

Oxley Primary School

Celebrating Learning
Spring 2 2024



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

Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half-term may have been a short one but it has certainly been a busy one! As you will see below, there has been plenty of excitement and fun as well as countless opportunities where the children have demonstrated our "I can" attitude. We are extremely proud of all our pupils and everything they have achieved this half term - we are looking forward to more of the same during the summer term!

We do have some goodbyes to say this half term. Firstly, we say farewell to Mr Plummer. I would like to thank Mr Plummer for his hard work, dedication and support he has offered staff and many children and their families at Oxley. I would also like to thank him for carrying out his role as our PE lead and the countless sporting events he has organised and often ran outside of his working days. Although we shall be sad to see Mr Plummer go, he has decided to pursue a new challenge within his love of sport taking on a role lecturing sports science. I am sure you will join us in wishing him the very best of luck in his new role.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mr Codd will be joining us as the new Leopards' class teacher from the start of next term. Mr Codd will work alongside Mrs Reeve and will be teaching Wednesday through to Friday. Mr Codd is an experienced and highly skilled teacher with a great passion for teaching and we are very much looking forward to welcoming him to our school after the Easter break.

After 17 years of dedication to Oxley, we also say a fond farewell to Mrs Cunningham who is retiring. Joining the Oxley team in 2007, Mrs Cunningham has been a constant support for our both staff and pupils. Her kindness, care and dedication will certainly be missed by all. It is always sad to see staff leave, but we smile as we wave her off on her retirement adventures. Mrs Cunningham is looking forward to spending more time with her family and grandchildren as well as relaxing in her family home over in Ireland. Mrs Cunningham will be truly missed but we are very excited about her plans for retirement and look forward to hearing all about her adventures.

I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to our Year 6 pupils who helped out during this week's parents' evenings. We very much like to encourage children to take a lead on all aspects of school life - and they certainly did this on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Offering, tea, coffee, squash and biscuits as well as manning our lost property station and keeping everything running smoothly for parents and teachers. Thank you!

Lastly, thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support this term. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 8th April.

Warmest Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D Caldwell".

Mr Caldwell
Headteacher

To keep up-to-date with all of your children's fantastic learning, please follow us on Instagram.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Today, we celebrated the following children who have been recognised for their special achievements and for consistently showing our Oxley core values. We are so unbelievably proud of you all.

Hanna, Junior, Elsie, Blake, Reuben, Tommy, Jessica, Dylan, Harry, Florence, Wilson, Henry, Isla-Rose, Amelia, Finnley, Lucian, Esmee, Kalleigh, Riley and Poppy.



INSTAGRAM Move Next term



A few weeks ago, we sent out a parent questionnaire to gain feedback surrounding our current social media presence and how to keep parents more informed of the wonderful things our children take part in and learn throughout the week. We are extremely proud that over 84% of parents felt communication was good. However, when asked if parents followed our X page (formally Twitter) only 44% said they did. With over 71% of those who completed our questionnaire stating they used Instagram and 79% of all parents saying they felt Instagram would be more accessible, we have made the decision to move over to Instagram shortly after Easter. To keep up to date with daily life at Oxley, please follow **oxley_primary**. We will officially launch within the first few weeks of the Easter term.

National Science Week 2024 – Super STEM! Froggy Friends

What a toad-ally fabulous way to kick off National Science Week 2024! A very well done to the young man above who won our 'Name our Frog' competition. Last seen hopping around the polytunnel, our little frog has been awarded the name 'Jeffrey'. We are sure he will make a very fine suitor to 'Froggy McFrogface,' named in last year's competition. May the two be very 'hoppy' together.



STEM Challenges for All!

This year the National Science Week theme was 'Time'. In honour of this, each class was given their own time-related STEM challenge. In Years 5 and 6, the children had to design and make their own marble runs... but who could get their marble to travel from A to B taking the longest amount of time? Children in Years 3 and 4 became wholly egg-cited by their challenge: to design and make an egg transporter that would send an egg safely down a zip line quickly. Meanwhile, children in Years 1 and 2 were tasked with designing and making a foil boat that would hold golden treasure for the longest time, whilst the EYFS children flexed their STEM thinking by building bridges that could stand the longest without collapsing!

