



# CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

## Diary for Term 5

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	3.00pm Community Worship – all parents invited
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Mobile Library
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Whole School Bluebell Walk <i>(Please bring suitable clothes/walking shoes in named bag)</i>

Welcome back, we hope you had an enjoyable Easter and are looking forward to a new term.

### Bluebell Walk – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April

Our annual walk through the Bluebell Woods of Checkendon will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April. The staff and children will leave school after lunch and will return before the end of the school day, a letter with more information will be sent out in book bags this week. Parents and friends are welcome to join us.

### Our new vision statement

Following consultation with governors, parents and staff, we are delighted to unveil our new, improved vision statement.

*"Checkendon Primary School is a dynamic Church of England school in which our Anglican Christian values of respect, courage, integrity, compassion and hope are at the heart of everything we do.*

*We give every pupil the opportunity to develop their particular capabilities in our stimulating and caring environment where creative teaching and an inspiring curriculum lead to high-quality learning and outstanding achievement.*

*We work in partnership with parents and the wider community to help every pupil make excellent progress, develop a lifelong love of learning and broaden their sense of citizenship, as they grow in mind, body and spirit."*

Do get in touch to let us know what you think; send your comments via email to [office@3801checkendon.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@3801checkendon.oxon.sch.uk)

### Spirituality

As part of our commitment to pupils' SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development, we have devised a definition of spirituality to share across the whole school community. Alongside this, we have been exploring good practice in teaching spirituality. We are indebted to Liz Mills for her research into this area and for her permission to adopt the metaphor of the ring doughnut!

## Spirituality is about the hole in the whole.

Spiritual development is like a ring doughnut : it has two parts; a tangible outside and an intangible 'holey' inside and both parts are vital to the whole. For some people, spiritual development it is about the development of a relationship with God; for others, it is about the development of the human spirit; and for others, a continual quest after truth. But for all, it is vital to spiritual development that people be allowed the space to develop their own faith, beliefs and values.

## Teaching and learning spirituality

In our school, we aim to encourage pupils' **whole** development (body, mind and spirit) and also to allow for pupils' '**hole**' development; the development of their own faith or life view, their own beliefs and values. Developing spirituality in our school is about encounter, reflection and transformation: windows, mirrors and doors

**Windows:** giving children opportunities to become *aware* of the world in new ways; to *wonder* about life's 'Wows' (things that are amazing) and 'Ows' (things that bring us up short). In this children are learning *about* life in all its fullness.

**Mirrors:** giving children opportunities to *reflect* on their experiences; to *meditate* on life's big questions and to consider some possible answers. In this they are learning *from* life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others.

**Doors:** giving children opportunities to *respond* to all of this; to *do* something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to *live* by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.

## Parental Feedback Please!

The Governors are keen to understand the views of parents on the school's provision of Religious Education & Collective Worship.

Please click on the link below to access the survey, which won't take you more than a couple of minutes.

The survey will be open until **20<sup>th</sup> April**.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDV5H3L>

Thank you for your support.

## Pupil Code of Conduct

We have produced an updated Pupil Code of Conduct to reflect the importance of our school values (attached). Comments welcome.

## Please help us to celebrate the cultural heritage of Checkendon School!

As you know, we are keen to develop links with other communities in the UK and beyond so that pupils here understand more about the similarities and differences between their lives and those of people who live in contrasting localities. We have strong links with Highwood School in Reading and the Readifood Project and have a programme of regular visits to the town. We have learnt a lot from our links with The Elegance School in Pakistan, The School Run project in Algeria, visitors from USA and Ghana; and Skype calls with people in Australia and Italy. However, we'd also like to celebrate the diversity of families who

live, work or go to school in Checkendon. Please would you help us to produce an exciting display celebrating the diversity of the Checkendon School community? We would like **every pupil and member of staff in the school** to produce an A4 representation (pictures, photos, words, drawings to reflect individual identity; this may include values, nationality, language, religion, traditions, club membership) entitled

**This is me!** Please hand these to class teachers by the end of next week **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**.

Whatever your background, if you would like to get involved by visiting the school to talk about yourself and your cultural heritage we'd love to hear from you! Do get in touch 01491 680693

### **Thank you from Fiona**

*"Thank you so much - children, parents, staff and governors - for your very generous gifts and the beautiful bouquet of flowers which have taken pride of place at home over the Easter holidays. I will treasure the beautiful cards with your touching comments!"*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed working at Checkendon School over the years - it is a special place! I will miss you all, but will definitely keep in touch."*

### **Class Choirs**

We are delighted that Emma Davies will be leading Class Choirs for Panda Class and Owl Class weekly during the summer term. As you know Emma and Kevin Davies have led a very successful Autumn Term Christingle Choir for some years now, and, in response to parent feedback, we have arranged to extend the provision of a choir across the summer term. This will be a pilot project and, if it goes well, we would hope to do the same for Owlet Class and Rhino Class in due course.

