

OXHILL NURSERY SCHOOL

Autumn Newsletter - September 2024



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

What's going on

Welcome back everyone! A warm welcome to all of our new children and families who are joining us this term. What a busy term we have planned! We have a sponsored Autumn Welly Walk (see Diary Dates) to help raise funds for the special activities we offer children throughout the school year, we hope you will be able to join us. We also have the school photographer coming in after half term and an exciting, interactive visit from Zoolab.

LENDING LIBRARY

We have a community book cupboard in our porch with a range of children's and adult's books for you and the children to help yourselves to. You are more than welcome to swap these books for ones you no longer read instead of returning the ones you borrow.

COMMUNITY COMPETITION

We took part in Stanley Town Council's 'Blooming Good Fun' competition for the second year. Our Grasshopper children sowed some wild flower seeds in March, the preschool children planted the sweet pea seeds in January and our two's planted some potatoes. The judges came to see our garden in the summer holidays and were wowed by how beautiful it looked. The awards ceremony is in the next couple of weeks so we will let you know how we get on.



STAFFING UPDATE

Georgia, our lovely office manager has embarked on her School Business Professional Qualification this term. To support the admin team, we have welcomed Leanne into the office. Helen Smith is leaving us on 23rd September for a new adventure. Helen has worked across all the age phases during her 13 years at Oxhill. Please join us in wishing her well for the future.

SNACK FUND

Attention all Ladybirds, Caterpillars, Dragonflies and Bumblebees and Grasshoppers. Please send £1 snack money each week to put in our piggy banks. This money pays towards the children's daily snack, cooking ingredients and special events.

Butterflies pay their fund half- termly via bank transfer

SPARE CLOTHES

Play is a messy business! In the event your child may need to get changed, can you ensure your child's spare clothes bag is topped up regularly with a full change of clothes, including socks. We have a small amount of spare clothing in Nursery. If your child comes home in nursery clothes, please wash and return them as soon as possible. Can you ensure that your child's name is written in all clothes that are removable, so that they can be returned to the correct child.

GETTING IN TOUCH

You have all been invited to join us on Class Dojo. This is a FREE app so please do not pay for it. Please note that Dojo messages sent after 4pm or at the weekend may not be responded to until the next working day.

If your message is urgent or you need to report an absence, please call Georgia or Leanne in the school office:

01207 232266

WRAP AROUND CARE

Before and after school care is available to all children on the days they attend from 8am - 4pm. We kindly ask that sessions are booked and paid for in advance.

Please contact the school office to book a place.

ORAL HYGIENE

Children are learning the importance of good oral hygiene. All children will be taking part in toothbrushing routines unless you have opted out.

PRESCHOOL PRESS

Bumblebees & Dragonflies & Butterflies

The preschool team have been busy over the holidays creating new play spaces in the classroom. Children have been welcomed into a facelifted classroom with the addition of a new cosy reading area, walk in sand pit and art studio (see photos). The children have been settling in to their new nursery routine and fabulous play spaces.

This term the preschool children are talking about their families and learning about their similarities and differences. They will be learning about the Autumn season which includes, picking apples and blackberries from our garden to make a delicious treat, as well as learning how to put their coats and wellies on ready for the colder weather. They will also meet Rob from Zoolab who will read Julia Donaldson's book, *Room on The Broom* and introduce them to a range of animals and insects. See the list below for the other books children will be reading this term.



TOILET TRAINING

Please speak with a member of the team who can help you to toilet train your child. Just let us know when you think they are showing some awareness of their toileting needs and have started to use the toilet at home.

Being toilet trained fosters a sense of independence and control, which in turn helps boost self-esteem and confidence. We aim to get all the children toilet trained this term. If there is a genuine reason why your child is finding this difficult please speak with us.

PRESCHOOL AUTUMN TERM BOOK LIST

- Families, Families, Families! By Suzanne and Max Lang
- Three Little Pigs - a traditional tale
- The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas
- The Enormous Turnip- a traditional tale
- Chicken Licken - a traditional tale
- Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson
- Oliver's Wood by Sue Hendra
- Little Red Hen - a traditional tale
- One Year with Kipper by Mike Inkpen



TWO'S NEWS

The Early Learners: Ladybirds & Caterpillars

A warm welcome to our new two's. We are so excited to get to know you all. Play is often a messy business so please keep that in mind - do not send your child in their best clothes. As well as lots of time singing songs, rhymes, reading stories and playing outdoors, we will be meeting Fleur the School Dog, learning about Autumn and harvesting the potatoes we planted last term. ZooLab will be bringing in some creatures for the children to touch and feel with a Halloween theme after half term.



