

Oxley Primary School
Celebrating Learning
Autumn Term 1 2023



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

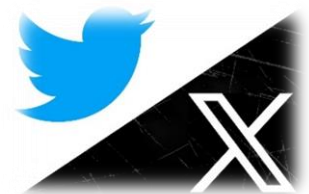
Friday 13th October, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we have come to the end of the first half of this academic year. As you will see from this newsletter, it has been a very busy seven weeks back at school! We have wasted no time getting back into learning and the children have settled amazingly into their new classes. We are so proud of each of every one of them but a special mention must be given to the children that have started school at Oxley this academic year!

I would also like to take the opportunity to announce some new members of support staff that have joined the Oxley team this half term. A very warm welcome to Miss Crane and Miss Elliott who will be working across the Penguins and Koalas classes as well as Miss Walsh who has joined our Leopards class.

I would also like to remind all our parents and carers about our very active Twitter page (recently renamed "X"). Staff across the school are regularly posting about learning, achievements and lots of other exciting moments that our pupils experience here at



Oxley. Please do take a look and engage with our posts – it really is worth a look!

Is your child starting school in August 2024?
Come and join us on one of our open evenings!

MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
4PM - 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
4PM - 5:30PM

Call Oxley Primary School on 01507 512483 or email office@oxleyprimary.co.uk for more details.

We are holding open days for prospective new pupils and parents on two dates in November (Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th November) from 4.00pm till 5.30pm. If you have a child starting school in August 2024 please do drop in, take a look around our EYFS base and speak to our staff who will be on hand to answer any of your questions. Please do also spread the word to anyone you know with children starting school in August 2024. The closing date for primary school applications is 15th January 2024 and applications can be made by clicking [here](#).

When we return after half term, and we approach the end of Black History Month, we will be inviting pupils to wear red on Friday 27th October in support of showing racism the red card. Unfortunately, racism still exists today and as a school we want to unite with this cause 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 like to thank parents and carers for their continued support during this first half term. I wish you all an enjoyable half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 24th October**.
Kindest Regards

Mr Caldwell

Headteacher

Rainbows Hospice fund raising!

We are so proud of Finley and Max who decided to run their own lemonade and sweet stall last month to raise money for Rainbows hospice. We are delighted to announce that they raised £160 for the charity! Well done boys!



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 been democratically voted by their class - and some of them are familiar faces! They will meet at least once every fortnight and have a longer session once a month to strategically plan for events throughout the year. They have already met and decided upon the first two school fund raising activities and after half term, they will begin to look at this year's anti-bullying week to continue building on last year's fabulous work reaching our gold award!



Brand new Star of the Week song

At the start of the term, Mr Caldwell invited our children to put forward ideas for a brand-new Star of the Week song. We had a lot of entries so then it went to class votes. The children finally voted on 'Best day of my life' by American Authors and now proudly sing along every Friday! Thank you to everyone who put forward an idea and congratulations to our winner.



PGL



At the start of October, lots of our Year 6 had a great time on their residential and pushed themselves to climb, swing and hang from various heights as well as learn other skills such as archery, orienteering and canoeing. The children were impeccably behaved and had many comments from the PGL staff about how respectful and polite they were and how encouraging they were towards one another – particularly when faced with the challenge of wanting to do the activity legs not wanting to step forward! A huge thank you to Miss Milner, Mrs Taylor, Mr Burton and Mrs Woolcock who accompanied the children during their 4 day stay. It was an absolute pleasure to see so many children having such fun! What a great way to start the new term. Booking for next year is underway and details will be sent to our current Year 5 cohort very soon.



Scaresheep Festival

Whilst we do not know the final outcome of this year's Scaresheep festival yet, we would like to thank Mrs Rhodes for being as fabulous as always and putting together our BAA-rbie themed entry. We will keep you posted if we were Kenough!



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. To know that Oxley's love of reading continues even when they're not at school makes us very proud and we're so grateful for having such as fantastic reading role models #Oxleylovesreading



House Captains!

