



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

17th September 2015

Diary for Term 1	
Tomorrow	Please return Conquermaths slips and Home School Agreements
Tuesday 22 nd Sept	Y5 pupils: science afternoon at the Oratory School
Wednesday 23 rd Sept	Mobile Library
Friday 25 th Sept	Owl Class trip to Bournemouth

School Council

Congratulations to all the newly elected School Councillors for this year:

- Year 2: Lucy Parkins, Johnny Jackson
- Year 3 : Lucy McCalla, Freddie Wallace
- Year 4 : Perdy Beard, Jake Jackson
- Year 5 : Charlotte Turner, Monty Wallace
- Year 6 : Sam Morrell, Millie Law

The School Council is coordinated by Mrs Peeling and meets fortnightly on Tuesdays to discuss issues raised in Class Councils.

School Council elections are an important way for children in the school to experience the democratic process. Through these and the weekly class council meetings, all children learn about democracy, one of the key British values identified by the government. To find out more about what the school does to promote British values, please look at our 'Promoting British Values' statement under the learning tab on our website.

Free 'Back to School' Magazine for Parents

'Back To School' Magazine, a free digital magazine available to every parent of every child at primary school. Back to School Magazine was originally developed by the National Association of Headteachers with the aim of improving parental involvement and pupil performance and continues to achieve these aims in schools that share the magazine with parents.

The magazine runs specific in depth features every term on topics such as; phonics, reading support, maths homework, the new national curriculum changes and much, much more. It's packed full of advice to help you get the best out of primary school for your child.

Just visit this link to read completely for free: www.backtoschoolmagazine.com. We have also put this link in the parent pages of our website.

Big Write: a Whole-School Approach to Raising Standards in Writing

Letters went out in book bags today with details of the talk task to be done in preparation for a whole school *Big Write* tomorrow.

Big Writing is a methodology that is highly enjoyable and motivating and is designed to have an impact on the progress of children of all abilities. Through it, we aim to:

- Develop higher level talk
- Improve basic skills – grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Ensure effective assessment and good progress
- Create a positive writing ethos

All pupils in the school take part in the Big Write. Each pupil has a Big Write book with pupil writing on the right hand side page and teacher assessment on the left. From Y3 assessment will include opportunities for self and peer assessment based on at least one positive and one improvement point. The marking and feedback used for Big Writing means that the pupil's writing is not written on at all.

Structure of the lesson:

- 10.00am KS1 and KS2 warm up activities and talk for writing using ideas from the Talk Task
- Break
- 10.55am Writing: When pupils return to classes they come in quietly, music is already playing and pupils sit down and write for an extended period of time, encourage pupils and support as necessary, minimum timings expected for independent writing are:
 - YR Autumn Term Talk only, Spring and Summer writing or similar differentiated task 10 minutes
 - Y1 and Y2 Autumn and Spring 20 minutes, Summer 30 minutes
 - KS2 45 minutes

We are all excited about the opportunities offered by the Big Writing approach and welcome feedback from pupils and parents!

Please help us to increase funding to our school!

In order to maximise funding for the school we are asking **all** parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to support us by ordering a school lunch for **Thursday 1st October**. We will be allocated funding for **the whole of the year** based on the **number of eligible pupils who buy a lunch on that day!** If your child does not usually have a school lunch, this would be a great chance to try as a one-off! We are grateful to Aspens, our school lunch provider based at Langtree School, for supporting this initiative.

Aspens are offering the following menu on the day:

- toad in the hole with chips or mash, peas and carrots
- cauliflower and broccoli cheese with chips or mash, peas and carrots
- pasta pot
- jacket potato with beans, cheese or both
- packed lunch (ham, cheese or tuna)

rice pudding with fruit topping.

Please go to www.aspens-services.co.uk to order online or telephone 01866 821511 for advice. If you have any questions about school lunches the school office will be happy to talk you through the process.

We hope that we will be able to serve a school lunch to **every child in Owlet and Owl Classes** on **Thursday 1st October**; please help us to achieve this!

Thank you very much for your support.

Free School meals and Discounts on School Visits and Activities

Did you know that by registering for Free School Meals your child not only has the opportunity to enjoy a free school meal but he/she could also be entitled to a substantial reduction in the cost of residential visits and music tuition?

The school also benefits from additional funding for all students who are registered for free school meals or who have been registered in the past 6 years. This funding is given to schools to raise the attainment of children and enables us to provide many additional support mechanisms such as one to one tuition and booster classes along with financial support for educational visits and activities.

More information can be found on our website under the 'Parents' tab – "Am I eligible for free school meals?".

Home School Agreements

You received Home School Agreements in book bags at the beginning of term. If you have not already done so, can you please take a few minutes to go through them carefully with their children before signing and returning them to school **tomorrow**. Teachers will then add their signatures and take copies before returning the originals to parents. If you have any questions or comments about the agreement, please talk to class teachers.

Conquermaths online Maths Resource

You will have received letters in book bags regarding the school subscription to an online maths programme, called Conquermaths, which offers teaching, practice and assessment activities at a range of levels; you can trial these at <http://www.conquermaths.com/free/>.

So that your child can have access to this useful resource, please return slips to the school office **tomorrow** with a contribution of £5.00 to cover the cost of the subscription. Please ask the school office if you need a copy of the letter/slip.

Imagineering Club – Volunteers Please!

We have, in the past, run an Imagineering after school club for a maximum of 12 pupils in years 5 & 6. The club is great fun and children make a variety of working models from kits, which they take home when complete, using simple tools and learning basic skills. The projects shadow the subjects of the national curriculum and enable the children to develop self-confidence and a sense of achievement.

We would like to offer this to our Y5/6 pupils, but need a volunteer to run the club. If you are interested and could spare the time, please talk to the school office. Thank you.

Are you interested in your child learning an instrument?

The Oxfordshire County Music Service offer lessons on a range of instruments and ensembles. Follow this link to their website for more information and an online application.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest

Please contact us on 01865 816990 for more information or assistance.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 22 nd September	Y5 pupils: science afternoon at the Oratory School
Wednesday 23 rd September	Mobile Library
Friday 25 th September	Owl Class trip to Bournemouth
Wednesday 21 st October	Charlotte Snowden taking individual pupil photos
Wednesday 21 st October	Mobile Library
Wednesday 21 st October	Wednesday Workshop for parents
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
Friday 6 th November	Fireworks Night – organised by School Association-
Wednesday 9 th December	Wednesday Workshop for parents
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Term 2 (finish at 2.00pm)