



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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"Don't tell me how talented you are. Tell me how hard you work -

- Arthur Rubinstein

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 2: this term is always such a lovely time to be in school! I am confident that we will soon be immersed into all things glittery and special including Mary and Joseph!

This week has been our annual anti-bullying week and the children have taken part in range of activities to raise awareness of what bullying is and how to stop it. We are very fortunate in our lovely school because of our focus on values, any unkindness's are very rare and these are dealt with promptly. However, it is important to discuss issues such as these so that we can hopefully prevent and equip pupils to deal with any possible future occurrences. The week began with a special play for the children: thank you for your kind contributions to make this opportunity possible. We will create a special whole schoolbook to show case all the work we have done on anti-bullying and this will be available to view at the front entrance.



Congratulations to Sophie who came 3rd in the Aston-under-Wychwood 5k cross country race recently and to Felicity who came to show me her 4 Blue Peter badges yesterday - well done girls!

Warmest regards
Paula Phillips

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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

- 9th Nov Henry Box- Y5/6 Street Dance
- 13th Nov Non-school uniform Day - Children in Need- donations please
- 17th Nov Year 5/6 mixed Hockey - A Team - Wood Green ATP
- 18th Nov Safety talk PCSO Syphas all
- 18th Nov National primary maths Challenge- years 5 & 6
- 27th Nov Henry Box - Year 1 Dance
- 3rd Dec Open Morning for New September intake
- 3rd Dec Christmas Disco - Village hall
- 9th Dec Reception Nativity Play - Aston Pottery
- 10th Dec Christmas Fair
- 14th Dec Pantomime - Robin Hood 9.30
- 16th Dec KS1 - Production - Village Hall
- 17th Dec Christmas lunch
- 17th Dec Aston Hat Day
- 18th Dec Church Service, Last day of term - finish 1.30pm
- 21st Dec - 1st Jan Christmas Holiday
- 4th Jan INSET DAY
- 5th Jan First day - Term 3
- 7th Jan Windmill trip to Story Museum Oxford

COURAGE

LOVE

RESPECT

HONESTY

FORGIVENESS

Our value this month is **Courage**

Courage is one of our core values. We read the bible story of David and Goliath this week and we made links with anti-bullying week.



Reading

We are delighted that so many pupils have earned their bronze awards. I was hoping to give these out yesterday in assembly, however we had over 100 to give out and I was concerned it would have taken all afternoon! We will read the names out in Monday's assembly and certificates will be given out in class. How wonderful that so many children are reading so regularly at home!

We also read every day in school and we wanted to clarify that we also expect our children to read at home each night- it is our school policy. We have set up the reading reward certificate system to support this and it is working really well. A couple of parents have expressed some concerns, so we wanted to reiterate that this is our school policy at Aston and to share with you the reasons why it is so important to us.

Why do we do this?

- * We care - we desperately want all of our children to learn and do well
- * We know that it makes a huge difference to the children - their reading ability, confidence and breadth of texts they are exposed to, their vocabulary and understanding
- * We want to develop a habit and love of reading for life and in order to do this children must read regularly even if it is for a short time - sometimes
- * The regular short habit of writing in the home/school link books is excellent for developing deeper thinking and comprehension: it is also fantastic preparation for being organized and responsible for the next stage of their schooling and this has been commented upon by secondary schools
- * We want to support our children to become independent and begin to take responsibility for their learning
- * Children love getting their certificates and they are so proud when they receive them

We completely understand that there are sometimes events at home that mean that this may not be possible on some evenings and all we ask is that if this is the case, please record it in the book.

In Key Stage 2 pupils, we do not do our pupils any favours if we don't encourage them to begin to take ownership and responsibility: this would be not equipping them for the future competitive world they are now entering. With this in mind, on occasion, we do keep pupils in KS2 in to miss their break and we will continue to do this if they have not read repeatedly and there is no explanation: again, this is because we care. Regularly missing reading will affect their progress and they will begin to fall behind and this extra ten minutes practice at break could help.

Should you have any concerns please do come and see Mrs Phillips.

