

Oxley Primary School
Celebrating Learning
Autumn Term 2 2023



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

Friday 22nd December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas holidays have almost arrived and, as always, this half term has been jam-packed with experiences, learning and achievements! As this newsletter demonstrates, our children have continued to exhibit the Oxley "I can" attitude and develop themselves both academically and personally over the last 9 weeks! We are incredibly proud of the children and this newsletter is testament to their hard work and openness to try new things.

This term has seen our children choose their house charities for the year (read on to find out more!), countless sporting fixtures, Christmas productions and much much more. We would like to thank our children for making our school such a wonderful place to be!

Today, we bid farewell to Miss Curzon. Miss Curzon has been with us at Oxley for the last 6 ½ years and is a highly skilled, dedicated and well-respected member of our team. I would like to thank Miss Curzon for her hard work and dedication, and the support she has offered staff, governors and many children and their families at Oxley. Although we shall be sad to see Miss Curzon go, she has decided to pursue new challenges and spend more time at home with her young daughter. I am sure you will join me in wishing her the very best.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mrs Walker will be joining us as the new Elephants' class teacher from the start of next term - we are very much looking forward to her starting here at Oxley in January.

I would like to thank parents and carers for your support throughout 2023. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

Warmest Regards

Mr Caldwell
Headteacher



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

- Zuzanna, Charlie ○Mila, Harry ○Freddie, Harper-Lily ○Harrison, Florence ○Alfie, Aida ○Finley, Lilly
- Evie-Mae, Rocco ○Praise, Imogen ○Luna, Felicity
- Elise, Robyn



Polytunnel Workshops

A huge thank you to Mr Burton who, again this year, has been delivering fantastic and informative workshops in our Oxley polytunnel. The children really do enjoy these sessions; learning about the different plants that we are able to grow in the polytunnel and how the plants change throughout the seasons. The children are always full of 'beans' when they return from these sessions and love to share what they have been learning about (often with a few real beans in their hand!)



Polytunnel Produce -Tasting Station

Our playtime tasting station proved a massive hit again this term. Although coming to the end of the season, the last of the tomatoes and cucumbers were met with some very happy little faces (and tummies!)



Pumpkin Competition Winners

A huge well done to our two pumpkin competition winners. Our first, pumpkin artwork competition, was won by this young lady with her beautiful, shimmery pumpkin painting. The prize? A pumpkin grown in our very own polytunnel of course! ☺ Whilst our second 'Excellent Estimator' competition to see who could most closely estimate the number of seeds inside our Oxley pumpkin, was won by this little lady with her super estimate of 363 seeds. (Very close to the actual number which totalled 392!)



World Mental Health Day

In October, Miss Evans spoke to us all about why we are all wearing yellow. We discussed the importance of mental health and looked at how sharing worries will make us feel better #WorldMentalHealthDay #HelloYellow



Halloween Disco

We had a great time during our fancy-dress discos for Halloween! The children looked fantastic and took great joy in trying to scare all of the staff! A huge thank you to the members of staff who stayed behind to decorate the dining hall into a spooky ballroom and for supporting this popular event.



Remembrance

In November, the children of Oxley came together to remember all those whose lives have been affected by conflict since World War I. In phases, we created wreaths and joined together in a special assembly held by Mr Caldwell.



Shepshed 7

Towards the end of last year, Oxley students were asked to participate in an art competition to design a new t shirt to help Shepshed Running Club celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Well we only went and won! We also had two runners up (Now Year 7 students) and a special mention to one of our children who also showed a keen eye for design. Well done!



Leicestershire Music

At the beginning of November, we had quite simply the greatest interactive assembly where we learnt about some instruments in an orchestra and listened to some fantastic live music! The children (and teachers) were enthralled!



Turntablism

As part of Year 5 and 6's music technology sessions, Mr Tim Clay (from Leicestershire Music Services) came by to spend a morning to guide some of our children in creating their own for a very special competition! Winners will be announced at the start of the new year! Fingers crossed!



Story Telling club

Mrs Grierson kindly runs a story club every week for our KS1 children. In this club, the children choose to do whatever they wish so long as it is story based. At the end of every session, they share what they have done with each other and celebrate the wonderful world of books!



Black History Month

In October, as part of Black History Month, we looked at four influential women who have achieved great things in the face of diversity: Mary Seacole, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Nicola Adams and Malorie Blackman. We also dressed up in red to give Racism the red card and shared what we had learnt in assembly.



Anti-bullying

This year, for Anti-bullying week, we looked again at our Oxley Charter to strengthen our stand against bullying. We dressed in odd socks to symbolise that we are all different but that we should be accepted for our uniqueness. We also created our own music video which the children loved! You can access our video by scanning this QR code using the camera function on your smart phone or tablet. We are extremely proud of how our children are so articulate about concerns they might have and who to turn to if they need to talk.



