



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Term 2 Issue 2

29th February 2016

Dear parent and Carers,

Our apologies for the newsletter delay this month: this was due to illness.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Charlie, Scarlett and their families to the school.

It has been a wonderful term so far and your children have worked very hard. Where possible we have tried to include highlights of each term on the website. Some of these include:

- * KS1 trip to Gloucester Folk Museum
- * KS2 Trip to Oxford and loan of Turner painting
- * Maths and English master classes for our highest achieving Y6 pupils
- * Whole Class music tuition for ocarina, ukulele and brass
- * Forest school for Windmill Class
- * Taking part in the BBC 500 words competition
- * Visit from an author
- * Polar Expedition Morning in Kingsway
- * India Day in KS1
- * RE day
- * Irish Dancing
- * Visiting Stem Scientist
- * Anti-bullying competition winner

We have lots more planned including Book Week (next week) and a super Easter Trail for the children to enjoy.

Thank you to FACs for organizing another amazing disco and to any of our parents who were able to stay and help in any way. The children had a wonderful time and the event raised valuable funds for the school.

We had our RWInc development day on Monday. During this day, the trainer visits all phonics and spelling lessons. She looks at our data and also works with some pupils who are receiving additional support to model best practice. Sarabjit, our trainer, was very impressed by the standard and quality of teaching as well as the excellent progress that the pupils are making. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work and to our families for supporting reading at home. Reading is so important as it underpins everything else.

Again this year we are collecting the Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers. We are already off to a good start with over 700 vouchers collected. There is a collection box in the Reception area of the School office. We have until the 8th July, so start collecting and help us to get sports and cooking equipment for our school.

Warmest regards
Paula Phillips

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Our value this month is **FREEDOM**

We have begun to learn about how fortunate we are to have the freedoms that we do in this country making links to the British Value of Individual Liberty. As well as the freedoms that we have in the school, we have considered how we should be thankful, take responsibility and show respect with regard to all freedoms that we have, and we will make links to the bible with the story of the 10 plagues.

John 8:32 *And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

E-Safety

All classes have completed a unit of work on E-Safety recently as part of their ICT work. We also are hoping to organize an information session for parents in the near future.

Visiting Scientist

We were delighted to welcome Flt. Lt. Jamie Halls to the school on Thursday. Jamie is a stem ambassador who currently works in the RAF. Each class had a mini workshop time with Jamie and he brought lots of exciting scientific props and experiments in to share.

Y5 are studying Forces at the moment; how wonderful to see them being taught by an astro-physicist! photos are posted on the website. Thank you to Mrs Chadwick, our new Science leader, for organizing this opportunity for the children!

Netball

Some children from Westerleigh were selected to participate in the Sports Partnership Netball Tournament on Tuesday 23rd February. The children have been working hard on their tactical play and general knowledge of the High 5 Netball rules, which were clearly demonstrated in the short games. The children played with enthusiasm, controlled aggression and determination on the court. The whole team encouraged great sportsmanship at the event. We managed to score some goals, with Harry and Kyle scoring a fabulous goal each, which were supported by their team mates of course. All players who participated worked very hard and represented our school very well. We are all very proud of them and were unfortunate not to go through to the semi-finals. Well done children!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Please be aware that occasionally dates have to be changed, so check newsletters regularly for any amendments.

- 7th Mar Book Week
- 7th Mar Bike security marking by Thames Valley Police
- 8th Mar Book Fair
- 9th Mar Kingsway & Oatlands visit to Witney Library
- 9th Mar NHS nurse to weigh/measure Year 6 & Reception
- 11th Mar Dress up as a Book Character
- 14th Mar 'My Amazing Brain' 9.05 Westerleigh & Windmill presentation to parents
- 15th Mar Tempest photography - vista photos
- 16th Mar 'My Amazing Brain' 9.05 Kingsway & Holywell presentation to parents
- 16th Mar Easter Trail
- 17th Mar 'My Amazing Brain' 9.05 Reedy & Oatlands presentation to parents
- 17th Mar Easter Trail
- 16th Mar Year 6 Concert WGS 6.00pm
- 18th Mar Sports Relief Dance performance
- 21st Mar RE Day
- 21st Mar Parents Evening
- 22nd Mar Big Bang Science Event
- 24th Mar Easter Service for families
- 24th Mar Last day of term
- 24th Mar Jolly Pot Sale

IMPORTANT DATES

- May KS1 Testing Period
- 9th - 16th May KS1 SATS week
- 9th - 16th May Year 6 SATS Week
- 6th - 17th June Year 6 Science sampling test period
- 13th -17th June Year 1 Phonics screening

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Book Week



We have been busy planning lots of book related activities for the children next week. On Tuesday the children are invited to take part in our Book Swap event. If they would like to participate, they simply need to bring a book that is in good condition but which they no longer want to school. They will be able to exchange their book for one that someone else has brought along.

