

# Oxon Church of England Primary School

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

## Newsletter – Autumn Term 2021

### Introduction

The fifteen weeks of the autumn term have been a busy and productive time. From the very start of term, we have worked to return as much 'normality' as quickly as was possible. Day by day the removal of the 'bubbles' structure has given us much greater freedom in areas such as movement around school, worship (assemblies), playtimes, prefect roles and lunchtimes, whilst also continuing to work hard to keep the children and staff safe. I cannot tell you the joy I felt the first time the children sang in assembly this September after such a long period when this was not permitted. It has also been wonderful to see school visits, clubs and visitors into school returning. The feedback we receive on visits out of school remains of the highest quality and has been replicated on the visits this term. We were particularly delighted that our Year 6 were able to visit the Pioneer Centre for their residential visit this October and myself and the governors have sent thanks to the staff involved for supporting this visit.

Throughout the term we have experienced what I would describe as 'a steady low level bubbling of Covid.' We have not seen the surges in numbers that many Shropshire schools have experienced but equally it has never been far away. In many cases we have found that transmission has been linked to family and sibling infections. Ventilation levels in school have remained very high. We have received our DfE CO2 monitors that have been placed in all classes, they have not identified any concerns. Around ten years ago we purchased a small number of CO2 monitors as part of some work we completed improving ventilation in the building, this may have been good preparation for these times.

The massive disappointment of the term was that we were unable to invite audiences to our productions. The timing of the rising Shropshire levels, what looked like the start of a surge in cases within school and the period of uncertainty in relation to the Omicron variant coincided at literally the worst point in terms of making a decision about live audiences. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Day by day throughout the term, school has felt calm, purposeful but also full of energy and joy. Thank you for your support and trust in helping us achieve this and get to this point in our journey through the pandemic.



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.

## **Staff Changes**

- Mrs Rayment returned from maternity leave after the summer to teach in Year 3.
- Mrs Burgess stepped down from her full-time role at the end of last year. From September onwards she has been teaching one day a week in Year 3 and one day a week in Year 5.
- Mrs Hamond, Year 1 Teaching Assistant, moved to a new school in October. I would like to thank her for her hard work during her time with us.
- Mrs Cork started work as a Teaching Assistant in Year 1 in October.
- Mrs Clasper started work as a Teaching Assistant in Year 1 in October.
- Mrs Little, Year 1 Teaching Assistant, will leave us at the end of this term to move to a new school. I would like to thank her for her hard work during her time with us.

## **Clubs**

Throughout the term the following clubs have been running:

Art Journaling – Y6	Mr Beal and Mrs Roach
Football – Y2	Mr Braddock and Mrs Quan
Football – Y3	Mr Braddock and Mrs Quan
Football – Y4 Boys	Mr Braddock and Ms Biggs
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Mr Braddock and Ms Biggs
Football – Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Jones
Gym – Y3	Mrs Luther
Gym – Y4	Mrs Luther and Mr Beal
MyMaths – Y2, Y3, Y4	Miss Jewsbury, Mr Beal and Mrs Beeson
MyMaths – Y5, Y6	Miss Jewsbury, Mr Beal and Mrs Beeson
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y1	Mr Braddock and Miss Lee
Multi-skills (Sport) – Y2	Mr Braddock and Miss Lee
Paper Crafts – Y3	Mrs Rayment and Mrs Quan
Tennis – Y3	Mr Creffield and Mrs Manterfield
Tennis – Y4	Mr Creffield and Mrs Manterfield

## **Music**

The following music lessons have been taking place in school:

- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Violin

## **Visits out of school**

- Year 2 have visited Think Tank in Birmingham 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 5 have visited the National Memorial Arboretum as part of their history work about the two world wars.
- Year 6 took part in a residential visit to the Pioneer Centre at Cleobury Mortimer. Their activities included climbing, abseiling, high ropes course, archery and raft building.
- Year 6 visited the Shrewsbury Museum and the Shropshire Archives as part of their history and art work studying 'Architecture through the ages in Shrewsbury'. (The Shrewsbury Flaxmill is currently closed due to renovation work.)
- The whole school enjoyed visiting Theatre Severn to watch a performance of 'The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan'.
- Unfortunately, the Year 1 visit to Acton Scott Farm was unable to go ahead due to the farm being closed throughout the autumn term.

Year 4 at Blists Hill:



Year 2 at Think Tank:



Year 5 at NMA:



Year 3 at Chester:



Year 6 at Pioneer:



## **Performances, Worship (Assemblies) and Visitors to School**

- Year 2 to Year 6 enjoyed a live music performance by a 'Rock and Pop' group of Shropshire Music Service staff either in person or streamed to the classroom.
- Children from Year 3 to Year 6 enjoyed a live-streamed virtual event with the author Lenny Henry.
- Rev. Charlotte has visited school regularly to lead worship.
- On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, Rev Charlotte led our Harvest Festival in school. Details of the charitable collection is listed in the section below.
- Year 1 enjoyed a visit from a vet from Cophthorne Vets as part of their science work.
- Year 2 benefitted from a talk from a nurse who came to talk to the children about good hygiene as part of our PSHE work.
- Year 3 had a visit from Rev. Charlotte to talk about Christian Baptism in RE.
- 'Stepping Out' – We were delighted that all our Year 3 and 4 pupils took part in a local authority initiative related to pedestrian safety. The project involved children being trained and then assessed on how to cross roads safely.
- Year 6 took part in Mini First Aid training sponsored by Savlon.
- All Key Stage 2 classes took part in the BBC Live Lesson on COP26/Climate Change on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- We were very disappointed that we were unable to invite audiences to view our Christmas productions but were pleased that the children had the opportunity to create and perform them.
- Key Stage 1 Performance – this year's performance entitled 'The Big Little Nativity' was recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> 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 that was recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **Children in Need** - We supported this charity with a non-uniform day and raised £538.
- **Poppy Appeal** – We raised £179 in support of this important national appeal.
- **PTA Events** – In December we held our first 'Christmas Market'. The event was a great success and raised a fantastic £1600. The children designed Christmas cards again and this raised over £358. My thanks go to Mrs Gill 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 £3,400 for 'The Adventures of Peter Pan' pantomime visit and also bought all the food for the children's Christmas parties at just over £300.

## **Sporting Achievements**

We have not yet returned to our full range of competitive fixtures, but I am pleased to report the following football results:

## **Shropshire F.A. – E.S.F.A 7 A Side Cup**

Oxon 4-0 Meole Brace

Oxon 1-3 Radbrook

Oxon 0-1 Mount Pleasant

Oxon 2-1 Coleham

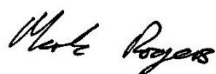
Oxon 4-1 Oakmeadow

### **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. Once again, I would like to thank our staff who have shown huge professionalism and commitment throughout the challenges of the last fifteen weeks. I will write to you early next term with information about the events that are planned for the spring term which starts on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mark Rogers