Parents Evening

A big thank you to some of our Year 6 children who happily volunteered to help run our parents' evenings this term. They ran the refreshment station and made sure the parents knew where to go to meet the teachers and where to find their child's books. Thank you!



Santa Fun Run



A huge thank you to the Year 6 House Captains who expertly organised and ran this year's Santa Fun Run. With catchy Christmas tunes being played, all of our children had a brilliant time out together, being active and raising money for some exciting events being organised for next year. Last year, the amount raised funded a whole school first aid course so plans are being put in place to organise something again for the spring term.

Rock Steady

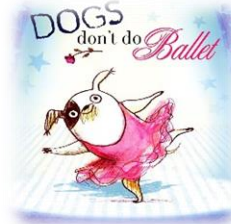
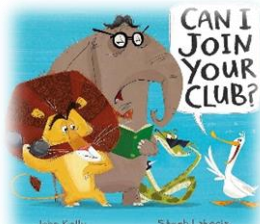
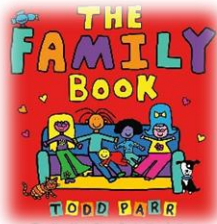
Yet again, our children hosted a real rock concert on Thursday afternoon and had the whole audience tapping and air drumming along with them. It is always wonderful to see our children show such confidence and yesterday was no exception! Rock on!



Everyone's Welcome

Following our parent consultations in November, we have successfully launched our picture book project that enables us to look into important issues. This half term saw our children look deeper into understanding all families are different, racism, importance of friendship and how to be respectfully assertive. Our children have been full of ideas and have had lots of conversations!

everyone's
welcome



House Captain charity pledge

This half term, our House Captains have been busily running assemblies to democratically elect a charity to raise money for this year – following on from the incredible charity work with STEPS last year. After gaining ideas from their houses and discussing why these charities were important, each house voted and will now be fund raising in the new year for the following charities...



Times Tables Rock Stars

This half term also saw our launch of a new initiative to help with the importance of knowing our times tables. Each week, the children are encouraged to go on TTRS and the three who have spent the most time are celebrated in assembly in recognition of their 'I can' attitudes. The more the children play, the more points they earn; however, the most important factor is the children are gaining a quicker recall which will help them with every aspect of their maths lessons.



Pantomime



Last week, we all took a little trip to the Loughborough Town Hall to see a brand-new Pantomime: Peter Pan. The children had a great time and all had smiling faces throughout and were, as always, impeccably behaved. What a wonderful continuation of the Christmas festivities – especially after all the hard work with the Christmas plays.

Shepherd Rotary Competition

Did you spot our tree in St Botolph's church? We were extremely grateful to win 3rd place due to our festive themed Christmas stories. A big thank you to Miss Wright and Mrs Palmer who organised this event and to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Healey for setting it up in the Church.



Christmas celebrations

Our fantastic Penguins and Koalas officially started the festivities with their wonderful rendition of Cock-a-Doodle Christmas. The children were an absolute credit to the school and showed incredible confidence performing to the many adults who attended their shows.

Then it was the Hedgehogs and Owls turn to showcase their talents with their performance of *A home of our own* which including some fantastic choreography, beautifully sung songs and an array of stunning costumes!



And finally, a huge congratulations must also go to our KS2 children who performed a wonderful carol service at St Botolph's church. They sang like angels and thoroughly helped us all to stay in the festive spirit with traditional and modern songs.



As always, we are unbelievably 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 also goes to our amazing Oxley staff who worked tirelessly to showcase our talented children.
#TeamOxley

Merry Christmas

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 worked so hard all term and are making such amazing progress! Our theme this half term has been 'What happens in Autumn?' and we have loved learning about Guy Fawkes, Diwali, People Who Help Us, Autumnal Changes and of course Christmas! We spent lots of this half term preparing for our Nativity show which we enjoyed performing to the school and our families. Also, we have explored numbers to 5, 2d shape and pattern in Maths and we are getting really good at explaining our Mathematical thinking. We have definitely earned our Christmas holiday...well done Penguins



Koalas

We have had a super term in the Koalas class. We have loved reading the story "Room on the Broom" in our English learning and creating our own exciting magic potions! In DT we have created our own emergency vehicles for people who help us. We have also spent lots of time rehearsing for our fantastic Nativity show "Cock-a-Doodle Christmas" which all the children and adults loved! We loved learning all the songs and dance moves and of course performing in front of a fantastic audience! Merry Christmas!



