



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Spring Term Issue 4

31st January 2017

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Friends,

Despite an unprecedented amount of illness, we have had a wonderful start to the year and your children have settled quickly back into school routines.

I have seen some outstanding lessons during my recent learning walks in a variety of subjects and I have been really proud of, and impressed with, the progress the pupils are making.

A very warm welcome to our student teachers this term: Miss Emily Moss who joins us in Holywell Class; Miss Delyth Hutchings who joins us in Kingsway class and finally to Mrs Tamlin Elgar who will return to us in February - this time in Oatlands class. Do come and say hello and introduce yourselves - I know that they are keen to work with you and that they are having a lovely time supporting your children.

Kindest regards

Paula Phillips

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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

- 31st Jan Year 5/6 School Hall Athletics - WGS 3.15-5.30
- 8th Feb KS1 Poetry Recital 9.00am
- 9th Feb KS2 Poetry Recital 9.00am
- 10th Feb Netball Home Match v West Witney rearranged from 6th Feb - tbc

13th - 17th FEBRUARY _ HALF TERM HOLIDAY

- 20th Feb NCMP Weighing & Measuring Programme - Year 6 & Reception Class
- 20th Feb Netball Away Match @ Madley Brook
- 6th March Home Netball Match v Witney CP
- 7th March Year 3/4 trip to Oxford Synagogue
- 7-14th Mar Book Fair
- 8th March Year 6 Tag Rugby WGS - (moved from 16/11/16) 1.30-4.00pm tbc
- 13th March World Book Day
- 14th March Tempest Class Photos
- 15th March Windmill Trip to Woodstock Museum
- 16th March Year 2 Concert WGS 6.00pm tbc
- 24th March Red Nose Day
- 5th April Parents Evening 3.15 - 5.30
- 6th April Parents Evening 5.00-7.00
- 7th April Easter Service in Church
- 7th April Last day of Spring Term

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our value for February is Friendship



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Phonics and Spelling

We have had five visits from other schools so far this term to see our teaching in reading, spelling and writing and visitors have commented upon the excellent high standards and the progress that the children are making. Next week, we are hosting a regional event at the school for the teaching of phonics and spelling. The company RWInc would like to publish our school as a successful case study. With this in mind, they hope to take some photographs of the children at this event. We do keep a list of pupils who do not have permission for photos but as this will be published for publicity purposes beyond the school's own please do email the office ASAP if you do NOT wish photographs of your child to be included.

Reading is fun!

We are delighted to inform you that our school library is once again up and running. Thanks to our very kind volunteer helper Mrs Day, children from Year 1 - 6 will be able to borrow a book of their choice on alternate Mondays. The children from Westerleigh and Reedy classes enjoyed browsing our wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books this week so it will be the turn of Holywell, Oatlands and Kingsway on Monday 30th. We are very grateful to Mrs Day for giving up her Monday afternoons to give the children this lovely opportunity as well as to Ms Butterfield who listens to readers on Thursday afternoons.

Maths News:

We are really enjoying singing our times tables EVERYDAY with the app 'Maths Rockx' and I love hearing that some children enjoy it so much that they've got the app at home!!

This term, we have introduced early morning maths calculations that the children do alongside their spellings every morning during registration. Upper KS2 have times table challenges, lower KS2 have multiplication and division challenges and even Year 2 have been really successful in addition and subtraction calculations! I'm so impressed with what can be achieved in the first ten minutes before lessons start- WELL DONE CHILDREN!!!

With this in mind, please make sure the children are in school for 8:50 so no learning time is lost.
Thank you, Mrs Gardner

Rock School Visit

We were delighted to have a performance from the **Rock Steady Music School** during Monday afternoon's assembly. They wowed us with the various different instruments that they brought and talked to us about the work that they do. As a school, we have signed up on their waiting list should a space become available for them to undertake regular work at the school.

Young Art Oxford 2017 Art Competition in aid of Cancer Research



Aston are entering an Art Competition. Young Art Oxford is an annual art exhibition open to all Oxfordshire Schools, in aid of Cancer Research. It is a fantastic opportunity children to feel good about their artistic abilities. This year's theme is 'The World We Live In'.

Ask your child about our ideas. Watch this space for further details.

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Terrific Scientific

The children in Year 5 & 6 enjoyed taking part in The Super Taste Test, a nationwide Science investigation organised by the BBC as part of its Terrific Scientific campaign.

We were trying to find out how many super tasters we have; super tasters experience bitter tastes more strongly than other people because they have a higher number of taste receptors.

After covering our tongues with natural food dye, we counted the number of fungiform papillae on a small area. This number determines whether you are a non-taster, a taster or a super taster. We have 2 non-tasters, 15 tasters and 8 super tasters.

Next week we are looking forward to watching a Live Lesson which will investigate the question "What happens when I eat?"



Our next investigation will take place in February; we are already very excited to see which scientific skills we will be developing then!

