



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 4

30th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers



November has certainly been an extremely busy month for us here at school - it has been jam-packed with exciting learning opportunities for the children as well as lots of sporting and extra-curricular activities. In addition, the children in EYFS and Key Stage One have begun practising their Christmas plays; if the rehearsals are anything to go by, we are all in for a real treat in a few weeks! November has also been a month to think of others - we are delighted to have raised £243.78 for the Royal British Legion and £157 for Children in Need. Our inaugural Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial was impeccably observed by the children and is definitely something we would like to repeat next year. Many of you also donated a shoebox full of Christmas gifts for Operation Christmas Child - these are now wending their way to needy children in time for Christmas. Our self-evaluation of the school was validated during the annual visit by our School Improvement Leader, who praised us for our "broad and balanced curriculum which inspires learning" and also commented that "the work in books and on display shows all teachers have the highest expectations for all pupils". The Learning Walk undertaken during his visit "demonstrated the exemplary learning behaviours of the children". We are thrilled to have received a letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, congratulating us for our outstanding results in the Phonics Screening Check (100% of children achieved the expected standard for the second consecutive year) and informing us that this puts us in the top



3% of schools nationally. This could not have been achieved without the dedication of our whole staff team who work so hard to ensure that all lessons are of the highest possible calibre.

Kind regards Fiona Taylor, Acting Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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

*** Please note change of date**

*** Holiday dates**

- 1st Dec Non- School Uniform day (Christmas jumpers) in exchange for chocolate for Christmas Tombola
- 1st Dec Parent Drop In - 9.00am
- 1st Dec Year 5/6 Away Hockey match vs The Blake School
- 4th Dec Yenworthy residential trip - Year 6
- 8th Dec Jolly Pot donations for FACs Christmas Fair
- 11th Dec Year 6 Jolly Pot donations
- 11th Dec Windmill Nativity - 5.30pm Village Hall
- 13th Dec School Christmas Lunch & Aston Hat Parade
- 14th Dec School Pantomime
- 14th Dec Reedy Cake Sale
- 15th Dec Parent Drop In - 2.45pm
- 15th Dec FACs Christmas Fair
- 18th Dec **KS1 Christmas Play - 6.00pm Village Hall**
- 19th Dec Family Christmas Service 9.10am
- 19th Dec **LAST DAY TERM**
School Closes at 1.30pm
- 20th Dec - 3rd Jan **Christmas Holidays**
4th & 5th Jan **INSET DAYS**
- 8th Jan 1st Day of Spring Term

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Value of the Month

Our value for November has been "Tolerance" - we have considered how important it is for all of us to be tolerant of others who have different views or interests to ourselves. In December our value will be "Patience" as we focus on Advent, a time of year when Christians patiently wait for Christmas Day



Special Mentions

Well done to Westerleigh Class on achieving their Swim Star Awards! Mrs Gardner is very proud of how much progress you have achieved with your confidence in swimming and learning of life saving skills.

Swim Star 4: Maisy, Emily B, Holly and Taylor

Swim Star 5: Lily-Anne

Swim Star 6: Ruby C, Natasha, Emily P, Bea, Kyle, Cody, Reed, Amelia, Lachlan, Barnaby, Oscar, Jacob, Bethany, Amy and Irene

Swim Star 7: Oliver, Jack C, Zak, Phoebe, Jack S, Jessica, Sienna and Charlie

just keep swimming~



Maths Challenge



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A couple of weeks ago some Year 5 and Year 6s took on the national Primary Maths Challenge. We worked together in preparation for the event that took place across the country. It is a very tough Maths problem solving and reasoning paper and the children know how incredibly proud I am of them to even have the determination to attempt it. The results have been sent off and PMC will notify us on Wednesday 7th February if any of our pupils are invited to the Bonus Round- very exciting.

A huge well done to the candidates who have received their certificates and their scores with big smiles on their faces!

Congratulations; Holly, Zak, Bea, Jess, Oscar, Oliver, Charlie, Lily-Anne, Reed, Phoebe, Emily P, Lacey, Irene and Alfie.

Mrs Gardner

Getting Arty!

