



## **Ox Close Federation Newsletter** **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Volume 12**

### **Songbirds – Spreading Christmas Cheer and Kindness**

This week, the Songbirds have been very busy attending different locations around our community to spread Christmas joy. On Sunday, a group of children attended the Mayor's Christmas Carol service, where they sang beautifully in front of a large audience. On Monday, a group visited Appleton Lodge and performed a concert for the residents. On Tuesday, all of the Songbirds performed in front of the school gates to an excited crowd! On Wednesday, the children went to the site of Springmoor Grange and delivered some Christmas cards to the houses in the area. On Thursday, children visited Lothian House to perform some songs and chat to the residents. Finally, the week was rounded off on Friday when all of the Songbirds sang in the town centre. Miss Simpson and Miss Todd stated that the behaviour, effort and attitude of all of the children has been exemplary and all of the children have been a credit to the school.

### **Ox Close Friends**

Due to lack of interest, Ox Close Friends were unable to form the appropriate committee and therefore are not able to continue. An announcement was made last night by the Friends that they ceased to exist with immediate effect. The balance of the funds that have been raised will be held securely by the school and will be used to purchase items for the children as in previous years, such as the Year 6 Hoodies and an end of year ice cream treat for all children. The Federation will continue to run fundraising events this academic year and we will be in touch with further details in 2024. We would like to express our thanks to all of the volunteers who have supported Ox Close Friends over the many years that it has ran.

### **Reception Christmas Performance**

What a fantastic start to our calendar of Christmas Performances! The children have been working very hard and all of their efforts paid off as we had 2 amazing performances. To stand on a stage and perform at the age of 4 or 5 is a fabulous achievement and I know that all of the adults were very proud of all the children. Well done to Reception children and staff.



### **Nursery Nativity**

We are very much looking forward to seeing many of you for the performance of our Nursery Nativity next Wednesday. Just a reminder that this will be held in the school hall and doors will be opened 15 minutes before the start of each performance. To confirm, this performance involves only children who are currently in our Main Nursery and not our Butterflies children (Two Year Olds).

### **Christmas Performances**

We are all looking forward to next week's performances – you will all be super impressed with the how hard the children have worked and will leave feeling Christmassy. Please note that tickets are not required for the performance as we have split the performances into phases. For each performance, doors will open 15 minutes prior to the start time for morning and afternoon performances and 30 minutes prior to start time for evening performance so that parents/carers can take their seats. Just a reminder that we politely ask that you only take photographs of your child and do not share these on social media. We have some children in school who are unable to have photos taken and we must ensure that we are all keeping them safe. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

## Christmas Parties

Friday 15th December	KS2 Christmas Party Day
Monday 18th December	Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas Party

Party days are fast approaching! Children can come to Nursery and School in their party clothes but please make sure that they have sensible shoes and a coat as they will still be going out at break and lunchtime.

## Christmas Jumper Day – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

This year at Ox Close, we will be holding our own Christmas Jumper Day on Tuesday 19th December. Children can come to Nursery or School wearing their Christmas Jumper and/or non-uniform. We will not be asking for donations for this.



## Parking

We have had some concerns raised by local residents about inconsiderate parking. We fully realise how busy Ox Close Crescent and surrounding areas becomes but we would appreciate it if people could be considerate of the residents when parking.

## Safety of Children at Home Time

This week, I have been informed that some children are showing unsafe behaviours on their way home from school, which include running on to roads and chasing one another up the busy footpaths, that have almost resulted in accidents. Although children are in the care of parents and carers at this time, it is important that I share this with you all so that you can help to keep all of the children safe. Please could you supervise children at all times in order to ensure they are safe and therefore prevent accidents from happening.

## Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

<b>Year 1</b>	Stanley K	<b>Year 4</b>	Naava A
<b>Year 2</b>	Brodie W	<b>Year 5</b>	Luca N
<b>Year 3</b>	Tom D	<b>Year 6</b>	Maya B

## Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 96.4% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 98%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95.8%.

## 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 879 late minutes – this is a high amount of lost learning time.

## Dates for the Diary

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
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Party Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day 3:15pm – Nursery and School close for Christmas
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Children back to Nursery and School




# Cutting the cost of keeping warm

We understand how difficult it can be when energy bills start to rise. By making some small, simple changes we can all save money while staying safe and well.