Lots of our Year 6 children spent the first few weeks of term busily writing speeches for this year's house captaincy roles and a few weeks ago, were democratically voted to lead their houses. A huge congratulations to our team captains who will be sitting down with Mr Caldwell very soon to rewrite their roles so they have even more responsibly!



Today, after lots of counting, we announced our token winners and it was close! A huge congratulations to #teamfire who not only won the gold tokens with a staggering 2606 but also won the blue tokens with an incredible 376. It is brilliant to see how many more blue tokens are being given out for good manners at lunchtime, eating lots of vegetables, trying new things and being respectful on the playground. Another big congratulations goes to #teamearth for winning the most amount of green tokens with 129! What a great start to the term!



Young people's mental health day

During the last week of term, our school took part in #HelloYellow by painting the school in yellow – whether this be all yellow or even just a sock! Following an assembly by Miss Evans, the children learnt about why it is important to talk and reach out if something is worrying them. The children all looked wonderful and lots of conversations were heard being had about how we can keep our minds healthy. Thank you again to Miss Evans for being so passionate about our children's mental health.



Parents evening



This week saw our first parents evening and we were blessed with some of our fantastic Year 6 children volunteering to make refreshments for our parents. We are so proud of how kind and responsible our children are. Not sure if there were many biscuits left though!



Harvest

Last week, the Penguins and Koalas performed the first of our class assemblies for this academic year. They did a fantastic job celebrating harvest and showcasing their songs, a story and their artwork. They performed in the morning to the school and then performed again in the afternoon to parents and carers who all left with big smiles on their faces! A big thank you also to all children who donated something for our food hampers which enabled us to create just under 30 food parcels which have been given to worthy recipients nominated by our pupils.



HALLOWEEN PARTY
FRIDAY 27TH
OCTOBER

EYFS & KS1
5:30 - 6:30PM
£2.50 PER TICKET
DRINK & HALLOWEEN SWEETS INCLUDED

KS2
6:45 - 8:00PM
£4 PER TICKET
J20 & HALLOWEEN SWEETS INCLUDED

OPTIONAL AGE- APPROPRIATE FANCY DRESS

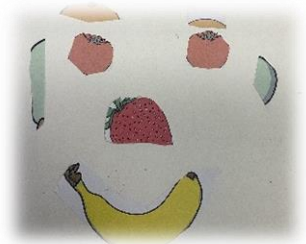
Celebration OF LEARNING



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.

Penguins

The Penguins have settled SO well in life at Oxley and the adults are really impressed with how quickly they have made new friends and adapted to school life. Our topic this term has been 'What is it like to be me?' and the children have enjoyed the stories of The Gingerbread Man and the Gingerbread Girl. We have practised labelling parts of our bodies, practised using our 5 senses and created self portraits. We have also been learning about Harvest and put on two amazing performances of our harvest assembly! A great start to the year Penguins – well done!



Koalas

Wow! What a fantastic start to the year we have had in the Koalas class! The children have settled in well to their new class with all their new friends! We have had great fun this term learning all about the Gingerbread Man and creating our own alternative endings to the story. In our topic "What is it like to be me?" we have been busy making self portraits and exploring our senses in our science learning. To top it off we learnt all about Harvest and loved performing our class assembly to the whole school as well as our parents and carers!



Hedgehogs

What a wonderful half term we have had in the Happy Hedgehogs class! The children have been very busy expanding their place value and addition and subtraction knowledge in Maths. The Hedgehogs have also been working hard on retelling a story as a part of our Novel study book – After the fall. We created our own Humpty Dumpty characters using eggs (hard boiled of course) and we used these to retell the story. We enjoyed creating our own noun towns and writing a diary entry as Humpty Dumpty. We have also had lots of fun in Art creating wax resist pictures and using natural materials to explore pattern and composition. Well done Happy Hedgehogs! Keep up the super work.