Schools from across West Oxfordshire were invited to take part in a Christmas card design competition for our local MP, Robert Courts. We were absolutely delighted to hear that Cody from Westerleigh Class has won the competition. His design was chosen out of 550 entries and will feature on all of Robert's official Christmas cards. Cody and his family have been invited to visit the Houses of Parliament where they will have a tour and afternoon tea.

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Do your best!



The following children were nominated for a Headteacher's Award in October and November:

Windmill	Gee & Teddy	Thomas & Dillon
Kingsway	Sam & Marlee	Ethan & Lucy
Oatlands	Charlie B & Poppy	Amelia & Isabelle
Holywell	Alfie & Ben	Finn & Elliott
Reedy	Freya & Oscar	Lacey & Eddie
Westerleigh	Holly & Jessica	Zak & Taylor

Certificates in October were awarded for showing respect to others and for having a consistently high standard of book reflections in Home/School Link Books whilst in November we focused on children who demonstrated excellent thinking in Science and Perseverance.



We also celebrated the following children's successes outside of school:
Oliver in Reception for achieving Grade 1 in trampolining.
Elliott in Year 4 for achieving Grade 5 in trampolining.
Emily P and Bea in Year 6 for being selected to perform in the Carterton pantomime.
Jessica in Year 6 for being awarded a Green Blue Peter Badge.

Scintillating Science

Over the past two weeks the children have experienced a plethora of Science events and activities which have created a real sense of awe and wonder and have inspired many of our children to think about future careers in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). Our whole school trip to "We the Curious" in Bristol got us off to a great start. Another very popular event was Science Activities Day when the children had the opportunity to become totally immersed in thinking about Space.



Other highlights have included the RAF STEM Ambassadors who helped us to build and launch rockets out on the school field and Abingdon School Science department who created an array of chemical reactions for the children in Year 5 & 6. We have also been incredibly lucky to have some amazing Science based assemblies - thank you so much to Mrs Young-Gale, Mrs Aguado, Mrs Calvert and Mr Leeming for giving up your time to inspire us.

None of this could have happened without a lot of hard work from Mrs Chadwick who co-ordinated these amazing learning opportunities for our children - we all really appreciate the time and effort she put into making this a week that none of us will ever forget. As Oscar in Year 6 said "It's been epic!!"



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Anti-Bullying Week shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year. The theme this year was 'All Different, All Equal' Mrs Taylor kick started our Anti-Bullying Day with a special assembly. Children were chosen to look at what was inside a box, it was *very special and unique*, we then learned that there was a mirror sitting in the box and the children had been looking at their own reflections. Next, Mrs Taylor highlighted the ingredients that would be used to make a cake. This represented how unique and important we all are but together we can achieve so much more.



REEDY CLASS

We talked about STOP (Several Times On Purpose), equality is treating people how they want to be, not treating everyone the same. We created posters and talked about the fact that the school values mean that bullying could never start in the first place.

We covered cyber, physical, emotional and social bullying and talked about the fact that bullies are broken not the one who is bullied.



KINGSWAY CLASS



In Kingsway we looked at two apples, one we said kind things to the other we said nasty things to. When we cut them open we noticed the one we had said nasty things too was bruised on the inside. We talked about how our words don't hurt people on the outside and we may not see the effects but they hurt people on the inside.

We then drew pictures of our favourite book characters, each time we said something unkind we screwed the picture up until it was a ball. When we tried to put our pictures back to normal we had creased them forever.



WINDMILL CLASS



Windmill class discussed the importance of Kindness. We listened to the story 'Kindness is cooler Mrs Ruler' and wrote and drew about the people we could speak to if anyone was unkind to us.

HOLYWELL CLASS

YEAR 3 We talked about what we should do if we are bullied or if we see someone else who we feel may be being bullied. Start, Telling, Other, People. Then we watched the film 'for the birds'. We discussed whether we thought any of the birds were bullies/ being bullied or whether they were just showing unkind behaviour. We made sure that we really know the difference between someone being unkind and someone deliberately bullying. We worked together to make posters to make sure we never forget!

