

Oxon Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter – Spring Term 2022

Introduction

Spring term 2022 is not easy to summarise! On one hand, school has returned closer to normality than at any point in the last two years. The highlight for me of this progress was undoubtedly the excellent performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' that the children were able to perform in front of three live audiences in February. Being able to do this, almost exactly two years after our last live production, felt a real achievement and a very significant marker on our journey to 'pre-pandemic normality'. The continued return of school visits, visitors to school, competitive sports fixtures and our first in-person parents consultation meetings have also been very encouraging.

On the other hand, during this term we have experienced the highest levels of Covid cases since the pandemic began. In late January, we had very high numbers of child absences, particularly in Key Stage 2. This subsided just in time to enable our production of Joseph to go ahead and as we left for half term, we felt we were entering a calmer phase. We were then hit by a second wave of infection, from early March onwards, that seemed to hit staff massively but have far less impact on the children.

The daily challenge of keeping school open with around 15%-20% of staff absent at different points in the term has been exceptionally challenging. For most of the March period the supply agencies have been unable to provide staff and keeping school open has relied on flexibility and creativity from school staff. My thanks go to all those who have made this possible and particularly to Mrs Aston and Mrs Molin in the school office. What has been amazing to see is how calm, purposeful, happy and stable the school has felt on a day to day basis throughout this period. This is a credit to all the staff who have worked so professionally to achieve this and to the children for responding so well.

I hope this letter gives a flavour of school life over the last few months.

Staffing Update

- I am delighted to inform you that Miss Brechunec, one of our teaching assistants, has been awarded Shropshire's 'Most Committed Apprentice' for 2022. Miss Brechunec has done a brilliant job since she started working with us in September 2020 and we are delighted that her efforts have been recognised at a county level.
- Congratulations to Miss Beasley who got married during the Christmas holiday and is now Mrs Wright.
- Mrs Nolan started work as a Teaching Assistant in Year 1 in January.

- Mrs Clasper, 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:

Basketball – Y3	Mr Braddock and Mrs Parkes
Choir – Y2 (Shropshire Sings)	Mrs Houghton and Miss Hollis
Choir – KS2 (Shropshire Sings)	Mrs Burgess
First Aid – Y6	Mrs Sear and Mr Reynolds
Football – Y1	Mr Braddock and Miss Lee
Football – Y2	Mr Braddock and Miss Lee
Football – Y4, Y5, Y6 Girls	Mr Braddock and Ms Biggs
Football – Y4, Boys	Mr Braddock and Ms Biggs
Football – Y5, Y6 Boys	Mr Jones
French – Y2	Mrs Aitken and Miss Brechunec
Hockey – Y4	Mr Braddock and Mrs Parkes
My Maths Homework Club	Miss Jewsbury and Mrs Beeson
Netball – Y5	Mrs Quan and Mrs Roach
Netball – Y6	Mrs Quan and Mrs Roach
Reflections Prayer Group – Y5	Mrs Shirra and Mrs Bowyer
Tennis – Y5	Mr Creffield and Mrs Manterfield
Tennis – Y6	Mr Creffield and Mrs Roach

Music

The following whole class instrumental lessons have been taking place:

- Year 6 – Ukuleles
- Year 5 – Ukuleles
- Year 4 – Recorders
- Year 3 – Recorders

The following individual music lessons have been taking place in school:

- Violin
- Keyboard
- Guitar

Visits out of school

- Year 1 have visited Attingham Park and the local area to support their work about homes.
- Year 2 have visited Liverpool to support their '1960s' history work and their geography focus.
- Year 2 have visited the church and worked with Rev Charlotte on an 'Easter adventure' project.
- Year 3 have visited Shrewsbury to work with the museum service as 'rock detectives'.
- Year 4 have visited Cosford RAF museum to support their science work.
- Year 5 have visited the World War II experience at Weston Park to support their study of this area.
- Year 6 have visited Green Acres Farm, near Shifnal, to support their geography study of farming.

Year 1 at Attingham Park



Year 2 at Liverpool (Ferry across the Mersey)



Year 3 at Shrewsbury Museum – Rock Detectives



Year 4 at RAF Cosford



Year 5 at Weston Park



Year 6 at Green Acres Farm



Assemblies, Performances and Visitors to School

- **‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’** – It was wonderful to be able to welcome a live audience into school to watch this fantastic production. It felt very poignant to stand on the stage almost exactly two years since our last performance with a live audience (Mary Poppins). The performance by Years 3, 4 and 5 was a great success, with fantastic singing and acting. This performance was of a very high standard and contained some wonderful dramatic and musical moments. Photos on the ‘gallery’ section of the website capture some of the exceptional quality of this event. Once again, my thanks go to all involved.



- **World Book Day** – We celebrated the day with a ‘dress as a book character’ event. Both children and staff came wonderfully dressed for the event! Thank you for your help in providing such great costumes.
- **Reading the Game** – Year 4 have enjoyed working on a project combining reading and football delivered by Neil Homer from Shrewsbury Town Football Club.
- **Bookfest** - Year 6 have had two visits from Mrs Prosser as part of Bookfest 2022. They have read and responded to the Bookfest books, voted for their favourite and taken part in the competitions.
- **Stranger Danger** – Sergeant Simon Lewis from West Mercia Police talked to Year 2 about this issue.
- **Fire Safety** - Year 3 had a visit from Green Watch from Shrewsbury fire station to learn about fire safety.
- **Computing** - Richard Smith from Amazing ICT has worked with Year 6 children exploring ‘Microbits’.
- **Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week** – During the week we held assemblies for Key Stage 1 and 2 based on the theme ‘Growing Together’. Supporting activities were then undertaken in classes.
- Rev. Charlotte has visited school regularly to lead worship.
- Mr McMichael spoke to Year 2 and Year 4 about the Jewish faith.
- Imam Sohayb spoke to Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 about the Muslim faith.

Sporting Achievements

Football

Shropshire F.A. – U11 Boys County Plate

Oxon 2 – 1 Mount Pleasant

Oxon 2 – 3 St Georges

Football - Shropshire F.A. – U11 Girls County Shield

Oxon 1 – 2 Greenfields

Cross Country – SHJS

It was a joy to see our cross country team compete in a 2km race around the Quarry. Collectively, the girls’ team finished in 7th place with the boys’ team finishing in 3rd place. Special mention should go to Chloe Mirceta-Jones who finished in first place in her age group and also to Finley Hidalgo who finished in 3rd place in his age group.

Individual Results – U11 Girls

1st - Chloe Mirceta-Jones

26th - Isy Fletcher

32nd – Laycie Crow

33rd – Brooke Murphy

37th – Milly Hall

39th – Kirsty Acheampong

Individual Results – U11 Boys

3rd - Finley Hidalgo

9th – Tristan Sharp

14th – Dylan Merrick

20th – Sayak Mukherjee

23rd – William Jones

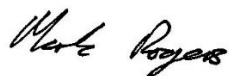
27th – Jayden Fletcher

Summary

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all those who have helped to support and encourage 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 summer term which starts on Monday 25th April.

I trust that you will have a good Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'R'.

Mark Rogers