

Oxley Primary School  
**Celebrating Learning**  
**Spring 1 2023**



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

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term of 2023 has come to an end and the children have kicked off the new year with a bang! The children have continued to impress us embracing the Oxley I can attitude, working hard and persevering with their learning.

We started the year with our annual Windows, Mirrors and Sliding Doors unit. Across each year group, our children explored the protected characteristics through high quality, age appropriate books. These books helped children explore a range of characteristics such as race, age, gender and sexual orientation. The key message was about the importance of kindness and respect, that there is no normal and it is our differences which make us special and unique. We firmly believe that giving children these learning opportunities will enable them to understand and appreciate the diverse and rich society that modern Britain has to offer.

During this half term, we have also relaunched a whole school focus on British Values and the children have developed their understanding of what it is to be a citizen in a modern Britain - valuing our community and celebrating the diversity of the UK. This half term, we have focused on democracy and the rule of law; next half term we will continue looking further at respect, tolerance and freedom (Individual Liberty).

I would also like to welcome Miss Milner who joined our staffing this week as a Senior Teaching Assistant. Miss Milner has over 20 years' experience working with children in educational settings and will be working primarily in Year 6. I am sure you will join me in giving her a warm Oxley welcome.

We very much hope you enjoy the first newsletter of the year - it really does showcase the fantastic learning that happens each and every day.

I would like to wish you all an enjoyable half term and we looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 28th February.

Warmest Regards

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

Mr Caldwell  
**Headteacher**

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



## Reading

Our new reading incentive, 'Reading Pursuit' is up and running across the school. Last week saw our first green cards given out, with several more in the past few days! The race is on!

In more reading news, we were pleased to welcome to school this week, real life author Allie Mary and her dog, Mabel. They led a whole school assembly and then visiting classes to answer questions. We also have over 400 brand new books in the second phase of our library development! Reading rocks at Oxley!



## Windows, Mirrors and Sliding doors



Following on from the success of last year, our children spent time at the beginning of the year exploring diverse books that allow them to walk through in imagination to become part of a different world, or allow them to learn about the lives of others. We're sure you will agree this display shows the celebration of diversity, differences, gender, age and respectfulness through some amazing children's books.

## Children's Mental Health Week



During the penultimate week of term, our children took part in #childrensmentalhealthweek by joining #Taskmaster and completing several activities throughout the week. The week saw classes making rainbows from objects around the school, creating their own dances, their own games using limited equipment and with only 3 rules, making groovy hats and dressing to express. The children enjoyed the creative tasks but we also had lots of opportunities to think about our own mental health and how we take time for ourselves, reaching out if needed and have the courage to talk through problems if we have them. A great awareness week ending in a whole school disco!

### Dance to feel good

Last week saw our children have a fantastic end to our raising awareness of #childrensmentalhealth by dancing with friends at our discos. We had congas, musical statues, best dancer competitions



and that was only in KS1! A huge thank you to our amazing Oxley staff who stayed behind to make sure it ran as smoothly as possible. The children certainly looked like they were having a blast! A very special thank you must also go to **The Bernard Thorpe Education Foundation** who, at the end of last year, awarded our school with £1000 which helped fund our replacement lighting system in time for our Christmas productions. As you can see from the pictures above, we're very much putting them to use regularly!

### School Council

Our School Council began the year meeting Mrs Jane Hunt, a local MP and asked some very interesting questions regarding life as an MP, how the government works (including



Brexit!) and infrastructure in Shephed - particularly linked to the new houses which are being built. We are always proud of our future leaders but the questions they asked and the knowledge they had about current affairs certainly put Mrs Hunt through her paces. Our school council also met with our Anti-bullying lead governor to discuss what has been happening in school this academic year so far and Mrs Weaver was mightily impressed with their passion. Our co-chair councillors have been working alongside our computer technicians to finalise the Internet Youth Charter which has now been sent to UK Safer Internet Centre. Together, with the House Captains, they have also been demonstrating democracy as all children in the school voted for their favourite books which they would like to win as part of our new incentive to increase reading at home!

### First Aid

Using the money, we raised from our Santa Fun Run in December, we were delighted to be able to invite Mini First Aiders to come in and teach every child some valuable lessons about keeping safe and how to deal with a variety of first aid issues.



## Zones of Regulation/Attitude for Gratitude

This term, we are delighted to launch the Zones of Regulation. Alongside our work in PSHE, the aims of these zones are to help the children become more emotionally literate and understand how to manage feelings they may be finding hard. The aim for all of our children in Oxley is to be confident, well rounded and self-assured young people who are able to navigate their emotions throughout their life experiences.



In other PSHE/Mental health news, we have also kick started our “Attitude for Gratitude” initiative to encourage children to reflect on things that they are thankful for in a world that can sometimes be a challenging place. These moments are really helpful in reminding us to look for the good in every day and will further promote mental wellbeing.