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Poppies

Thank you to the members of Art Club who created some beautiful poppy themed pieces for the Remembrance Service on Sunday.



Remembrance service

On Sunday 8th November, the annual service of remembrance will take place at the War Memorial in Aston at 3.00 p.m. taking part in the service by the children in Art Club this week. families will be able to attend this service in St James' Church.



This year the school will be placing a cross which has been made by We hope that lots of our children and event which will be followed by a short

Brass Band Concert

The whole school enjoyed a mini-concert on Tuesday when Reedy Class performed in assembly. The children have really enjoyed this experience and it is through your kind contributions for other events that we have had enough money in the school budget to fund this opportunity this year.



Oxfordshire Book Award

On Thursday 5th November, 8 children from Westerleigh Class attended the award ceremony for this year's Oxfordshire Book Award which took place at Oxford High School. As well as meeting the award winning authors Jo Cotterill, Teresa Heapy and Robin Stevens, we were also treated to a demonstration by the illustrator Sue Heap who was responsible for the amazing illustrations in Very Little Red Riding Hood, the winner in the Best Picture Book category.

All of the authors stressed the importance of regular reading for pleasure and after listening to book reviews about the winning books, we all agreed that we couldn't wait to get reading!

At the end of the ceremony we were treated to a drink and some delicious cake and then had the opportunity to buy one of the brilliant books we had just heard about.

"I enjoyed listening to the authors and illustrators give us inspiration for our own work." Harry

"I enjoyed the book awards because the authors were very inspiring and I loved the idea of the cake!" Sophie

"I enjoyed the Oxfordshire Book Awards because we got to meet lots of great authors. Also it extended my reading experience." Aerin



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Schools Visiting

We are very excited to have lots of schools coming to visit us this term from across the county as well as a couple of schools from Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. They are coming to learn from our good practice in phonics, spelling and maths and we are very proud to welcome them into our lessons. In addition, we are also now hosting the GLOW (Gloucester, Oxfordshire Wiltshire) Maths Hub professional development event at the school next Thursday after school. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for the teachers and many are leading presentations but sadly, **it does mean that we will need to cancel clubs next Thursday**. We are really sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause.

After School Enrichment Clubs

Our clubs are in full swing and it is wonderful to see the pupils taking full advantage of the opportunities available to them.



Hockey Goal Keeper par excellence



Gardening Club, looking at the inside of a poppy bud



Great concentration at Further Maths Club



Creating perfect pictures at Art Club

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SCHOOL LUNCH REMINDER

Ordering on a daily basis has been a great success and is running very smoothly. This is largely down to parents help discussing the menu with your child/ren enabling them to make informed choices.

Thank you again for all of your help

Can we remind you that the options for **Monday 9th November** will be:

CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA WITH RICE OR PASTA IN TOMATO SAUCE (V), GREEN BEANS, CARROTS & CHOCOLATE FUDGE PUDDING.

FACS NEWS

Easy Fundraising

It really is easy, all you need to do is register and then when making any online purchases go via the Easy Fundraising website and at absolutely no cost to you a donation is made to the school.

It is such a fabulous and simple way to raise funds for the school that we would really appreciate your support with this.

To register just follow the link below:

easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/astonandcoteprimary

Christmas Disco 3rd December

The disco will take place on 3rd December in the Village Hall.

Foundation & KS1 5-5-45pm

KS2 6-7pm

Tickets will be on sale in advance at school for £2.50 each which will include entry, a packet of crisps and unlimited drinks.

Small packets of sweets and glow stick will be on sale on the night



Christmas Fair 10th December

We really do need your support to make this a success and great fun for the children

We are in need of Teddies, Chocolate and Chocolate related items, Raffle Prizes, Books and Cakes/Mince pies. Please let us know if you can assist with any of these contributions.

Jolly Pots

The annual jolly pots will also be on sale at the Christmas Fair which are a huge hit with the children, each child will be coming home in the next couple of weeks with a pot to fill, so an ideal opportunity to start to stash away some of those sweets from the last week or so.

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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