

Oxley Primary School
Celebrating Learning
Autumn Term 1 2022



Be Kind.
Be Brilliant.
Have an I can attitude.

Friday 14th October, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the first half of the Autumn term for the 2022-23 academic year and as you will see from this newsletter - it has been a jam packed few weeks here at Oxley! The children have settled amazingly into their new classes and we are so proud of each and every one of them.

You will see from the news articles below, that we have been celebrating Black History Month during October. This year, the whole school has focused their learning on the Windrush and the discrimination faced by those who arrived to support Britain after WWII. The children have been reading stories, learning about the voyage people took, the treatment they received and then showcasing some of their learning through art and writing.

When we return after half term, and we approach the end of Black History Month, we will be inviting pupils to wear red on Wednesday 28th October in support of showing racism the red card. Unfortunately, racism still exists today and as a school we want to unite with the rest of the country to raise awareness and promote kindness, tolerance and respect - all of which are core to Oxley's values and ethos – giving racism the red card. We look forward to seeing a sea of red in support of this great cause!



I would also like to thank parents and carers for their continued support during this first half term. We are looking forward to welcoming you into school for parents evening during the second week back after half term. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable half term and we will see the children back at school on Tuesday 25th October.

Kindest Regards

Mr Caldwell

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Caldwell".

Headteacher

Our new Chair of Governors



I'm really pleased to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors, following on from the excellent Victoria Lofthouse who completed her term of office in September. As a governing board, we are made up of elected parents and staff, a representative of the local authority, and members of the local community. We work as a strategic team to oversee the work of the Headteacher and senior team as they run the school and seek to provide both support and challenge. If you wish to know what Governors do (and who we are) please have a look at: <https://www.oxleyprimary.org/our-school/our-governors/>



@Oxley_Primary

Anti-bullying

This year we are working towards our anti-bullying award! We hope that by investing in the Leicestershire County Council's *Beyond Bullying Award*, our practice can further be improved and we can incorporate even more opportunities for our children to not only learn about bullying and how to make a stand against it but to have more of an active voice about changes in the school. Our incredibly active school council have already had a meeting regarding some aspects of the award and our whole school have taken part in questionnaires which are currently being analysed. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have completed the questionnaire available on Weduc so that we can also take onboard your feedback. After half term, Mrs Woolcock will be sending a summary of our findings to you all. If you would like to find out more information about this award, please look at <https://www.beyondbullying.com/beyond-bullying-award-for-schools>



Black History Month – Windrush focus

October is Black History Month and whilst we hope that our new curriculum provides ample opportunities to thread these important messages throughout the year, we have had a few extra whole school assemblies this month – always mindful there's more we can do. As a school, we decided we would concentrate on Windrush and every class has looked at this through an age-appropriate book during the last week of term. We have also combined our history knowledge with our fast-growing love of art and each class have used their painting focus to create a whole school display. We are putting the final touches to the display so will reveal all after half term!



Miss Curzon's news



We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Miss Curzon is expecting! We are beyond excited for the journey she is about to embark on and cannot wait to meet baby Curzon. Miss Curzon will be with us for a few more weeks after half term before taking maternity leave.

Reading raffle winners

This term saw our first reading raffle of the year take place and just look at those proud, smiling faces! It really is a pleasure to see our love of reading continue to grow and see the many reading role models celebrated across the school. We have a few events scheduled to take place over this coming year including a book fair which will be held on parents' evening. We will also begin inviting parents in to take part in some of our reading sessions and give opportunities for the children to showcase their skills and love of books. #Oxleylovesreading



HM Queen Elizabeth II

Sadly, at the start of the year, the nation came together to mourn the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Oxley wanted to do something that allowed our children to come together and celebrate the role that Queen Elizabeth II undertook for 70 years so what better way than recreating the now famous scene with our dear old friend, Paddington Bear.



Food Glorious Food... Polytunnel Produce

A huge thank you to Mr Bill Burton who is continuing to do an incredible job tending to our polytunnel. Over the summer holidays, the food grown was donated to the Shepshed Food Bank, next door to us at the Glenmore Centre, with most weeks providing in excess of 20 cucumbers, a near endless supply of tomatoes, not to mention the aubergines, gherkins and marrows! The children cannot wait for the polytunnel workshops to restart after the October half term. Carrots, potatoes, sprouts... you are next on our list!



