



Oxspring News

Newsletter for Oxspring Primary School

www.oxspringprimary.co.uk/



From Mrs Irwin— The end of term has finally arrived and what a wonderful December it has been! Christmas time at Oxspring is always so special and this year has been no exception. For all the families who managed to attend Class 1 and 2's Nativity performances, I am sure you will agree that the children were absolute super stars! Not only did they perform with confidence and enjoyment, but every single child did such a fantastic job in front of so many people! We are extremely proud of the children for ensuring that the show was so memorable and magical! Huge thanks to everyone for coming along to support us. The choir have had a very busy few weeks too and have also received such lovely feedback whilst they have been out and about in the community. Many thanks to all our wonderful choir members for working so hard to share the festive cheer! I would like to take the opportunity to say a very big and heartfelt thank you to every single parent / carer, family member and PTA member for your incredible and amazing support over the last term. Your support for our children and our lovely small school is just remarkable and is testament to what a fantastic community we have here at Oxspring! Special thanks go to Mrs Palmer who is very sadly leaving us today. She has been a fabulous member of the office team and will be greatly missed! I would also like to say a personal thank you to Mr West and our wonderful team of staff and governors for all their incredible hard work and commitment over the last term. Finally, wishing you all a very enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th January 2018!



THANK YOU MRS PALMER—We are very sad to be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Palmer today after 6 years at Oxspring! She has worked so hard in the office and has contributed so much to school over the years! Mrs Palmer is moving

on to a new role working in her family IT business and will be very sadly missed by everyone. Thank you for everything Mrs Palmer - we are going to miss you! We wish you well in your new job! xxx



HOUSEPOINTS - Congratulations to the red team for achieving the most housepoints this term. Many thanks to the red House Captain Will T for collecting the trophy on behalf of all the members of his team!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT— We would like to give a very special mention to Lauren D, Bertie G



-R and Jessica B for their superb playing with the Penistone Junior band at the recent Christmas concert at Wentworth Church. All three children were simply

amazing and fearless in such wonderful surroundings! You have made us all feel extremely proud. Well done and thank you from everyone at Oxspring! Watch out for news about some of our children who have filmed for the BBC in our next newsletter!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FAIR—Well done to the children in Class 3, 4 and 5 for putting together a spectacular Children's Christmas Fair on Monday afternoon. It was a superb enterprise event featuring festive games and items to buy! All the children in school had a wonderful afternoon and as a result, over £180 was raised for class funds. Many thanks to everyone for taking part. Special thanks to Mrs Wright, Mrs Rolling and Mr West for their class enterprise projects!



PENISTONE PARAMOUNT—The whole school visited Penistone Paramount last Friday for a wonderful afternoon watching 'Arthur Christmas' and eating ice cream! Huge thanks to the PTA for the generous money for the transport which was greatly appreciated on such a cold and icy day! Thank you also to parents / carers for the contributions towards the visit and to the helpers who came along on the afternoon.

ATTENDANCE— Well done to Class 4 for achieving the highest attendance of 100 % last week, followed very closely by



Class 2 with 99.7%. Class 1 came next with 99 % , followed by Class 3 with 96%. Finally Class 5 achieved 93%.

ROVING REPORTERS

Class 1 - First of all, Class 1 pupils have made Christmas themed headbands. Next, they created cards and calendars themed around Christmas. The Y1 children have written about some of the objects they would see at Christmas like: Snow, Presents, Christmas Trees etc. "I really enjoyed making a Christmas card because it was fun to do!" exclaimed Seb enthusiastically. (By George And Luke)



Class 2 - This week Class 2 have written a letter to Santa about what presents they would like for Christmas! Also on the subject of writing, they have written a story about a dog called Buster from a John Lewis advert. Class 2 have been working hard to make some very special calendars for all year round. In maths the class have been investigating with coins. A taekwondo teacher came in to school, on Tuesday to give everyone a taste of the sport. (By Ben and Jake)

Class 3 - In their English work, Class 3 have been writing a Christmas story about the bear and the hare. They spent a lot of their time doing Christmas crafts – such as candy canes, stars, bookmarks and robins made of many different things. The thing they found most exciting though was taekwondo. They learnt about kicking, and the different kicks and heights. They did the high and belly kicks. They told us that you had to kick with the top of your foot instead of the toes. This is because if you kick with your toes, it hurts a lot whether if you hit with the top – it hurts a lot less. They did the mile run (Santa Dash) in Santa hats. Lucas said "I came second overall!" (By Mediya & Thomas K)

Class 4 - During their English lessons Class 4 have been learning about poetry and similes and they also created a paragraph in 10 minutes! In maths they have been learning about area and perimeter which they used to create a farm. They also were doing art where they practiced their amazing chalk skills on a painting. Don't forget Mr Waller with ukulele – Class 4 played some lovely music for the parents and families on Wednesday! (By Oliver and Hugo)