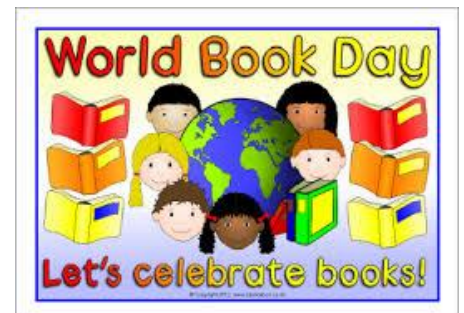
During the week the children will have lots of opportunities to read - not just in the classroom but also in the library at playtime and with children in other classes. We are also looking forward to some of our parents coming into school to read with

their child's class. It's not too late to volunteer to do this - to make arrangements please contact your child's class teacher.

And of course, don't forget that it is Book Character Day on Friday 11th March when children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Book Fair

We are very much looking forward to holding our annual book fair from 8th - 11th March. The children will be able to buy from a wide selection of high quality books; fiction and non-fiction books for all ages and reading abilities will be available. This is the ideal opportunity for the children to spend their World Book Day book token while at the same time helping us to replenish the books in our school library as the school receives commission for every book sold. The book fair will be open each day from 3.10 - 3.40 p.m.



Easter Trail



On 16th and 17th March the children will be taking part in our annual Easter Trail which this year will take place in St James' Church. Sessions for each class will last for approximately 1 hour. If you would like to help with this thought provoking and enriching activity, please contact your child's class teacher or see Mrs Taylor in Westerleigh Class for more information.

Sports Relief

On Friday 18th March, the School Council would like everyone to come to school dressed in their sports kit/PE kit/house colours in exchange for a donation of £1. As well as participating in a whole school "Wake up, Shake up" activity, we will have the opportunity to walk or run a mile around the school field. In addition, each class will have a PE lesson on that day.



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Irish Dancing

The children enjoyed a specialist dance session on Thursday. We hope to offer this as an after school club after Easter (subject to numbers). Further details will follow and look to the website for photos which will follow shortly.



FACs News

Firstly thank you very much for all those of you who brought your children along to the Valentine's disco at the end of term. The children as always had a great evening and you helped us raise more funds to support with our activities for the children at school.

Easter Jolly Pots - Thursday 24th March 1.30pm

The popular Jolly Pots will be making another appearance for Easter and these will be sold at the end of term - Thursday 24th March.

The pots will be sent home over the next week and please could we ask for filled pots to be returned to school by Friday 18th March.

Please do remember that these are to be sold to the children and we would be grateful if all the contents were suitable for children.

If anyone was able to make up an additional jolly pot, these would be gratefully received please see Lesley in the office for extra pots



Easy Fundraising

We really could do with some more supports of our Easy Fundraising cause.

It is so simple to register and costs nothing but raises money for the school.

Don't forget your holiday donations as booking holiday arrangements via the Easy Fundraising site can raise donations for us.

It really is easy and you just need to register:

easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/astonandcotepriamary



Oxford Fiddle Group



The Oxford Fiddle Group will be performing at the Village Hall on Sunday the 3rd April at 7pm. This popular group include an Irish dancer and 12 lively musicians. It is really worth visiting their website to see how amazing the evening is going to be: <http://www.oxfordfiddle.co.uk/> The tickets cost £8 in advance or £10 on the night and are available from Sylvia 850553 and the Aston Village shop. There will be a bar and all proceeds will go to the Village Hall.

As always I am happy to meet with parents by appointment and we always welcome feedback either verbally, through emails or through our "Feedback and Suggestions" box in the front entrance.

Thank you.

Paula Phillips, Headteacher

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