

OXFORD OWLS NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Week 1 – Autumn Week

We start this month with our next book “Go Away Floppy”. This is about how our loveable dog goes one by one to his family members in the hope of playing a ball game. Sadly, one by one they all tell him to go away because they are busy. As Floppy goes away, feeling sad and unloved, the family finish their things and realise that Floppy is not there. Of course they all call him back at the end to play with them. Our worksheet for this was to find missing ‘ing’ words. What were all of the family members doing? We introduced drawing, skipping and painting. This led us on to Tuesday where we then put sentences together, using speech marks. “Go away Floppy, I am drawing”, etc. Practicing sentences like this allowed our Owls to; start with a capital letter, use a capital letter for any names, use appropriate speech marks, and then to end with a full stop. On Wednesday we looked at other ‘ing’ words, limitless possibilities, and practiced making whole sentences with flash cards. We finished our morning work with our Bingo game which the whole class loved. Picking out and reading frequent word cards and then crossing them off, if you have them, on the 9 word boards. Today we had 4 boy winners! We also had a chance this afternoon to choose some lovely leaves from the garden, and rub them, under paper, with crayon. These turned out well and we cut them out, in a variety of autumn colours, to add to the autumn wall scene which Rachel is preparing. On Thursday we then sequenced the events of our story with 6 given sentence examples. We have re-read the book each day, with the Owls individually reading a page each. On Friday we played a game, in pairs. Each pair was an owner, and a dog. The owners had to give their pets verbal instructions, ie, fetch, heel, go away, come back, sit etc, and the dog had to obey. This was a fun drama task. The highlight of this week was Mia’s birthday party from 2-4pm. The theme was “High School Musical”.



Our dance instructor, Janine, came in to lead the party games and fun. First of all the girls had to dress up in sparkly dance outfits, and the boys of course were the “Wildcats”. We had a 2-group written competition of questions about the film, an adult helped out each group with this one and we then had a 2-group game. Over the head or under the legs we passed basketballs and microphones. The film music flowed throughout with the girls often breaking into song and we got some great pictures of the whole party. We had extra long drinking straws, we played Pass the Parcel with prizes of bendy pencils and stickers and Mia was our Pass the Parcel winner. She won a microphone on pom-poms; a perfect addition to her outfit. We all also played a game, blindfolded, where the Owls had to stick a ‘kiss’ on the pictures of Troy and Gabriella. The tension mounted when it was time for the cake. A fabulous chocolate “High School Musical” treat with flaming candles.



With confetti and balloons everywhere the guests finally handed out some wonderful gifts for Mia to take home. A perfect day and everyone went home happy and tired. Happy Birthday to you Mia from all of us!

Week 2: Forest Animals

This week we start with our next book “Reds and Blues”. This was a story about how our characters play a game of football. Of course the football strips were blue or red, to help us identify which teams the players were on. We had a funny ending again though as each teams’ members became so dirty by the end of the game that it by then was impossible to identify them. We wrote out the word ‘mud’ and looked at the ending two letters which made it “muddy”. Our first worksheet was to match the pictures of the players and say whether they were in the red or blue team. On Tuesday we talked about ‘who’ being a question and when sentences start with who, we end the sentence with a question mark. We then looked at the phonemes ‘o’, ‘ue’, and ‘ew’. We then made a chart of words using these letters, few, glue, true etc and tried to read as many as we could in each group. Hearing the similar sounds of all of these differently spelt words was also an important task. Our next worksheet was to identify common things, ie, a post (letter) box, a fire engine, the sea etc and write out whether they are commonly red or blue. Two empty boxes at the end allowed the Owls to draw anything else they could think of that were typically these colours. On Wednesday, a strange day due to an unforeseen power cut we managed to complete a fabulous red/blue art project. With symmetry in mind we folded paper in half and drew the outline of a face. With dark eyes and a mouth we then painted one half of the face red, the other blue. For a contrasted background, the red half face had a painted blue background and the blue half face had a red painted background. These turned out superbly, a little surreal, and were proudly mounted on the wall. Most classes joined together throughout the day and this made our unexpected party quite fun. Andrea came down and offered a large group singing and music class in preparation for Thanksgiving later this month. Late afternoon we also managed to do an easy worksheet of maths where the Owls had to count the scarves or hats and put the correct numbers in the boxes. Only a few managed this easy sheet without mistakes and some Owls are still writing numbers back to front. We will continue with simple maths tasks purely in the hope to correct this. On Thursday, with only 9 Owls present, we had the pleasure of hosting Levi’s VIK Day. After introducing us to his family in his board pictures we then had a chance to look at some of his favourite things he had brought in to show us from home. Several books were brought out, stories for boys, Dr Seuss, 101 Dalmatians, a cool sword, a red racing car, his favourite 2 dog friends, and a cool magician’s wand. Our questioning session then took place and his answers were as follows:-

Nickie: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Levi: I want to build and design cars.

