



PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
OXENHOPE

Oxenhope

Church of England Primary School

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE



22nd January, 2010

Dear Parent/Carers

On Tuesday we welcomed the poet Andy Tooze into school. Andy spent the day working with every class writing and performing poetry. The children responded extremely enthusiastically and have produced some amazing poems. Mrs Attwood will be displaying many of these around school and we are giving you all an opportunity to read a wide selection of these by putting together a collection of these in an anthology.

The books will be on sale in the very near future and all proceeds will be donated to the Disasters and Emergencies Committee fundraising for the Haiti earthquake appeal. The price will be £1.

Many thanks to Mrs Attwood for all her hard work in organising the day with Andy. This term's focus on improving the writing skills of all our children is now under way and we will be rewarding outstanding work and effort in this area by presenting special certificates every 2 weeks in our Friday celebration assembly.

Oxenhope's got talent!

This week I must mention the fantastic achievements of a large number of our Key Stage 2 children.

Last Sunday Ester Cameron from Macmillan class was a member of the West Yorkshire sports hall athletics team that competed in the Yorkshire finals in Sheffield. I am pleased to report that Ester's team won the event. Well done to Ester for her success in her events and also for being a fantastic ambassador for our school, we are all very proud of her!

Also, many of us enjoyed being entertained by Billy Pearce and co at last Saturday's performance of 'Jack and the beanstalk' at the Alhambra theatre. This was made even more enjoyable due to the fact that a number of our children made up the 'sunbeams' in a number of scenes. Well done to all the children they were brilliant!

Finally, a big well done to Katie Barber who as well as being one of the 'sunbeams' has also been very successful in using her acting talents to feature in a Government information film. Although I haven't seen it yet I understand it will be used on national television.

Oxenhope Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

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Friends of Oxenhope C.E Primary School

The Friends recently met to plan and organise a number of exciting events for 2010. You will be receiving further information about these in a separate newsletter very soon. Dates for your diary include:

Friday 12th February Valentines Disco in the school hall. Key Stage 1 children 4 to 5:15 pm, Key Stage 2 children 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Tickets cost £2.50 and include a hot dog and a drink.

Friday 26th March Quiz night in the school hall 7:30 pm. Tickets £2.50 and include pie and peas.

Also the Friends would like to organise a regular cake raffle. If you are able to support this by donating a cake please see a member of the Friends. They intend to raffle a cake every 4 to 6 weeks and make the draw in Friday's celebration assembly.

Other proposed events include a Dominos Drive on Friday 21st May and Oxenhope's got talent on Friday 16th July.

Parent's questionnaire

Many thanks to all of you who returned this questionnaire before Christmas. I have analysed your responses and have asked Mr Anthony Bennett to make these available to you via our website www.oxenhopeprimary.org.uk.

Thank you for your many positive comments and we will be addressing a number of the issues that you highlighted as possible areas for the school to develop as we progress through this term and beyond. I would like to consult with you all again early in the summer term, however if you would like to speak to me about any aspect of our school then please feel free to contact me.

Parental requests for leave of absence

As you may be aware one of the areas we are currently attempting to develop across the school is for all our children to have an appreciation of the importance of good attendance.

Currently we have a target of 97% attendance for all our children, however at the moment this stands at below 95%. The national expectation for all schools is 94%.

Attendance is scrutinised by Ofsted and our School Improvement Partner (SIP) who visits school on a termly basis.

As a parent I appreciate the full range of reasons which can account for the absence of children and as a Headteacher I am aware that there is a nationally accepted figure for individual absence.

As a parent body you are all extremely efficient at notifying school of absence and submitting applications for Headteacher approvals for term time holidays. This is one of the reasons we have almost no unauthorised absence. However I have to act upon the advice of our SIP. The suggestion is that all applications for leave of absence may be approved by the Headteacher after a short 'face to face' meeting.

If you would like to discuss a request for approved leave please could you make an appointment to meet with me through the school office. If I am unavailable it may be possible for you to meet with Mrs Nutting.

Many thanks for your support with this.

Stars of the week

Bronte - Hannah Bennett

Lister - Eleanor Walker

Hockney - Xander Keighley

Butterfield - Stella Richards

Devonshire - Sophie Smith

Priestley - Zoe Bennett

Macmillan - Connor Holmes

Attendance winners - Butterfield

Writers of the fortnight - Jasmine Allmond, Amber Eastwood, Harriet Berry, Zoe Noble,
Harvey Meek, Emma Barber, Elizabeth Denby.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Burns - Headteacher