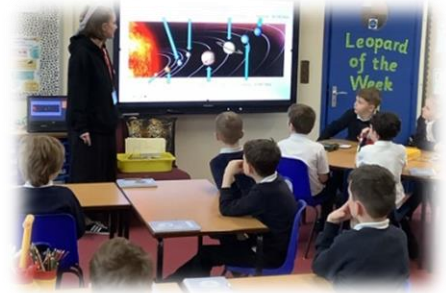


A huge well done to every single one of the children for rising to the challenge and giving each activity their absolute all. Ingenuity in every corner of the school!



Nottingham Trent University

A big thank you to Nottingham Trent University who sent one of their fantastic STEM students to deliver a presentation and workshops to several of our classes. The children really enjoyed the time-related activities – with the calculating of their age in Martian years a particular favourite!



'Super Science' Book Box

Wow! Below are just some of the books that have been ordered as part of our 'Super Science' book collection. Carefully chosen to cover a range of topics, themes and diversities, these books are making their way into each of the children's classrooms. Look out for the big red box heading your way!



Science Showcase Assembly

And finally, National Science Week was completed through a 'Super Showcase' assembly where children shared their learning with the rest of the school. It was wonderful to see the children demonstrating their ideas and exhibiting their models and creations so passionately. Thank you National Science Week – we had a great 'time'! A very well done to all those involved. What super STEM-ers you are!

Sporting achievements

We have had another busy sporting half-term! Although we have had a lot of rain, it hasn't dampened the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the children at the hockey, netball and duathlon events this half-term! It has been brilliant to see smiles on faces when competing and lots of new children taking part in events, representing the school so brilliantly too. Well done to all children that have taken part, keep your eyes peeled for the next round of fixtures after half



term. Big well done to all our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 duathletes yesterday! They did brilliantly riding through the mud, hills and puddles galore! You made us all very proud and we hope you put your feet up and enjoyed a well-deserved rest in the evening! Thank you for representing us so fantastically well!

Introducing Our New Eco-Committee: Pioneers of Sustainability!



We're excited to tell you all about something really cool that's happening at our school – we have a brand-new Eco-Committee, and they're on a mission to make our school super eco-friendly! It's like having our own team of superhero environmentalists!



So, what exactly is this Eco-Committee, you ask? We are a group of students and teachers who care a lot about our planet and want to do everything they can to protect it. The children are working hard to make sure our school is doing its part to keep the planet healthy and happy.



So far, we have conducted an environmental review of the school and from this, we have decided to focus on improving our energy usage, waste and how we travel. We have produced an action plan and our children have some seriously awesome plans in store for us. We cannot wait to put our plans into action!

School Council Film Night

Don't forget our wonderful school council has arranged a film night for April 12th. Tickets are now available on Weduc where you can select which film your child would like to see.

Fire & Water's
Non-uniform event

Friday 22nd March **Suggested £1 donation**

RSPCA **CANCER RESEARCH UK**

House Captains would like to invite ALL CHILDREN to wear their own clothes to raise as much money as they can for the charities below.

All donations will be split between the two charities.

OXLEY'S SCHOOL COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO...

MOVIE Night **£3 PER TICKET***

Wonka **Trolls Band Together**

FEEL FREE TO BRING PJS, BLANKETS AND A PILLOW. PLEASE BRING THEM IN A BAG TO GET CHANGED INTO AFTER SCHOOL.

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL **3:15PM TO 5:15PM**

***includes popcorn and drink**

House Captains

Today, Teams Fire and Water organised a non-uniform event for the whole school to raise money for two fantastic charities: RSPCA and Cancer Research UK. All money will be counted upon our return and charities will be contacted. We will try our very best to present the money raised in person during assemblies.



