



Ox Close Federation Newsletter

Friday 3rd May 2024 – Volume 27

Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May

Just a reminder that we are closed on Monday as it is May Day Bank Holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday 7th May.

Year 6

Alongside many other students, both in our school and across the country, the Year 6 pupils are busy with their final preparations for their SATs in just over a week. Our children are working incredibly hard and are making great progress. It is so important for us to acknowledge all of the efforts that Year 6 are putting into these sessions, and staff completely understand that these can become overwhelming after a while. As we enter the home stretch, our message to Year 6, both staff and pupils, is to keep going and that we are very proud of you all! Keep up the hard work and effort.

ENRICHED House Time

This week, children met in their ENRICHED House teams to talk and think about Earth Day and how important looking after our environment is. Children discussed the issue of plastic use - particularly single-use plastics and it certainly got us thinking as a Federation about how we use plastics. Each child was able to think about something that they would change in their lives in order to reduce, reuse or recycle more plastic. If you would like more information about this, please check out the Earth Day website: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/> You might be inspired to change something at home too, even the smallest changes have a huge impact on the world we live in!

General Reminders

- **Labelling Clothes** – now that the sun is shining, we have lots of children removing their coats/jumpers/cardigans at break and lunch. Please can you ensure that all of your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name so that if they leave it somewhere in school, it can be returned to them.
- **Mobile Phones** – children should only be bringing these into school if they are needed for emergencies or parents have requested it as their children walk home alone. We must also have a signed Mobile Phone Contract. All phones **MUST** be handed to staff immediately as soon as the children enter school and will be returned when they leave. Phones are brought in at the children's own risk and we cannot be responsible for any damage or loss.
- **Bikes and Scooters** – it is great to see lots of children being active and riding or biking to school. Bikes and scooters can be stored in our storage sheds however please remember not to do this until there are staff on duty at the gates. This means that the site is then safe for the children to enter as the vehicle gates will be closed.

Pizza Party – Thursday 16th May

We will be holding a Pizza Party for lunch on Thursday 16th May 2024. Children will be able to try 4 different flavours of Pizza served with chips and beans and Sprinkle Cake for pudding.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - There is no need to book! We will book for all the children in these year groups. If your child does not like Pizza please let the school office know as we can choose the option of Jacket Potato or Sandwich or we are happy for you to send a packed lunch into school.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 - If you would like to order this for your child please log onto Arbor and choose either the Beef Bolognese or Cheese and Onion Pasty option. There will also be the option of Jacket Potato or a Sandwich if your child does not like Pizza. If your child does not want to order a meal on this day, we are happy for you to send a packed lunch in.

If you have any issues with making the bookings please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Daisy W	Year 4	Cheyenne P
Year 1	Caleb R	Year 5	Harvin M
Year 2	Jenson N	Year 6	Evie R
Year 3	Ethan D		

Safeguarding Update – Parent/Carer Conflict

Conflict is often a normal part of any parent/carers relationship and something that we all could be experiencing.

If you feel like support is needed, here are some resources for parents and carers provided by Durham County Council:

Parental Conflict or Domestic Abuse	https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/25322/Parental-conflict-or-domestic-abuse
Relationship Support	Relationship support for parents who are together - Durham County Council Relationship support for parents who are separated or considering separation - Durham County Council Relationship support for new or expectant parents who are together - Durham County Council
Top Tips	Top tips to help you stay calm during disagreements or arguments - Durham County Council

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 95% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 98.4%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95.1%.

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 347 late minutes.



Dates for the Diary

Monday 6 th May	Federation Closed – Bank Holiday Monday
Tuesday 7 th May	Year 5 Visit to Whitworth Park
13 th – 16 th May	KS2 SATs Week
Friday 17 th May	Wear Green for Mental Health Day
Tuesday 21 st May	Year 6 Visit to Life Centre in Newcastle
Thursday 23 rd May	Nursery – Butterflies Stay and Play
Thursday 23 rd May and Friday 24 th May	Year 3/4 Captain Chemistry Workshops
Friday 24 th May	3:15pm – Close for Half Term Break
Monday 3 rd June	8:35am – Children return to Nursery and School
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 5 Visit to Life Centre in Newcastle
3 rd – 14 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
10 th – 14 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Thursday 13 th June	Year 1/2 Zoo Lab Workshops
Friday 14 th June	Nursery Graduation Photos
Monday 24 th June	Reception Visit to Auckland Castle Project
Thursday 27 th June	OX FEST
Friday 28 th June	Federation Closed – PD Day
Thursday 11 th July	Year 3/4 Visit to Theatre
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6 Celebration Trip
Wednesday 17 th July	10am and 2pm – Nursery Graduation and Celebration
Thursday 18 th July	9:30am – Year 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 19 th July	2:15pm – Year 6 Guard of Honour
Friday 19 th July	3:15pm – Ox Close Federation Closes
Monday 9 th September	Springmoor Grange School opens to children



We're Off On a Journey in Nursery



We've been making our own vehicles out of Mobilo - we talked about the features like wheels and chasses. We also talked about how the vehicle is powered, it could be petrol, electric or even hot air.



Rowan's Nanny brought three lambs to visit last week. They were called Darcie, Oti and Jock. Oti was full of mischief but Jock and Darcie were so chilled. We all had a chance to feed them some milk and stroke their wool.



We've been discussing different journeys we have been on. Our books of the week all contain a journey - The Train Ride, Oliver Travelled Far and Wide and Lost & Found. Look at the journeys we've been on in our play. We love these books so if you haven't read them, we think you should!

