



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

19th November 2015

Diary for Term 2	
Sat/Sun 21/22 Nov	Checkendon Village Crafts Fair
Mon 23 rd – Fri 27 th Nov	Writing Week
Mon 23 rd November	All years: Jungle Book Make a Play Day workshops: 2.45pm: Parents are invited to watch production in the school hall

Match Funding –Thank you to Mr and Mrs Rowling!

We are very grateful to Ellie's parents who have kindly organised match funding from their employer, National Grid. This means that National Grid will donate £700 to the School Association (as a registered charity) to match part of their fundraising for Fireworks Night!

Thank you very much!

What have we been learning in school this week?

Owlet Class

Sig the alien has arrived from the planet Tock! We have been writing lots of letters to him. We have made models of rockets and talked about 3D shapes and their properties. In addition, we have worked very hard on recognising all our numbers to 20 and higher. We have been writing the numerals, ordering and working out one more and one less than a given number.

Owl Class

This week, the children in Owl Class have been using Bug Club to read and perform play scripts in preparation for the start of the nativity season. We have also been investigating the materials used to make our school, thinking about their properties.

Panda Class

This week the children in Panda Class have been learning how to describe settings using adjectives and similes. We are working our way towards writing a myth of our own like Romulus and Remus and other Roman tales.

Our history lessons over the last week have focussed on opposition to the Roman invasion as we found out about the Celts and Picts. We learnt about Boudica and Hadrian's wall.

Rhino Class

Children in Rhino Class have been testing different household objects in science as we have been investigating different ways to classify materials. We have learned about the end of the Roman Empire and the first Anglo Saxons to invade Britain. Well done to our mathematicians who took part in the Maths Challenge at the Oratory School.

Maths Challenge

On Wednesday, Joseph, Max, Rhian and Henry from Rhino Class visited The Oratory School to take part in a Maths Challenge. They started off doing a sheet of 18 questions involving all sorts of problem solving activities. Next, they estimated the areas of boxes, the capacity of containers and how many sheets of paper in a pack. Then they did a relay race going backwards and forwards answering questions involving calculating angles and percentages. To celebrate all this hard work, they then had lunch - which was delicious! Well done to these enthusiastic mathematicians for representing our school so well!

Children in Need 2015

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Children In Need. We raised an amazing £189.10 on the day! In addition, following the participation of 94 children in The World's Largest Language Lesson in the afternoon (a world record attempt approved by the Guinness World Records), the Schools Advisory Service pledged to donate £1 to Children in Need for every pupil participating in the lesson if the record was beaten.

The winners of the 'Guess the Weight of Pudsey Bear' competition in each class were: Sophia (Owlets), Leo (Owls), Poppy (Pandas) and Gigi (Rhinos). Pudsey weighed in at an impressive 4,900g. A special well done to Leo who guessed his weight exactly!

Writing Week – Next Week

This year's Writing Week will focus on The Jungle Book. Our exciting launch on Monday will be drama workshops and a whole school performance of the play. During the rest of the week, children in all classes will take part in activities focusing on aspects of writing skills. Class teachers will plan these carefully to ensure that the week has maximum impact on improving the quality of the children's writing. Some of the lessons already planned include outdoor writing, adventure stories, character studies using the film and the text; and writing inspired by the jungle paintings of Henri Rousseau.

We plan to display some of the writing from the week in the school hall on Friday afternoon, so do pop in and have a look!

Book Fair – Buy Christmas Presents and Support the School!

We will be holding a Travelling Book Fair, kindly helped by Julia Butler:

- **from 3.00pm on Thursday 26th November in the school hall**, when parents are welcome to come and view the books before the end of the school day
- **from 3.30pm Friday 27th November in Panda Classroom.**

There will be a wide range of books available suitable for all ages of children at the school and it will be an ideal time to buy your Christmas presents and help the school get more books for the classrooms and library. For every book you purchase the school will get a commission of 60% of its cost towards more books for the school. Each class will be invited to look at the books with their teacher before the Fairs and will bring home some suggestions for books that they would like to read.

Thank you!

Many thanks to Wendy Butler and Peter Schmidt who kindly provided resources to enable the children to make poppies for our school art installation. Their help was much appreciated.

Tidy Hair in School

If your child has long hair please make sure that this is tied back for school.

Outdoor Learning

Please make sure that your child comes to school every day with a suitable coat. All classes are developing opportunities for outdoor learning and now that the weather is not so good, it is essential that children keep warm and dry.

Message from the School Association:

Tea Towels

The children have been enjoying designing portraits of themselves to put on a whole school tea towel. The tea towels are going to be printed and on sale in the next few weeks. For more information you can contact Louise Maze on [07748641568](tel:07748641568) or adrian459@btinternet.com.

Lunch and/or After School Language Clubs

You will have received in book bags this week a letter with information from Tutorbox, a language tuition provider. If you are interested in your child participating, please ensure that you return the completed survey on the letter to the school office by Monday 23rd November.

School Drama club providers

Berzerk Production

in association with Jelly and Spirited Events, bring a unique

Meet Santa experience on the 4th, 5th and 6th December at Jackson's in Reading

This immersive visit will see groups of up to 7 children make their own edible tree decorations with the crafty elves, meet Father Christmas for story time, games and magic, plus get a chance for a selfie with Santa. This will be the last ever chance to see Santa in Reading's iconic department store. Many happy parents expressed their delight in the experience last year and how it created a warm feeling for their children, many of whom saved their gold coin to leave for Santa on Christmas Eve. Come and see and feel the magic for yourself. Bookings limited so don't delay.

Book here - <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/jelly-5850507873>

Dates for your Diary

Sat/Sun 21/22 November
Mon 23rd – Fri 27th November
Monday 23rd November

Wednesday 25th November
Thursday 26th November

Friday 27th November
Wednesday 9th December
Friday 11th December
Monday 14th December
Tuesday 15th December
Wednesday 16th December
Thursday 17th December
Thursday 17th December
Friday 18th December

Checkendon Village Crafts Fair
Writing Week
All years: Jungle Book Make a Play Day workshops:
2.45pm: Parents are invited to watch production in the school hall
Mobile library (last before Christmas)
3.00pm: Travelling Books book fair in school hall – parents welcome to view before end of school day
3.20pm: Travelling Books book fair in Panda Class
Wednesday Workshop for parents
School Disco organised by School Association - tbc
2.00pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
6.30pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Children's Christmas dinner
Parents Christmas Drinks – organised by School Association venue tbc
6.30pm: Christmas Service in church
Last day of Term 2 (finish at 2.00pm)