

Oxley Primary School

**Celebrating Learning**

**Autumn Term 1 2021**



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

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the first half term of the academic year – how fast that has gone! We are so proud of how well the children have settled back into school and adapted back to a more “normal” way of school. It has been fantastic to see children playing together on the playground, eating in the hall together and coming together in the school hall for our Star of the Week assembly.

Please find below a few school updates and a celebration of some of the learning that has taken place this half term. I really hope you enjoy our newsletter and join us in celebrating what has been a fantastic start to the academic year!

### COVID-19 Update

Following current guidance and thanks to everyone within the Oxley community remaining vigilant, we have managed to keep cases relatively low compared to other schools around the county. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and ask that you continue to remain vigilant. Please do obtain a test when being identified as a close contact or your child present any of the main symptoms. By working together, we can help to keep cases down in school and have as little disruption to the children’s education as possible.

### New Interactive boards and Wi-Fi



Over the summer we invested in our IT infrastructure and replaced all our classroom projectors with 65 inch fully interactive screens. This has been a welcome upgrade in terms of teaching and learning, the new screens are more reliable, flexible in terms of their use and clearer to the eye. We would like to pass our thanks to the FOXES who made a very generous contribution towards the boards.

The installation of the new interactive boards meant a new Wi-Fi network was needed. Therefore, we had our entire wireless network replaced in the holidays to ensure that teaching and learning in the classroom is not impacted on by an overwhelmed Wi-Fi network.

We are an “**I can**” School.



### Reporting absences

Please could I remind you to report your child's absence before 8.30am on their first day of absence from school. We are finding an increasing amount of occasions where pupils are absent and we have not received any communication from parents or carers. Please report any absences by either calling the office on 01509 502483 and leaving a message or emailing us at [office@oxleyprimary.org](mailto:office@oxleyprimary.org)

### Lost property

We have accumulated a staggering amount of lost property already this term. Please I could remind you to ensure all items of clothing are labelled - particularly school jumpers and cardigans. It makes it almost very difficult to return items to their rightful owners when it is not labelled.

### Staff car park

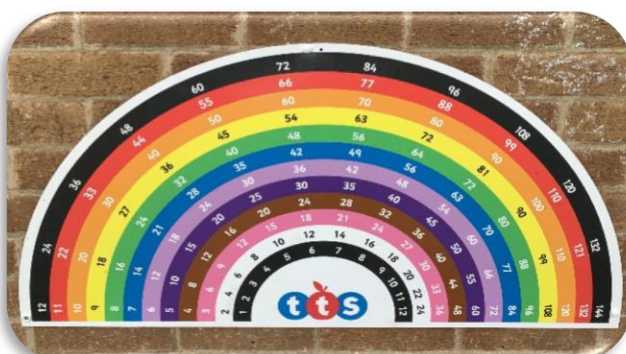
Please could I remind parents and carers not to use the staff car park. Our car park is very small and it poses increased risks when parents are pulling in and out of the car park during drop off and pick up times.

### Roof replacement

You may have noticed the scaffolding that has appeared all around the school in the past few weeks. We are undergoing a roof replacement and this is planned to last until the Christmas Holidays - weather permitting!

### Playground boards

A huge thank you to the FOXES who kindly purchased new playground boards for the children of Oxley to enjoy. The children have loved the additional of the bright and interactive boards - not to mention the colourful chalks that came with them! A special thanks to Mrs Parker too for installing the boards over the summer holidays.





## School Council



Oxley's school council has been launched! This half term, classes have been busy electing members for this year's school council. The children were voted through a democratic vote by their peers after pledging their commitment to improving our school through pupil voice. We will begin with focusing on raising the profile of reading initially but as this will be led by the children of Oxley, there will be many more projects throughout the year. Our school councillors were very excited to get together for the first time this week and are keen to meet on a weekly basis to drive change. Watch this space!

Bears	Koalas	Hedgehogs	Owls	Meerkats	Elephants	Gorillas	Tigers	Wolves	Lions
(Will join after Christmas)	Finley Robin	Otto Harriet	Rosie Ronnie	Millie Jacob	Oscar Ruby	Oliver Poppy	Ila William	Jessie Samuel	Zachary Indya

## Tesco Community Grant

### Ox-Plea Primary School - Can you help 'grant' our wish?



A huge thank you to all of you who have answered our plea and have been busy posting your blue tokens in our voting box at local Tesco stores. We have been overwhelmed with your support; depositing tokens, putting posters in your places of work and sharing them on social media. A dojo point for you all, thank you!

If you have managed to escape our campaign, we are hoping to secure a grant from Tesco in order to transform the currently unused area in the far corner of the



playground, into a forest school-type area. The plan includes a den building area, construction corner, wildlife retreats and a sensory garden.

