



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Taylor

Autumn Term Issue 2

29th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

In my new role as Acting Headteacher, it has been such a pleasure to visit classes every day and see all the wonderful work that is going on around the school. It has been particularly pleasing to see the impact of our decision to move to single age classes in Key Stage 2 in the mornings. This means that the children are being taught in much smaller groups than would otherwise be possible, enabling teachers to spend more time with each individual pupil.

I have been so impressed with the children's behaviour and attitude to learning as well as the enthusiasm and passion with which the teaching staff deliver their lessons. We have already had two sets of visitors from other schools who have commented on this as well as a PGCE student from Oxford Brookes who wrote "I have never been in such a happy, welcoming school." What a wonderful compliment to the whole school family!

Kindest Regards
Fiona Taylor

Value of the Month

During September our value was "Appreciation". We had the opportunity to think about all the things we should be grateful for, such as our families and friends, our school and the lovely countryside that surrounds us. We considered the importance of taking time to sit back and think about how amazing our world actually is.

In October our value will be "Respect" which is one of our school core values. We will think about the importance of treating everyone with respect.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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

- 3rd Oct Open Morning
- 4th Oct Cross Country - House event
- 5th Oct Black History Day
- 6th Oct **INSET DAY**
- 9th Oct Fire Safety Day
- 13th Oct **Individual & Sibling photos - Tempest**
- 16th Oct Parents' Evening 5.00-7.30pm
- 17th Oct Nasal Flu Immunisation - Reception, years 1,2,3 & 4
- 18th Oct Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm
- 19th Oct KS1 - Trip to Gloucester Folk Museum
- 20th Oct Last Day of Term
- 23rd - 27th Oct **HALF TERM**
- 30th Oct First Day of Term
- 9th Nov Oxford Book Award Ceremony - Oxford
- 13th Nov Anti-bullying Day
- 20th Nov Whole School Trip to At Bristol
- 4th Dec Yenworthy residential trip - Year 6
- 14th Dec School Pantomime

COURAGE

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RESPECT

HONESTY

FORGIVENESS

FACS Quiz

The school hall was certainly alive to the sound of music on Friday 15th September for the annual FACS Music Quiz. Twenty-eight teams of four pitted their wits against each other, answering questions on anything from country music to Oscar winning film theme tunes. The evening was a roaring success both in terms of the fun that everyone had and the amount of money raised - a staggering £1350! A huge thanks must go to the school staff and FACS who jointly organised and ran the event and to Rob Taylor and Keith Jones who hosted the evening.

Farewell Celebration for Reverend Lloyd

I was delighted to be joined by 25 children for the vicar's farewell celebration at the Village Hall on Saturday 16th September. The assembled crowd of villagers was treated to three songs, all performed with gusto and enthusiasm. We presented Reverend Lloyd with a large canvas print of the school, the church and the children to remind him of his time in Aston.

Going for Gold!

I am thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the Gold Sports Mark this year which is a huge honour and a well-deserved reflection of all the amazing work that is going on, not only in P.E. lessons but also during lunchtime and after school clubs. We have also taken part in a large number of tournaments both in school and in the Witney Partnership. The introduction of the Five Minute Workout has meant that we have focused exercise every day at school and feedback from the children shows that they are really beginning to feel the benefits of this. This award would not have been possible without a lot of hard work from Mr Hook, our sports coach and Mrs Chadwick, our P.E. Subject Leader; we are so grateful for all their enthusiasm and commitment to helping the whole school community to be the best that we can be.



Photo Opportunity

To mark the end of Mrs Phillips' headship, a whole school photograph was taken using a drone. At the end of term we presented her with a canvas print of the photograph so that she will always have something to remind her of her time in Aston. Copies of the photograph on canvas (30 cm x 30 cm) are now available to buy from the school office for £20.



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Reading shouldn't be like medicine, it should be like chocolate"

Mem Fox.

-

Here at Aston and Cote we are passionate about reading and about inspiring our children to truly love reading too.

So, once you have discovered a book (or set of books) that makes children laugh out loud and groan when you have to stop at the end of a chapter, then you know that you have found 'reading chocolate' and that is real treasure!

In this way, many children in school are currently enjoying Clive Goddard's 'Fintan Fedora, the World's Worst Explorer' books. Clive lives in Oxford and so, on Monday, we welcomed him into school.

Clive ran a fun writing workshop with Years 5 & 6 - he showed them how the process looks for him, he hooked them in and then led them through the planning of their own adventure stories, which they have now written back in their classrooms.

He later taught Years 3 & 4 how to draw like a pro, since he is also a cartoonist for the likes of Private Eye, Punch and The New Statesman.

It was wonderful to see every child fully engaged and exploring his/her individual creativity. It was also thrilling to see so many children keen to begin reading the book that Clive had personally signed for them.

Many parents have told us that the children have since continued to read, talk and draw enthusiastically at home. This is just what we hoped for.

"That was awesome!" said Zac in Year 4.

"She is so keen to read it and doesn't even need to be asked. That's unheard of!" said a parent in Year 5.