### Save money when cooking

When cooking, put a lid on your pan as this can save you money on your energy bill. Putting a lid on your pan allows water to boil faster and the lid keeps the heat in the pan, rather than letting it escape, speeding up cooking time and helping you use less energy.

Slow cookers save money! Slow cookers are an extremely efficient way to cook, you can batch cook meals. Likewise, microwaves and air fryers are also great alternatives to using ovens.

### Switch off your appliances

Turning off lights and switching appliances off standby when not in use can save **£85<sup>1</sup>** a year on energy bills.

### Turn down your thermostat

By turning down your thermostat from 22°C to 21°C, you could save **£115<sup>2</sup>** on your energy bills.

Wash on eco or 30°C or cooler cycles when you can. Washing at 30°C rather than higher temperatures could save **£15<sup>3</sup>** a year.

### LED lights

Switch your lights to energy-friendly LED light bulbs. Replacing all the light bulbs in your home with LEDs can save around **£65<sup>4</sup>** a year, lasting five times longer.

### Full load

Only wash with a full load, cutting back on just one washing cycle a week can save you an additional **£15** a year and further savings on metered water bills.

### Use a washing bowl

Using a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap can save you money on your energy and water bills if you have a water meter. You only need to run a typical tap for 95 seconds before you would have filled a washing up bowl.<sup>5</sup>

### Take shorter showers

Spending just one minute less in the shower can save **£20** a year in a typical household and uses far less energy than taking a bath. Sticking to 4-minute showers could save a typical household **£75** on energy bills and around **£65** on metered water bills every year.<sup>6</sup>

Replacing an inefficient shower head with a water-efficient one can reduce your yearly gas bill by **£45**. If you have a water meter as well, you can save another **£25** – that's a total saving of **£70** each year.<sup>7</sup>



### Maximise your income

Every year, millions of households miss out on thousands of pounds worth of benefits, that they are entitled to. Turn2us's benefit calculator easily and quickly identifies any benefits you are entitled to claim to increase your income: [Turn2us Benefits Calculator](#).

We're committed to helping our customers keep safe and well. We work with a number of services and organisations that can provide help and support on energy fuel efficiency.

### Help and support with energy bills



#### National Energy Action (NEA)

If you need advice and support on your energy bills, please visit NEA's website via the link for more information: [National Energy Action NEA](#)



#### Citizens Advice

If you need information on grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills, please visit: [Citizens Advice](#)



#### Groundwork

If you need help with saving money on your energy bills or improving efficiency within your home, please visit: [Groundwork](#)



#### The Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free service that helps energy companies to look after customers who have extra communication, access, or safety needs. It helps us tailor our services to support households who need extra help with everyday energy matters like bills, and also in the unlikely event of a power cut or gas supply interruption.

Find out if you are eligible and register at: [Priority Service Register](#)



#### Safer Homes Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Fitting a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in your home is a great way of keeping you and your family safe from the dangers of (CO). CO is an odourless, tasteless, and invisible gas that is dangerous, and can be created from faulty gas appliances.

The Safe Homes programme offers households a free CO alarm (maximum of one per household) - [you can request your free CO alarm here](#).

Please use the below details when requesting your free CO alarm:  
**Username = coalarms Password = Saferhomes123**



1. Energy Saving Trust (2018) 'Energy Saving Trust' [Energy Saving Trust](#)

2. Energy Saving Trust (2018) 'Energy Saving Trust' [Energy Saving Trust](#)

3. Energy Saving Trust (2018) 'Energy Saving Trust' [Energy Saving Trust](#)

4. Energy Saving Trust (2018) 'Energy Saving Trust' [Energy Saving Trust](#)

5. Energy Saving Trust (2018) 'Energy Saving Trust' [Energy Saving Trust](#)

6. Energy Saving Trust (2018) 'Energy Saving Trust' [Energy Saving Trust](#)

7. Energy Saving Trust (2018) 'Energy Saving Trust' [Energy Saving Trust](#)

### 3/4P Update

We have had a very busy half term and we have all been working incredibly hard. Our Christmas Carol concert rehearsals are in full swing and Songbirds from 3/4P have enjoyed visiting residents around Spennymoor.

In Geography, we have been drawing graphs to compare the rainfall in Greece and the UK.

The weather hasn't been very kind to us this week so we were unable to get outside for PE. This hasn't stopped us from being active in the classroom.



We have worked hard in maths to develop our written methods of addition and subtraction.



In science we have been investigating sound. We have been looking at vibrations and investigating how sounds are created through vibrations.