World Book Day

This year, World Book Day promoted 'Reading Your Way' and what a start to the day we had! As the gates opened, the children were welcomed into school by Mr Caldwell dressed in a 7ft koala outfit! We then launched World Book Day with an assembly looking at various authors and a book/film quiz looking at the stories of authors who showed determination to become the success they are today. In classes, we had teacher swaps where the children received a mystery reader knock on their door to read one of their favourite books. Classes also spent time creating potato book characters, bookmarks and paper dolls as well as the older classes taking part in the Footie/Bookie World Book Day quiz and stop motion animations on popular children's stories. What a fun-packed day!!



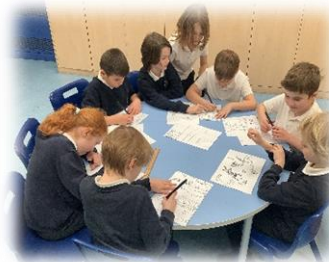
Thank you to Miss Benincasa

We wish Miss Benincasa lots of luck and success as she continues on her journey as a trainee teacher. Although the term was short, Miss Benincasa has given it her all and has helped the children in the run-up to their SATS. Come back and see us anytime!



Comic Club

Since the beginning of this year, four young individuals have led a comic club to support children's creativity. They designed and advertised their club, sourced lesson plans and even asked staff to help publish the comics after each one had been completed. They run the club, without fail, twice a week and it has become a VERY popular club! The club's comics are now proudly on display in our library for anyone to read and they hope that this continues to build until we have a comic corner! We are very proud of their tenacity, determination and natural leadership skills!



Art Club (written by themselves)

A message from the art club: We created the art club at the beginning of the year. We do an Art club for KS1 who love art! We run themes across the sessions and we even make our own certificates by hand! We also take a register and help children attend regularly by giving them art club points!



Drama Club

Three drama enthusiasts have also been running a drama class for our younger children since January and have been a wonderful example of leadership growing across the school. They support our children with confidence and provide fun and exciting sessions that always bring smiles throughout the week! Well done everyone!



Rock Steady

Last week, our rock stars showcased their talents during a concert to the school and their parents and carers. Not only could you see their confidence growing but their musical talents and rhythm is fantastic to see! Our children loved singing along with the hits they played! We're already waiting in anticipation for the next one which is scheduled for Thursday 11th July and being the penultimate day of term, we already know it'll be the biggest and best one yet! Rock on!



House Winners!

A HUGE congratulations to this half term's house winners! **Fire** won the blue trophy for earning the most blue tokens (trying new foods at lunch, eating all their lunch and showing exceptional behaviour and manners during breaktimes etc.), **Earth** won the green trophy for racking up the most green tokens (for above and beyond achievements) and **Fire** totted up the most gold tokens (everyday awesomeness) and are proud owners of the gold trophy. The House Captains will speak to their houses after half term and arrange their treats! Well done!



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

It has been a short but very busy half-term for the Penguins. We loved our novel study book 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and it inspired us to imagine what we would like to find at the top of a



beanstalk...we drew and wrote what we would like to find and we are getting really good at writing the sounds we hear in words. We have been working hard in Maths to remember all of the pairs of numbers that make 10 as quickly as we can. We have also enjoyed all of our learning about castles - we learnt lots of new

words like battlements, arrow loops and drawbridge and we even made our castle pictures with moving doors! Well done Penguins for another term of being brilliant!

Koalas

We have had a fantastic half term in the Koalas class. We have loved learning all about Jack and the Beanstalk and designing our own castles linked to this! In our science learning, we have explored animals and have been grouping and sorting them into categories. The Koalas also loved World Book Day, where we were able to showcase our love of reading! I can't wait for the Summer Term to begin!



Hedgehogs

What a wonderful end to the term we have had in the Hedgehogs class. In Maths, the children have been busy learning about multiplication, division and mass. The children have enjoyed using balance scales to explore heavy and light objects and they have also enjoyed drawing arrays to solve problems. In English, we have been learning about the features of non-chronological reports in preparation for writing our very reports based on various animals. The Hedgehogs have also had lots of fun dissecting flowers in science! They have enjoyed exploring the different parts of plants and created wonderful flower posters! The children also enjoyed creating some artwork based on a book – The Paper Dolls. They had lots of fun designing their own paper dolls and thinking up some imaginative names for their characters. What a busy term Hedgehogs! Well done!



