



Ox Close Federation Newsletter **Friday 9th February 2024 – Volume 18**

Online Safety Week

This week, we have been celebrating Online Safety week. Throughout the week, children have been learning about how to keep themselves safe when using different devices around the home. The focus of this year's campaign was 'using the internet to make change for the better'. We have looked at how technology has changed over time and how it helps us in our lives. We also explored the changes we might see online, for example messages from people we do not know, pop ups, or videos that auto play. These things can make us feel upset, scared or worried. However, the key messages children have taken home are to STOP watching, CLOSE the device, and TELL a trusted adult.

If you would like any further information, the following website has lots of useful tips for parents and carers:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Online Safety Poster Competition

Thank you for all of your fantastic posters. The effort that you have put in has been incredible and the key messages that we instil in school really shone through. It is evident that our children have a strong understanding of how to keep themselves safe and the steps they can take to use the internet responsibly.

After a very difficult judging process, I can now reveal the winners of each phase:

- Reception - Aila S
- 1/2 - Matilda L
- 3/4 - Rosie K
- 5/6 - Heath H

Congratulations to all of our winners!

⚽ National League North East Finals ⚽

Well done to our Year 5/6 football team who represented Spennymoor Town FC in the North East Finals of the National League Cup. They faced tough opposition from Darlington, Hartlepool, Gateshead and Blyth. We did not get the results we wanted, but the team battled hard and never gave up. Despite the cold and rain, it was a fantastic day out and they can be proud of reaching this stage of the competition. Also, a special thank you to the parents and grandparents who volunteered to take children to and from the venue. We go again next year!

Meals – Tuesday 13th February – Pancake Day

We will be celebrating Pancake Day by offering pancakes as the dessert for the meal on Tuesday 13th February.

The meal choices on this day are:

- All Day Breakfast
- All Day Vegetarian breakfast
- Jacket Potato with a choice of topping
- Selection of sandwiches.

If you would like to book a meal for this day, please log onto Arbor and make the booking through the Meals section.

Sharing the Love of Reading

This Valentine's Day, Wednesday 14th February, we will be sharing the love of reading in school through an exciting day of planned activities. Check out the information poster below for all of the information.

For the Love of Reading


Love can mean so many different things to different people— loving a family member, loving a pet, loving your hobby, perhaps even loving time spent outside. As well as all of these, many of us have a love of reading too..and we want to know all about the books that you love!

This Valentines Day, we invite all children to bring a book that they love to school, in order to share this with a friend at various points throughout the day. We will be taking photographs of the children too to help make a brand new display, demonstrating our love for reading at Ox Close.

If you're unsure about sending a book into school, please don't worry! Why not simply take a photo of yourself with your favourite book and send it to us via SeeSaw. This applies to anyone at home who is willing to share their love of reading..Mams, Dads, Grans, Uncles..all are welcome to send us their pictures!

To help us keep track of what I am sure will be many, many books, please can we ask that these are named and placed in book bags or rucksacks to bring to school.

We cannot wait to share the love with you all!



We Love Reading

Phonics at Reading in Key Stage One

On **Tuesday 27th February at 5pm**, Year 1 parents are invited to attend a Phonics Screening Check Information session. We will discuss the key aspects of our phonics teaching, the assessment process and answer any questions you may have.

On **Thursday 14th of March 2024**, 9-10am, we are holding a parent workshop for parents of children in Year 1 and 2. The morning will consist of a carousel of activities that will include reading, writing and comprehension. We hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy these activities with your child.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Ezra M	Year 4	Elliott L
Year 1	Reece M	Year 5	Heath H
Year 2	Matilda L	Year 6	Scarlett W
Year 3	Scarlett M		

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 93% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 98.4%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95%.



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 775 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

Wednesday 14 th February	Share the Love of Reading Day
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
Tuesday 27 th February	5pm – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Parent Session
Monday 4 th March	9:05am – 10:05am – 3/4D Reading Workshop
Monday 4 th March	2pm - Reception - Mother's Day Crafts
Tuesday 5 th March	9:05am – 10:05am – 3/4P Reading Workshop
Wednesday 6 th March	9:05am – 10:05am – Y5 and Y6 Reading Workshop
Thursday 7 th March	9:05am – 10:05am – 3/4W Reading Workshop
Thursday 14 th March	9:00am – 10:00am – Y1 and Y2 Reading Workshop
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

This week in Reception

We have been learning about Chinese New Year and have enjoyed learning about the traditions and celebrations that take place. First, we made concertina paper dragons, then we performed our own Dragon Dance!



After reading Poles Apart, we learned about polar animals. In Art, we mixed some 'cold' colours using blue, white and black to make a polar landscape. Next, we used different craft materials to make a penguin.

As part of Online Safety Week, we have learned about the things we can do to stay safe when playing games and watching videos. They know that if something makes them feel sad, scared or worried, they can stop watching and tell an adult.



This one is not about penguins, it is scary.