Hedgehogs

The Hedgehogs have had a magnificent half term!! They have enjoyed learning about sacred places in RE and they have loved exploring sacred objects used in worship. The Hedgehogs have had lots of fun exploring vocabulary related to our Novel study book – The Stone Giant. They have used this vocabulary to help them write predictions and a set of instructions. The children have been busy Mathematicians this half term! They have been working hard on expanding their place value and shape knowledge. They have been very good at using their mathematical vocabulary to name and describe shapes. The children have had lots of fun using google earth to explore their local area and other geographical locations. The Hedgehogs have even managed to squeeze in a magical Christmas performance with lots of festive cheer. They have all been super stars and we have been blown away by the confidence and singing we have seen from all our amazing Hedgehogs!! Oxley's got talent – Here we come!! The Hedgehogs are ready to blow your socks off! Keep up the super work Hedgehogs!



Owls

The Owls have had another jam-packed term. In English, we have enjoyed studying "The Tin Forest" and wrote diaries and setting descriptions using new grammar. In Maths, we have all brought our "I can" attitudes to our learning as we have tackled some tricky problem solving as part of our unit on addition and subtraction – we even won a competition ran by White Rose who provide maths resources for schools across the country! Alongside all of that, the Owls along with the Hedgehogs put on an amazing production of "A Home of Our Own" which has blown all of us away! We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



Leopards

What a fantastic half term the Leopards have had! In English, as part of their novel study work, the children have been busy reading the Chris Van Allsburg story, 'Jumanji,' which they have used as a stimulus to write their own missing scenes and even design their own game instructions in the form of procedural texts! In Science, the children have really enjoyed learning about different states of matter and have been using their investigative skills to explore key questions such as, 'If you are able to pour sand, is it a liquid?' and 'Do all liquids pour at the same speed?' In computing, the children have very much enjoyed learning about computer networks and have particularly enjoyed learning what the internet is and exploring some of the websites, and the wealth of information, that they have to offer. Well done, Leopards! What a fabulous first term you have had!



Elephants

What a jam-packed half term we have had in the Elephants! Over the past several weeks, we have been deepening our understanding of the four operations in Maths (including some competitive times tables on TT Rockstars), continuing to read and enjoy a variety of texts in reading and extend our writing with our novel study book 'Jumanji'. As we came to the end of our novel study, the children enjoyed our film afternoon watching the original 1995 version of Jumanji (arguably the best). During this half term the Elephants have focused on learning all about how we can be more sustainable in our Geography lessons taking walks around school to observe how sustainable we currently are and how we can develop our sustainability. In DT, the children enjoyed creating their own money container - the sewing lessons were very interesting. Within our PE lessons, the children loved their dance sessions with a specialist teacher, learning different moves inspired from our book Jumanji. We have been developing our understanding of being unique in our PSHE lessons and that we should inspire individuals to do what makes them happy.



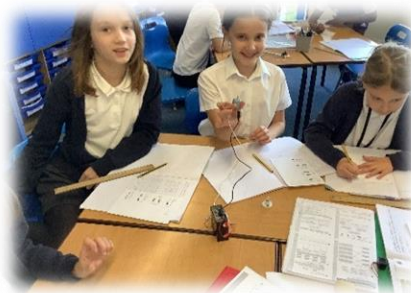
Tigers

Wow! What a busy half term we have had! The Tigers have truly had the best time! We have been focusing on Jumanji for our novel study and have taken part in a whole host of different drama activities, creating extra scenes as well as improving our word choices to make our writing even better! We have also been so lucky to have dance lessons with Charlie where we have been channeling our inner wild animals and creating lots of movements and poses linked to the book. Our ukulele lessons have just finished but the class loved learning some of the chords and notes to play rhythms with Mr. Stephens. The Tigers have amazed us this term with their performance skills not only in the Christmas performance but also in our class assembly. They absolutely shone and showed everyone what a tremendous streak of Tigers they really are!



Lemurs

What a great half-term we've had in the Lemurs! We have been hands on creating circuits, making bulbs light up and making a lot of noise with buzzers. We explored the components needed and what makes a circuit complete and incomplete.



We have certainly got into the

Christmas spirit reading *A Christmas Carol* and have enjoyed writing diary entries as if we were Scrooge himself! In turntablism, we have continued to develop our DJ skill by writing our own scratch notation, and performing our music to others, as well as learning scratching duets! In history, we became archeologists and discovered who different artifacts belonged to and why this person was so important.

Lions and Foxes

What a fantastic term we've had in Year 6! We have been working incredibly hard in all of our lessons learning about the Shang Dynasty before moving on to all things Rivers related; looking at electricity in science in preparation for our mini project after Christmas about renewable energy and asking lots of questions about our rights, rules & responsibilities in PSHE. We have also been extremely musical with lots of singing and understanding of music technology in the form of turntablism. On top of this, we have also been making great headway in maths – particularly with arithmetic and setting the bar high with learning about Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* even though we know this is a GCSE text. We hope everyone has a great Christmas break and comes back ready to hit the books with our new novel study which is guaranteed to be the best one yet!

