



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Spring Term Issue 6

31st March 2017

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Friends,

The term races by and it has been so wonderful to see the children enjoying using the school grounds in the sunshine! At Aston, we believe that playtimes are just as important as lesson time and we invest in good quality play equipment, high staffing ratios and activities. One of the ways that we are able to do this is through the equipment we purchase using the Sainsburys vouchers - thank you so much for your support with this again and please do keep them coming!

In our professional development time recently, we have been learning about how our brains work and exploring ways to make learning stick. Did you know that brain 'plasticity' (the brains capacity to learn and grow connections) never stops? Much of the recent research into developing long term memory shows that regular revisiting of topics - especially through mini low stakes quiz/tests, which require recall, really do help children to develop atomicity in the basic content which then enables them to move on to more complex content. This is one of the reasons that RWInc is so successful in its approach. We have been exploring this way of working (in an age appropriate manner) within lessons and our pupils love the mini challenges. We would like to thank our parents from Year 5/6 for the support we have received with the new homework system (which also uses this approach) that we are trialing. It is early days for this homework but some of the children have produced the most astonishing work and they tell me that it is really helping them. So far, Abbey, Zak, Sienna, Ruby and Emily B were recognised in particular for the remarkable efforts that they had put into their homework - well done to them all!

Last week we undertook our termly assessments and we will be sending out snap shot reports (as we did in the Autumn term) for pupils in year 2-6 before parents evening to share with you. It is apparent that the children are reading much more at home which is fantastic - Thank you

Warmest regards, From the team at Aston & Cote

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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

- 3rd April Spring Music concert for parents 2.25pm
- 5th April Parents Evening 3.15 - 5.30
- 6th April Parents Evening 5.00-7.00
- 6th April FACs Toy Tombola
- 7th April Family Easter Service in Church 9.10am
- 7th April Oatlands Cake sale 3.10pm
- 7th April Last day of Spring Term
- 10th - 21st April - EASTER HOLIDAYS
- 24th April 1st Day of Summer Term
- 1st May BANK HOLIDAY
- W/C 8th May SATS WEEK**
- 15th May Year 6 Cycling Training - initial bike check
- 22nd May Westerleigh Science Workshop tbc
- 22nd May Year 6 Cycle Training - 1st session
- 23rd May Maypole Dancing tbc
- 23rd May Year 6 Cycle Training - 2nd session
- 24th May Sports Day - jumping & throwing events
- 24th May Year 5 visit to Swindon Hindu temple tbc
- 25th May Sports Day - Races - Parents invited to watch
- 26th May Last Day of Term
- 29th May - 2nd June-Half Term Holiday
- 5th June INSET DAY
- 6th June 1st Day of Term

W/C 12th June - YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING

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Collective Worship



Our value this month is **DIVERSITY**. We have discussed how we are all unique but also how we are all equal. Within this, we celebrated World Downs Syndrome Day and we have also looked at famous role models of different ethnicities and including both sexes.

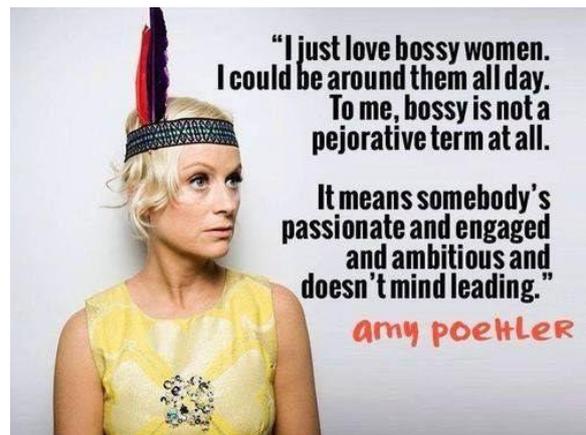
As an aside, I was with a friend the other day who was telling me about how her daughter was lovely but very 'bossy': we laughed when we realised that this was never a word she used for her sons. It made me think about how important our words are and

the message that they pass on. Being bossy is not necessarily a bad thing and can mean that your daughter will be a good leader in the future.

April's value will be **JUSTICE**

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed".

Isaiah 1:17



Terrific Scientific:

Our second investigation involved looking at the Mpemba Effect.

Some scientists have discovered that water doesn't always freeze how you would expect. Erasto Bartholomeo Mpemba was a young student of 11 or 12 years of age at school in Tanzania when he observed a phenomenon which today carries his name all



because he was in a rush to freeze hot cream.



The children in Years 5 & 6 carried out an experiment to find out whether cold water freezes faster than hot water. Surprisingly we discovered that they both froze at the same time!

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World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day by coming to school dressed as our favourite book characters - it was great fun guessing who everyone was!