Tasting Station

A very well done to all the children who came to sample the home-grown goodies at our first polytunnel tasting station last week. They may not be as pretty as the vegetables you get in the supermarket... but they sure tasted good!



Welcome to the Family!

Say hello to the newest addition to our Oxley family! Last seen hopping round the polytunnel, our Oxley frog needs a name! Felix, Philomena...?...? Please send (better!) names to Mrs Reeve (Turtles) **by Friday 28th October**. A pack of Freddos (or dairy-free alternative) for the most fitting froggy moniker. Winner to be announced on **Tuesday 1st November**.



School council

A new academic year and a brand-new group of young leaders who are determined to voice pupils' opinions and suggestions whilst working together with school staff. Our school council comprises of children who have either applied through our job application system or have been democratically voted by their class and this year, are being led by two co-chairs who have shown a particular strength in leadership. They will meet at least once very fortnight and have a longer session once a month to strategically plan for events throughout the year. They have already begun working on Anti-bullying week events for November! The School Council have already made a very big decision about charity fund raising this year and are writing a letter with further details to be sent out after half term. Watch this space...



Job applications

At the start of the term, Mr Caldwell invited children to apply for various roles across the school so that more children had the opportunity to show leadership and be given responsibility. We had A LOT of interest so have now been able to divide these roles to many of the children with the promise to change every 6-8 weeks so that all applied have the opportunity.



Young Voices and Song writing club

We are extremely pleased to announce that Miss Evans will be putting on a Young Voices club after school on Wednesdays to start practising for the incredibly popular Young Voices event which will be held in January, 2023. Miss Evans has decided to change from a lunchtime club so that more children can take part so if your child is interested, please book a place via Weduc.

Similarly, we are fortunate to have been given a unique opportunity to hold a song writing club which will be run by The Leicestershire Music Services. This club will run for 6 weeks and will allow budding song writers to come together and write our very own school song! The cost is £9 for the duration of the club and allows musical experts to help inspire our children with their wealth of their experience and also write and record the backing track for us to be able to use in school. If your child would like to take part in this incredible opportunity to be part of Oxley's history, please sign up via Weduc. Both clubs are available under payments > offers.

**LEICESTERSHIRE
MUSIC**

PGL

Our Year 6 had a great time on their residential this month and were commented on several times for their politeness, their positive attitudes to challenge and their resilience. A huge thank you to Mrs Harcourt, Mrs Taylor, Mr Burton and Mrs Woolcock who accompanied the children during their 4 day stay. Booking for next year is underway and details will be sent to our current Year 5 cohort very soon.



Scaresheep Festival

We won in the Best School/Nursery category! A big thank you to Mrs Rhodes for organising our entry – ‘Ewe were baaaarilliant!’



Bikeability

Many of our Year 6 took part in bikeability this term which allowed them to increase their bike and road safety knowledge. All children and staff would like to say a big Oxley thank you to John and Elizabeth from the Road Safety Team at Leicestershire county Council for supporting our children in becoming more aware of risk and the importance of keeping safe. We are in the process of booking further courses for our Year 5 children but this is subject to availability and council funding through which events like this are able to take place.



Summer Reading Challenge

A HUGE congratulations to our Summer Reading Challenge enthusiasts who kept up their love of reading throughout the summer as part of the library services drive to continue to promote reading. There were a few children who were on residential when this photo took place but they received their certificate in this morning's assembly. #Oxleylovesreading



House winners!



You may have seen that a few weeks ago, the house captains were democratically voted by their respective house members to lead their team to victory in the new academic year. Well, what a start we have had! We have had to empty our house token container not once but TWICE because of the number of tokens our children have been collecting and that meant the Year 6 house captains had an incredible job with counting all of the tokens this week. A big congratulations to team #air for winning the gold token trophy, #earth for winning the lunchtime token category and #fire for winning the green cards category. Upon our return, the winning houses will vote on their treats and the house captains will organise these events.



As part of our half termly newsletter, we celebrate the learning that has been taking place across the school. All classes are working especially hard; we are extremely proud of them.



Penguins

The Penguins have settled SO well in life at Oxley and the adults are really impressed and excited by the progress they are making so far. They are enjoying choosing their own learning activities both indoors and outdoors and are getting very good at tidying away too! Penguins have enjoyed learning all about the stories Rosie's Walk and Handa's Surprise and I'm sure they could tell you lots of things about each story. In Maths we are deepening our understanding of numbers to five by exploring different representations and explaining what we notice about arrangements of these numbers. We are also working hard on strengthening our muscles with lots of fine motor activities like pen disco and big moves like skipping, hopping and rolling in PE. A super start to the year penguins!



