



PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
OXENHOPE

Oxenhope

Church of England Primary School

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE



Newsletter for Parents and carers - 18.5.09

Communication between Home and School

Many parents have told me that there is a problem with letters and information which have been sent out from school via "children post". On many occasions they do not arrive and parents are left unaware of important events or news.

This should help.

There is now an updated school web site live at www.oxenhopeprimary.org.uk

In future, all letters and questionnaires will be put on the website. If the "children post" has not worked you will be able to read or print a copy from the web page. News about school will also appear so please make the school web page one of your favourites and visit it as often as you can to make sure that you are up to date with all that is happening.

Holiday list for 2009-2010

Please find the school opening and holiday timetable for 2009-2010 which has been agreed by governors. This version (May 2009) supersedes previous information which had an incorrect date and which should be destroyed. A copy will be placed on the website for reference.

Fantastic feedback about Oxenhope pupils

All of our key stage two classes have visited Challenge College during this year to improve their ICT skills by being able to take advantage of specialist teaching and facilities and software which we do not have in school. The feedback which has been passed back to the school from Mr Tasker the teacher in charge is excellent. He speaks really highly of our children. He tells us that they are a pleasure to teach; they listen well, are polite and show a great enthusiasm for learning. We are very proud of them. We hope that you are too.

Diocese of Bradford
City of Bradford Metropolitan Council

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Further news on swine flu – just in case

We need your help

In line with government recommendations we are currently developing an emergency plan for what we would do if a pandemic of swine flu (or any other flu) was to take place.

1. One of the first things we would need to be able to do is to contact every parent really quickly. We are setting up a system to allow us to send group text messages and group emails to parents with mobiles and computers. Before we can do this we need to make sure that we have up to date and accurate mobile numbers and email addresses for every parent. We will be organising the information in class groups.

Will you please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and send it back to school before the end of the week (Friday 22.5.09). If you have more than one email address, for example a works and a home email, will you please make sure that you include them all, Please also make sure that you include all your children who may be in different classes.

If we do not have your contact details we may not be able to contact you quickly in an emergency.

2. We are advised to compile a list of volunteers who may be able to help to keep the school open if some staff were not able to be in school. As you know, all staff in school have to have a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced check. Volunteers are no exception. They too would need to be checked. In the first instance, therefore, we are trying to identify if there are any parents/ carers, who have an enhanced check with another organisation, who would be able to volunteer in exceptional circumstances. If you are in this position will you please let the school know. (Phone Lynn on 01535 642271 or email

admin@oxenhopeprimary.org.uk Many thanks

Seeking your views about the school

In the last newsletter we asked for your views about the school. A questionnaire was attached which asked you to identify up to four aspects of the school which you thought were working really well, up to four aspects which were so-so and could be made better easily and up to four aspects which you thought were not working well. We have asked these questions so that we can begin to prioritise what we will include in our school development plan. We need your views. Unfortunately very few parents have replied. It might be that the "children post" didn't work too well and you never received the questionnaire.

I have therefore attached another copy of the questionnaire to this newsletter and a copy is available on the website - see the 'News' page.

If you have not done so already will you please try to complete the questionnaire and return it to school before Friday 22.5.09

I have promised to feed back what you say but I feel that I cannot do that yet because I do not have a wide enough response. When more questionnaires have been returned I will send you the details.

SATS

The SATS are now finished and our routines can go back to normal. The children worked hard and the year 6 pupils were rewarded with an afternoon at Keighley Bowling Alley which they all enjoyed. Thanks to Mrs Driver for arranging that. The test papers have been posted off to the markers. We now eagerly await the results which are due in July

Children in Devonshire class - our young community leaders

The children in Devonshire class had some really good ideas about how the environmental area might be improved. Their investigations put them into contact with managers from Gilsons Quarry and ASDA. They began to develop plans in cooperation with the team from the Oxenhope Conservation Initiative.

We were delighted last Friday when a team of volunteers from ASDA, supported by materials supplied by Gilsons were able to put those plans into action. What a difference this has made. If you have not seen the newly developed area please do come and have a look. Oxenhope and the school have a valuable new additional learning and recreational resource. Some of the children who took part said

"I really appreciate the work people are doing for us. We can now go up and work in there learning more about our environment"

"It's really great because we get up there more easily now it's not overgrown"

Thanks to Devonshire class; Gilsons; ASDA; Mrs King; Oxenhope Conservation Initiative.

Look out for next week's Keighley News for a report and pictures.

PS. The volunteers enjoyed a school lunch in the middle of their labours. They were very complimentary about the food. Thanks to the kitchen staff.

New style reports for Oxenhope children in 2009

A new report to parents is underway for the end of this term. This has been discussed with Governors and there has been training for staff. This new format will give accurate, concise information on each child so that parents have a clear understanding of how well their children are working and achieving. Reports will be sent to parents on 10th July

Coming up.....

Football at Marley for under 9 boys, under 9 girls and under 11 girls

Cricket Festival

Bikeability

Cycling Proficiency

More visits to Challenge College

"Oliver"

Plus much more

School closes for Spring Bank on Friday 22.5.09

Training days for staff on Monday and Tuesday 1 & 2.6.09

School reopens for children Wednesday 3.6.09

If you have any questions, queries, comments or ideas please let us know.

Only by working together will we achieve true excellence.

Enjoy your Spring Bank Break. Best Wishes,

David Atkinson

One of the '3 Heads'

Child's names	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
Addresses	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
Phone numbers	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

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)

Working well
Working so..so
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)