



Ox Close Federation Newsletter

Thursday 27th June 2024 – Volume 34

Federation Closed – Friday 28th June

Please remember that Nursery and School are closed tomorrow for a Professional Development day.

OxFest 2024

I am writing this newsletter a little earlier than normal as we will all be extremely busy with Ox Fest this afternoon. I am sure everyone will have a fantastic time and I look forward to celebrating it with everyone. Dare I say it the weather forecast looks good as well!

Goodbye Mrs Douglas

Today is an emotional day as we say goodbye to Mrs Douglas who has been a valuable member of our Nursery Team since 2014. Throughout this time, she has shown great nurture, empathy and dedication. Mrs Douglas begins her HLTA post in another County Durham school tomorrow. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her success and luck in her new role.

Year 6 Residential

The children have all had a spectacular time this week and if you follow our Facebook page you will have seen the huge smiles on their faces. They have taken part in a variety of different activities including Jacob's Ladder, Assault Course, Zip Wire and the Aqua Park. I heard that two of the staff enjoyed the last activity just as much as the children. Thank you to the children for representing our school well and a huge thank you to Mr Crowther, Mrs Franklin, Miss Dent and Mr Cummings for giving up their time to accompany. Watch this space Year 5 – your trip next year will be advertised shortly.

Sports Day – Wednesday 3rd July – KS2

Wednesday 3 rd July	9:30am – Y5/6 Sports Day
Wednesday 3 rd July	1:30pm – Y3/4 Sports Day

We are all very much looking forward to hosting our final Sports Days at Ox Close Primary School. We would like to welcome family and friends to support all children as they participate in their events. Could we please ask that children come to school dressed in their PE kit ready for Sports Day along with a sun hat, sun cream and water bottle. We are keeping our fingers crossed for some sunshine. All visitors should make their way onto the school field via the car park to the right of the school. Don't forget your running shoes if you would like to join in with the fun!

Euro Football Day – Friday 5th July

Next Friday, the children will be participating in different events throughout the day linked to Euro 2024. The children can come to school in football kits and sport kit that day. I know Mrs Ozturk has also been in touch via Arbor about how to order a special lunch. I am sure it will be great fun!

Spennymoor Gala - Saturday 6th July

On Saturday 6th July, we would love you to come along to join other children, parents, carers, staff and governors in parading through Spennymoor town as part of the Gala parade. The Gala's theme this year is A Carnival of Colour, we would ask that you come dressed in as many colours as possible - maybe even your festival outfit from OxFest! We will be parading two special banners - one to say goodbye to Ox Close and one to welcome Springmoor Grange during the parade. We ask that parents/carers take responsibility for the children throughout the parade. Please feel free to bring along some sweets to throw into the crowd as I know this is a popular tradition for the Gala.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Colby G	Year 4	Nancy T
Year 1	Lola M	Year 5	Katie C
Year 2	Jenson N	Year 6	Adam O
Year 3	Rosie C		

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 93.6%% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 96.4%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 94.8%.

Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am, with the gates opening from **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 342 late minutes.



Dates for the Diary

Friday 28 th June	Federation Closed – PD Day
Wednesday 3 rd July	9:30am – Y5/6 Sports Day
Wednesday 3 rd July	1:30pm – Y3/4 Sports Day
Thursday 4 th July	Federation Closed – Polling Day
Friday 5 th July	Euro Football Day
Saturday 6 th July	Spennymoor Gala
NEW DATE - Tuesday 9 th July	9:30am – Y1/2 Sports Day
NEW DATE - Tuesday 9 th July	1:30pm – Reception Sports Day
Thursday 11 th July	Year 3/4 Visit to Theatre
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6 Celebration
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

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FAIR PLAY AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION

In school sports, fair play and friendly competition are important for character development. Fair play embodies respect and integrity while good-natured competition balances rivalry with camaraderie. This guide addresses potential challenges – like the pressure to win – and offers practical tips on instilling values of fair play and cultivating a positive sporting environment for young athletes.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Parents, carers and teachers should try to exemplify fair play: demonstrating respect for opponents, coaches and officials. Children frequently learn by observing adult behaviour, so displaying a sense of fair play sets a powerful precedent for them to follow in their own actions on and off the field.

2 EFFORT OVER OUTCOME

Encourage children to focus on giving it their all, rather than basing their entire performance on whether they win or not. This fosters a growth mindset, where the journey and the process of improvement are valued just as much as the end result. It also reduces the pressure to “win at all costs”, which can be a harmful outlook in some situations.

3 SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Establish clear guidelines and expectations for behaviour before, during and after sporting events. Ensuring that children understand what is considered acceptable conduct helps prevent misunderstandings and promotes a positive, respectful atmosphere.

4 HIGHLIGHT COOPERATION

Underline the value of teamwork and cooperation in achieving success. Success isn't just about individual achievements, but about how well the team communicates, encourages each other and works together towards a common goal. A strong focus on cooperation fosters camaraderie and mutual support among players.

5 DISCUSS ACCEPTING DEFEAT

Help children to understand that they can't win every contest – that losing occasionally is a natural part of both sport and life in general. Teaching them to accept defeat gracefully and learn from their mistakes promotes resilience, humility and the ability to bounce back stronger from setbacks. Taking a loss in one's stride is also an admirable trait and can help children and young people garner respect in their future life.

6 ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Promote an environment where all children feel welcome and valued, regardless of their skill level. Prioritise the importance of participation and enjoyment over winning, creating a supportive atmosphere where every child can thrive and develop their abilities without unnecessary pressure.

7 FOSTER CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS

Teach children how to resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully, both on and off the field. Providing them with strategies for effective communication and problem-solving helps build stronger relationships and enhances their ability to navigate challenges, which can be a huge boon to them throughout their adult lives.

8 TEACH RESPECT

Emphasise to children the importance of respecting everyone involved in the game, regardless of the outcome. Respect for your teammates, opponents, coaches and officials helps to create a positive, inclusive sports environment where everyone can feel valued and appreciated.

9 GIVE CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK

Offer feedback that focuses on areas for improvement rather than unfiltered criticism. Praise what a child has done well and advise on how to improve, rather than simply pointing out shortcomings. Encouraging a growth mindset and highlighting progress helps children to develop confidence, resilience and a desire to continue striving for excellence.

10 CELEBRATE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Try to avoid solely drawing attention to children's physical performance on the field. Recognise and celebrate acts of sportsmanship, fair play and kindness, too. By spotlighting positive behaviour, you reinforce the importance of such conduct and inspire children to practise this in the future, creating a culture of respect and camaraderie within the sports community that does wonders for morale.

Meet Our Expert

Caroline Holder is a PE consultant based in Staffordshire. Having worked across all age ranges delivering PE in schools, she now trains teachers and works with schools to develop their provision and ensure it achieves maximum impact for pupils. She passionately believes in the impact that PE, sport, and activity can have on children.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/friendly-competition>



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This week in 1/2B

In DT we have been practising our sewing skills and making book marks.



We have practised our ball skills during our game of cricket.



We went outside and looked for plants and animals in our local area. We found lots of trees and plenty of small bugs.

