished in 3rd position in group

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	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Red	5	0	0	15
2	Green	3	0	2	9
3	Yellow	1	1	3	4
4	Blue	0	1	4	1

Inter-House Tag Rugby Competition

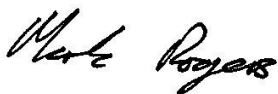
Position	House	Won	Drawn	Tries	Points
1	Red	5	1	19	16
2	Green	3	2	16	11
3	Blue	2	1	14	7
4	Yellow	0	0	4	0

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 4th January.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mark Rogers