Some of us brought books from home that we had finished reading and swapped them for another book. We enjoyed listening to stories in the forest area while drinking hot chocolate.

My favourite part of World Book Day was getting dressed up as a book character. I was Just William, which is quite an old book. I particularly enjoyed going into the forest school area to read *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan.
Tan.
Barnaby



In the afternoon, we enjoyed sharing books with children from other classes as well as getting the chance to read in some unusual places!



I learned that reading can be fun for any age if you find the right book to read. My favourite part of World Book Day was making book marks.
Amelia

World Book Day was amazing! My favourite part was when we went into the Forest School area to listen to a story and drink hot chocolate. The character I dressed up as was Ginny Weasley from the Harry Potter series that I am reading at the moment.
Emily P

I came dressed as Sebastian from *Belle and Sebastian*. My favourite part was reading with Windmill.
Oscar



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Oxfordshire Book Award

The children in Windmill, Kingsway picture books from this year's opportunity to vote for their



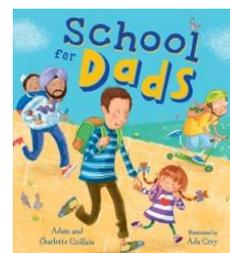
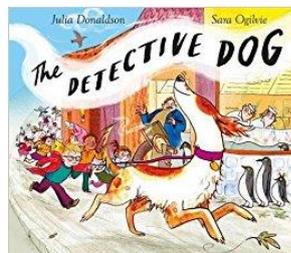
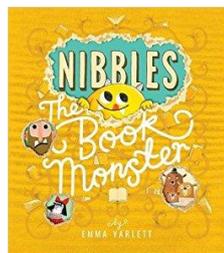
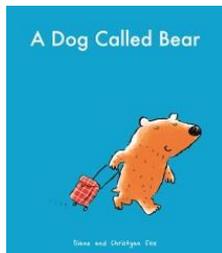
and Oatlands classes enjoyed reading the shortlist in class. They then had the favourite book. They voted as follows:

Title	Author	Total No. of votes (1 vote per pupil)
A Dog called Bear	Diane Fox and Christyan Fox	4
Nibbles the Book Monster	Emma Yarlette	33
School for Dads	A and C Guillain	8
The Detective Dog	Julia Donaldson	9

In KS2, the children read books from the primary novels category at home and we were delighted that 29 children cast their votes as follows:

Title	Author	Total No. of votes (1 vote per pupil)
An Eagle in the Snow	Michael Morpurgo	7
The Girl of Ink and Stars	Kiran Millwood Hargrave	4
The Person Controller	David Baddiel	10
The Wolf Wilder	Katherine Rundell	8

We are now eagerly waiting to find out who the overall winners will be once the votes from all participating schools have been counted.



My favourite OBA book is The Person Controller because you never know what is going to happen next. My favourite character is Ellie because she's quite adventurous and clever.

Jess

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Windmill's trip to Oxfordshire Museum



As part of our topic this term Windmill class visited Oxfordshire Museum to learn about the dinosaurs that were in Oxfordshire millions of years ago.



I liked the video and being a dinosaur - Savannah
We learnt about different types of fossils and what they had eaten because of dinosaur poo - Hugo
I learnt how big dinosaur footprints were - Isla T

Year 3 & 4's Visit to the Synagogue

At the synagogue I learnt that that there isn't just one Torah, but seven! They are all the book of Moses."

Irene - Year 4.

"I enjoyed when we read the Ten Commandments and we read 2 commandments in Hebrew. The most important commandment is 'Remember there is only one God....'"

Elena - Year 4.



"I was shocked that a person that dropped the Torah would be punished by having to fast for 40 days!"

Frankie - Year 3.

"The Torah has to be treated with respect."

Chloe - Year 3.

Jews celebrate the Sabbath on Friday evening until Saturday evening. They wait for three stars to appear on Friday evening, then light a candle to mark the start of the celebration."

Molly - Year 4.

At thirteen years old, Jewish boys have the responsibility to read a portion of the scroll."

Eddie - Year 3

'In the Synagogue the men and women sit separately. They used to put a net in front of the women so that they could still see the Ark but so the men couldn't see them'

Sophie-Year 4



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Red Nose Day 2017



We celebrated Red Nose Day by having a non-school uniform day. Lots of us wore something red and wore red noses and we all donated £1.00 to this worthwhile charity.



The School Council enjoyed counting all the money. Altogether we raised a fantastic £136.50. Thank you so much for your support!

Sports News

It's been a very sporty few weeks here for us at Aston. Recently we have been able to field 3 teams at the Witney schools Rugby Festival. Our best performing team on the day was our B team which consisted of many of our younger players who finished 3rd in their group showing encouraging signs for the future.

