

Oxley Primary School

Celebrating Learning

Spring Term 1 2022



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

Friday 25th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022! I hope you enjoy reading about the fantastic learning and experiences the children have had so far this year. The children of Oxley continue to embrace the "I can attitude" that we are proud to have at the centre of our ethos. The pandemic has thrown some obstacles our way but we have not let this dampen the positive atmosphere we see every day in school – the articles in the pages below are a testament to this and the children of Oxley!

As we start the new half term, I would also like to thank you for your continued support during what has been a difficult time. As you will be aware, the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 21st February outlined changes in guidance and I wanted to take the opportunity to inform you about the implications this has on school.

From 24th February, the Government have removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. In addition, the Government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, contact tracing will also end. Children who are close contacts of positive cases should continue to attend school as usual.

However, if your child has any of the main symptoms you should order a PCR test. If your child has a positive test result, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. After 5 days, you may choose to take a lateral flow test followed by another the next day. If both tests are negative, and your child does not have a temperature, they can safely return to school and their normal routine.

The latest guidance, published on 24th February can be found using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

Although guidance and advice replaces a legal requirement, I would ask that you please adhere to these guidelines. This will help to ensure that our staff and children remain COVID-free and therefore able to continue attending school with minimal impact.

What changes will be happening in school?

- From today we will no longer limit mixing indoors and whole school assemblies will resume
- Staff will no longer be required to wear face masks in communal spaces
- Staff and pupils will no longer be asked to carry out asymptomatic testing at home

What will remain?

- Good respiratory and hand hygiene will continue to be encouraged
- Classrooms will continue to be ventilated when our CO² monitors indicate to do so
- Staff and pupils will continue to be advised to stay at home if they develop symptoms of COVID 19 and/or if they have a positive test result

Improving Communication

From April, we will be using a new system called WEDUC in order to streamline communication between school and parents. Some of you may already be aware of this system as many local schools including Iveshead already use this. This means that we will no longer be using a text messaging service or Class Dojo; however, with the new APP, you will be able to authorise letters, contact the school, pay for activities and meals and stay up to date with what is happening in school. **In the coming weeks, enrolling instructions will be sent out to enable a smooth transition.**



Healthy schools



Following on from the letter that was sent on Monday 21st February, we would like to politely reinforce that we are a nut free school and children should not bring in any product containing nuts either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch. We do have children who have severe allergies and therefore appreciate your support in keeping all of our children safe. As we are working hard to renew our Healthy School award, more news and information will follow shortly.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Friday 11th February marked the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and, wanting to celebrate the many inspirational females both past and present working in the Science industry, all classes in school followed in the footsteps of a chosen female scientist.

After learning about Mary Anning, the revered palaeontologist, children in the Owls class excavated some (rather delicious looking!) fossils, whilst the Hedgehog class learnt about Sarah Guppy, patent designer of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, before building, and testing, their own bridges using only masking tape and (dried!) spaghetti.

The Meerkat and Elephant classes learnt about the first British astronaut in space: Helen Sharman. This was followed by the Meerkats learning about constellations; lying underneath tables in a darkened classroom as if they were looking at the night sky, whilst the Elephant children created and launched their own rockets in order to see which would travel the furthest. This space theme was continued by children in the Gorilla class who, after learning about Liz Seward, built and launched their own rockets – with one caveat... there was a precious egg y load inside!

The Tigers learnt all about Rosalind Franklin who helped discover the structure of DNA. They learnt about the x ray techniques she used and then about what DNA is and why it is so important. The children made their own DNA structure and looked at why it was so difficult to isolate.

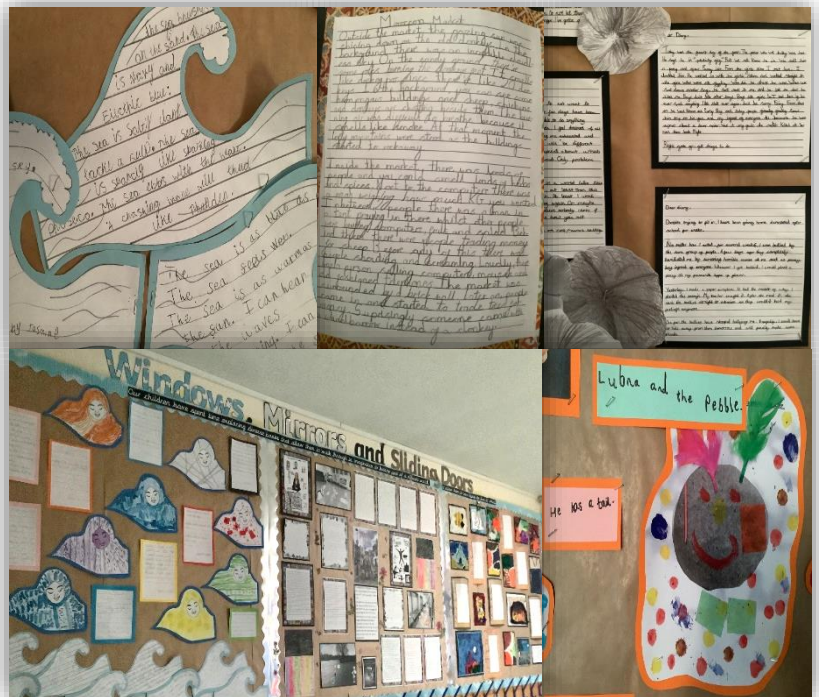
The Year 6 Wolves and Lions took inspiration from Marina Tabassum and, after learning about monsoons and their devastating effects, the children sought to design and build their own structures that could withstand the rigorous wind and rain.

