



Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 1st March 2024 – Volume 20

Welcome Back

It was great to see the children back in school on Monday and hear all about their half term adventures. The children all settled back into routine very quickly and they have engaged in lots of exciting learning with the introduction of new topics. Over the next couple of weeks, the Leadership Team will be visiting classrooms to join in with lessons and talk to the children about their learning.

Leadership Changes

You all received an email from our Chair of Governors, Pam Sneath, explaining that leadership change following Mr Harrison leaving. I am sure that you will join myself, staff and Governors in thanking Mr Harrison for his hard work to ensuring that the children had fabulous opportunities and wishing him the best of luck for the future. It is my honour to take on the role of Acting Headteacher of this amazing team where the children make every day special. I look forward to continuing to work with you all as we move towards the exciting new site, Springmoor Grange.

Parking

Our local policing team have been back in school this week to keep us updated on their work within the community, looking specifically at parking on Ox Close Crescent. As you are all aware, the road can become very busy at peak times and we thank those of our parents and families who drive and park considerately. Please can we remind everyone that no parking is permitted on the yellow zigzag lines outside the front of school; the officers visiting this morning confirmed that in doing so, motorists are at risk of fines or prosecution, which is an action that they have begun to take more regularly over recent months. As always, our main priority is the safety of our children and we thank you for your help in this matter.

What is happening in Nursery?

We've already started this half term full of excitement - at the end of the last half term, 6 fertilised eggs arrived at Nursery which we have been watching intently. We're hoping that some of the eggs hatch successfully into chicks! We'll be learning about other animals and their young too - some more visitors are on their way to Nursery which we hope will become butterflies! We're going to be learning about the animals which live in and around our school, as well as farm animals and their young as we approach Spring. This half term will be topped off perfectly with a Nursery Trip to Hall Hill Farm in Lanchester. But it's not only the animals we will be learning about - we'll also be learning about signs of Spring in our weather and plants. As if this term isn't exciting enough, World Book Day and a trip to the library are in store too - you know how much we adore books at Nursery, so this year our celebrations will be fantastic!

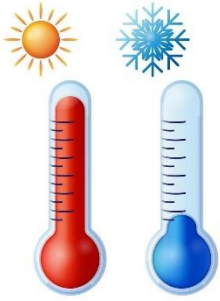


What is happening in Reception?

In Reception, we will be reading lots of stories about animals and plants in preparation for the arrival of Spring. We will be planting seeds and watching plants grow; looking at fruits and vegetables and of course celebrating Easter. Our traditional tale is The Ugly Duckling this half term. We are working really hard on developing the skills of being a good listener and learning to ask questions to find out more information.

What is happening in Years 1 and 2?

This half term, Years 1 and 2 will be learning all about hot and cold climates and comparing them. We will be learning about different animals that are found in hot and cold climates. We will learn about the continents and oceans and where they are in the world. In Science, we will be learning the names for different parts of the body and labelling them. We will also be learning about what keeps us healthy, which links in with our DT project, where we will be working towards making a fruit kebab. In PE, we will be taking part in invasion games, learning the skills of attacking and defending as well as learning Yoga. As part of our Music lessons we will be looking at how music makes us feel and talking about how changing the speed of the music can change our feelings. We are also going on an exciting trip to the Spanish Gallery, where we will be developing our skills in colour, tone and drawing.



What is happening in Years 3 and 4 this half term?

Year 3/4 have lots of exciting topics this half term. In DT, we are going to investigate a collection of different shell structures including packaging. This will lead us on to making different structures, planning, designing and making a gift box. Children will be looking at how we can make it stronger and appealing to our audience. In Science, we will be looking at forces and developing our investigative skills and will investigate how forces act upon different objects. In French, we are carrying on with our topic called Carnival Time. Children are going to learn about French traditions and take part in a carnival celebration. In Geography, we will be studying Switzerland and comparing it to the UK. We will explore the weather and consider the role The Alps plays in Switzerland's economy, wildlife and climate. We will also learn where some European and non-European countries are and their capital cities. In RE, we will be learning about Christianity with a focus on Lent and Easter. We have got off to a flying start with our new PE topics this half term. We have been introduced to the sport of hockey and are beginning to develop our passing and defending skills. Throughout this half term we will progress to mini games where we will put all of our new skills to the test. Yoga is our indoor topic this half term. It is important for our well-being to relax our minds and yoga is a fantastic way of doing so.

