



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1st October 2015

Diary for Term 1

Wednesday 7th October	2.45pm: Harvest Thanksgiving Service in church – all welcome
Friday 9th October	All classes: Drumming Workshop – letters in book bags today
Wednesday 21st October	Charlotte Snowden taking individual pupil photos
Wednesday 21st October	7.00pm: Wednesday Workshop for parents – ‘healthy lifestyle’

What have we been learning in school this week?

Owlet Class

Owlet class have been learning lots of new sounds and have started to blend the sounds to read simple words. Children have collected 2D shapes and made models and pictures. Lots of children have brought in photographs of themselves when they were babies and we have been talking about what we can do now that we have grown.

Owl Class

Owl class were the envy of the school on Friday as they ventured out in the late summer sunshine to the beach! Children explored the many features of the seaside to get recent first-hand experience of all of the things that can be found there. Back at school they have been busy applying this new knowledge to their learning.

Panda Class

Panda class have been working on their knowledge of fractions and linking this to their recent division work. Lots of children have been challenging themselves to try learning activities that make them feel a little uncomfortable but discovering that with some perseverance anything is possible.

Rhino Class

This week Rhino class have been learning about how our eyes work in science. We have been writing exciting story openings that grab the readers' attention as we plan adventure stories based on our experiences at Woodlands and Adventure Dolphin.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service – 2.45pm **Wednesday 7th October**

We hope you will be able to join us for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service which will be on **Wednesday 7th October at 2.45 pm** in the church. The service this year will focus on the value of thankfulness which has been our theme this term. There will be a collection of tins, packets and jars for ReadiFood, Reading's Food Bank for those in need.

We would like to invite children to bring in a tin, packet or jar on the day to donate to this worthwhile cause. These will be presented as gifts during the service.

We look forward to seeing you then.

ReadiFood
Reading's Food Bank
Food Parcels for those in Need

Air Ambulance Art Competition for Pupils in Years R, 1 & 2 – closes on Monday

Mrs Seymour has launched an exciting competition for pupils in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 to draw a picture of an air ambulance to raise money for the charity. We are asking for a donation of £1.00 per entry which will be donated to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. The winner in each year group will win a matchbox toy air ambulance. All entries should be given to the school office by Monday 5th October.

School Sports News – September

Having just taken over as School Sports Coordinator responsible for organising sports events and competitions as well as extra-curricular clubs, I am hoping to continue last year's hard work in improving sports opportunities throughout the school.

This year promises to be an exciting time for school sports with many competitive events planned, a great variety of before and after school clubs, not to mention celebrating the Olympics in 2016!

Our targets for the year are:

- To improve participation of pupils in school sports events and extra-curricular clubs by ensuring every pupil is given opportunities to compete.
- To promote healthy lifestyles by raising the profile of sport in school and appointing and training sports leaders to promote active play at break times.
- To use the government grant most effectively to ensure every pupil has access to a range of high quality sports opportunities.

Cross Country

Our first event of the year was a KS2 cross country race held at Stoke Row pavilion on Wednesday. A group of 27 children took part in four races round the recreation ground and through the woods in what is one of the toughest courses they'll face this year.

Everyone put in a huge effort and did themselves proud with many beating their previous performances by some margin. Our YR3/4 girls and boys in particular came in an impressive 3rd out of 6 schools and the determination award went to Shannon Chamberlain for her amazing sprint finish!

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to the parents who volunteered to be marshals it was great to see so many children enjoying running.

Sara Walker

Christmas Card Project 2015

The School Association have kindly organised the Christmas Card Project again this year. Your children have been enjoying designing their own Christmas cards in school which you can order. They have done a great job and we hope you enjoy looking at them. They will be in their book bags for you to look at on Monday 5th October. The funds raised through your support will be used on projects for the children.

Ordering is simple just complete the order form sent home with your child's artwork. Then please return the artwork back to the school by 9th October. Payment must also be included and this can be either cash or cheque made payable to Checkendon School Association.

The ordered cards will be delivered to the school on the 10th November. Any enquiries relating to the project please feel free to contact Louise Maze on 07748641568 or adrian459@btinternet.com.

School Association News

A warm welcome to Tracey Beard who takes over from Martina Zagaria as Treasurer and also to Gabby Robinson who joins us as a year 3 class rep along with Kate Gillingham.

If anyone would like to volunteer to be a year 6 rep please speak to Suzanne Bradley or Jo Crook asap. Please feel free to see your class rep if you have any questions or would like to help out at any of our fundraising events.

