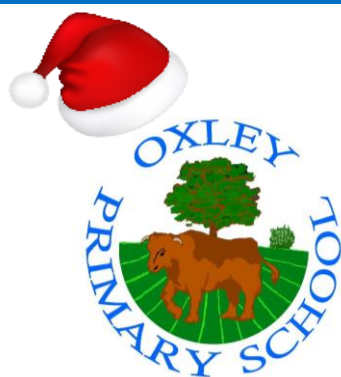


Oxley Primary School

Celebrating Learning
Autumn Term 2 2021



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

Friday 16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the second half term of the academic year – and we're in full festivity mode! The current situation with COVID-19 has made this year slightly different to the norm but we have not let that dampen the Christmas spirit in school. We are all so proud of how the children are navigating through these strange times and this newsletter showcases all the amazing achievements and experiences of the second half term.

This term sadly sees us saying goodbye to some staff members. Miss Cockerill (Koalas' class) will be leaving us to start a new venture. Miss Cockerill has secured a wonderful new teaching opportunity and we wish her the very best in her new role. I would like to thank Miss Cockerill for her enthusiasm for teaching and commitment she has shown to the children at Oxley. With this, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Miss Wright will be joining us from the start of next term. Miss Wright comes with a great passion for teaching and is very much looking forward to being the Koalas' new class teacher from January.



It is also with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Sanderson. Mrs Sanderson has been in our office for the past 11 years and has always offered a friendly and warm welcome to parents, visitors and staff. I know that the whole school community will miss her infectious personality and the genuine care and commitment she has shown to the children of Oxley. We shall very much miss Mrs Sanderson but I am sure you will join me in wishing her the best of luck.



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

○Violet, Florence ○Elsie, Finley ○Luka, Ruby ○Caroline, Lily
○Millie, Noah ○Lola, Isla ○Reuben, Jessica ○Noah, Evlynn
○Lexie, Carter ○Ethan and Ruby.



Don't forget you can keep up-to-date with all our #Oxley news by following @Oxley_Primary



We are an "I can" School.



Oxley FOXES

A huge thank you to the FOXES who have worked tirelessly fundraising this term – particularly in the run up to Christmas. There's been lots of events including the very successful Santa Fun Run which was expertly led by our Year 6s, and the incredible raffle held on Tuesday 14th. A huge thank you to all of Oxley community who supported the events. Our children will benefit hugely from all the money that our dedicated PFA raises.



School Council



A wonderful thank you also goes to our Oxley School council who have shown dedication and commitment to their roles this term: collecting opinions from classes on how to improve our library, the types of books needed to help drive our Oxley reading mission and collating ideas and opinions on how to improve lunchtimes and clubs. A few of our older members also lent a hand to help our Oxley Foxes in selling confectionary in the school playground as part of one of our many fundraising events.

Tesco Grant

An additional thank you to everyone who has continued to post blue tokens in our voting box at our local Tesco stores. As previously mentioned, 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 blue tokens, given after each time you shop at Tesco (no matter how small your purchase) can be placed in our Oxley voting box with the winner of the grant receiving up to £1500 towards their chosen project. This runs until 31st December so there's still plenty of time to support this worthy cause!



Reading incentive

Since beginning our campaign to increase reading for pleasure, we have seen an incredible improvement in the amount children are now reading at home. The children have been very positive about the raffle ticket prizes and are now keener than ever to discuss the books they are enjoying and to recommend books to their peers. Congratulations to all of our winners this term! #Oxleylovesreading



Children in Need 2021



On Friday 19th November, our fabulous children took part in a non-uniform day to raise awareness of helping to change children's lives around the UK. Combined with purchasing Pudsey merchandise, our Oxley community raised a fantastic £390! Thank you to everyone who took part with a special thank you to Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Sanderson who did a phenomenal job selling merchandise in the office.

