



PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
OXENHOPE

Oxenhope

Church of England Primary School

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE



Newsletter for Parents and carers – 17.6.09

Many thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire asking for your views about the school.

I have now collated the responses and have passed the information to the Governing Body's School Development Committee for their consideration.

There is a lot to celebrate. There were a large number of very positive responses (What is working well) which included

- the ethos of the school: happy children, friendly caring atmosphere, children safe and well cared for, good relationships between staff and pupils, good behaviour
- The staff team: commitment, team spirit, willingness to give time in response to need, support staff at lunchtime
- Standards: standards of attainment, good tracking systems, work set to pupils abilities, standards of teaching and learning, solid teaching
- Specific curriculum areas or aspects of work: breakfast with God, Wake and Shake, sports, modern Foreign Languages
- External stakeholders: Supportive parents, Friends, Parish Council, Governors, OCI

You have also identified areas for the school to consider (What is not working well) including

- Extended schools: extended school's provision, after school clubs for younger children
- The ethos and organisation of the school: cliques, supporting pupils who struggle academically, supporting self worth
- Specific curriculum areas or aspects of work: curriculum enrichment, not enough , provision for gifted and talented, creative curriculum, music (instruments)
- Internal organisation: more rewards for "always " children, mixed age classes, events always held Fridays –difficult for some parents
- Staff related: staff retention and consistency, timekeeping,
- Premises, equipment, resources: more playground equipment, Foundation outdoor equipment, rain shelter
- External stakeholders: asking for help from the community and Friends

Our challenge is now to unravel this information , to build on our strengths and to plan for improvement in those areas identified.

The full document is too long to be contained in this newsletter and will be published on the web site at www.oxenhopeprimary.org.uk

One of the themes which emerged in the "what's working so-so" section of the questionnaire was that of communication. In truth, it featured in all sections suggesting that things were improving – at least for some.

To further help with information exchange between home and school and in an attempt to become "greener", we are continuing to improve our E-systems in school.

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From this week we have a new single **email address** for the school.

office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk

Will you please use this address when emailing the school from now on.

We also intend to pilot using email in our communications with you where that is possible and where you have agreed. We shall begin with future newsletters. We shall also continue to put newsletters and other school based information on the **web site**.

www.oxenhopeprimary.org.uk

Will you please let school know whether or not you would be happy to receive future newsletters by email .Please complete and return the slip at the foot of this email

Space Challenge Success

Children from years 5 and 6 recently took part in a national space challenge programme. Their task was to research and prepare a powerpoint presentation about Space. Two of our teams (of 4) created presentations of such a high quality that they succeeded in being judged to be in the top sixty pupils who entered the competition. As a result they have been invited to take part in a three day "Space" experience which will take place at Haworth Youth Hostel later this month. I understand that they will have the opportunity during that visit to speak with an astronaut who is actually in space. Congratulations to them.....More information after the event

Bags for School

Your child will have brought home with this letter a 'bags for school sack', if you could fill it with any items for 'Reuse' it would be greatly appreciated. The backs needs to be returned **on Tuesday 7th July** to school (not before) as we have nowhere to store the bags.

Police visit Oxenhope Primary

The high viz clothing of the police service was very visible in Oxenhope last Friday and as part of their focus on Oxenhope day, Inspector Wheeler and three of his officers came to the school to spend some time with the children. They spoke to the children in Key stage groups and covered topics such as "stay safe" "stranger danger" "Safe cycling" and " Wearing seatbelts". They discussed rules – why we have them, why we need to obey them and the children heard about the role of a police officer. The children were able to see (and in some cases use) some of their equipment. The officers joined the children for lunch. Members of the First Response resuscitation team also visited the key stage two classes to speak to the children about their role and to show the children the equipment which they have at their disposal. A very useful day. Thanks to Inspector Wheeler.

Bradford Music Service Band

The music service band entertained the children on Friday 11th with a concert based on a theme of Space. The musicians took the children on an audio visual journey into space playing a variety of music to link to the visual journey. They introduced the children to their different instruments and the children were invited to contribute rhythmically.

Year 5 visit to Bradford Bulls

Year 5 visited Bradford Bulls Stadium this week and took part in a series of activities with an enterprise theme. They were challenged to work in teams in simulation exercises about global trade. Very challenging indeed but a very successful day was enjoyed by all.

Linking Schools project – Years 4 and 5

All year 4s and 5s were joined by our link school – St Josephs, Keighley on Thursday last week. The weather held out and they all enjoyed a day of activities in our new environmental area led by an environmental educationalist. Our children were very welcoming to their guests and are now looking forward to a return visit to St Josephs next Friday

Lister class visit Nell Bank

Lister class had an exciting day at Nell Bank on Tuesday. They enjoyed the badger sniff, the mole walk, a minibeast hunt, squirrel run activities, a rabbit run and pond dipping. The activities were led by qualified staff from the centre and the children had an enjoyable and educationally productive experience. Thanks to the mums and dads who volunteered to support the day.

Sports Day

Sports day turned into sports week when the first attempt was rained off last Friday. However, the events are now complete having been held at intervals during the week. Thanks to Mrs Driver for organising the event and to all the volunteer and staff helpers who made it possible. The scores will be calculated this weekend and prizes awarded to the successful individuals and teams when that is complete.

Oliver

I keep sneaking into rehearsals each Friday and I know it is going to be fantastic. Such talent. Such energy. Such enthusiasm. Tickets are now on sale – you will need to be quick to purchase yours.

Coming up

Year two visit to Filey
Oxenhope's got talent
Mr Wraggs presentation
And much morewatch this space

And finally.....I know its long but there is so much going on.....and it is important that you know.

It won't be as cumbersome when it's delivered by email.

David Atkinson
Friday Head

Please complete and return to school by Friday 22.5.09

Child's names		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
	Yes	No
I would like to receive school Newsletters by email		
I no longer wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter		

Many thanks

Please identify up to four aspects of the life of the school which in your opinion is:
(Please do not identify any individual by name or association)

What is working well
What is working so..so
What is working not so well

Please return to the school by Friday 22.5.09

Name: Child/ren in year group/s REC, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (tick)