Precious in the Turtles said, ***“I am thankful for love and peace. I wish we could give peace to the people of Ukraine.”***

Florence in the Owls said, ***“I am grateful for my Mummy and Daddy who look after me every day.”***

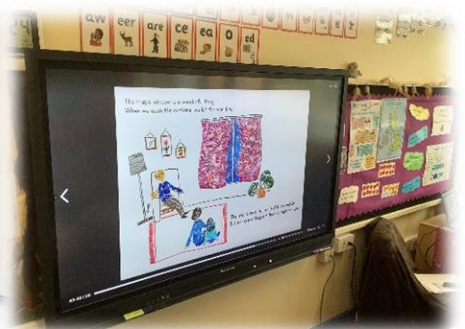
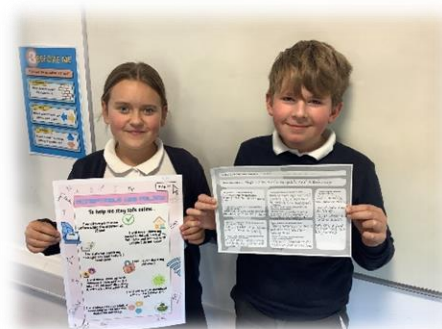
## Sporting achievements

It has been an incredibly busy half term of sport, with competitions in golf, basketball, dodgeball, cross country and indoor athletics for our KS2 children. We've seen some excellent sportspersonship, brilliant teamwork and lots of Oxley 'I can' attitudes! Some of the highlights have been finishing 4th overall in the golf tournament, as well as 16th place for Caitlin and 21st place for Elliott in the recent cross-country races. Well done to everyone who has represented the school; we are so proud of you all!



## Internet Safety Week

Last week, we also celebrated Internet Safety Week. We all took part in different activities based on the theme ‘Want to talk about it?’ The children took part in assemblies looking at how to be safe online and all signed an acceptable use policy to agree with how they will use the internet at school. We were so impressed with their knowledge of online safety and hope they now feel even more confident to talk to a trusted adult if they come across anything which worries them.



### House Winners

A HUGE congratulations to this half term's house winners!

Earth won the blue trophy for earning the most blue tokens (trying new foods at lunch, eating all their lunch and showing exceptional behavior and manners during breaktimes etc) and FIRE won two trophies: most gold tokens

(everyday awesomeness) and green tokens (for above and beyond achievements). The House Captains will speak to their houses after half term and arrange their treats! Well done!



### Microscopes



A huge thank you to The Royal Microscopical Society who have loaned us 8 of their fantastic microscopes. The microscopes will be with us for the whole of the spring term and come with over 75 different samples to study.

### We will rock you!

On Tuesday, our children had the opportunity to try out the drums after having a visit from DCP drums. We all had a go on the set of electronic drums to test our skills against various pop tracks and believe us when we say, there were a lot of table tapping for the rest of the day! So far, we have had 11 children sign up to learn a brand-new musical



instrument! If you would like to enquire about music tuition, please get in touch with the office or Mrs Woolcock. After half term, there will also be an opportunity to sign up for guitar tuition too!



### Young Voices

On 12th January, a team of staff and a choir of children made the annual trip to Birmingham to take part in the wonderful, "Young Voices" concert. We sang songs from Disney, the Trolls

films and even sang along with Heather Small who was a guest performer! The children sang, danced and represented our school brilliantly. See you next year!



## International Day of Women and Girls in Science

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

In EYFS, the children learnt about Mae Jemison and, after learning about her life and career, they made medals and trophies with celebratory messages. Meanwhile, the Turtles class learnt about Thiera Guinn Fletcher and noted the fantastic contributions she is making to NASA's rocket launch program. The children launched their own rockets to investigate which would travel the furthest!

In Owls, after learning about Mary Anning, the revered palaeontologist, the children carefully excavated some (rather delicious looking!) fossils, whilst the Year 3 children studied Myriam Sarachik - a pioneer scientist who is renowned for her work on forces and magnetism. In honour of such an inspirational female, the children made magnetic games including those that had a fishing or race track theme.

Our Year 4 and 5 children researched Rosalind Franklin and her role in discovering DNA and made their own DNA structures using different coloured sweets to represent the chemicals. Who knew DNA could be so delicious?!

Finally, Year 6 took inspiration from Marina Tabussum and, after learning about monsoons, they sought to design their own information posters highlighted her achievements in designing sustainable housing in areas affected by natural disasters.

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



## Fire safety



We would like to say a big thank you to @leicsFireRescue who have been in this half term to teach our Year 1, 3 and 5 children the importance of being safe at home and even how to stop, drop and roll!



