

Oxley Primary School

## Celebrating Learning Spring 1 2024



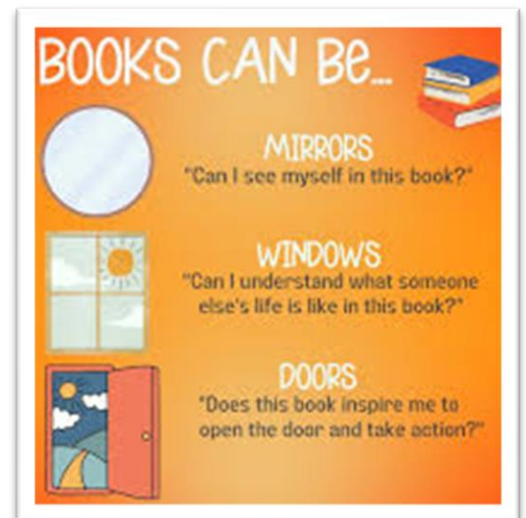
Be Kind.  
Be Brilliant.  
Have an **I can** attitude.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe the first half term of 2024 has come to an end. As always, our children have continued to amaze us with their enthusiasm and the Oxley "I can" attitude by working Hard, showing enthusiasm and persevering with their learning.

We started the year with our traditional "Windows, Mirrors and Sliding Doors" unit. Across each year group, our children explored diversity and inclusion through some fantastic books. This unit of learning really helps the children to explore a range of characterises such race, age, gender and also how others around the world live their lives. The key message is always about the importance of kindness and respect, and that our differences should be celebrated. By giving children these learning opportunities, it allows them to explore and appreciate the diverse and rich society that Britain and the rest of the world has to offer.



I would also like to take the opportunity to say farewell to Mrs Martin who has been at Oxley since 2019. Mrs Martin has provided our children with amazing support over the past 3 ½ years - her nurturing and supportive nature will be missed by both staff and pupils alike. We wish her the very best as she embarks on her next venture!

You will see by the contents of this newsletter what a fantastic half term it has been! I would like to thank all our pupils and staff for all their hard work this half term, and thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support.




I would like to wish you all an enjoyable half term. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

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 Twitter.  @Oxley\_Primary



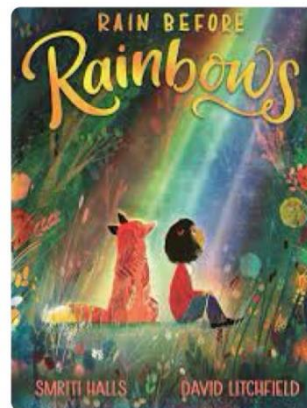
## Windows, Mirrors and Sliding doors

At the beginning of the term, each class studied a different book that helped us consider other people and their lives, or see ourselves reflected within the story. We created a whole school display based on the stories we studied using English, Art and PSHE work. We are incredibly proud of how articulate our children are about differences and how these are positive attributes of our personalities and cultures. As we continue to work on promoting diversity within our school, it is fabulous to see so many children using their voices for change. A huge thank you to Mrs Palmer for, yet again, organising a fantastic event!



## **Children's Mental Health Week**

Last week was Children's Mental Health Week 2024 with a theme of "My Voice Matters". Miss Evans led a whole school assembly where she introduced the children to the Rights of the Child Convention. Among the 42 articles agreed was the children's right to "be listened to and taken seriously." We discussed how we do that in school through our class worry boxes and the children have also put forward further ideas to their student councillors about what else can be done in future. We also came together as a school to read the wonderful "Rain Before Rainbows", written by Smriti Halls and each class produced some artwork related to the book which narrates the importance of keeping going and knowing that any storms we face, can pass.





## Sporting achievements

It has been an incredibly busy half term of sport, with lots of competitions for our KS2 children. We've seen some excellent sportspersonship, brilliant teamwork and lots of Oxley 'I can' attitudes! Well done to everyone who has represented the school; we are so proud of you all! A big big thank you must also go to Mr Plummer who works exceptionally hard, often out of school hours, to organise these events for our children to participate in!



## Young Voices

On 10th January – the second day back for the children(!) – a group of us headed to Birmingham to take part in the annual Young Voices choir. Singing as part of over 5,000 other children, our children were fantastic ambassadors for our school and represented us brilliantly. A great time was had by all and we can't wait to go even bigger and better in 2025! Thank you to all the staff who attended and our amazing families for coming along to support us! Thank you to Miss Evans who organised this much-loved event!



## Internet Safety Week

Tuesday 6th February was Online Safety Day with the theme 'Inspiring Change'.

Over the week, each class looked at how to be safe online and what to do if events arise that they aren't happy with. Mrs Robe spoke to them in assembly about the age rating of certain APPs and games which surprised many of them! On Thursday, the Digital Leaders led an assembly to talk to the whole school about the theme and presented it with so much confidence and enthusiasm that Mrs Rhodes is almost out of a job!





### House Captain assemblies

This half term, our house captains have been working very hard in leading their houses. One of the main focuses has been on raising money for their chosen charities. Last week, they held their last meeting to vote on how they would raise money after our half-term break. More details will follow soon but we would like to congratulate our house captains for taking so much responsibility across the school!



### House Winners

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



### Number Day 2024

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, we celebrated Number Day to help raise the profile of maths across the school. Each class participated in numerous activities as well as taking part in times tables battles across different classes. At Oxley, we are trying to promote the importance of knowing our number bonds and times tables because, with these skills, we know they will help us to challenge our math's knowledge even more! Thank you to Mrs Spivey and Mr Caldwell for organising a fabulous day where the children embraced the world of numbers! They all looked brilliant!