Assemblies

This half term saw lots of whole school assemblies with the children learning about the world around them. Together we looked at COP26, Black History Month, Armistice Day, Advent and Christingle to name a few but a few. We also spent time looking at the NSPCC PANTS rule. For more information on this please visit:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>



Christmas celebrations



Our fantastic Hedgehogs and Owls kicked off our Christmas festivities this year with an extraordinary Nativity which could have easily won a Laurence Olivier Award at the very least!

And then came our glorious Bears and Koalas who demonstrated incredible confidence in their fantastic fairytale-themed nativity show.



Finally, our talented KS2 children put on an incredible performance in our very first outdoor Christmas Carol Service this week. It may have been a little chilly but their vocal talents soon warmed our hearts.

We are incredibly proud of all of our children who worked tremendously hard to learn the choreography, songs and lines that were needed to put on these fantastic performances. A big thank you to the amazing staff who also worked tirelessly to make sure these events could continue during the current climate.

Kindest Regards,

Mr Caldwell & Mrs Woolcock
Headteacher Deputy 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.



Bears

The Bears have been working really hard in their number sessions and have been doubling, adding, subtracting and working out number bonds using 10 frames and part, part whole models to support this super learning. The Bears have also had fun exploring shape and pattern and have made shape pictures and repeating patterns. Whilst studying The Gingerbread Man, we have loved acting out the story using props and icing and eating Gingerbread men was great fun! In Science, we have had fun using our senses to explore different objects and have been looking carefully at a selection of seeds before planting some pumpkin seeds of our own. The Bears loved the Santa run and were so animated as they ran around to music. The Bears continue to amaze us. We are very proud of you all.



Koalas

Wow, what a half term we've had in the Koalas! We've had so much fun learning all about The Gingerbread Man, talking about our senses and even getting to sample some. We've been working so hard in maths on addition AND subtraction and really showing the Oxley 'I can' attitude when things got tricky! We thoroughly enjoyed performing our Christmas show and taking part in the Santa fun run. It really got us into the Christmas spirit! I am so proud of how hard the Koalas have been working this term and I can't wait to hear all of the exciting things they'll get up to next term with Miss Wright!



Hedgehogs

Have you ever seen a green-fingered hedgehog? Well, look no further...

Over the last few weeks, the Hedgehogs have been busy practising their planting skills. After helping to plant some of the 105 tree saplings that we received courtesy of the Woodland Trust, the children then helped the Shepshed Rotary Club plant some of their 4000 crocus bulbs as part of their 'Purple for Polio' campaign. Lots of fun and laughter were had along the way – not to mention meeting some new (and rather wriggly!) friends. The next stop is Battram Woods, Ibstock, where, after Christmas, the children will continue their horticultural Hedgehog happenings when they take part in woodland workshops provided by the Royal Forestry Society.



Owls

This half term, the Owls have continued to blow me away with their fantastic work. We have managed to fit so much in, I'm finding it hard to squish it into one paragraph! In English, our novel study focus has been the Anthony Browne novel, *Gorilla*. We have acted out scenes, explored character and considered themes of relationships, alienation, friendship and loneliness. Our final outcome has been innovating the story and writing our own with a change of character and place. In maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction. We have recapped number bonds and related facts and then used expanded addition and column addition to add two-digit numbers.

I must finish this report by congratulating all the Owls who took part in our Christmas show, "Santa's Setbacks", I was so proud of their professionalism, amazing singing and super costumes. To all of you who celebrate, we wish you a very Merry Christmas.



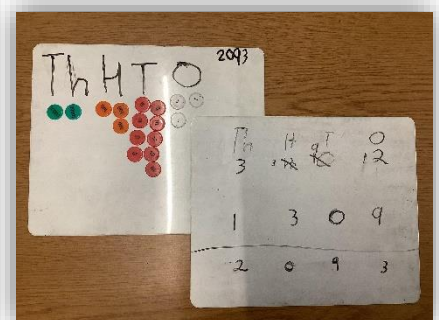
Meerkats

What a busy term we have had in the Meerkats these last few weeks! As well as creating poppies for Remembrance Day we have been working on our addition and subtraction strategies using three-digit numbers, writing our own suspense stories based on 'Into the Forest' by Anthony Browne and also finding out facts about the Viking attack at Lindisfarne. Well done Meerkats! You have worked incredibly hard.



