



Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 27th October 2023 – Volume 7

Amazing Half Term

What a fabulous start to this academic year - we are very proud of all of the children and how they have settled in to the routine of their new class, especially children who joined us in September. The children have worked very hard and made great progress with their learning. Well done to each and every one of you. Keep it up next half term! There have been lots of exciting lessons and events taking place across the Federation and it has been great to see the children engaged, motivated and having lots of fun. Huge thank you to the staff for their continued efforts to create the best possible experiences for the children. Thank you to parents/carers for your support and joining us as at events too - it is very much appreciated. We hope you all have a fabulous half term break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 6th November.

Good Luck Mrs Briggs

Today, Mrs Briggs completed her last shift as a lunchtime supervisor at Ox Close. Mrs Briggs' enthusiasm with the children will be a miss and we are sorry to see her leave us. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck in her new role as a Teaching Assistant at another school in Co. Durham.

Ox Close Friends Halloween Parties

Thank you to Ox Close Friends for organising and running the spooktacular Halloween parties. It was great to see the children having lots of fun, dancing and playing games together. These events could not run without an army of volunteers of parents, carers and staff that give up their time to support at the events - it is greatly appreciated.

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, oodies 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/>



Nursery Stay and Play Events

This week we have really enjoyed welcoming parents / carers into nursery for our stay and play events. The Butterflies stay and play event and the main nursery Spooky Storytelling have been very well attended and it has been lovely to see so many adults and children sharing their enjoyment of the nursery sessions. We are delighted with how well our nursery children have settled this half term and would like to thank all our parents / carers for their support.

Christmas Card Project 2023

At Ox Close, we know that the children's Christmas card designs are always a popular purchase for parents and carers to make for the seasonal period. This year we have decided to use a company called School Print World who offer a different range of items that can come with the child's design on them. This week, the children have been busily designing their cards; these will now be sent off to the company who produce a sample card for each child. We will send these home after half term with more information on how to order items should you wish. We can't wait to see all the festive designs this year.



Spare Clothing for Nursery and Reception Children

We are still very short of spare clothing for both nursery and reception children. If you would like to make any donations of clothing, particularly socks, tights, underwear, trousers or skirts, they would be greatly appreciated. Please could we also ask that all nursery and reception children bring a change of clothing in their bag each day to ensure children can be made comfortable as quickly as possible, should they have an accident during the day.

Healthy Snacks

As part of our welfare requirements, it is very important that we offer children a healthy snack during the day. Fruit is available every day for children in Reception and Key Stage One. If children would like to bring a healthy snack to school with them, please ensure that this is a piece of fruit or a plain biscuit and please ensure that children bring only water in their water bottles. Thank you for your support with this.

World Food Day

October 16th was World Food Day and Mr Harrison has looked at this year's theme, Water is Food, Water is Life in assembly with the children. There is a poster competition which is being organised by the United Nations and this is open to children from ages 5-19 across the world. The deadline is November 3rd and entries can be uploaded by following this link: <https://www.fao.org/world-food-day/contest/en> Good luck!

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.

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> Please log in and make bookings for your child. Thank you for your continued support.

Wraparound Bookings

You can now book sessions up until Christmas via Arbor. Any problems please contact Mrs Ozturk or Mrs Hunter.

Kids Eat Free – October Half Term 2023



MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

M&S CAFES

Spend £5 & get one free kid's meal Mon - Fri during the Oct Half term (various dates)

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

YO! SUSHI

From Monday 16th October - Friday 27th 2023 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE Monday - Friday from Monday 23rd October - Friday 3rd November 2023

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

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Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Year 1	Ashton S	Year 4	Nancy T
Year 2	Matilda L	Year 5	Katie S
Year 3	Chloe V	Year 6	Alice H

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 95.4% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 98.5%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 96%.

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

Dates for the Diary

Friday 27 th October	3:15pm – School closes for Half Term
Monday 6 th November	8:40am – Reopen following Half Term
Tuesday 21 st November	Nursery – Photograph Day
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

Safeguarding Update – Firework Code



**FOLLOW THE
FIREWORK CODE**

If you must have fireworks at home, please follow this safety advice.

DOs ✓

- Only buy fireworks from retailers registered with MFRS
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Keep pets indoors

DON'Ts ✗

- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Don't let fireworks off after 11pm



In 3/4W this week, we have been preparing for Halloween. In Art we have been drawing pictures and making a comic strip to go with our Halloween poem. We hope our drawings don't scare you too much!