Rachel: What is your Dad’s job?

Levi: My Dad works in a bank with money.

Zalan: What’s your favourite game?

Levi: Card games, like snap, but turned out to be UNO which he had brought in too.

Yuto: What’s your favourite sport?

Levi: Watching tennis on TV.

Venusz: What’s your favourite dog?

Levi: Kicsi vau, (this is his toy dog!) He likes the small dogs best.

BB: What's your favourite food?

Levi: Pasta carbonara (with curly pasta).

Greta: Did you paint the pumpkin on your VIK Board photograph?

Levi: Yes I painted it green.

Krisztian: What's your favourite castle?

Levi: I don't know!

Yamato: What's your favourite drink?

Levi: Lemon Ice Tea

Mia: What's your favourite colour?

Levi: Dark green.



Being then awarded 6 stickers, (for his age is 6 and a quarter) we then all looked at the toys whilst we set up the tables for a mid-morning treat. This was a home made turo/cheese cake with fruit syrup. Yum! This



quickly disappeared! Well done Levi and thank you for bringing in your things to show us.

So Friday arrived, and throughout this week we have made a nice window display with bark and trees and leaves and forest animals using many different textures. Autumn is for sure upon us now. Today is Brown Day so our thinking hats are needed..... Our Owls turned out in brown clothing, a very Autumn scene indeed. At Circle Time we all looked at a wonderful animal book that Venusz brought in and looked at animals that are typically brown in colour. As a nice treat for all, Mia brought in a box of Toffeefee, the light and dark chocolate half toffee circles perfect also for brown day. Our project this afternoon was to prepare tree trunks/bark, (using brown paint of course), which will later be turned into Autumn trees.

Week 3 - Monday 16th – Friday 20th November 2009 – Occupations

Monday arrived with a surprise in store. As our theme this week is “occupations/community workers” Superkids’ children were invited to check out a real ambulance (in the car park), talk to the driver and his assistant, look at the medicine boxes and first aid instruments vital to those in need in Budapest.



We checked out the moving bed, an air mattress to stabilize patients with potential bone breakages, tested the blood pressure machine and stethoscope, and finally sat up front and pressed the very loud horn and sirens,

making the blue lights flash on top! This was such a cool hands-on project and we were told about typical things that are administered daily to sick people. Yamato was keen to be harnessed into the air mattress, Venusz liked the moving bed, Alexa had her head bandaged, and Luca had his blood pressure measured!



This morning was so much fun and the Owls had a great time, most of them having never been on the inside of an ambulance car before. Before this treat we introduced our next book, "Big Feet". This was a story about how Chip comes out of his house one morning to find giant footprints in the snow on the ground. One by one he calls for Biff, Kipper and his Mum to come out and say what they thought had caused these large prints. One was left to wonder and imagine whether they had been made by a giant or a monster, or even a dinosaur. The story has a funny ending as they discover it had been Dad who had made special snow shoes, fixed to his own shoes. Our worksheet followed where the Owls had to remember who had thought what, and match up the pictures. Our second worksheet for today was a worksheet with pictures of a polar bear, a mouse, an elephant and a kitten. Alongside each picture the Owls had to write whether these animals had big or little feet. They then had to independently think of two more animals, one with small and one with big feet. Draw them and label them. A discussion of occupations took place in the afternoon at project time and everyone thought of what they would like to be when they're grown up and draw themselves in that environment. These pictures were displayed the following week. Tuesday arrived and we talked about adjectives! What words could we think of that could describe a monster? Big, hairy, scary, green, spotty etc. Our colouring task for this morning was a picture of a monster, eating a teacher! Horrifying. The Owls thought this picture was particularly funny and as they coloured we talked about what they would actually would do if a monster did come into the classroom and tried to eat Nickie!!! Zalan, Ricsi and Greta were funny as they said they wouldn't mind!!!!!! And they would just go to another school. Thanks guys!!!!!! These pictures are now on the wall. The highlight of today was Zoe's VIK.