Class Reps for this school year are:

Reception - Wendy Butler

Year 1 - Nicky West

Year 2 - Louise Maze

Year 3 - Kate Gillingham & Gabby Robinson

Year 4 - Emma Darke

Year 5 - Mel Woodthorpe-Browne

Year 6 - TBC

Dates for your diary:

Fireworks evening - Friday 6th November

Craft Fair - Sat/Sun 21/22 November

School Disco TBC - Friday 11th December

Parents Christmas Drinks - Venue TBC - Thursday 17th December

Happy Circus - Wednesday 18th May

Parents' Forum

As part of a new initiative to improve home/school communication class reps will be invited to attend termly (6 times a year) parents' forum meetings with Mrs Seymour. These will take place 9.00am – 9.45am on the last Wednesday of each term and will provide opportunities to work on school development

priorities together. The first meeting will be Wednesday 21st October. If other parents would like to attend, please do get in touch with the school office.

School Lunches

Aspens, our school lunch provider, have asked us to let you know that if your child has moved from Owl Class (KS1) into Panda Class (KS2), he/she will *no longer qualify for free school lunches*. **You will therefore need to re-register for school lunches.** The process is:

- Login
- Under "Children", click "Update"
- Change "Free school meals" to "No"
- Click "Update details" for any changes in details

In order to maintain the smooth running and efficiency of lunchtimes, it is very important that all pupil details are correct on Aspens' on-line ordering system. Please ensure that you have the following details entered *correctly* on the parent log-in page of their website:

- **Dietary requirements**

For health and safety reasons, if your child has any dietary requirements or allergies, please ensure that you have registered them.

- **The class your child belongs to**

Please enter your child's class *exactly* to read either: **Owlet, Owl, Panda, Rhino**.

Please do not enter your child's year group or end class name with an 's' otherwise pupils are assigned to different class groups.

Thank you for your help.

Fireworks Menu on 5th November

On Thursday 5th November Aspens will be offering a special themed menu. Please go to www.aspens-services.co.uk to order online or telephone 01866 821511 for advice.

Tag Rugby After School Club – now open to Y2 pupils

Paul Meakin has started Tag Rugby after school club on Mondays from 3.20pm – 4.20pm for Years 3, 4 5 and 6. **He is now offering places for Year 2 children.** If your child is interested, please ask the school office for more information.

Kids Winter Clothing Sale – Woodcote – Saturday 10th October

Little Adventure Shop is having a warehouse sale in Woodcote on Saturday 10th October. They will be donating 10% of sales from Checkendon parents to the School Association.

www.littleadventureshop.co.uk

Saturday 10th October, 9am – 1pm.

Friends of Nettlebed School (FONS) would like to extend a warm invitation to parents to a

Screen Time and Internet Safety Information Evening On Monday 12th October, 7pm, Nettlebed School

Internationally acclaimed best-selling author and psychologist Dr Aric Sigman will be taking an informative look at the evidence surrounding the effects of screen based media on children. Is it educational and fun? Or is it visual voodoo? Come along and find out how to make balanced and informed choices for your family. In addition there will be internet security experts with content and filtering advice for a range of devices.

Ticket numbers are limited but are being preferentially offered to neighbouring schools first, so please book soon! www.fonsaric.eventbrite.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 7 th October	2.45pm: Harvest Thanksgiving service in church – all welcome
Friday 9 th October	All years: drumming workshop
Wednesday 21 st October	Charlotte Snowden taking individual pupil photos
Wednesday 21 st October	Mobile Library
Wednesday 21 st October	7.00pm: Wednesday Workshop for parents – ‘healthy lifestyle’
Thursday 22 nd October	Owl Class: Oxfordshire Heritage visiting Checkendon for hands on session
Thursday 22 nd October	No KS2 swimming lessons today
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th Oct	Autumn holiday
Monday 2 nd November	Inset Day – no children in school
Tuesday 3 rd November	First day of Term 2
Wednesday 4 th November	Y6: IMPS visit to Townlands Hospital
Friday 6 th November	Panda Class visit to Chedworth Roman Villa
Friday 6 th November	Fireworks Night – organised by School Association-
Monday 9 th November	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Sat/Sun 21/22 November	Craft Fair organised by School Association
Monday 23 rd November	All years: Jungle Book Make a Play Day workshops:
	2.45pm: Parents are invited to watch their production in the school hall
Wednesday 25 th November	Mobile library (last before Christmas)
Thursday 26 th November	3.00pm: Travelling Books book fair in school hall – parents welcome to view before end of school day
Friday 27 th November	3.20pm: Travelling Books book fair in Panda Class
Wednesday 9 th December	Wednesday Workshop for parents
Friday 11th December	School Disco organised by School Association - tbc
Monday 14 th December	2.00pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Tuesday 15 th December	6.30pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Wednesday 16 th December	Children’s Christmas dinner
Thursday 17th December	Parents Christmas Drinks – organised by School Association – venue tbc
Thursday 17 th December	6.30pm: Christmas Service in church
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Term 2 (finish at 2.00pm)