Class 5 - This week Class 5 have been painting polystyrene balls to look like Christmas decorations. They have also been creating master of disguise styles where you have to draw yourself in random seasonal circumstances. Yesterday they made cookies using Millie's cookies recipe for the children's Christmas fair. Some of Class 5 have made mince pies for carols around the tree. On Monday they made some Santa cards. Finally their song to practice for the carol concert is 'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Shakin' Stevens. (By James and Macen)

Date for your diary:

⇒ Please note that school starts again on Monday
8th January 2018

**Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from all the staff and governors
at Oxspring.**

KS1 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE— What a wonderful Christmas show (The Nativity) this year which was performed beautifully by the children in Class 1 and 2! Feedback from parents and family members who watched the show was extremely positive and recognised the enthusiasm and confidence of everyone taking part. Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to put together such a lovely performance. Thank you to all the parents / members of family who attended.

Mrs Heggie (Chair of Governors) sent the following message:

'Could you please pass on my thanks and congratulations to all involved in the KS1 Nativity performance. It was truly wonderful; the costumes were marvellous and the children every bit as fabulous as we have come to expect them to be.'



CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

- Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our annual Key Stage 2 'Carols Around The Tree'. It is such a special morning and a lovely way to end the year. Special thanks to Mrs Perkins and Class 5 for baking all the mince pies and to the fabulous PTA members who served the refreshments!

TAEKWONDO TASTER— The children were treated to a fabulous Taekwondo taster session on Tuesday, courtesy of The

Quest Taekwondo Centre in Oxspring. The feedback from the children was extremely positive—they LOVED it! If any families



are interested in finding out more about Taekwondo

lessons please call Mike McKenzie on 07938 949923 or find them on Facebook (Quest Taekwondo). A leaflet is also being sent home tonight with details of

classes , which resume again on Tuesday 2nd January 2018. Many thanks to Mrs Sparrow for arranging the taster sessions on behalf of school!



Please see the half termly 'Governor News' on page 3.

GOVERNOR NEWS

DECEMBER 2017

Governor Day – Literacy

Every term, governors aim to spend a day in school visiting lessons. These days are usually focused on specific aspects of the curriculum, linked to the School Improvement Plan priorities. Back in November, three governors visited the school with a focus on literacy in lessons, examining how teaching strategies were being used to ensure provision for writing across the curriculum for all groups of children.

The governors followed individual timetables and spent time in each class, observing lessons, speaking with pupils and staff and looking at work. It was fascinating to see how the teachers were incorporating literacy skills into various activities across the classes. We examined presentation and handwriting in all classes, and noted that both boys and girls took pride in their presentation and responded well to teacher feedback, particularly in key stage two with detailed follow up of improvements. Looking through books, journals and folders allowed us to see the progress made by pupils across the school. Pupils were eager to talk through their learning journeys and were proud to show off their favourite pieces of work.

In key stage one in particular this was evident in the increasing length of the journal entries written by pupils since September, and the phonics letters and sounds learnt.

We saw various activities designed to stretch and challenge pupils with literacy and writing, including:

- * Matching objects to phonics flash cards and practising the sound and shape of the letter “j” (Class 1)
- * Incorporating anti-bullying week in an apology letter to Humpty Dumpty using expressive language (Class 2)
- * Writing a biography about Tim Peake using pronouns based on previous in-class research (Class 3)
- * Discussions about various books by the class author of the month Frank Cottrell-Bryce linked to science and computing (Class 4)
- * Persuasive writing pieces for or against a bypass through the village, with a focus on prepositions and their usage (Class 5)

Pupils were well behaved, and teachers and support staff had high expectations of all pupils. It was evident that pupils are aware how important literacy is, and this is instilled from a young age with the activities planned by teaching staff for pupils. Discussions with pupils in Class 2 and 4 revealed that boys and girls sometimes have different preferences about the type of role they undertake when writing – editors, detectives, narrators or reporters – but all enjoyed being able to express themselves through their work.

STEM

Meetings have taken place between staff and governors about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) issues. We have discussed adapting it to “STEAM” and incorporating the arts into it as well. We have looked at how free resources from the Open University and the BBC can be used to enhance STEM topics like the oceans and the human body. We have applied for a free Dyson Engineering box to be sent to school for us to use with pupils in class four and five next year, and have looked at how design and technology Product Design, Textiles and Food skills can be developed to make items for next year’s Christmas fair. Feedback from this term’s Oxspring University Science option block has been incredibly positive, with slime being a hit amongst pupils who participated (and those who purchased it at Monday’s Children’s Christmas fair!).

Christmas

Governors have also spent time in school recently as part of the festive celebrations. This included attending the Christmas fair and Nativity performances. It was lovely to see how staff, pupils, parents, volunteers and the PTA all get involved to ensure these events can take place. The Governors wish you all a Merry Christmas, and hope that you have a peaceful new year with family, friends and loved ones.

Gemma Mahoney (Governor)