We prepared a very pretty board with some fabulous family pictures and a ladybird as decoration. Zoe told us about her summer holidays to America, Disneyland, her beautiful face painting, her feeding a baby kangaroo, swimming with dolphins and the names of her family members. Zoe had a large bag of goodies to show us, her most favourite of all being her soft bear called Mango. One could see that Mango was well loved. We saw her Barbie DVD of the 3 Musketeers, her pony house, with 11 ponies, all in different colours and with different names. A CD of the Hannah Montana movie soundtrack, which we played throughout the day, her Hello Kitty light up pen, and two cool books: Dr Seuss's '1 fish, 2 fish, blue fish' and a large 'Bedtime Stories for Girls' annual. The girl Owls were particularly keen to check out all these things, but before they did so we asked our questions, to find out a little more about little Zoe:-

Alexa asked what was her favourite movie.

Zoe: Barbie and the 3 Musketeers.

Ricsi: What's your favourite food?

Zoe: Cheesy pasta (that mum makes!)

Venusz asked what her favourite toy is?

Zoe: Mango.

Yuto asked what is your favourite colour?

Zoe: Purple.

Levi asked what is her favourite book/story?

Zoe: Sleeping Beauty.

Greta asked who she got her pony house from?

Zoe: A friend.

Yamato asked who her favourite friend at Superkids is?

Zoe: Himeko

Tina asked where her favourite place is?

Zoe: Miami.

Zalan asked what her favourite game is?

Zoe: Hide and Seek.

Himeko asked how old are you?

Zoe: 6

Rachel asked: Do you help your Mum out at home?

Zoe: Yes, she helps her do the cooking and helps with other kitchen chores

Nickie asked what her favourite sport is?

Zoe: Ballet, dancing and Tap!

The finale to this morning was a huge tray of home made chocolate chip cookies (thank you Mum!) which were absolutely delicious and didn't take long to disappear! Well done Zoe!

A re-cap of numbers, written out as words followed in the afternoon. Wednesday arrived and we completed a worksheet to revise the words, "is", and "it". "Is it a monster?", "No, it is not". Etc. Our theme this week has been professions and the Owls have discussed their plans for what they would like to be when they grow up, they have drawn pictures of these plans and a project to actually make props relative to their future careers. We had some great science experiments, microphones and microscopes to take home at the end of this week. We practiced sentences of "Come and look at this", with alternate missing words which the Owls had to fill in and we finished this week's story with a rhyming worksheet. The Owls had to find and cut out words that rhymed with "pan" and "book". But before we got to that we all sat down for a great snack of cookies and homemade banana cheesecake that Yuto brought in for his birthday!!! Friday 20th November was a little party day and all the kids received little party packs! Everyone had fun. Thank you Yuto and thank you Mum!



Week Four – Thanksgiving

This final week introduced our next book "Kipper's Diary". This was more of an informative text taken from a summer diary written by Kipper. From Monday to Friday we looked at what the weather had been like on each of these days and what Kipper's plans had been for each of those days. From staying at home resting to going to the park or pool or to the shops gave us a detailed account of his week. This led us into a big careful

look at the “days of the week” which should by next week be instantly recognizable. We practiced writing these words out, noticing the capital letters and we had a large review of all types of weather. Recalling the sequence of events and matching pictures to the appropriate sentences ensued and we have had a review again of sentence construction. We tackled again writing out the alphabet “perfectly” with all letters neatly written on the lines. This particular task will be repeated again and again until our Owls all do write it out perfectly and as to date, all of the children have made enormous progress. Don’t forget to check out your child’s work each week and keep it at home so that you all can indeed evaluate your own child’s progress. For our Thanksgiving theme we asked the children to really think about the things that they were all grateful for. This was to include their families, warm homes, parents that care for and love them unconditionally, food and drink, schools, teachers, cars, heating, sunny days, happy days etc. We threw around ideas each day to make this a real weekly topic, encouraging them to “see’ beyond the things that were only initially obvious to them. A collage of ideas from magazines also prompted them to think about the extent of the things that perhaps are often take for granted. Thursday arrived with our eagerly awaited Thanksgiving lunch. A party for all the school started at 11am with Andrea leading the ‘ho-down’ in the Witty Woodchucks classroom. They danced, sang, clapped, heel-toed, dosey-doed and dressed up. At 11.45 lunch was served! A huge feast was laid out in the Oxford Owls classroom of turkey, mash and corn! All the teachers helped out and the Shooting Stars came with pilgrim and red indian hats on! Afterwards we went out for a big run around in the sun. Some of our Oxford Owls kids brought in cookies and chocolates to share later at snack time. Thank you mums!!!



A fun day was had by all and I’m sure our Owls will rest well this long weekend.