



Oxenhope Church of England Primary

A member of the
bdat
family

4.12.20

Dear parents and carers,

I just wanted to take the time to say some thank you.

I have to be really honest with you all, I personally am finding lockdown and the tier system emotionally hard but I also have to let you know that if it wasn't for all our amazing staff and families it would be ten times harder. Work has always been an oasis for me and when the weather is dark and cold and the news is doom and gloom, going into reception class, observing outstanding lessons, laughing with parents and being surrounded daily by caring and supportive friends is crucial for my own mental health.

Covid still feels as much of an ever-changing entity as it ever was, however after speaking to other head teachers some have not got the support of parents and staff, I have and for this I am eternally grateful, your resilience and patience has made things much easier.

Secret Santa

I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the Friends of Oxenhope and in particular Helen Goulding for arranging this and helping our children have a great experience. This is such hard work and I love that we haven't had to stop doing this this year as it brings such joy to our families.

Virtual Tour

A huge thank you also goes to Chris Johnson for creating our virtual tour for our prospective new families. We think he has done a fantastic job of capturing the essence of our school and we are so pleased to be able to share this especially during this difficult period when we can't welcome families in to school in the usual way. This can be viewed via our school website – feel free to spread the word!

Staff

Our wonderful staff have been going over and above this term, cleaning toilets, starting earlier and finishing later, cleaning classrooms and doing wellbeing calls. All of this has been done without any resistance which proves to me just how dedicated they are. They have also focused a lot of time of supporting the children's mental health and wellbeing.

Christmas presents

If you are wanting to thank staff with Christmas presents we will gladly welcome these however if you could make these wipe-able that would make it more covid secure. Don't forget your headteacher-wink, wink !!!

[Oxenhope Church of England Primary School](#)

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Staying open

Now you know I have said it, it'll change next week however even if it does, I am so proud that we have managed up this point without having to close any classes due to covid. I wanted to say thank you to you for obeying the recommendations of getting children when we ask, isolating and talking and being honest with us about how children are feeling. Luckily all our efforts have paid off and this has meant that most children have received all their education at school.

Attendance

Our attendance has remained above the national average over the last term which is amazing in the current climate. After Christmas we will be reinstating our class attendance award where the class with the best attendance will be able to come to school the following Friday in non-uniform. We will discount any children who are isolating in this as we appreciate this absence is out of your control.

Welcome to new children

Since June we have had nearly 20 new children join year groups and 30 reception children join. These children have been an absolute joy to have in school and it feels like they have always been with us. We still have places available in some year groups across school so if you know of a family moving into the area or who may just fancy a change for their child please encourage them to get in touch.

Christmas Activities

We are still trying to keep festive in school. We are having Christmas dinner, Christmas parties, Santa visit, nativity performances, playground carols, quizzes, games, virtual assemblies, RE lessons and competitions. We will be looking at a virtual family Christmas quiz and another of our great Christmas discos.

I hope this good news helps you as much as it helps me. Remember we are all here if you need us you are not alone please come and talk if you are struggling.

Mrs Jones