



Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 26th January 2024 – Volume 16

Change to Gate Opening Time

Following discussions, we have decided to extend the period of time for children to arrive at school on a morning. From Monday 29th January, gates will now open from 8:35am and children have until 8:45am to arrive at school. If any child arrives after 8:45am, they will be marked as late on the register. We hope that extending the opening period of the gate will reduce the number of children who are rushing and late for school.

Pirate Exercise Workshop

On Wednesday, we had a fantastic opportunity within school. Pirate Rob came into school to carry out a fitness session. All of the staff and children thoroughly enjoyed it. The children learnt new exercises and new dances. Using the exercises, they had to help Pirate Rob capture the ship. Pirate Rob has set all children a challenge. They will have brought home a leaflet that needs to be completed and returned to school next week, Friday 2nd February is the last day! Parents/carers - it's down to you know to, so get involved, let the children show you the exercises and encourage them to do them every day. It only takes 5 mins a day unless they have endless energy in which case they might do more. There is a prize for everyone who completes Pirate Robs challenge - a free wristband and a free day at Rob's holiday club.

Year 5/6 Ancient Benin Workshop

On Wednesday this week, Years 5 and 6 took part in a workshop linked to their History topic of Ancient Benin. Our visitor, Helen from One Day Creative, came to work with each class, and used drama and role play to explore this era in more detail. The students learnt about different rulers and took on these characters for performances, they studied a timeline of the key events and found out more about the lives of Benin citizens and how they used trade to expand their kingdom. Helen was very complimentary about our children and it was great to see them all taking part with such enthusiasm. Well done to 5/6C, 5/6R and 5/6T!

Tea and Talk with Toddlers

We had a fantastic turnout at our first Tea, Talk and Toddler group on Tuesday which was ran by Miss Bewick, one of our Parent Support Advisors. It was great to see everyone having lots of fun and we are looking forward to the future sessions. The group takes place every Tuesday from 9 – 10:30am. We look forward to seeing you there.



Come along to our parent/carer and toddler sessions on a Tuesday from
9.00 – 10.30 am

Everyone is welcome!



Time to Talk



Everyone is welcome!

It's national **Time to Talk Day**
on
Thursday 1st February 2024.
Please come along for a chat
and a cuppa.
9.00 – 10.00 am
Primary School Main Hall

Time to Talk – 01.02.2024

On Thursday 1st February, we will be celebrating and raising awareness of the importance of taking the time to stop and talk to one another. Our Parent Support Advisors will be holding an event in the Main School Hall called Time to Talk. Refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing you there.

Toys/Trinkets

We have recently seen an increasing number of children bringing in additional toys and trinkets. These can be easily lost or damaged, and in some cases, distract the children from their learning. Please could we ask that these remain at home, unless this is an accommodation that we have put in place for your child specifically. This way, we can help keep track of certain items. Thank you.

Meal Bookings

Huge thank you to parents and carers for making bookings for meals via Arbor – it has really helped the Office staff and we gratefully appreciate it.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Daisy W	Year 4	Leon T
Year 1	Arthur R	Year 5	Daileigh M
Year 2	Heidi C	Year 6	Maya B
Year 3	Grace R		

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 93.6% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 2 with 96.9%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95.3%.



Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am, with the gates opening from the new time of **8:35am**. 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 361 late minutes – this is a huge amount of lost learning time and we are really hoping to reduce this with the extended gate opening time.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 1 st February	5pm - Year 6 Parent/Carer SATs Meeting
Wednesday 14 th February	2:15pm - Reception - Cuddle up with a Book
Thursday 15 th February 2024	AM and PM - Nursery - Butterflies Stay and Play
Friday 16 th February	3:15pm – Close for February Half Term
Monday 26 th February	8:40am – Children return to Nursery and School
Monday 4 th March	2pm - Reception - Mother's Day Crafts
Monday 18 th , Tuesday 19 th , Wednesday 20 th and Thursday 21 st March	Primary – Parent/Carer Consultations
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 4 Visit to Whitworth Park Academy
Monday 25 th March	2pm - Reception - Egg Decorating
Thursday 28 th March	2pm - Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade
Thursday 28 th March	3:15pm – Close for Easter Break
Monday 15 th April	8:40am – Children return to Nursery and School



Our Week in Nursery



The stormy weather has given us amazing **mud** to dig in!

Our new Book of the Week is *The Smeds and the Smoos* by Julia Donaldson.



Just as well we have a Welly Wash ready to keep inside mud-free!

We've been practising using shapes in our play - we are designing our own aliens with different shaped bodies.



Our mark-making is getting more and more popular - we are using lots of different tools to make marks and give them meaning.