### **Checkendon PreSchool Breakfast Club**

Checkendon PreSchool Breakfast Club is open 0730 until the start of the school day at 0850, 5 days a week. We welcome primary and preschool children to enjoy stimulating play and breakfast together.

The fee per session is £6.50 which includes food and in order to guarantee your child's place we prefer to have termly bookings, however, there may be an opportunity for occasional drop offs on a first come first serve basis.

For more information please see [checkendonpreschool.co.uk](http://checkendonpreschool.co.uk) or email [preschoolcheckendon.co.uk](mailto:preschoolcheckendon.co.uk).

### **Message from the School Association**

#### **CIRCUS TICKETS**

You can now purchase your circus tickets online at <https://www.wegottickets.com/event/355412>

You will be sent an e-ticket confirmation which you will need to bring with you on the day.

We have also set up an online donation which will all go entirely to the School Association funds for the new field play equipment. Your help and support in helping us reach this target is hugely appreciated so please tell all your friends and family and encourage people to buy tickets asap. We have to sell 600 tickets to achieve our target so we really do need all the help we can get - THANK YOU!

### HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to help us with the stalls and various other jobs. We will place a sign up sheet outside the office next week - thanks in advance for any help you can offer.

### RAFFLE PRIZES

We are also looking for raffle prizes - if you know of anyone or if you can volunteer a prize yourself, please see Suzanne or Jo ASAP. Thank you!

## Themes for Terms 5 and 6

We are looking forward to our exciting new themes for the next two terms:

	Term 5	Launch	End of Term 5
Rhino Class	Winston Churchill	Wartime Memories	Visit to Blenheim
Panda Class	France	French Day	French conversation presentation
Owl Class	Where my wellies take me	Spring walk	Poetry trail
Owlet Class	Wild and Wonderful	Drama workshop	Wild and wonderful walk

## Extra-Curricular Activities Term 5

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	YEARS	ORGANISERS
Monday	8.00-8.40	Dodgeball (18.4.16-23.5.16)	All	Ignite Tel: 01869 220890
	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	3.30-4.30	Drama Factory (18.4.16-11.7.16)	Yrs 3-6	Berzerk Matt 07976 652742
	Playground 3.30-4.30	KS2 Rounders (18.4.16-23.5.16)	Yrs 3-6	Paul Meakin Sports <a href="mailto:paulmeakinsports@orangehome.co.uk">paulmeakinsports@orangehome.co.uk</a> Tel: 07976 651635
Tuesday	12.00-12.45	Judo (19.4.16 – 28.6.16 )	1 – 6	linkai Tel: 0118 9885822
	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
		Guitar	All	Ian Marriss Tel: 07926 383737
	During school	School Council	Reps from Y2-6	Gill Peeling
	3.30-4.30	French Club (19.4.16-12.7.16)	Y2-6	Tutorbox Irene Casey Tel: 0118 9841684

	3.30-4.30	<b>Athletics (19.4.16-24.5.16)</b>	All	Ignite Tel: 01869 220890
	3.30-5.15	<b>Equestrian Club (12.4.16-10.5.16)</b>	All	Check. Equestrian Centre Tel: 01491 680225
<b>Wednesday</b>	(S.R.Pavillion) 8.00-8.30	<b>Running Club</b>	Yrs 3-6	Chris Lee Susan Darnbrough
		<b>Piano</b>	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
		<b>Violin</b>	All	Elestr Lee Tel: 0118 9478685
	3.30 – 4.30	<b>Badminton (13.4.16-25.5.16)</b>	All	Ignite Tel: 01869 220890
<b>Thursday</b>	8.00-8.40	<b>Archery (14.4.16-26.5.16)</b>	Yrs 1-6	Ignite Tel: 01869 220890
	Lunchtime	<b>Woodwind</b>	All	Lucy Robertson County Music Service Tel: 07958 537157
	Lunchtime	<b>Piano</b>	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
<b>Friday</b>	(Outside/Hall) 3.30-4.30	<b>Football (22.4.16-15.7.16)</b>	All	Pro-Direct Tel: 07921 726332

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Mobile Library
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Whole School Bluebell Walk
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs Week
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Evening: Circus – organised by School Association
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	2.00pm: Pentecost Service in church followed by dancing at school
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Mobile Library
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	RE Day: Christians around the World
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Last Day of Term 5
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	First Day of Term 6
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Mobile Library (last one – collection only)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	2.15pm: Rhino Class Production
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	6.30pm: Rhino Class Production
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole school learning project: The Olympics
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day reserve
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Term 6