



Ox Close Federation Newsletter

Friday 29th September 2023 - Volume 4

Open Event - Saturday 30th September 10am - 12pm

Tomorrow, we are hosting our next Open Event. It will be a chance for the children and adults to view the plans and have a virtual tour of our new school, Springmoor Grange School, view and discuss the new uniform and look around the Nursery and School. There will be activities on offer for the children to join in with and refreshments will be available in the Primary Hall.

Children's Champion and Leadership Team 2023

Last week, saw the start of our new CLT and Children's Champion. As you know, pupil voice is something we take very seriously across the Federation which is why the voting for candidates is out of staff members' hands. We are pleased to announce that our CLT members are; Addelynn Y, Halle M, Oliver R, Willow B-L, Thomas S, Emily A, Seb J, Amelia L and Thomas A. Now all good teams need a leader themselves - a job for one of our oldest members of the school. We are pleased to say that Sofia G in Year 6 has been successful in her application. To say that she was excited in our Celebration Assembly last Friday is an understatement - this role clearly means a lot to Sofia and we can't wait to see the differences she makes this year. A huge well done to all our candidates who showed the confidence to stand up in front of their peers to make a speech, and a special congratulations to our winners. Let's make a difference!

ESH Stay Safe Competition Winners

Congratulations to Joe B, Patsi H and Holly C for their fabulous winning entries. On Thursday, the children visited the Springmoor Grange School site with Miss Bowden and Mrs Franklin to view their designs in print, receive their prize and have a tour of the site. We were all very impressed with the progress the ESH team are making and very excited to see it finished!

Healthy Snacks

Please ensure that children are only bringing healthy snacks in to school for break time - this consists of either a piece of fruit or a small plain biscuit. Snacks must also not include nuts.

OPEN EVENT
SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER
10:00AM - 12:00PM



Would you like to find out more about Springmoor Grange School? Do you have a child due to start Nursery or School?

We are very excited that Ox Close will move to a fabulous new school, Springmoor Grange School, in September 2024.

We would like to invite families, prospective and current, to join us at our open event.

It will be a chance for the children and adults to view the plans and have a virtual tour of Springmoor Grange, have discussions with staff and Governors and look around our Nursery and School. There will be activities on offer for the children to join in with.

Refreshments will be available in the Primary Hall. We look forward to welcoming you.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

NURTURING AND ASPIRING ETHOS

WELCOMING STAFF

EXCELLENT BEHAVIOUR

INCLUSIVE PROVISION

COMMUNITY LINKS

Ox Close Federation

Ox Close Crescent

Spennymoor

DL16 6RU

Telephone:

01388814860



World Mental Health Day - Tuesday 10th October 2023



This year, we will be marking World Mental Health Day across the Federation by wearing something green. This can be one item of green clothing, or as much green as you have! You might even like to turn your hair green or wear green face paint! Children can come to school for the day in non-school uniform and include an item coloured green. It's important to remember that everyone has Mental Health - some have good Mental Health and some experience poor Mental health, just like physical health. The most important message to remember is that it's good to talk. The theme this year from the Mental Health Foundation is to have a "Tea and Talk" session - maybe you could catch up with some family or friends with a cup of tea and have a good talk. If you would like any further information about mental health, please use the following link to the Mental Health Foundation's website. <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/world-mental-health-day>

Years 3 and 4 - Times Table Parent Workshop

As many of you will be aware it is now a statutory requirement for all children who are in Year 4 to complete the Multiplication Table Check at the end of Year 4. At Ox Close, we recognise that having a quick recall of times tables is crucial for children's success in moving on to more complex Maths. We have carefully planned the teaching of our times tables to ensure that pupils are able to quickly recall their multiplication facts, using specific methods to ensure consistency in the approaches children use to learn these facts. This teaching sequence begins in Year 3, so that children already have a good recall of some of their times tables when they move into Year 4. We would like to invite you to join on Wednesday 11th October at 5 - 5:30pm so that we can inform you of how times tables are being taught and how you are able to support your child's learning at home. Mrs Phillips will explain how we teach times tables, what is involved in the multiplication tables check and will be available to answer any questions you may have about supporting your child at home. This meeting is open to parents of both Year 3 and Year 4 children. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Nursery: Santa Stay and Play Workshop

This year, Nursery will once again be running their popular Santa Stay and Play Christmas workshop, on Friday 1st December 2023. Parents and carers will be invited to come along and join their children in nursery to take part in some Christmas craft activities. The session will then finish with a walk to the town hall to visit Santa. The stay and play sessions will run on a morning from 8:45am and an afternoon from 12:30pm. We will be visiting Santa at 10:30am and 2pm. Once we have visited Santa, you will then be able to take your child home or return them to nursery for the remainder of their session, depending on the hours that your child attends.

You will be able to book your preferred time slot through the school shop on Arbor. This event is open to all our nursery children, even if they do not usually attend nursery on a Friday. There will be a cost of £1 for this event, which will support us with funds to purchase craft resources and refreshments. We thank you in advance for your support with this event.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Working and communicating with parents and carers is very important to us. Class teachers are looking forward to meeting you all at our first Consultation Evenings. Parent Consultation appointments can be booked via Arbor - thank you to those who have managed to book in already. If you have any problems, please contact Mrs Ozturk and Mrs Hunter in the Federation Office who are happy to help.

Safeguarding Update - Parent/Carer Mental Health

Mental health problems are common with 1 in 4 people experiencing poor mental health during their lifetime. If you know anyone that might need a little extra support, there is lots of advice and support available. Please see below:

- Adult Mental Health information is available at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/adultmentalhealthsupport>
- Support is available by contacting your local GP surgery.
- The Mental Health Alliance is a range of support services able to support a wide range of mental health concerns. For more information or contact Tel. 0300 304 5527.
- Family Hubs can support families with all areas of family life from pregnancy right up until your child turns 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities. If you would like

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 94.8% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 4 with 98.3%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 96.4%.

Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 373 late minutes - this is a huge amount of lost learning time but much improved on last week!

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 30 th September 10am - 12pm	Federation Open Event
Wednesday 4 th October 9am - 10am	Reception Phonics Workshop
Friday 6 th October	PD Day - Nursery and School Closed
Wednesday 11 th October	5pm - Y3/4 Times Table Workshop
Tuesday 24 th October	Nursery - Butterflies Stay and Play
Friday 27 th October	Halloween Fancy Dress Day
Friday 27 th October 11am - AM Children 2pm - All Day and PM Children	Spooky Storytelling
Friday 27 th October	3:15pm - School closes for Half Term
Monday 27 th November	PD Day - Nursery and School Closed
Friday 1 st December	Nursery - Santa Stay and Play Workshop
Wednesday 6 th December	10am and 2:30pm Reception Nativity
Monday 11 th December	10am and 5pm Year 3/4 Carol Concert
Tuesday 12 th December	10am and 5pm Year 1/2 Christmas Show
Wednesday 13 th December	10am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Songs
Thursday 14 th December	10am and 5pm Year 5/6 Christmas Show
Tuesday 19 th December	3:15pm - Nursery and School close for Christmas
Thursday 4 th January 2024	Children back to Nursery and School

This week in 1/2J



We have been collecting natural materials to create art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.



In History, we have been researching George Stephenson's Rocket.

We learned that it was made in 1829 and is 194 years old!

In Y1 PSHE, we have been thinking about unkind behaviours and how to deal with them.