The blue tokens, given after each time you shop at Tesco (no matter how small your purchase) can be placed in our Oxley voting box between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> December with the winner of the grant receiving up to £1500 towards their chosen project. Thank you again for all the support you have shown so far. In line with our Oxley attitude... We can do it! 😊

## Parents evening

Parents evening will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October. We have had a fantastic uptake of appointments. We are looking forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress and attainment. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please contact the school office.

## Reading incentive

Starting this term each class have been working hard at promoting reading at home and every child has been awarded with a raffle ticket for every three reads completed. All classrooms have a reading display to show and monitor the scores throughout the term. Our first draw of the year will take place this Friday by Mr Caldwell in assembly. He will draw **three** lucky winners **per class** who will then be able to choose themselves a brand-new book from our amazing selection of authors and illustrators! The more reading at home, the more chance of winning a book!



## COVID 19

Please continue to act on current government guidance. I would also urge the whole school community to continue to **remain vigilant** monitoring for symptoms and, where necessary, obtaining a test to confirm any further cases. Children who do test **positive** need to isolate for 10 days after the onset of symptoms or following a positive result from a Lateral Flow test or PCR test.

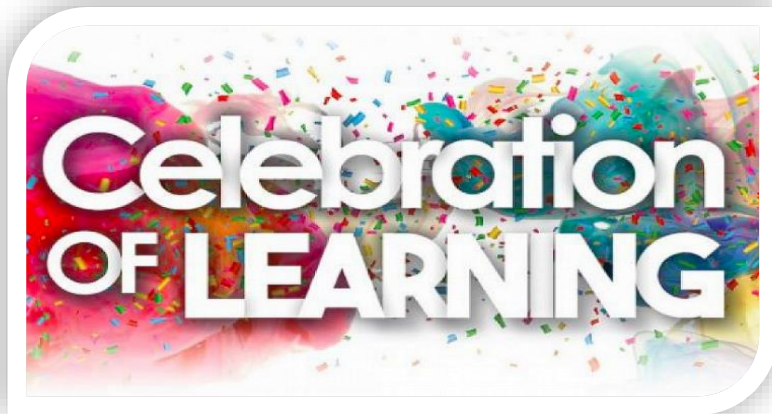
**Please do not send your child to school if they have any of the symptoms of COVID-19.** Please also continue to update school with any positive results as soon as possible – either emailing the office at [office@oxleyprimary.org](mailto:office@oxleyprimary.org) or calling on 01509 502483.

Thank you again for your continued support during these uncertain times. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back in school on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

Kindest Regards

Mr Caldwell  
**Headteacher**





*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.*

### **Black History month**

During October at Oxley, we are celebrating Black History Month. Black History Month gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture. In school, we have been learning about the contributions of black men and women – past and present. We have also been celebrating by looking at the work of black artists, as well as listening to music and reading about achievements of black men and women from around the world and the UK.



### **The Bears**

The children have all settled enthusiastically into the school routine and are working really hard. Our novel study book was Goldilocks and the three Bears and we had great fun acting out the story, making story mountains and then creating our own version of the story which included lots of very interesting animals like dinosaurs and unicorns!! We are learning lots of sounds and trying hard to put sounds together to read. We are also doing exercises such as writing, laying on our tummies and picking objects up with tweezers to strengthen the muscles in our hands. Our letter formation is improving. In maths we are doing number studies and finding ways to make different numbers, look at where the number is on the number line and work out more and less than the number. In RE we have acted out the story of The Good Samaritan. We are learning about friendship. Bears, you are brilliant!



### Koalas

What a start to the year we have had in the Koala's! We have all been working so hard and have had a real focus on showing 'a can do attitude' in everything we do. We have been learning all about Goldilocks and The Three Bears in English and have been acting out the story in our role play area. We have spent lots of time outside planting seeds, creating campfires and practising letter and number formation with paintbrushes and big chalk. All of the Koalas have been working incredibly hard in their maths work, they have been giving 100% effort and have really tried with their presentation. The Koalas have really bonded as a class and it's been fantastic to see them working as a team in everything they do!



### Hedgehogs

The Happy Hedgehogs have had a super start to the year! We have been working on an exciting book in our novel study lessons called The Tin Forest. We have created our own settings and used these to inspire us to write extended noun phrases to use in our setting descriptions. The Happy Hedgehogs have been working hard in Maths. We have been using different resources to represent number and place value. During our PSHE lessons we have had lots of fun talking about games we enjoy playing with our friends at school. We then explored games from other cultures, which included the dragon game from China! The Hedgehogs have all shown pride in their work and a super I can attitude! Well done and keep up the super work.





