



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Spring Term Issue 7

31st January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had an excellent start to this school term with children in every class enjoying their new topics and class novels. As always it has been wonderful to see the high quality learning opportunities that we provide for all our children. It was so lovely to see the enthusiasm with which the children in Year 3 were making marmalade sandwiches (it was very clear which children had never buttered a slice of bread before!). I know that this inspired them with their instruction writing the following day.



The Year 6s have created a beautiful display of prayer flags in our spiritual garden; these were blessed by Rev. Ron, an experience that I am sure the children will remember forever and the flags themselves make a beautiful display.

I have also been really impressed with all the brilliant activities that have been organised for the children in Science - from forces to teeth to natural selection, lessons have included great practical activities and demonstrations that will really cement their learning.

Windmill Class have had great fun learning in our Forest School area as well as learning how to use money to pay for their fruit at playtime.

As you will see from our Diary Dates, February and March will also be very busy months, jam-packed full of amazing opportunities for the children. We are really looking forward to welcoming parents into school for many of these events. 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.

- 1st Feb Life Bus visiting school
- 1st Feb Life Bus - Parents session - 8.55am
- 5-9th Feb Safer Internet week
- 7th Feb FS & KS1 Poetry Recital 9.00am - parents welcome
- 8th Feb KS2 Poetry Recital 9.00am - parents welcome
- 8th Feb Windmill visit to Story Museum Oxford 10.00-1.00pm
- 9th Feb KS2 topic homework showcase 9.00am - parents welcome
- 9th Feb FACs Valentines Disco
- 9th Feb **LAST DAY TERM**
- 12th - 16th February - **Half term Holiday**
- 19th Feb 1st Day of Term
- 21st Feb Year 2 Partnership Music Concert Workshop - Tower Hill 1.00pm
- 26th Feb Parent Drop In (9.00 a.m.)
- 1st Mar World Book Day
- 5th Mar Year 6 visit to Witney Hospital
- 5th Mar Books at Bedtime 6.00pm
- 6th - 12th Mar Scholastic Book Fair
- 14th Mar Year 2 Partnership Music Concert 6.00pm @ WGS
- 19th Mar National weighing & measuring programme - Year 6 & Reception only.

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Value of the Month

Our value this month is "Love" which is one of our school core values. We will be discussing what love really means and how we show it to the people we care about. We will think about Jesus' commandment to all of us - "To love the Lord with all your heart and to love your neighbour as yourself".



Students

We are delighted to welcome Miss Caroline O'Brien, a second year BA student from Oxford Brookes, who will be working in Kingsway Class for eight weeks. We are also very fortunate to have Miss Isla Squires, a student from Abingdon & Witney College, joining us for two weeks. She will also be based in Kingsway Class. Both students are former pupils of our school so it is particularly nice to welcome them back.

Healthy Eating

As I know you will be aware from reports in the media, encouraging all children to have a healthy life style is high on the government's agenda. To ensure that we comply with the requirements on schools, I would like to remind you of our school policy regarding snacks at playtime. The children in FS/KS1 are provided with a free piece of fruit each day. Children in KS2 can bring their own fruit to school. In addition, the following items can be bought for 30p each from the school kitchen: carrot & cucumber batons, fresh fruit, dried fruit, yoghurt, mineral water or milk. On Fridays the children can buy a healthy flapjack for 50p.

Do your best!

The following children were nominated for a Headteacher's Award in January:

Windmill	Ollie T & Jessica
Kingsway	Zachary & Savannah
Oatlands	Samir & Isla
Holywell	Charlotte & Chloe
Reedy	Alfie & Anya
Westerleigh	Lilly-Anne & Amy

Certificates were awarded for being a good friend and for excellent handwriting and presentation skills.