What is happening in Years 5 and 6 this half term?

In Y5/6 this half term we turn our attention to Geography and an in-depth study of Rivers. We will be looking at the water cycle, the parts of a river from source to mouth, and the role that they play in the development of settlements across the world. In RE, we will be cementing our understanding of the Easter story and the imagery associated with this, and in PE, students will be improving their stamina and overall fitness levels to apply to team games such as Tag Rugby. As we continue to safeguard our pupils' well-being, RSE sessions will focus on body positivity, how to handle emergency situations and, as ever, we will spend time completing further work on online safety.



Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Savannah J	Year 4	Lyla B
Year 1	Sienna R	Year 5	Lewis B
Year 2	Kyle E	Year 6	Evie R
Year 3	Chloe H		

Attendance

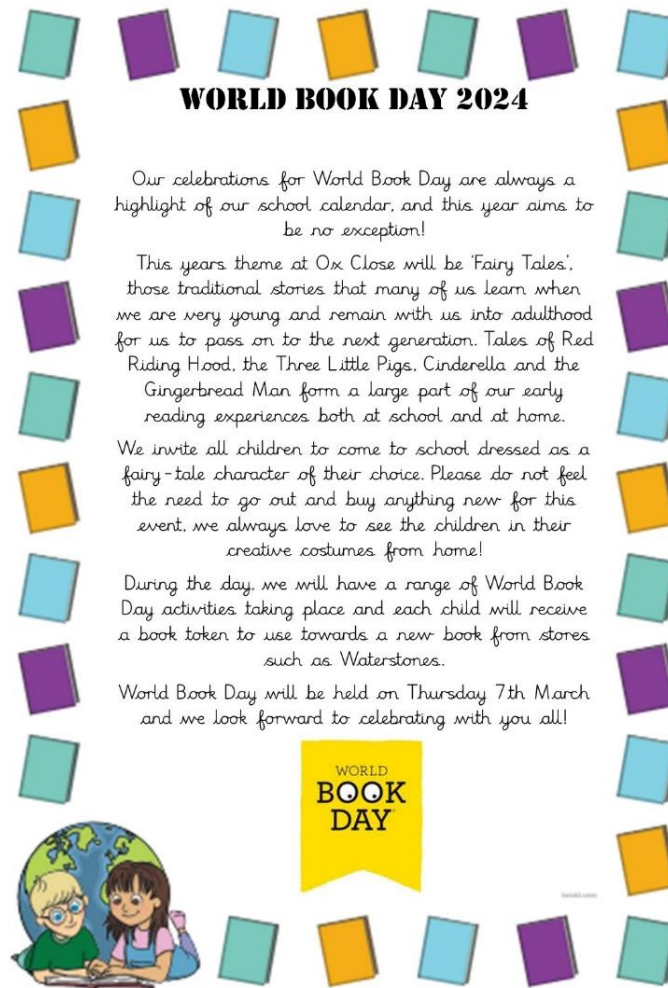
Overall attendance for the week is 96.8% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 98%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95%.

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 674 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.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March



WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

Our celebrations for World Book Day are always a highlight of our school calendar, and this year aims to be no exception!

This year's theme at Ox Close will be 'Fairy Tales', those traditional stories that many of us learn when we are very young and remain with us into adulthood for us to pass on to the next generation. Tales of Red Riding Hood, the Three Little Pigs, Cinderella and the Gingerbread Man form a large part of our early reading experiences both at school and at home.