Pandas

Wow! What an amazing half term we have had in the Pandas Class. The children have had such a busy half term. We have loved learning about the story "Handas Surprise". Our favourite learning was tasting a variety of fruits and then describing them, we loved the pineapple the most! The children have also enjoyed our science learning "Healthy Me!" we loved completing exercise circuits with our friends in the Turtles Class!



Turtles

What a wonderful half term we have had in the Terrific Turtles class! The children have been very busy expanding their place value knowledge in Maths, which includes comparing numbers and revising tens and ones. We have been working hard on creating exciting setting descriptions as a part of our Novel study book - The Wonder. We created our own imaginary lands and used exciting adjectives and extended noun phrases to help the reader to create an image of our settings. We have had lots of fun in Art creating spirals whilst being mindful of using our whole body to make marks and draw. We have also used a range of different resources to create our own individual and unique spiral creations! Well done Terrific Turtles! Keep up the super work.



Owls

The Owls have had an amazing start to Year 2 and it's hard to believe how much super learning we have managed to pack in since the end of August. In English, we have all thoroughly enjoyed our novel study of "The Wonder" which saw opportunities for diary writing, setting descriptions and a chance to even write our own individual book reviews complete with a synopsis, star rating and the opportunity to offer and explain our opinions. In maths, we have been working really hard on place value and really enjoyed taking our learning outdoors and keeping our number work active. Our History work this term has involved us journeying through time and learning about different explorers. Our favourite explorer was Amy Johnson and we loved that she flew in a plane called Jason!



Meerkats

In the Meerkats this term we have studied the book *The Tunnel* in our English lessons and have written setting descriptions and our own stories. We have worked hard in Maths adding and subtracting ones, tens and hundreds, noticing what happens to the different digits. We have also been learning art skills to create gestural charcoal pictures and finding out about our bodies in Science. What a busy half term we have had!



Peacocks

What a wonderful first half-term we have had in Peacock class! In our Art sessions we have been exploring gestural drawing and the Chiaroscuro technique, which simply means, 'light-dark.' Artists have used this form of drawing for centuries to describe form or convey mood in their work. The Peacocks have used charcoal to practise this technique, to create purposeful marks and shading. The final results are beautiful and unique examples of Chiaroscuro artwork. Also, this term we have been very fortunate to have weekly coaching sessions with the Leicester Tigers! The Peacocks have enjoyed playing 'Tag-Rugby' each week and learning the skills involved to play the game. GO TEAM!



Tigers

The Tigers have really enjoyed their novel study book this half term which, on the first day, led them on a treasure trail following white pebbles. They went through some scary trees and ended up near a little house with sweets everywhere. Can you guess the title of the book? We were wondering if we might see an evil witch! We have also enjoyed science where we have been learning about sound and the effects of vibrations. We have played and made all sorts of instruments during this unit. In History we have been learning about Stone Age man and what anachronism means. Anachronism is when something is wrongly believed to have belonged in a time period in which it never existed, so dinosaurs were often thought to be around in Stone Age times but in fact the two things never coexisted. We have also enjoyed learning about why Stone Age man was so nomadic and how they evolved to build houses and make instruments.



Lemurs

We have had a super half term in the Lemurs! Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed their topic in science, learning all about what creates sound. We got hands on carrying out experiments, including; using bottles and water to

determine what affects pitch; creating our very own guitars; and getting messy with beads and instruments to see and feel vibration. We also linked what we had learnt about sound to our music lessons, particularly finding out what impacts the volume of sound using untuned instruments!



Lions and Wolves

Well, what a start Year 6 have had! From learning about diversity and identity in PSHE; using books such as *Wolves in The Walls* and *The Journey* in English to explore and understanding migration and life as a refugee; learning all about evolution, genetics and inheritance in science as well as to taking on two full scale art projects where their imaginations ran wild. Throw a residential and bikeability week in there and you'll have the most jam-packed half term we've had in a long time! And the best thing about all of it... Our fabulous Year 6 are really beginning to enjoy the challenges that comes with being the oldest in the school and are working extremely hard to manage their own decision making and choice. We hope you all enjoy a fabulous half term – you thoroughly deserve it – and come back ready for the next busy half term.

