



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Autumn Term Issue 3

20th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the first half term of this academic year, it is a good time to reflect on everything we have achieved so far. After settling in well to their new classes, the children have enjoyed a wide variety of learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. New friendships have been forged and it has been particularly pleasing to see the way our Year 6 pupils have supported their buddies in Windmill. The House Captains, School Councillors, Reading Ambassadors and Playtime Leaders have also impressed us with the ideas they have put forward to improve the school further and we are all looking forward to seeing those plans put into action.

The teachers have very much enjoyed meeting parents this week; a good relationship between home and school is so important if we want our children to achieve their full potential. If for any reason you were unable to make an appointment with your child's class teacher, I would urge you to do so as soon as possible.

We have been delighted to welcome many visitors to the school over the last seven weeks and all of them have commented on the calm, purposeful atmosphere that pervades our school during lesson times which is a great testament to staff and children alike.

I would like to say a special welcome to the three new children who have joined us this month - Matthew in Windmill and Euan and James in Oatlands. We hope that you and your families will be very happy as part of our school family.

I wish all of you a happy and relaxing half term holiday,

Kind regards

Fiona Taylor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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

23rd - 27th Oct HALF TERM

30 th Oct	First Day of Term
1 st Nov	Yr 5/6 Hockey Tournament WGS 3.30 -5.30pm
3 rd Nov	Donations for Secret Room
3 rd Nov	Parent Drop In - 9.00am
8 th Nov	Yr 5/6 Aston v Ducklington Football Match - Home
9 th Nov	Oxford Book Award Ceremony - Oxford
9 th Nov	FACs Meeting 7.30pm Red Lion
10 th Nov	Remembrance Day Celebrations
13 th Nov	Anti-bullying Day
16 th Nov	Parent Drop In - 9.00am
20 th Nov	Whole School Trip to At Bristol
27 th Nov	Yr 1 Dance - H.Box 10.00- 11.00am
30 th Nov	2 nd Open Day for New Admissions 9.00am
1 st Dec	Non- School Uniform day in exchange for chocolate for Christmas Tombola
1 st Dec	Parent Drop In - 9.00am
4 th Dec	Yenworthy residential trip - Year 6
11 th Dec	Windmill Nativity - 5.30pm Village Hall
13 th Dec	KS1 Christmas Play - 6.00pm Village Hall
14 th Dec	School Pantomime

COURAGE

LOVE

RESPECT

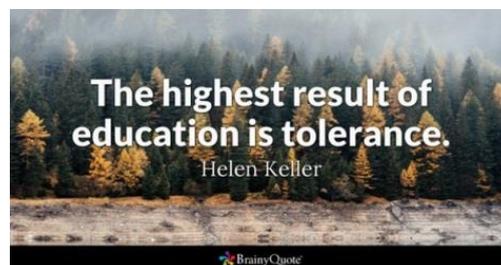
HONESTY

FORGIVENESS

Value of the Month

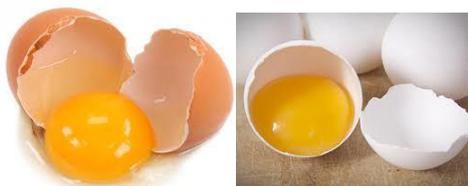
Our value for October has been "Respect" which is one of our school core values. We have considered the importance of respecting other peoples' points of view even when they are different to our own. We very much enjoyed our collective worship with Richard Bloomfield who talked to us about how if we treat someone with respect, they will respect us in return and culminated in having Party Ring biscuits to share to demonstrate the ring of respect!

Our value for November will be "**Tolerance**" which is one of the British Values that all schools focus on. We will be thinking about how we can celebrate differences.



Celebrating Black History Month

As a school, we took time to find out why Black History month is celebrated in the United Kingdom every October. We were shocked to discover that in the past, people were treated differently because of the colour of their skin. Kingsway Class looked at two different eggs - one was brown on the outside and the other was white. When the eggs were broken, they saw that both eggs looked exactly the same on the inside. We realised that we might look different on the outside but we are the same on the inside.



We found out about lots of famous people of black heritage: Venus and Serena Williams, Garret Morgan, Nelson Mandela, Barak Obama, May Angelou and Jesse Owen. All these people worked hard to be the best at what they do. They inspired us to work hard to achieve our dreams!