TWO'S AUTUMN TERM BOOK LIST

These are the books we will be sharing with the children this term. We will ensure all children have had the opportunity to explore these books and learn about them in detail as part of group time teaching, child led learning and home school links. We aim for the children to develop a love of reading and for them to know each book 'off by heart', learning new vocabulary and concepts that fit in with the seasonal themes and interests.

Autumn Books

Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell

Where's Spot? by Eric Hill

It's Mine by Rod Campbell

Brown Bear, Brown Bear What do you see? By Jill Martin Jr /Eric Carle

Meg and Mog by Helen Nicholl and Jan Pienkowski

The Gingerbread Man traditional tale

Fox's Socks by Julia Donaldson

Fancy Dress Christmas by Nick Sharatt



HEALTHY EATING

Lunch box ideas on our website

As part of our Early Years curriculum we encourage children to understand about healthy lifestyles. Go to our website for some healthy lunch box ideas. Popcorn, whole nuts and marshmallows are considered to be choking hazards, therefore are not to be included in lunch boxes. Can we ask you to cut any small round fruits such as grapes and blueberries vertically in half if they are to be included in your child's lunch.

Check out our website
<https://www.oxhill.durham.sch.uk/>

NAPPIES

If you would like us to provide nappies for your child, please send in £1 per week. Alternatively please provide your own. If you want any guidance on toilet training please ask a member of the team.

DIARY DATES

Dates for parent involvement are in Red

Sponsored Welly Walk

Wednesday 2nd October 10:00 & 1:00

School Photographs (all children)

Wednesday 16th October

Harvest festival collection for Feeding Families week commencing 23rd September

End of Autumn Term 1

25th October 2024

Autumn Term 2 Starts

4th November 2024

Zoolab to Visit the classrooms

Wednesday 6th November

Odd Sock Day

Wednesday 13th November

(To promote kindness, acceptance and inclusion)

Preschool Christmas performance

(for parents, more information to follow)

Wednesday 11th December 10:00 & 1:30

Christmas Party Day (all children)

Wednesday 18th December

(Grasshopper parents to accompany)

End of Autumn Term

Friday 20th December 2024

returning Tuesday 7th January

World Book Day

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Wednesday 6th March

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Monday 17th March

Mother's Day Event

Wednesday 26th March

Day for Dad's Event

Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th June

Grasshopper Trip Day

Wednesday 2nd July

Two's and Preschool Trip Day

Wednesday 9th July

A full list of school holidays are on our website:
www.oxhill.durham.sch.uk

ANY OTHER BUSINESS...

WISH LIST

COMMUNITY...

STANLEY IN BLOOM 2024

We are working with Stanley Town Council again this year to make our garden a beautiful place to play. The children will be learning about growing flowers and vegetables.

This is part of a community project that aims to make Stanley a brighter, cleaner place to live. We want the children to feel proud of the community they live.

A huge THANK YOU to Cody's Dad and Grandad who helped us fill the new allotment planters. We are now ready for the growing season!



We would love to set up a community gardening group that could meet every half term to help us with the planting of spring bulbs, and summer bedding plants and maybe some weeding of the planters (our ground maintenance do grass cutting and the majority of the weeding).

If anyone has a greenhouse and would be willing to help us to grow some of the bedding plants for the planters at the front of the building we would love to hear from you.

GOVERNOR VACANCY

Our friendly and dedicated governing body have a vacancy for a parent governor this year.

We ask that you are able to commit to a full governing body meeting each term and further committee and monitoring visits across the year.

This voluntary role is subject to a DBS check. If you have a knowledge of finance, Special Educational Needs or early years education we would love to hear from you.

Full training will be provided.

If you have any of the following items that you no longer need could we ask you to bring them to nursery for the children to use, explore and and play with....

potato peelers
garlic press
wooden spoons
unused drainpipes/guttering
broom handles
cable reels tool boxes
baking trays
ice cream scoops
hand mixers for baking
keys and small metal items
to create a magnetic
investigation set.
metal tea sets, containers

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are important at nursery. You are welcome to send in a boxed birthday cake (with allergy information) for the children to enjoy with their friends.

FLEUR - OUR SCHOOL DOG

Fleur is our school dog, she is a three year old cockapoo who loved spending time with the children, she previously completed her School Dog training and graduated with flying colours.

Fleur was spayed in July and since then has developed some anxious tendencies.

I will be doing some further training with her to help her settle back in to her school dog role. Fleur has developed some anxiety around coming to work. I will be with Fleur at drop off and home time on the days she attends. We need to try and build her confidence back up.

If you see us in the carpark and you want to say hello after you have dropped your child off, please approach us slowly. She loves treats and I hope that she will become less anxious by spending more time around you all.