YEAR 4 We spent time considering the feelings of others. We used 2 red apples. One apple was passed from person to person carefully and paid a compliment as it went around. The other apple was passed around and bashed by each person. Everybody thought of something horrible to say to the apple too! When both apples were returned to Mrs Souter, we noticed that the apples still looked the same - red and shiny. However, when the apples were cut in half, we noticed that the bashed apple was bruised and damaged inside. We realised that, like the apple, some people may appear to be fine when treated unkindly, but actually they can be damaged on the inside. We thought of ways we could show even more kindness in our school, and created posters to promote the spread of kindness!



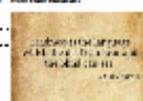
WESTERLEIGH CLASS

We thought about what our world would be like if we were all the same; we realised that it is diversity that makes our lives more interesting. We then looked at the word 'discrimination' and discussed its meaning. We agreed that discrimination is the unfair treatment or bullying of one particular person or group of people. Often, this unfair treatment is because of the person's differences. We discussed different types of discrimination and how to deal with it. We finished our session by watching a film clip about kindness and how what we do affects those around us. We decided to start a ripple of kindness!



OATLANDS CLASS

We started off with a circle time session highlighting what 'Bullying' really means and learned that we don't have any bullying in our safe and friendly school. We spent the rest of the morning talking about kindness, walking down a conscious alley, and writing how we should show kindness to our friends, daily.



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Oxfordshire Book Awards - November 2017

Authors: David Baddiel, Jo Cotterill, Emma Yarlett, Katherine Rundell, Julia Donaldson, Kiran Millwood Hargrave.



On Thursday 9th November 2017, our school Reading Ambassadors, together with 4 additional lucky Year 6s, headed off to Oxford High School for the 2017 Oxfordshire Book Awards.

There was tremendous excitement inside the minibus as we headed down the A40 with Mr Haskell at the wheel, book money in our pockets and the promise of seeing some real authors up close and personal.



Can you spot us behind any of the authors in these selfies?



We laughed at David Baddiel's public reading of some very rude and funny chapters of his books. We enjoyed a 'Hugfest' with the author Jo Cotterill and we were amazed and inspired by the works of some new authors, illustrators and storytellers - Ian Johnstone, Ellie Irving and Pam Smy.

At the end of the awards came the promise of cake, the chance to buy a book and to ask the author to sign it for us! Very, very exciting!



"That was one of the best days of my life! I really, really, really want to be sitting up on that stage receiving an award for my writing one day!"

Oscar, Year 6

Parents' Drop-in

Thank you to everyone who has been able to come along to our previous Parents' Drop-in sessions - your feedback has been an extremely valuable part of the school's self-evaluation cycle. If you are free tomorrow morning and would like to join me to discuss the curriculum, please come to the office at 9.00 a.m.

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We are the Champions!

Wanting to improve on the 2nd place that our school's B team achieved in hockey, our A team took to the pitch on 1st November. This started out well with 1-0 wins over both Finstock and Our Lady of Lourdes, the goals being scored by Irene and Charlie. Madley proved to be a much tougher opponent, the defensive pairing of Zac and Bethany managing to keep out their attack under constant pressure while Barnaby scored the winning goal for us. Our final group game was against The Blake; this time Amelia was the star in defence, not letting anything past her. Unfortunately our attack couldn't find the goal and the match ended 0-0.



Our semi-final was against The Batt. After strong attacks from both teams, the ball found its way to Phoebe up front who held the ball up and passed for Irene to score. The Batt came back at us with everything they had and would have scored if it wasn't for a superb double save from goal keeper Alfie that left The Batt speechless long after the final whistle.

The final was against local rivals Ducklington. Both teams played some great hockey and even after some short corners for both teams, the game remained goalless. With time running out, the ball once more found its way to Phoebe up front who again passed to Irene who scored in the bottom corner and with that the hooter sounded to end the game. We had won! After 5 long years, Aston would finally be getting another trophy thanks to the hard work and determination shown by this team.