The Sound of Music



KS1 have been exploring the seven areas of music with Mr Lockett. We have been looking at vocabulary such as: forte, piano, pitch, rhythm, crescendo, presto and largo. We have had great fun learning Polar related songs and making our own rhythms using the syllables of some Polar



vocabulary, for instance: snow, polar bear, arctic tundra, and penguin. A huge thank you to Mr Lockett for his inspiring lessons.

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Sporting Events

Due to feedback from parents, we have decided to change the way we organise transport to and from after school sporting events. From next month we will be asking parents to arrange transport themselves so watch out for a new letter format for the next competition.

Year 6's Prayer Flags

We researched the history and purpose of prayer flags. These are some of the facts that we found out: A prayer flag is a colourful rectangular cloth often found strung along mountain ridges and peaks high in the Himalayas to bless the surrounding countryside.

There are few things more beautiful than colourful prayer flags fluttering in the wind—sometimes waving gently, sometimes raging; a dance of shadow and light. There is no simpler way to create good values in this troubled world of ours than to put prayer flags up for the benefit of other living beings.

Placing prayer flags around harmony, increases the to mind the teachings of God. their sacred wishes are peace and good wishes.



our school creates a feeling of spiritual atmosphere and brings By placing prayer flags outdoors imprinted on the wind, generating

When we raise our prayer flags proper motivation is important; "May all beings everywhere receive benefit and find happiness." The virtue generated greatly increases the power of the prayers.

Our Year 6 children rose to the challenge; they wrote inspiring prayers, they selected complementary fabric, cottons and embellishments such as buttons, beads and sequins, also they learnt how to use a sewing machine, sew running stitch and back stitch.

A special prayer and blessing ceremony was organised, when the prayers were hung in the garden, with Rev Ron Curtis and the children.

Parents' Drop-in

Our next meeting will be on Monday 26th February at 9.00 a.m. This is open to all parents and carers and is an opportunity for you to ask questions or make suggestions. If you are unable to make the meeting, please remember that you can always contact me by email. I am also available during Parents' Evenings for a chat.

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Year 6 Reading Activities Day

On Thursday 25th January, all the Year 6 children from Aston, Combe, Cokethorpe and Ducklington schools met at Cokethorpe School for a Reading Activities Day. We were divided into four groups named after the houses in the Harry Potter books. We had four different activities to do over the course of the day - creating poems inspired by newspaper articles; creating clues to identify a country from a poem set in that country; listening to an author talk about the world he created in his books and a treasure trail, solving clues to find letters for an anagram. We also all had a Harry Potter themed lunch! It was a great day where we not only developed our reading skills but also made some new friends.

Year 5 Dance Workshop

Our Year 5 class recently went to The Henry Box School in Witney for a dance workshop across the Witney Schools Partnership. We travelled by coach with the children from Ducklington School and then mixed with children from the other Witney primary schools. The workshop was run by 'Step2' who taught us lots of fun Street Dance moves: It was very cool and surprisingly challenging! It was a very active workshop and we were given help by the dance crew and some of the Year 10 Sports Leaders from Henry Box. Some of the moves that we learnt were: the helicopter, the crocodile and lots more. Then we learnt a dance routine about a child's first day at school that was fun and very groovy. There were nearly 200 children participating across the partnership. Everyone learnt a lot, got very warm and rosy and we all enjoyed it.



Reported by Felicity

ACTS FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION

8th 9th and 10th March 2018

Aston Village Hall, Aston

£7.00 Thursday, £8.00 Friday and Saturday.

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Production of a Murder Mystery:

MURDER AT CHECKMATE MANOR

A Hilarious Comedy

Every drama group has experienced the horrors of what can go wrong on opening night, and the ladies of the F.A.H.E.T.G. Dramatic Society are no different, with the possible exception that almost everything that could happen does!

The scenery collapses, cues are missed, lines forgotten, and the sound effects take on a strange note at times, as the ladies present their ambitious evening's entertainment with the cunning whodunit, "Murder at Checkmate Manor".

Tickets available from Aston Stores from 15th February.

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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