Thank you for enabling us to provide this exciting and inspirational opportunity for your children by supporting us in covering the cost of the workshop. It was time and money extremely well spent on a sweet chocolate-coated reading moment.

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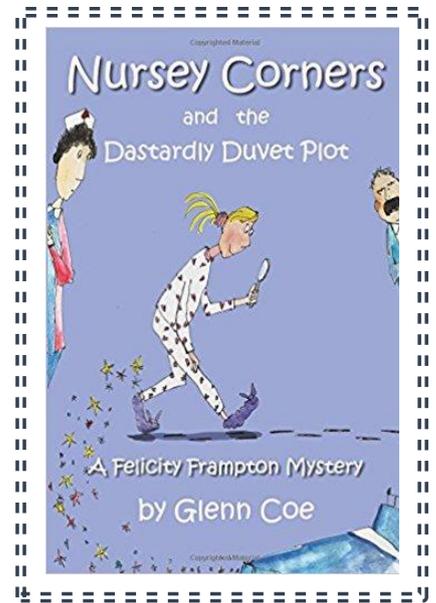
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Ian Meharg visit to Holywell!

20th September 2017



On Wednesday afternoon, Holywell had a visit from Ian Meharg, an author from Aston. He has recently written his first novel – 'Nursey Corners and the Dastardly Duvet Plot!'.



Ian writes under the name 'Glenn Coe' and managed to complete and publish his book in 7 months! He explained how one of his main characters is inspired by his wife's nickname for him – 'Nursey Corners'!

"I enjoyed listening to Ian reading his book. Horsey Handbrake was my favourite character because he made me laugh!" – Xander.

"I thought that the story was exciting because the mystery was hard to solve. I need to know what happens!" – Fvie.



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Windmill - Visit to St James'

Windmill class visited St James' church to explore what might be in a church and how it felt when we were there.

I liked the windows with people on? - Reuben

I liked finding the things - George

I liked the flowers - Max



Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to our Harvest Festival this morning. It was lovely to see the church packed with family and friends. Thank you also for your generous donations of food which I know will be greatly appreciated by Besom and will be put to good use supporting families in need in our local area.

I am so proud of the children in every class - their poems and songs helped all of us to reflect on just how fortunate we are to have plenty of food available and to remember those who are not so lucky.

Democracy in action

Over the past month, the children in each class have had the opportunity to vote for our new school councillors and house captains. The children who wished to be considered for these positions, prepared speeches which they then delivered to their classmates or houses. Votes were then counted and the positions filled. I was incredibly proud of all the children who took part - they showed real courage which is one of our core values as well as love for those who were not successful this time.

In class we have been learning about British Values so it was wonderful to see the democratic process happening in our own school. We have also reviewed our school rules and considered the importance of having rules.

Getting creative

Our new Creative Area is proving to be a big hit at lunchtimes. Funded by FACS, our lovely new shed is home to a range of activities for the children to choose from such as drawing, colouring, reading and board games. To keep our stocks replenished, donations of felt pens, crayons, craft materials, loom bands, Top Trump cards and small board games would be very gratefully received.

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Do your best!

Our first Celebration Assembly of the year took place yesterday with the following children being nominated by their class teachers:

Windmill: Ezra & George
Kingsway: Josheem & Henry
Oatlands Ben & Oscar
Holywell Harry & Phoebe
Reedy: Sid & Victoria
Westerleigh: Phoebe & Kyle

This month the certificates were awarded for having an excellent attitude to learning or for consistently neat and careful handwriting.

We also celebrated the successes of the following children outside school:

Oscar in Year 6 was honourably commended for his short story in the Oxford Writer's House 2017 short story competition. His story was "The Tiger Tamer".

Bethany in Year 5 won first prize at the village produce show for her enormous pumpkin and along with her older sister Hannah won another for their scarecrow made from recycled materials.

Ethan in Year 1 also had success at the produce show with a first place for his Lego model.

Anna in Year 5 has been selected to perform in the Chipping Norton Christmas pantomime....oh no she hasn't.....oh yes she has!

Parents' Evening

We will be holding two Parents' Evenings this term on the 16th October (5.00 - 7.30 p.m.) and 18th October (3.30 - 5.30 p.m.). Mrs East will only be available for parents of children in Year 3 on 18th October. Booking for appointments will open on Parentmail on Friday 6th October

Open Morning

Our annual Open Morning will take place on Tuesday 3rd October from 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. You are most welcome to come along and see some of the things that go on in a typical day. Please also let neighbours and friends know, especially those with pre-school children.

Have your say

Thank you to everyone who completed one of our surveys at the end of the summer term; your feedback was overwhelmingly positive. One area in which we would like to further improve is communication between home and school so I would therefore like to invite parents and carers to join me for an informal chat on the following Friday mornings or afternoons:

13th October, 2.45 p.m.

3rd November, 9.00 a.m.

17th November, 9.00 a.m.

1st December, 9.00 a.m.

15th December, 2.45 p.m.

I look forward to hearing your views about our school.

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

Fiona Taylor, Acting Headteacher

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