Owls

Though this half-term has been short, the Owls have still managed to pack in so much exciting learning! In English, we have been looking at non-fiction writing with a focus on non-chronological reports. We have been exploring model texts,

features and language used to create our own reports about gorillas. In History, our journey through the bygone years of Shepshed has continued and we have learned about the old Shepshed railway as well as how framework knitting was a big part of industry. We also explored how the crime of "frame-breaking" which swept the county as Luddite gangs tried to take back jobs. A firm favourite this half term has been Computing and we have loved programming algorithms on Scratch Jr



Leopards

Wow, that half-term went in a flash, and the Leopards have again done brilliantly to keep up and work so hard for the whole half-term! In English, for their novel study, they have been looking at *Escape from Pompeii*. They have been thinking about the various settings in the book and how best to use our senses to describe the setting thoroughly! We also spent a week looking at creating our inventions and how these would help to solve potential problems in the world. We were blown away by the creativity and ingenuity of some of the designs. In DT we had fun exploring how night lights work, creating our own designs and then creating our own final versions of the finished products. There were some excellent designs! Mr Plummer would also like to say what a privilege it has been to teach all of the Leopards, they are all little superstars and he will miss you all. We look forward to welcoming Mr Codd into the class after the Easter break. Have a wonderful Easter break!



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Elephants

This term the Elephant class have been extra busy with all the fun of World Book Day and Science week. We have really enjoyed learning all about Pompeii and writing fabulous letters to Mr Caldwell to convince him to let us travel there. In maths, we finished off our learning about area and perimeter and then we kicked off our new fractions unit with lots of recap of prior learning. In our DT and science, we have had so much fun making circuits for our very own night lights.



Tigers

What a super speedy half-term the Tigers have had! We love our novel 'Escape from Pompeii' and have been using our knowledge of adverbials and expanded noun phrases to create some excellent descriptions. Well done Tigers! We are challenging ourselves by learning how to use Logo in computing and experimenting with the different shapes and patterns we can make. It can be a bit tricky but we



are showing some great perseverance! This has built brilliantly on our artwork on patterns, where we ended the unit by creating our own repeating patterned paper designs! Super work as usual Tigers!

Lemurs

We have had a very hands-on half term in the Lemurs'. We began by creating our very own fairground rides which, with a bit of resilience and perseverance, were successful. We also enjoyed exploring shadows further by investigating what happens to the size of a shadow when an object is closer to a light



source as well as looking at refraction. In English, we have been delving into our imaginations; creating our mythical creatures and writing a non-chronological report all about it; deciding what our mythical creature looks like, its diet, habitat and defensive mechanisms. In French, we focused on enhancing sentence structure through descriptions of the solar system and assuming the role of astronauts being interviewed. Moreover, in PSHE sessions, we analysed risks, emphasising the importance of understanding both their benefits and consequences, particularly as we assume greater responsibility for our safety as we get older.

Lions and Foxes

A short-term but a busy one! Year 6 have been learning all about light and what refraction means; completing lots of science investigations including marble runs to achieve the slowest time possible; and having had a visit from Nottingham Trent University, putting their mathematical knowledge to the test to the investigate how old they would be on another planet! As well as this, they have been concentrating on the creative arts both in Art by creating self-portraits combined with identity backgrounds and in English by designing and writing about mythical creatures. We even squeezed in another DT project where the children took on the challenge to create a sweet or savoury treat linked to a religion of their choice. We've been ticking along nicely in maths working hard to improve our arithmetic scores which will lead us nicely into consolidation and revision lessons after the Easter break. With only a few months to go before we begin our transition sessions to High school, Year 6 will now begin to think about their Enterprise projects to raise as much money as they can for their end-of-year treats! More details will follow in the next half-term.