We have also decided to raise the profile of sport more in the school by entering a couple of leagues. First up was a mixed netball league where we were facing many of the big Witney schools, that's big in the sense of the schools are big as well as the teams having giants playing for them as well. Results didn't always go our way with our best being a hard fought 9-5 loss against Our Lady of Lourdes. However I happy to see that this hasn't dented the children's spirits as they are still constantly asking me when the next game is!

Our adventure into the sporting leagues also took us to girls football. Our results included a 4-1 loss to the Batt school, a 3-2 loss to the (literal) giants of West Witney, which can only be described as a game of two halves. Our girls found themselves 3-0 down at half time only to see the ball miss the goal by inches for what would have been an equaliser in the final seconds of the second half. And most encouraging of all a 2-0 win against Tower Hill, which being the first league win in any invasion game for years in our school was rightly made out to be a big deal.

The results in our sporting fixtures might not have always gone our way, but the fact that many children keep turning up to training and are asking me when the next games are shows that they **are gaining an enthusiasm for sport that wasn't as apparent at the start of the school year.** Hopefully we'll have more strength in depth for the fixtures next year!

Sam Hook, Sports Coach



The Aston 5 Minute Challenge is still working well. The children are excited to be retesting their PB's next week and the circuit exercises will be changed next term to add variety and aid all round physical development.

A huge thanks to Mrs Childs who notified the School of an opportunity to engage in a National Live physical challenge this week with Joe wicks - The Body Coach

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Well Done

Congratulations to Gemma, our lovely cook, who recently completed the Reading Half Marathon and still came in the next day to cook our dinners.



**"ALONE WE CAN
DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE
CAN DO SO MUCH."**

- Helen Keller

Parent Helpers

Thank you to Mrs Blake who has been in school recently to help with netball coaching, to Vicky and Julie for helping with school trips, to Mrs Childs for telling us about a Live workout this week, and to Mr Watson and Mr Farrow for offering some exciting, upcoming science opportunities for the school - we really appreciate it thank you 😊



End of Term - Roller Club Disco

Amazing thanks to Mr Hook for organising a roller disco for pupils in Super Skates Club for the end of term, together with party food and disco lights. A good time was had by all!



FACS - UPDATE letter from New Chair

Dear Parents,

Can I send my sincere apologies for arranging a meeting at the Red Lion on Monday to discuss the future of FACS. Not being local to Aston I was unaware that it is closed on a Monday which resulted in at least one person being turned away. I did wait outside and met with a few of you which was indeed productive.

For anyone who made the journey that I missed, I apologise again and would like to request that you send any interest via email to davidchadwick83@aol.co.uk

The excellent news is that we now have sufficient numbers to re-elect a committee and you will see events arising soon.

We still need more support to ensure fund raising remains high so please, if you have any interest in helping don't hesitate in contacting us.

Kind regards, David Chadwick

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Do you fancy a coffee after dropping the children off at School -
The Red Lion will be open on Friday Mornings at 9.00am for coffee & cakes.
Come in and meet your friends and try some home made cakes and relax over a cup of tea or coffee.



Like Gardening? Looking for work within School Hours?

I have a small friendly team of gardeners that work within large gardens in the Buckland and Bampton area. I am looking for more gardeners to join us!

Availability suited for varied levels of experience, however at a minimum you need is a good basic knowledge of gardening, to be hardworking, reliable, quick to learn and have good common sense. Training given where necessary.

If you are interested call me on 07554 606569 or email rivermeadgardening@outlook.com.

Just call for a chat if you not sure whether it will suit you, I am very flexible.

Salima McKnight
Rivermead Gardening

Concert with the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir

03/06/2017 at 7.00pm in St James

A Concert with the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir

This is a fund raising event for St James so do come along and fill the church. It promises to be a wonderful evening of music and song. Refreshments will be available.

To get your tickets telephone 01993 852153 or Email caronglenn@hotmail.co.uk

or visit Aston Stores

The Oxford Fiddle Group

The Oxford Fiddle Group is coming back to Aston and will be performing on Sunday the 7th May in the Village Hall at 7.30.

They are back due to popular demand so get your tickets early from Sylvia (01993 850553) or from the Aston Stores. The tickets are £10 each and there will be a raffle, bar and refreshments available. All proceeds are in aid of the Aston Village hall.

Ridethecounty4 2017

In aid of

Saturday 20th May

Make your own route to the end point

Sammy Miller's Motorcycle Museum

Hampshire



AIRAMBULANCE
BERKS | OXON | BUCKS

For further details go to <http://www.ridethecounty.org.uk/>

Or ask Mrs Angie Long (Windmill Class)

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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