Well done to all involved. Thoroughly engaging investigative fun with cross curricular learning at its finest!



Mirrors, Windows and doors

This term the whole school enjoyed a week of promoting diversity, culture and empathy through a book study chosen by each year group. These books were used as either; a window into the lives of others, a mirror to reflect the lives of us as a reader or as a sliding glass door allowing us to walk into a story and become part of the world created by the author. Each class spent the week immersed in their chosen story through reading, drama and writing activities, PSHE linked lessons and creative art lessons.



Safer Internet Day

On the 9th February, all Oxley pupils participated in Safer Internet Day. This day is celebrated all around the world with this year's theme being 'All Fun and Games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. Throughout the day, Oxley pupils joined in with practical, engaging and interesting activities with a variety of teachers across the school. These fantastic learning activities included: programming a bee-bot to move across the floor, designing a computer game on Scratch, creating a strong username and password and understanding how to always show respect online. The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the tasks throughout the day and they loved having different teachers! The teaching staff had a fantastic day as well!



Reading raffle winners

Today, we drew our Spring 1 raffle winners who have all shown our Oxley 'I can' attitude with reading as much as they can! There is certainly more of a buzz around the school about reading and with our new '50 books to read' campaign coming next term, we are excited to begin our next step in creating enthusiastic readers. Congratulations to all of our winners this term! #Oxleylovesreading

Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day

This year our theme is aiming to develop and broaden children's vocabulary. We would like the children to dress and represent a word. Children may still dress up as a book character if they wish, but we are asking children to think about a word that represents the character's personality or behaviour traits. For example, children could dress as Voldemort and wear a label stating the word "Terrifying". It would be great if children come to school dressed as a word they didn't know before and have therefore added a new word to their vocabulary. There will be prizes for the most creative and best dressed! Please see the letter that was sent on Thursday 3rd February for some ideas.



Caldwell Catchers VS Woolcock Warriors

On the last day of last half term, Gorillas, Tigers, Wolves and Lions played a monumental netball tournament that really showcased Oxley's sporting talents. After some nail-biting rounds and a lot of cheers of support, the Lion's half of the Woolcock Warriors claimed victory! And what was their prize? They played the staff – it's not every day you get to play against your headteacher is it! A fantastic afternoon of competition and team spirit was had by all. A huge thank you to our wonderful sports coaches who organised this and for agreeing to set up another one very soon!



Kindest Regards,

Mr Caldwell
Headteacher



Be sure to follow us @Oxley_Primary for regular updates on our learning!



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.

Bears

The Bears have been studying Zog by Julia Donaldson and have acted out the story and written descriptions of Zog and the other dragons. We have been trying really hard to write in sentences with capital letters and full stops. In our number sessions, we have been recalling addition and subtraction number facts to 5 and above. We have also been working out more and less than given numbers using number lines and objects to help us. The Bears have also loved learning about The World and our work on plants and animals has been great fun. We have enjoyed planting tulips, trees and seeds and the trip to Battram wood was a highlight of the term! Bears, you continue to amaze us with your active and enquiring minds - whether this is learning and asking questions about Chinese New Year traditions or being scientists and constructing bridges to help the Billy Goat Gruff cross, you continue to amaze us with your enquiring minds.



Koalas

The Koalas have worked extremely hard over the last term. We studied the story of "Lubna and Pebble" which the children really enjoyed. We created our own pebble characters and used adjectives to describe them. Our novel study this term has been "Zog" by Julia Donaldson. The children have been hooked by this! In science, we have been learning about seasons and plants. The children completed a fair test and made predictions. Throughout our maths learning, the children have been working on numbers and place value. We have been using key vocabulary such as greater than and less than to describe and compare numbers. The children have shown a fantastic I can attitude towards their learning. I can't wait to see what comes next!



Hedgehogs

The Hedgehogs have been writing explanations about how trees grow! As a part of our non-fiction writing we have been learning some exciting technical vocabulary related to trees and using causal conjunctions to write effective explanations. The Hedgehogs have also been busily learning about money and place value in Maths! We have been working out change in our Oxley shop and using a variety of resources to represent numbers. The Hedgehogs have also been exploring and creating Indian art this term. The children have enjoyed learning all about the use of pattern and shape in the Indian culture. We have created some wonderful Henna designs using inspiration from Indian patterns. We are so proud of all the amazing work the children have produced. Keep it up Happy Hedgehogs!