We invite all children to come to school dressed as a fairy-tale character of their choice. Please do not feel the need to go out and buy anything new for this event, we always love to see the children in their creative costumes from home!

During the day, we will have a range of World Book Day activities taking place and each child will receive a book token to use towards a new book from stores such as Waterstones.

World Book Day will be held on Thursday 7th March and we look forward to celebrating with you all!

Marie Curie Day - Thursday 21st March

As you know, Marie Curie is one of our House namesakes at Ox Close, helping us to develop our understanding of the value of Empathy. We would like to invite you all to take part in Go Yellow Day on Thursday 21st March to raise money for the Marie Curie charity which provides expert hospice care for those in need. We would like the children to come to school in non-school uniform wearing something yellow - this could be simply a yellow stripe on a t-shirt or yellow from head to toe! (If yellow is not your colour, another bright colour would be great too!)

If you would like to donate to the Marie Curie charity for this event, please follow the link below:

<https://donate.mariecurie.org.uk/>

Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade – Thursday 28th March

Details about the Easter Bonnet Parade have been sent out through Arbor today. Please be aware that we have now allocated two time slots for this event, 11am and 2pm. Please remember to book the time slot that you would like to attend so that we can ensure we are able to accommodate all parents. Thank you.



Safeguarding Update – Consent

It is very important that we teach all children, no matter of their age, that they have the right to consent and say no to something that they are not happy with. At Ox Close, we teach this through our RSE and PSHE curriculum and regular discuss the importance of staying safe in class discussions and assemblies.

The NSPCC Talk PANTS is designed to help children understand that they have a right to say no and if they need to speak out about something, someone will listen. The research shows that a simple conversation can make a big difference, and that’s what Talk PANTS is all about.

More information and support for parents/cares with discussing this important topic with children can be found here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

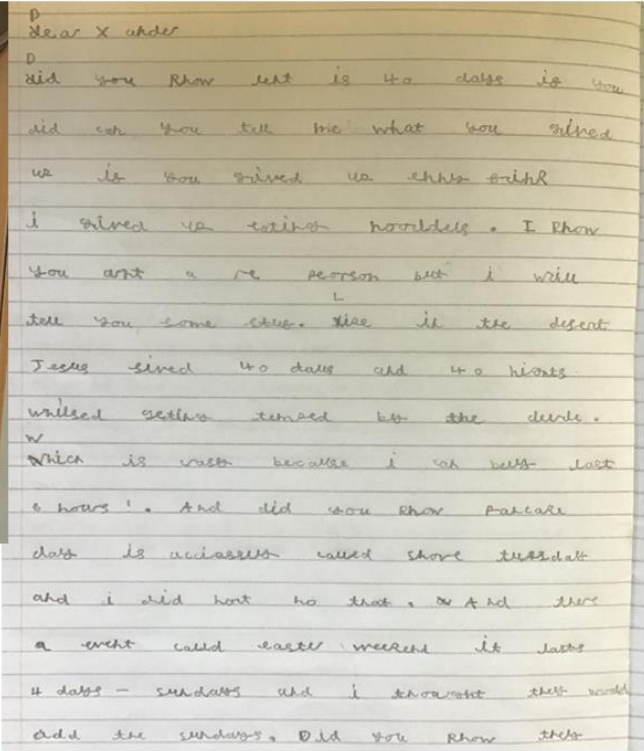


Dates for the Diary

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 7 th March	11:15am and 2:15pm – Nursery Cuddle up with a Book
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	11am and 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



In RE, we have been learning about what Lent is and why Christians give something up for it. In PE we were finishing off our dance routine before moving onto hockey and Yoga.



This week in 3/4W we have been learning our new English text. It is a discussion text about whether boys should learn cookery. We have enjoyed debating this statement in lessons and have reached the conclusion that it would be best for everyone to learn cookery to help them survive in the future.