Thinking of others

The gifts of food that you donated were very gratefully received by Besom who sent us the following message:

"Thank you so much for the generous donation of harvest food for Besom. We continue to give out several hundred food parcels each year throughout West Oxfordshire. Even last week we helped three homeless individuals, one sleeping in a car, one in a tent and one sofa surfing. Your food will help us to help such people as well as many families struggling financially at this time. "

Our next charity appeal is Operation Christmas Child, a charity that sends shoe boxes packed with Christmas gifts to children in other countries who otherwise would not receive presents at Christmas. If you would like to support this very worthwhile charity, you will find more information by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>



Shoe boxes can be dropped off at St James' church between 6th and 10th November.

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Sports News

House Cross Country Event

The whole school took part in our inter-house cross country competition on Wednesday 4th October. It was a breezy Autumnal morning but the children had their game faces on and came out determined to complete the course. Each and every child should be incredibly proud of how well they ran that morning. The determination and team spirit was palpable. The five minute daily workout very obviously had an impact on the children's stamina and resilience. Year 6 house captains did a sterling job of encouraging others and ensuring the morning ran smoothly. Well done to all and well done to our fastest boys and girls from each class.

Mrs Chadwick

Inter School Cross Country

Using this as a warm up, we took 20 children to the inter-school cross country run at Witney Rugby club on the 19th. With over 700 children from 29 schools taking part overall and over 150 children in each race, things weren't going to be easy for our little runners. Thankfully things got off to a good start for the U9 races with Max getting 12th place and Charlotte a 10th place in their respective races. The girls team of Charlotte, Anya, Evie and Scarlett all coming within the top 50 as did Lucas and Ben for the U9 boys. Our U11 boys had no luck with the weather, with the rain pouring down on them pretty much all race. Despite the rain Alfie still found enough energy to finish 19th in a very competitive race. This just leaves our U11 girls to report on, that race was fantastic for us, Irene finished in 4th place with Sienna two places behind in 6th. With the help of top 50 finishes from Lacey, Sophie, Ruby and Lili shows just how much hard work and determination our children are now showing. At the time of writing this I'm not sure where we have finished in the team competitions, however I am fairly confident of a couple top 5 finishes.

This has been a great term for sport in Aston. I hope all children take inspiration and confidence from our performances this term and keep the good performances coming.

Mr Hook, Sports coach

Hockey Tournament

The Hockey B team participated in a hockey tournament at Wood Green School with 11 other primary schools.

The first game in our heat was a great success as we won 6-0 against Ducklington and the second game was 5-2 to us against West Witney. This meant that Aston won the heat and were put through to the semi - finals!

The quick 10 minute match took us into the final with a 3-0 win



against Madley Brook. Although some children were feeling exhausted from playing in every single match non-stop, their determination to succeed carried them through. The heavens opened and made the ground wet and slippery. We played in the final against The Batt but unfortunately lost by one goal at the last minute!

We came away with our heads held high after coming second in the tournament.

I was so proud to have this team representing Aston & Cote Primary School; their teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship were fantastic. Well done again team Aston!

Mrs Gardner



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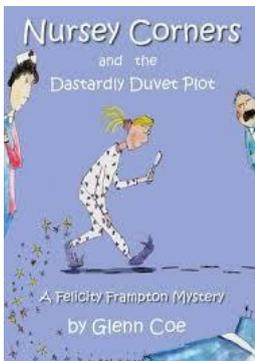
Year 3 & 4 Football Tournament

It's been all go with sport in the past few weeks here at Aston. Recently we took part in the small schools football tournament. We had some great results including a couple of 3-0 victories and a 4-0 win with Harrison, Zac, Max, Lucus and Harry all getting on the score sheet, but of course I can't forget the tackles that Evie, Willow and Charlotte made to help keep clean sheets in these games. Unfortunately the only blip was a 2-1 loss to Bladon which meant we finished second in our group and didn't qualify for the final. However, the way the team worked together and followed instructions gives me optimism for the future.



An author in the making

After a visit from Ian Meharg, a local author, the children in Holywell class were invited to take part in a story writing competition. Everyone's story started with the same first sentence: The box was not where she had left it. The stories were written at home and then brought back to school to be judged. The standard of entries was very high and everyone who took part received a Headteacher's sticker. Two stories were highly commended, one by Ben and the other by Allie. However, there can only be one winner and that was Chloe whose story was chosen for its originality. As well as a certificate, Chloe received a signed copy of Ian's book "Nursey Corners and the Dastardly Duvet Plot" and her story will be published on his website as Young Author of the Month. Congratulations to Chloe and thank you to Ian for giving up his time so generously



We love reading!