## Owls

This half term in the Owls has flown by and all of us have had a “hoot” as we have got stuck into our new learning. In Maths, we have been spending lots of time on place value and representing numbers using lots of different manipulatives as well as partitioning, comparing, ordering and counting in steps of 2, 5, 10 and 3! Alongside all of that, we have been busy in Science learning all about our bodies and have been piecing together skeletons and learning scientific names for our bones. Our History topic this half term has been “Kings, Queens and Leaders” and as we spent some time learning about Lady Jane Grey, we got well and truly into the Tudor spirit and tried on some Tudor outfits!



## Meerkats

This term the Meerkat Class have been learning all about the invaders known as the Anglo-Saxons. We have learnt about how they used to live and then designed our own Saxon villages in groups, thinking about the key features we would need. Using maps, we found town names in England that date back to the Anglo-Saxon period including the name Oxley! We have also looked at Saxon artefacts to ask and answer questions.



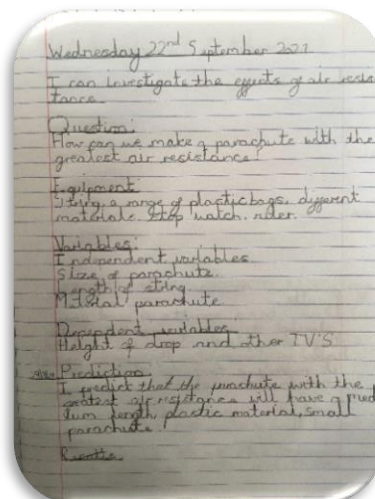
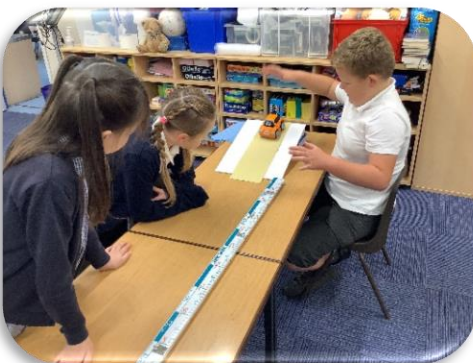
## Elephants

All of the Elephants have settled well into year 4 which is amazing and their attitude towards their learning is brilliant! This half term in the Elephants class 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 ideas describing characters and settings for Writing. In our Geography lessons we have focussed on Europe: identifying countries within Europe, naming capital cities of European countries and sketching famous landmarks. In Art, the children have thoroughly enjoyed researching Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein and using their 'pop art' ideas to create their own pop art projects. In Science we have developed our understanding of different materials and participated in scientific experiments to test how durable, flexible, magnetic and waterproof materials are. Within our Computing and PSHE sessions, the children have participated in honest and healthy discussions about online safety, mental health and well-being and democracy. Our RE sessions have been focussed on festivals this half term and the children have researched festivals around the world and looked specifically at Christian, Islamic and Hindu festivals. The children have enjoyed their insight into Black History and loved dressing up in yellow to support #HelloYellow



## Gorillas

In our class this month we have been reading the book 'Varmints' and thinking all about nature and the impact we all have on the environment. In geography, we have been exploring how to use maps and compasses and we have even planned our own journey using them. In our science lessons we have been learning all about forces and have conducted our own experiments looking at air resistance, water resistance and friction. In RE we have discussed and explored different religions and why festivals and celebrations are so important to them.





## Tigers

This term the Tigers have been learning about place value in maths and rounding numbers up to 100,000 - which was tricky to start with but they persevered really well until they got it.

In English we have been reading the book 'Varmints' and have just written our own sequel to the book. We are now learning about Black History Month and the poems of Benjamin Zephaniah. We have enjoyed reading the poem "The British" which is all about equality and the diverse nature of modern Britain. We are practising performing this poem in these pictures. In RE we are learning about festivals in different religions and we thought of our own festival to help us understand more about them. PE has been a combination of fitness with Coach Matt on Wednesday and Dance with Mrs Spivey on Thursday. Geography has seen us learning about maps and how to pinpoint a place using latitude and longitude.



## Lions and Wolves

Year 6 have been learning all about evolution and inheritance by looking at how long humans have occupied the planet within the timeline of earth's actual existence and studying how key scientists such as Mary Anning and Charles Darwin has influenced our understanding today. We also had great fun learning about characterises and traits that can be passed on from parent to off-spring. In geography, we have focussed on the movement of people; identifying the differences between refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. We have investigated case studies and data to understand push and pull factors for migration, as well as movement due to economics and reasons for climate refugees. Empathy gained from studying refugees through geography and PSHE has aided the depth of background knowledge that has fed into our English writing.