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 jam-packed term of learning in the Penguins with lots of great progress being made! We enjoyed exploring the traditional stories 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We even created our own traditional story called 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig'! We continued to learn about seasonal changes and enjoyed a winter walk to notice signs of Winter...we even had a chance to play in the snow! The children also enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year and tasted some delicious Chinese food.

## Pandas



Wow what a fantastic half term we have had in the Pandas class! The children have loved our Once Upon a Time theme. We have explored a range of traditional tales in our Novel study and even wrote instructions on how to make porridge! In Art, we developed our print making skills.; the children loved mixing colours! We have also been scientists and tested a range of properties of different materials. Well done Pandas!

## Turtles

What a busy half term the Turtles have had! In English, we have been busy reading 'The Whales' Song' where we have been learning how to write letters and non-chronological reports. In Science, we have been helping Marvin, our materials monster as he needed help to find a pair of gloves that are made of a material stretchy enough to fit over his long monster fingers.



We went on a walk looking for signs of Winter.  
We also got to explore the snow!



We noticed:  
Trees without leaves  
Berries  
It was sunny and felt really cold  
The snow melted quickly  
It was frosty  
The sun was low in the sky  
Frozen puddles  
Brown leaves on the floor  
Frozen leaves and sticks

PIC•COLLAGE

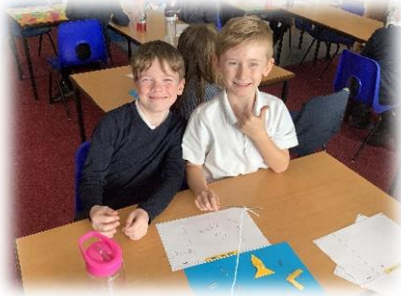
## Owls

The Owls have kick started 2023 with a bang! Since coming back after Christmas, we have been working hard in all of our learning which culminated in a wonderful class assembly. In English, our novel study was "The Whale's Song" and we enjoyed writing letters, character descriptions and tried really hard to embed and use some new grammar skills. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we loved taking part in the Taskmaster challenges such as making rainbows and creating our own portraits using natural materials.



## Meerkats

We have had a blast in science this half term, learning all about magnetism! We learned all about the different poles and tested out how far away they could be to still repel and attract each other! We ended with making some awesome magnetic games and had fun trying each other's out! We are also getting so good at our French speaking. We have learned the phrase 'je peux' and can join different verbs to the end to make some simple sentences. We even acted them out. Great work Meerkats!



## Peacocks



The Peacocks have had a busy half-term getting creative! They have made fold mountains in geography, Binca pouches in DT, magnetic games in science and collages in art. To top it off, they have also made beautiful emotion rainbows and 'Dress to Express' hats for mental health week. Well done Peacocks!

## Tigers

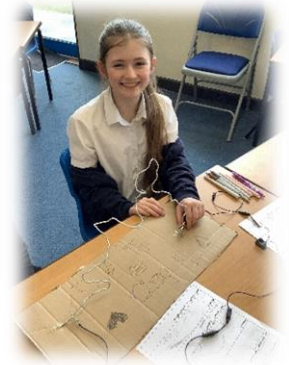
The Tigers have enjoyed their Geography topic of mountains earthquakes and volcanoes. We are nearly at the end now. During the topic we learnt about how fold mountains are created and made our own using clay. Then we painted them showing the layers of the Earth beneath. We have also been working hard on our multiplication skills in maths and using place counters to unpick and understand the methodology of compact multiplication. We have all done really well and can multiply up to 4 digits by 1 digit.





## Lemurs

Wow! What a jam packed half term we've had in the Lemurs. We started by creating our own games and deterrents using circuits, before conducting the tastiest experiments in science, from melting chocolate to creating a double helix out of sweets. We also transformed into documentary presenters, educating people on the reasons for and against the impact of the British Empire.



## Lions and Foxes

What a year so far! Year 6 started off by looking at *Pansy Boy* by Paul Harfleet where we explored how being discriminated against for being 'different' is not acceptable and can really affect one's mental health. We also continued our work on bullying and discussed empathy and how we would have reacted both as the victim or a bystander. We finished our topic on The British Empire by creating documentaries showcasing our knowledge and growing technology skills before delving into WW2 by looking at evacuation and how this affected children and adults alike. Fast forward lessons about propoganda and writing our own radio adverts, we ended the term in English by writing a detailed film review comparing the Goodnight Mister Tom novel to the film. We also visited Warning Zone in Leicester to learn all about risks whether this be in the local community or online. The adults who attended were extremely proud of the children's knowledge of how to navigate these risks and how brilliantly behaved and well-mannered our children were. We have also started our new art focus on Activism, our science unit on electricity and even began a new PSHE topic all about money! Phew, we've certainly earned a week's rest!