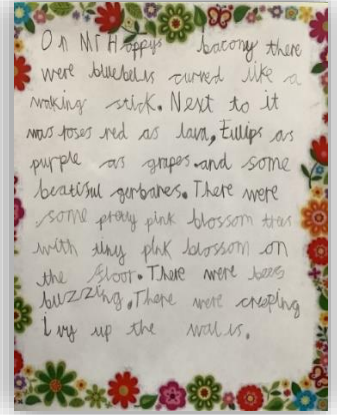
Owls

The Owls started their Spring term with a fantastic trip to Battram Woods as part of our science work. We hunted for woodland animals, found and discussed deciduous and evergreen trees and learned about predators, prey and food chains. Back at school in our English work, we explored new vocabulary, learned about causal conjunctions and then wrote an explanation text about what trees need to grow. We have also been developing our reading skills, using both retrieval and inference to answer questions about a text and creating picture glossaries to define “never heard words” that we encounter. In maths, we have been learning all about money and have been applying our skills of addition, subtraction and multiplication to new problems. Amongst all of this, the Owls also had fun taking part in Safer Internet Day and Women in STEM (science) day where we learned about the famous palaeontologist, Mary Anning



Meerkats

In the Meerkats class this term we have been studying the book *Esio Trot* by Roald Dahl. We created our own balconies, wrote our own versions of the story as Alfie the tortoise and even wrote wedding vows for Mr Hoppy and Mrs Silver! We have also studied the illustrator Quentin Blake and have been creating our own illustrations in his style using a black pen and watercolours. As part of our work on 'Plants' in Science we visited Battram Woods in Ibstock. We had so much fun learning about the different trees, creating our own natural artwork and going on a colour hunt around the woods.



Elephants



During this half term, in the Elephants class, we have enjoyed creating and building giant iron men after finishing the *Iron Man* for our novel study. We had to think about which materials would work together to create a sturdy and effective cardboard robot. Not only that, we also had to consider how to join the separate body parts together! In our maths learning, we have spent time focussing on multiplication and division with larger numbers and we have enjoyed practising our times tables as we understand that quick recall of these will support our multiplying and dividing. During our history lessons, we have been learning about the Romans: using maps, globe and atlases to locate Italy and Rome, explaining the impact that the Romans had on Leicester, researching influential figures from Roman times and identifying the different pieces of clothing that different Romans wore. For Women in STEM day (science), we did some research around a variety of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. One female in particular stood out to us, Helen Sharman, who was the first British astronaut in space. With this in mind, the Elephants decided to design and make their own space crafts and investigated how high they flew. It was very exciting!

Gorillas

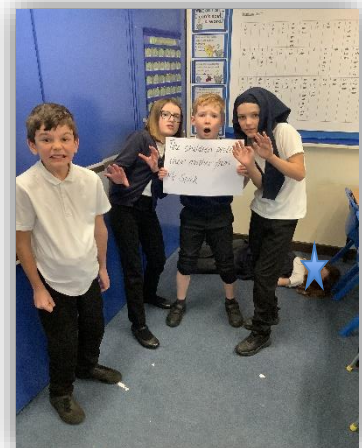
This half term in the Gorillas we have been learning all about the book 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. We have used drama to help us get into character for when we were writing from the perspective of one of the orphans. This book has linked in nicely with our history for this term as we have been learning all about the Victorians and how life was different back then. At the start of the half term, we finished off our Roman Mosaic paintings - which looked fantastic! Towards the end of the half term we looked at women in science and worked brilliantly in teams to create the safest rocket, which we then launched into the air.



Tigers

The Tigers have really enjoyed working on their novel study this term. The book is Street Child by Berlie Doherty. It follows the story of a poor boy living on the streets in Victorian times. We have enjoyed using drama to explore the character's intentions and feelings. In these pictures we are using freeze frame to further develop our understanding of character motives during a scene when the family, with a seriously ill mother, are thrown out on the street. Our novel study complements our history unit of Victorians. We have studied artefacts and paintings to give us clues about what life was like during the era for the people and for the Queen. We have also researched workhouses and the harshness of life inside this institution. In Religious Education we have been studying Christianity and what God means to Christians. We have looked at how churches are decorated to reflect this and we made our own stained-glass window using collage.

We have particularly been enjoying swimming this term and especially now we are swimming at the new Coalville and Whitwick leisure centre. The children have really been able to progress their swimming there as there are multiple pools. In art we have just started our unit on Henri Rousseau and his dreamscapes.



Lions and Wolves

This term, Lions and Wolves have been drawing bodies in proportion and researching Alberto Giacometti who was famous for sculpturing elongated human bodies. In science, we have been electricians; experimenting with circuits and altering components to monitor outcomes. In addition to this, as part of a cross curricular project, we researched Marina Tabassum and studied her architecture in order to design, construct and evaluate our own structures to withstand monsoon season in places such as Bangladesh. In English, we have started our history linked topic about WW2 focussing on evacuation by reading *Goodnight Mister Tom*, *Friend or Foe* and *Rose Blanche*. This tied nicely into the very start of the term where we looked at feeling alienated for being 'different' when studying *Pansy Boy* – a poetic narrative written by a man who was bullied at school for being homosexual. Finally, in maths, we continued to revise and consolidate fractions, decimals and percentages.

