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Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Irwin

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

October Updates

I hope that you are all keeping well as we move truly into autumn. I just wanted to provide a few updates for you and dates for your diary as our fortnightly newsletter is not due until next Friday.

Teaching and learning - Reading

The children have settled so well into classroom routines and as a result, behaviour and attitudes towards learning across school are excellent. I feel so very proud to walk round school and to see just how focused and motivated the children are in every class, despite the ongoing challenges that we currently face. In terms of reading, Mrs Tomlinson has worked with the staff to review our approach to home school reading and a separate letter will be sent out today which explains our new reading logs. We would greatly appreciate your support in working with us to continue to improve reading across school and to ensure that your child / children read at home regularly please. From our initial assessments of learning, reading is an area that has been impacted by the closure of school for some of our children. Reading is such an integral part of our curriculum and we want to further instil a love of books and a passion for reading in every child as they make their journey through Oxspring. Many thanks in advance for your support and understanding.



Bike to school week

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Active

The staff and I are really proud of all the children who have taken part in this week's active travel event in our first 'Bike to School' week of the year. Lots of children from each class have come on either their bikes, scooters or walked to make an active start to the day. Alongside that, it has been really lovely to see so many parents taking part too - thank you to you too! The class teachers will collate the information and next week we will award the children with their



certificates and prizes for taking part. We will update you in next week's newsletter.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Please note that following approval by the Governors, our updated Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is now available on our website for your information:

<http://oxspringprimary.co.uk/official-documents/>. There is also a children's leaflet about 'keeping safe' in the same section of the website.

Community Concern

Over the last week, I have been contacted by a couple of members of our local community who have expressed their concerns about the mixing of some of our families into larger bubbles when they go to Oxspring Park after school. I just wanted to pass on those concerns, as I am sure you will support us in ensuring that we keep our school and wider community as safe as we possibly can by following all the current restrictions at this time. As you may be aware, some of our local schools have already been affected by positive cases of COVID-19 which has impacted on some of their bubbles having to be closed for 14 days. Please do work with us to keep our families safe and well.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month in the UK. It is an annual event honouring the contributions and accomplishments of the Black British community. It celebrates both current and historical individuals and the positive impact they have made to our society. Black History Month provides great opportunities to highlight key moments in Black British history. It is important to celebrate the contributions of everyone to our society and support the multi-culturalism and diversity that helps shape our communities. During Black History Month, we will remember and celebrate the important Black British people from the past and also those who contribute to and help our society today.

Dates for your diary:

- **During the week beginning 19th October**, we will host our own 'child friendly Macmillan Coffee morning' events to raise money for this worthy charity. Each class will offer cold drinks and a snack to the children and we will ask for a donation towards the Macmillan charity please. In addition, each class will organise their own raffle for parents so that the money raised will also go towards the charity. Tickets and further details will be sent out at the end of next week.



The Macmillan dates for each class are as follows:

- **Tuesday 20th October (staggered times) for Class 3, 4 and 5**
- **Wednesday 21st October (staggered times) for Class 1 and 2**

- **On Thursday 22nd October**, we will celebrate Harvest through a range of class songs which we will record and share with parents (subject to the agreed privacy notices). We will also ask for donations of food for a local foodbank please - further details to follow.

- **Friday 23rd October is an INSET day and school reopens on Monday 2nd November.**

- **Class discos** - During the first week back after half term (beginning 2nd November) we will be holding class bubble 'Halloween' discos during the school day. Each class will be given a slot during the week where they can dress up, have refreshments and dance with their classmates - dates and times to be confirmed.

- **Week beginning Monday 9th November** we plan to host our first parents' meetings. The dates and times will be confirmed along with our approach (ie either face to face or virtual) which will be dependent upon the ongoing COVID-19 situation at the time. Further details will follow.

- We are also currently in the process of discussing our plans for Christmas in school and will share our plans with you as soon as we have finalised them.

Wishing you and your family an enjoyable weekend.

Take care and stay safe and well.

Warmest regards

Sharon Irwin