Owls

The Owls have kicked off the new school year with a bang! All of the children have settled in and have enjoyed engaging with all of their learning. In English, we have read the story of "After the Fall" which was all about the story of how Humpty Dumpty regains his courage. We had great fun making our own eggs to act out the story, wrote diaries, created setting descriptions and this culminated in a super retell. Our topic in History this term has been the swinging 60s and we have

learned about how historians use timelines to divide up time. We made our own and also looked at key historical events from the decade. The Owls have also loved their science unit this term where we have been classifying and looking at features of different animals. A firm favourite was looking at a real fish to examine real life gills, scales and fins!



Leopards

We have had an excellent first half term in the Leopards! We have been reading the book 'Into the Forest,' and thinking about how the author uses colour to create moods and feelings. This was echoed in our Art lessons, where we have been looking at Laura Caplin and Shaun Tan and copied their styles to illustrate our own versions of Lewis Carroll's Jabberwocky poem.

In our History lessons we have been studying the Romans and seeing what made them a force to be reckoned with, as well as some of the amazing inventions that they created which we still use today.



Elephants

The Elephants have had an amazing start to year 3/4 and have settled in brilliantly! This half term we have been deepening our understanding of place value in Maths, continuing to read and enjoy a variety of texts in Reading and develop our writing ideas with our novel study book 'Into the Forest'. As we came to the end of our novel study, the children enjoyed our picnic afternoon eating 'lovely fruit cake' and drinking the 'milky-moo cow' milkshakes. During this half term the Elephants have focussed on researching all about the Romans in our History lessons and many have found links to other historical events as well. In Art, the children have thoroughly enjoyed studying artists, such as: Laura Carlin and Shaun Tan

producing similar works of art in concertina books or Manga style. Within our music lessons, the year 3s have been learning how to play a recorder while the year 4s have been taught by a specialist teacher to play a ukulele - exciting!



Tigers

Wow! What a busy half term we have had! The Tiger's kicked off our first English unit by discovering lots of unusual items in the KS2 area. They loved predicting what our story could be about and who the items may have belonged to. This then led to some amazing writing based on 'Into the Forest.' We have been blown away at the authors in training we have! We have also thoroughly enjoyed our ukulele lessons on a Friday with Mr Stevens. Mr Stevens is teaching us the 4 main notes G, C, E, A by using the rhyme 'Good Cows Eat Apples!' The Tigers have been even more creative in art this term by illustrating their own zig zag books of the Jabberwocky. We are very lucky to have such creative Tiger cubs in our pack!



Lemurs

Wow! What a jam-packed start we've had in the Lemurs. We have been hands-on in science looking for organisms and creating classification keys for our findings. We became archaeologists in history, exploring and determining Shang artefacts and their uses as well as deciphering hieroglyphs. We have also done plenty of acting in English to understand characters' feelings and develop setting descriptions. Finally, we are well on the way to becoming professional DJ's and are thoroughly enjoying learning different scratches in Turntablism. instruments!



Lions and Wolves

Well, what a start Year 6 have had! Lessons are in full swing and we have been concentrating on all things grammar in English – making sure we use the correct terminology and using this within our writing. Our first novel study has been 'The viewer' by Gary Crew which the children have particularly loved and as we speak, we have just moved onto 'Cloud Busting' by the fabulous Malorie Blackman. In maths, we have been consolidating and stretching our place value knowledge and beginning to work on specific arithmetic skills involving the four calculations. In science, we are looking at organisms and



micro-organisms and the children have loved being outside as much as possible. In history, the children have been looking at the Shang Dynasty and using their historian skills to compare with the ancient Egyptians. If this wasn't enough, we have been really creative by learning not only turntablism in music alongside harmonies and pitch in our double music lessons but have been looking at various artists such as Lubaina Himid, George Cruikshank and Pablo Picasso in art ready to turn our skills into a 3D art extravaganza! The children have earned their half term break that's for sure!