**I DO BELIEVE
SOMETHING
VERY MAGICAL
CAN HAPPEN
WHEN YOU READ
A GOOD BOOK.**


J.K. ROWLING

It has been absolutely wonderful to see so many children engrossed in their class novel over the last seven weeks. Groans of "Oh do we have to?" have frequently been heard emanating from the classrooms. "Do we have to stop reading, I want to find out what happens next!" High quality texts have kept the children on the edge of their seats and have also extended their vocabulary phenomenally. In addition, we see the benefits of this in the children's written when they are able to use the same

words in context in their independent writing.

Every opportunity is taken to develop the children's love of reading - we try to incorporate reading in every lesson as well as running lunchtime reading clubs, weekly book recommendations for each year group and the chance for children from different classes to share books together.

We have been so impressed with the children's Home/School Link Books - thank you for your support in helping your child to complete these.

We hope that the children will keep reading regularly over the half term holiday or maybe even visit one of our wonderful local libraries.



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Gloucester Folk Museum visit



Key Stage 1 had a fantastic time at the Gloucester Folk Museum. We've been learning about the Victorian times so we travelled back in time to a Victorian school where we experienced paying for school, morning drill, chanting mathematics, handwriting on a slate as well as using ink and quill! We also learned about Monday, "wash day" where we had to carry a heavy bucket of water and wash some towels in a dolly tub, using a wash board and smelly soap! We then used a mangle to wring the towels out and hang them on the clothes horse.

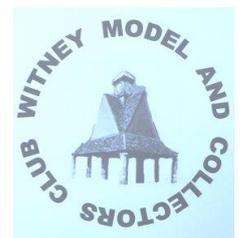


Parent Drop-in

Our next Parent Drop-in will be on Friday 3rd November at 9.00 a.m. If you can spare a few minutes, it would be lovely if you could come along to share your ideas about how we could further improve the school. Our focus for this session will be homework but all feedback is very welcome.

Witney Model and Collectors Club Show

On Saturday 21st October, Mr Haskell will be displaying his collection of model railways at St Mary's Church, Witney between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. Everyone is very welcome to go along and have a look.



Please find below a list of music teachers and the services they offer to our school, if your child is interested, please contact the teachers direct for more information:

Miss Linden Eley : Piano, Recorder and Ocarina tuition lindenatthejoanna18@talktalk.net

Mrs Alison McKendrick : Piano, flute and music theory tuition alison.mckendrick@btinternet.com or 07771 666961

Also :Mr Jamie Rogers runs Guitar/drum Club on a Wednesday lunchtime. contact Jamie on: jamie.lwagh@talktalk.net or call 07761 186304.

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FACs NEWS

Dear Parents/Guardians

This year we've had a fantastic start with fundraising which is entirely down to yourselves and your consistent support at our events. The recent quiz raised well in excess of £1000 and was an enjoyable evening for all involved which is why we're hoping to hold another one prior to the end of the school year.

With the education sector feeling the squeeze of reduced funding, the money raised by FACS is vitally important for school development. To date FACS have made worthy contributions to the school providing staff and children with much needed resources and equipment, most recently an outdoor equipment store with funds set aside for an outdoor production area, individual recommended reading books and subsidies for upcoming class trips.

As you can imagine the needs of the school won't stop there which is why we hope we can rely on your support during the run up to the Christmas Fair. In order for us to continue in the same vein, we'll be looking for donations for the following.

Secret Room - (Christmas Fair) The idea is that we collect donations of unwanted new items like toiletries, candles and nick knacks etc. The children then come in and for a small cost chose an item and wrap it as a gift for their Mum or Dad etc.

Therefore if you have any such items in the back of the cupboard they would be very welcome and help with our fundraising.(Donations to school on 3rd Nov)

Chocolate Tombola - we will be running a chocolate tombola at the Christmas Fair and in November will be holding a non uniform day in exchange for a chocolate item being donated.

Jolly Pots - these very popular pots will make a return to the Christmas Fair. More details will follow after the half term break.

The Christmas Fair will be held on the **15th December** for which we've already received several donations from local businesses that will be raffled off on the day. Tickets for the raffle will go on sale after the half term holiday.

Hopefully we'll see you there for food, drinks, gift stalls and more where we hope you all have another great day.

Kind regards,

FACS Team

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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