



## Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Volume 6

### Primary School Photographer – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

The school photographer will be visiting school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like a family photograph including pre-school children, please come to the school hall for 8.15am.

### Nursery Butterflies Stay and Play – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, parents and carers of our Butterfly children are invited to come along and join their child for a stay and play session. This will include a time to speak to Mrs Reames and Mrs Phillips about some of the areas of development we are working on in Nursery and how you can support your child at home. Tea and coffee will be provided. You will then have the opportunity to access the Butterflies room with your child, where you will be able to decorate a biscuit with your child and access the room with them. If your child does not usually attend on a Tuesday, you are still welcome to attend from 9am / 12:45pm. Bookings are now open on Arbor for you to book your preferred time slot and make a small contribution towards this session. We really look forward to seeing many of you there.

### Nursery Spooky Storytelling – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

#### Main Nursery Event (Ladybirds, Bumblebees, Grasshoppers, Dragonflies)

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, we are inviting parents / carers into Nursery to join us for our Halloween Spooky Storytelling. We would love to invite children to come to Nursery dressed up in a Halloween costume on this day, if they would like to. Children will be able to decorate a biscuit, make a Halloween decoration and then enjoy a Halloween themed story. Parents will be invited to join us from 11am or 2pm. Bookings are now open on Arbor for you to book your preferred time slot and make a small contribution towards this session. We really look forward to welcoming you all into Nursery for this event.

### Primary Halloween Dress Up Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

We are in the process of further developing our sensory room and nurture provision. In order to raise funds, we will be hosting a 'Halloween Dress Up Day' on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October. There will also be Halloween themed activities in classes throughout the day for your child to take part in. To support us with this venture, we are asking for a voluntary £1 donation which can be paid in cash on the day. Any funds raised will be used to support our sensory and wellbeing provision, which can be accessed by our children within school.



### Traffic and Parking

Recently, we have had an increase in incidents and complaints about inconsiderate parking and traffic incidents. Please can you ensure that you park considerately when dropping off and collecting children. You may have noticed that local PCSOs have also been patrolling to try and support with this. They have asked that we remind you not to park on the zig zag lines – this is an enforceable offence with fines of £30.

## Reception and Nursery - Spare Clothes

Particularly at the beginning of the year, we have a lot of children who have toileting accidents whilst they are at school. Unfortunately, we have now run out spare trousers / tights for our children, in both settings. Please could we ask that if your child has been sent home in spare clothing, that this is washed and returned to us as soon as possible. Please could we also ask that all children are sent with some spare clothing in their bag, so that we are quickly able to change them and ensure they are comfortable, should they have an accident at Nursery or School. Any donations of clothing / underwear that is no longer needed at home would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## Children's Leadership Team

Our wonderful Children's Leadership Team have been busy recently. Sofia, our Children's Champion, did an amazing job with her presentation which promoted attendance last week. Miss Simpson is also busy working on an exciting project with the whole team. Mr Harrison has met with the team and they have produced a Children's Charter. The children are producing art work to accompany the charter and we look forward to sharing the finished product soon.

## Meal Bookings

There is an exciting new lunch menu starting after half term. The full menu can be found on our website: <https://www.ox-close.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/140/2023/10/Chartwells-North-Eats-AW23-Menu-with-JP-S-Selection-Meat-Ox-Close.pdf> Bookings will open on Arbor from Monday 16th October 2023 - please log in and make bookings for your child. Thank you for your continued support. **Please note that this menu starts after the half term break on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.**

## Children in Need - Pyjamas for Pudsey - Friday 17th November

It's getting closer to the time of year where we think about children across the world who need some help and support for many different reasons. Children in Need is a way for us to help the children in our community if we can. Over the past few years, we have asked for donations of food bank items - this has proved so successful in the past, our local food bank at St Paul's Church is always so very grateful of the donations. Items which work best for food banks include toiletries (e.g. toothbrushes and toothpaste, sanitary products), unperishable food (e.g. tinned, dried packets), baby products (e.g. formula milk, jars of food) and household items (e.g. washing up liquid, toilet rolls). This year, we would like you to bring an item in exchange for being able to wear Pyjamas for Pudsey. You can wear pyjamas, slippers, onesies, oodles or lounge wear - whatever you are most comfortable in. The only thing we would ask you to check is that you can still play outside in your footwear and that you can still go to the toilet! We always enjoy this day across the Federation but it is important for you to know how your donations help your local community. Maybe you would like to visit a local food bank to donate items other than through Children in Need. Maybe you already do. It would be lovely if you were to share this on SeeSaw. You can follow this link if you would like to find out more : <https://durham.foodbank.org.uk/>



## Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Year 1	Murphy K	Year 4	Joe B
Year 2	Kyle E	Year 5	Katie C
Year 3	Lacy G	Year 6	Chael F

## Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 97% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Reception with 99.3%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 96.1%.

## 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 668 late minutes – this is a huge amount of lost learning time.

## Dates for the Diary

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	OCF Halloween Party
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery - Butterflies Stay and Play
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Primary - Photograph Day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Fancy Dress Day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 11am - AM Children 2pm - All Day and PM Children	Spooky Storytelling
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	3:15pm - School closes for Half Term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	8:40am - Reopen following Half Term
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Nursery - Photograph Day
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	PD Day - Nursery and School Closed
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Nursery - Santa Stay and Play Workshop
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 2:30pm Reception Nativity
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm Year 3/4 Carol Concert
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm Year 1/2 Christmas Show
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Songs
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm Year 5/6 Christmas Show
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	3:15pm - Nursery and School close for Christmas
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Children back to Nursery and School

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

AGE RATING  
**13+**

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

### CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12–15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

### FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12–15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

### OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

### VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

### ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

### SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's 'Audience Selector' gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

### RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

## Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



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## 5/6T Class Newsletter

We have had a great week in class this week.

In our class, we have a music genre of the week. This week it's BIG BAND.



In our class, we also have country of the week. This week it's INDIA. We have all made a Rangoli pattern to celebrate.



In RE, we have been learning about the Pillar of Islam called Zakat. We learned about different charities in our local area and how much of our 'wage' we would give that particular charity. See this thoughtful response below left.

We have also started to learn some of our Christmas Songs. We have been having a great time singing!

We have been learning about forehands and backhands in tennis and we have also had a tennis ball 'keepy uppy' competition. It was a tense game!

We have been celebrating some beautiful handwriting. Just look at this amazing example from a piece of Science work below right.

We have been celebrating acts of kindness with our popular 'Kindness Sweet'. Miss Todd and Miss Walton are always so impressed with how kind and considerate the class are.

What	Elia	In the night like an empty in the night like an empty in the night like an empty
to think about	Elia	to think about the light to think about the light
WWW	Elia	an unhelpful person would be unhelpful in the way of
Remember	Elia	Do people like you of your and that the things of you to remember to think
Our Class Prayer	Elia	to please our God the world around my feet
Golden Rule UK	Elia	to think of how good things in the world
Remember Our Children's Prayer Book	Elia	to think of how good things in the world
Class Presentation	Elia	to think of how good things in the world
Water	Elia	to think of how good things in the world

Gravity is the force that pulls objects down towards the centre of Earth. ✓

Question - How quickly do unsupported objects fall?

Prediction - I think heavier objects will fall quicker. ✓

Variables

I will change the objects. I will measure the time.

I will keep the height the same. ✓