Football League News

This term our boys, and a few girls, have been competing in the Witney partnership boys' football league. We started off with a narrow 2-1 loss against Ducklington. Not to be discouraged by this the team picked themselves up to beat North Leigh a whopping 9-1! Witney CP proved to be strong opponents beating us 4-2. The next game went better for Aston as we beat Queen Emma's 3-0 on a freezing Friday evening. Our last game was against Witney sporting giants The Batt; our team played with great confidence and emerged 3-1 winners in a close fought game. We will have to wait for other teams to finish all their games to see if we qualify for any more.

Safety First

As the weather turns colder, we would like to remind you to take care when walking across the playgrounds in the morning. Although we try our best to make sure they have been gritted on icy mornings, it can still be slippery out there. We would appreciate it if children did not run around on the playground before school in case they slip and fall.

Lunchtime clothing

Now that the field is getting rather muddy, the children will only be able to play football at lunchtime if they bring a change of footwear and clothing. This is in addition to their P.E. kit.

Helping at school

Some parents have expressed an interest in coming into school to help - if you have some free time and would like to join us for an afternoon, please let Mrs Brooks in the school office know.

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FACs - A Big Thank You

We are incredibly grateful to the FACS committee who have given us £500 to spend on books from our Recommended Reads list. These books are all high quality texts and can be borrowed by the children to read at home. They have also donated £150 for each class which will be used to subsidise trips and "wow" events. In addition, they are providing the funds for an outdoor stage which will be installed early next year and will be used by the children at playtimes. They are also paying for our annual pantomime which the children will enjoy on Thursday 14th December.

We would like to say a huge thank you to FACS for all their hard work in raising much needed funds for the school - in these days of stretched school budgets, we would not be able to provide all these wonderful opportunities and resources without their help.

The next FACS event is the Christmas Fair on Friday 15th December - please help us to make it another successful event by selling or returning your raffle tickets, donating chocolate and jolly pots and, most importantly, by coming along to the event itself.

Fiona Taylor

A Message from FACS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind donations and support recently. We appreciate how thick and fast our requests for help and donations have been and know how easily this could become a burden during the festive period. It has been extremely pleasing to know and see just how much you've been supporting us.

As you can see from Mrs Taylors kind words, the donations are very well received and needed by the school and all the things listed would not be possible without them. It's easy to see where the funds go when the purchased items are large, such as the gym equipment or the stage when it arrives, but we also make a lot of the little things possible such as the decorations for the children's Christmas dinner and end of year ice-creams.



There has been a lot of effort involved in organising this year's Christmas Fair which we feel will make a great end to the calendar year and hope can be enjoyed by all.

The team has worked tirelessly approaching companies and collating their kind donations, all of which make for great prizes and could easily be yours for just a small donation. A full list of prizes are listed below.

Once again, many thanks for your continued support.

Clubs

A reminder that the school clubs finish this week with the exception of The Choir (Tuesdays, last one 12th December) and Hockey Club (extra session next week due to cancellation earlier in the term). Please arrange to collect your children at 3.10pm from Monday 4th December.

If your child attends Ignite Sports club this will continue and the last session will be on the 11th December.

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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Christmas Fair Raffle

Friday 15th December 2017

Prize List

Soho Farmhouse Spa Session & Meal
Plough at Clanfield Gin Experience
Emma Bridgewater Cushions
Cotswold Life Magazine Subscription
Oxford Wine Company Voucher
Stagecoach Faringdon Vouchers
Wychwood Brewery Tour
Cogges Farm Tickets
Farmer Gow's Voucher
Shake Shop Vouchers
Scholastic Books
Plough at Kelmscott Voucher
Bills Restaurant Voucher
Relics of Witney Voucher
Eden Café Voucher
Sandalwoods Treatment
Garden Trading Fireside Set

Eynsham Hall Afternoon Tea
Aston Pottery Voucher
Blenheim Palace Tickets
Hook Norton Brewery Tour
Cotswold Wildlife Park Tickets
Oxford Wood Recycling Gift
Butterfly Farm Tickets
Darcey Bear Tickets
Fairytale Farm Ticket
Tennis Lessons
Personal Training Sessions
Crocodiles of the World Tickets
Lord Kitchener Vouchers
Birdland Tickets
The Trout Inn Voucher
Polished Salon Voucher
Cook Christmas Hamper



And many, many more

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