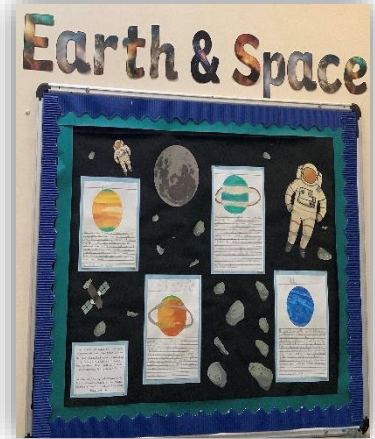
Elephants

In the Elephants this half term, we have been exceptionally busy with our new novel study book - The Iron Man. We started our learning by going on a treasure hunt to find all the missing body parts to the giant, man-made iron man. Once we found all the pieces, we used role play to link them all together. We focussed on writing a character description of the Iron Man trying to find as many synonyms for 'iron/metal' as we could, the ideas were fantastic! We also created a radio advert to try and persuade farmers to buy our wooden tractor which we guaranteed would not get eaten by the Iron Man! During our maths lessons, we have used addition and subtraction, measured length and perimeter and calculated multiplication and division. Our times tables knowledge is improving each week and the children are enjoying their time on Maths Frame - keep it up Elephants! Linking our Geography and History topics together, we have been locating Rome/Italy on both globes and maps and focussing on the countries that were invaded by the Romans. Additionally, in our Art sessions, we have been designing Roman mosaics using a variety of materials.



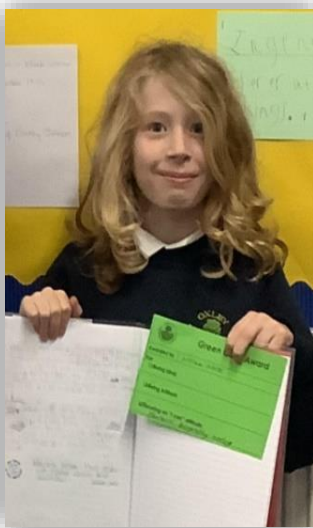
Gorillas

In the Gorillas this half term, the focus of our English has been 'Hidden Figures'. We have been learning all about the hidden figures behind getting the first American into space. We have written biographies for two of these amazing mathematicians. Linking to our English, we have been learning all about space in science and have created a fantastic display for our corridors in school. In our history unit this half term, we have been learning all about the Ancient Greeks, who they were, what was important to them and how we are similar and different to them.



Tigers

In the Tigers class this term, we have been learning about Ancient Greeks and the Peloponnesian war between Athens and Sparta in particular. The children have loved learning about the differences between Athens and Sparta and have all decided on their allegiances. In Science we have been investigating forces. We have performed a number of experiments, making parachutes to investigate air resistance, dropping playdoh through water to investigate water resistance and running cars down ramps of different substances to determine the effects of friction.



Lions and Wolves

This half term, Lions and Wolves have been learning all about electricity in science, The British Empire in history and how the media plays a big part in our lives particularly concentrating on advertising, how the media often portrays celebrities, and the need to be aware of the manipulation of images – particularly around body image. The children have been keen to share their opinions on this very relevant topic! In maths, we have been learning all things fractions and have really developed our understanding of part, part, whole as well as factors and multiples. In English, we have studied Holes by Louis Sachar and the children ended the term comparing the book with the film culminating in a detailed film review. If this wasn't enough, we have been working on our art appreciation by studying Banksy and his political messages, and finished with creating our very own graffiti inspired art work.