Swimming Gala

While many children were still recovering from all the mince pies and chocolate on the first day back from the Christmas break, 7 of our best swimmers plunged into the Witney schools swimming gala. The girls quartet of Renee, Abbey, Sienna and Amelia managed to come 6th overall, and while the boys team of Zak, Oscar and Barnaby came 10th, but considering they were one team member short and missing out on points because of this, it doesn't fully reflect on how well they performed.

"I enjoyed racing against other people who I didn't know. I came 4th in my races" - **Barnaby**

"I enjoyed the freestyle relay race as we could pick any stroke we like and we did it together. It was great fun!" - **Renee**

"I enjoyed watching everyone race and I loved doing the relays" - **Zak**



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Anglo-Saxon Workshop Key Stage 2

Key Stage Two children have had a wonderful workshop with the team from the Oxfordshire Museum Service this week. As part of our topic, 'Invaders and Settlers', we learned about village life in Anglo-Saxon times.

After exploring where the Anglo-Saxons came from and why they came to this land, we found out about how they lived. Some of us got to dress up in clothes in the style that they might have worn. We learned about the pottery that was used and how it might have been made. Then we made our own pots, decorating them with patterns like the Anglo-Saxons did. Did you know that they used deer antlers to stamp patterns on their pots?

We also learned about the different types of weaving and even got to have a go at weaving ourselves. Some of us enjoyed this so much we have started our own weaving club at lunchtimes!



My favourite part was dressing up because the costumes were comfy and made me feel like a proper Anglo-Saxon. I also enjoyed making the braids as it was very relaxed. However, it took a lot of patience. It took a very long time.
Emily P



My favourite part was when you showed us all how to weave. I particularly enjoyed this because you said we could make it for anything such a bracelet. I also found it funny when everyone became addicted to finishing them off.
Daisy



My favourite part was making the pots. It was very hard to put your thumb through without making a hole in the clay.
Amy

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Windmill Trip to Oxford Story Museum

Windmill class went to The Story Museum in Oxford.

We listened to a story and learnt about bedtime using props and costumes.

The giant bed was a big favourite for the children as this is where we all sat to listen to a story and sing our bedtime rhyme.

We explored different rooms in the Story Museum, dressed up as different characters.

We finished by creating a patchwork blanket of our favourite stories.

Eli—*I liked the big bed*

AJ—*I liked exploring*

Sam—*I loved going through the magic wardrobe*



Year 6 visit to Witney Community Hospital

On Monday 16th January 2017, the Year 6 pupils travelled to Witney Hospital to participate in I.M.P.S. (Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools). I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Whilst we were there, our instructors taught us the DRS ABC which stands for: Danger, Response, Shout, Airway, Breathing, Call and CPR. We practised on a plastic human dummy. First of all, we checked for danger then we waited for a response. If there was no response, we shouted for an AED kit.

Afterwards, we opened the airway by tilting the chin up. To check for breathing, you had to use three

senses: feel, look and hear. If they weren't breathing, we had to call 999 then do 30 chest compressions followed by two rescue breaths.

We also learnt how to put someone in the recovery position and we watched a safety video which was a series of re-enactments of what to do if someone has a road accident, an electric shock, a deep cut or is choking.

When the video was finished, we got a plaster cast (removable) on our index finger. The plaster felt warm and when we took them off, our fingers felt cold.

I, for one, thought the experience was excellent as

it gave us all the skills we need in an emergency.

Aerin

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Poetry Recitals

We warmly welcome you to come to our Poetry Recitals. Key Stage 1 will be on Wednesday 8th February at 9.00am and Key Stage 2 on Thursday 9th February at 9.00am

Special Mentions to:

- * Anna who achieved a phenomenal score in her recent Grade 2 Musical Theatre exams
- * Sienna who has been selected for the County swimming trials.
- * Felicity who achieved her Award 6 in her recent gymnastics exam.

And to Amy who is an accomplished member of WOAPA choir; she was recently involved in making a cd of festive songs and performed in the ceremony of the switching on of the Witney Christmas lights.

What a talented group of pupils we have - well done to them all!

FACS AGM

The FACS AGM took place on Tuesday 24th January and there were insufficient attendees or nominees to be able to cast votes and form a new committee for the coming year.

Unfortunately this will mean that there will be no further fundraising activities or events scheduled for the remaining school year. This is a decision which hasn't been taken lightly and will cause disappointment for the children and have a knock on effect in regard to the funds raised for the school but without sufficient committee members events cannot be organised.

The funds which FACS provides to the school are very important in providing addition resources and opportunities for our children and are becoming more and more important. It is our aim that this can resume in the future but without your support this isn't possible.

Ultimately this leaves FACS with a very uncertain future and we will be spending the next few weeks reviewing the options.

If you are interesting in becoming involved please speak to Christina Slater or Emma River or alternatively email facstaston@gmail.com

Your Support is much needed

Many thanks
The FACS team

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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