Number Day



# 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

It has been a very busy term of learning in the Penguins with lots of great progress being made! We enjoyed exploring the story 'One Snowy Night' for our Novel Study and we loved learning about polar animals and writing facts. We continued to learn about seasonal changes and enjoyed a winter walk to notice signs of Winter...we even had a chance to make bird feeders to make sure they don't go hungry during the cold weather! This led to lots of exciting bird watching. We created some wonderful artwork based on 'The Starry Night' by Vincent Van Gogh where we explored water colours, warm and cold colours and collages. The children also enjoyed learning about the Chinese New Year and created some beautiful lanterns.



## Koalas

This half term we have had lots of fun answering the question, what makes cold places cold? In our Geography lessons, we contrasted the United Kingdom with Polar Regions and enjoyed using atlases to help us! In art, we created our wax-resist paintings inspired by Van Gogh's "The Starry Night". In English, we enjoyed exploring non-fiction texts and finding out information about polar animals!



## Hedgehogs

This half term we have been incredibly busy in the Hedgehog class. Our Novel Study has been 'Gorilla' and we have had lots of fun acting out scenes and writing our versions of the story. In Geography, we have been on a walk around Shepshed noting all the physical and human geographical features and have conducted a waterproof experiment in Science. As well as that, we have been working on our adding and subtracting in Maths, painting expressively in Art and practising our handwriting. Phew! We are ready for a well-deserved week off! Well done Hedgehogs!



## Owls

The Owls have had a wonderful few weeks. In Art, we are enjoying our new unit of work on expressive painting. We have mixed colours, explored hues, tints and shades and have looked at the work of artists such as Van Gogh and Cezanne. We have studied brush stroke techniques and even tried to



use some “impasto” in our work. In English, we have been reading Anthony Browne’s “Gorilla” and have enjoyed drama, and character studies and have finished the unit by innovating the stories to include our own characters and events. In History, our new learning question is “How has my locality changed over time?” and as we spent a few lessons looking at the history of Oxley, we were all amazed to find and look at a first-hand account, written in a school log book from 1865!

## Leopards

What a fantastic first half to the spring term the Leopards have had! In English, as part of their novel study work, the children have really enjoyed reading the story ‘Greta and the Giants,’ where they have learnt all about the climate change activist, Greta Thunberg, and the effects that climate change is having on our planet. They finished the unit by writing a discussion text about climate change which later culminated in a lively whole class debate. In Science, the children are enjoying their Science unit, ‘Sound,’ and have investigated with decibel meters to answer the question ‘Which part of our school is the loudest?’ A big thank you also to Mr Gordon who used his musical skills to demonstrate the effects that different sound vibrations have on our ears. Our Science unit has also intertwined very nicely with our music unit on pitch and the children have very much enjoyed playing a range of different instruments and even composing their mood music. Well done, Leopards! What a fabulous first half of the spring term you have had! We wish you and your families a wonderful (and perhaps less volume-filled!) half-term.



## Elephants

What a brilliant half-term we have had in the Elephant class. The children have been showing off their Oxley Values and have really impressed Mrs Walker with their kindness and working hard to be the best they can be. We really enjoyed our English topic based on Greta and the Giants where we learnt a huge amount about climate change, Greta Thunberg and what we can do to make a change. We used all of this new information to help us write a range of non-fiction reports. In maths, we have been working our socks off with multiplication and division! This is such a tricky concept but our growing knowledge of times tables is improving and with this, our confidence to use written methods for multiplication and division. In our PSHE lessons, we have been thinking about healthy lifestyles and what we need to do to keep ourselves mentally and physically fit. We looked at healthy diets, improved our stamina with a daily skipping challenge and created our top tips for great sleep routines. We loved having Ollie from Leicester Tigers in to coach us in tag rugby and can’t wait to show off our skills at the upcoming tournament!





## Tigers

Wow! What a busy half-term the Tigers have had! We absolutely loved our tag rugby sessions with Ollie from Leicester Tigers and demonstrated some real skill, teamwork and resilience. Super! In English, we have been studying Greta and the Giants which looks at climate change and the work that Greta Thunberg is dedicated to. We showed some deep understanding of how our actions can affect our planet and what we can do to help. History has also kicked off with learning about the Anglo-Saxons. So far, we have looked at how they came to invade Britain after the Romans and what their homes and living arrangements were like. We can't wait to find out more! Great job Tigers!



## Lemurs

The Lemurs have had a jam-packed half-term! We have loved reading Romeo and Juliet in English and getting immersed with acting as well as creating our versions with a twist. We have also thoroughly enjoyed getting hands-on in science; learning all about how we see, how light travels and exploring shadows. We enjoyed using the torches to learn all about shadows and using mirrors to create our very own periscope! In geography, we loved connecting other subjects including creating artwork to show what a modern-day frost fair could look like and composing music, just like Smetana, about a river. We were also very lucky to get involved in a river workshop in which we looked at flooding and came up with brilliant ideas for prevention, we might have inspired some future flood defence specialists! The Lemurs have also really enjoyed swimming this half-term and have made great strides.



## Lions and Foxes

What a year so far! Year 6 started by looking at *Pansy Boy* by Paul Harfleet where we explored how being discriminated against for being 'different' is not acceptable and can affect one's mental health. In English, we have been studying William Shakespeare and using drama to interview characters and recreate battle scenes. In Science, we have been looking at light and how this travels in straight lines and how our eyes see this. In PSHE, we have been looking at working together to build trust. We have also been looking at career options, wages and skills needed to achieve our aspirations. The children finished this half term by constructing their fairground rides in DT and have shown an incredible attitude toward critical thinking and problem-solving! Go year 6!!

