



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

21st January 2016

Diary for Term 3

Thursday 21st January	School Council and School Values Ambassadors: Visit to Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford
Tuesday 9th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safer Internet Day• 2.15pm: SRE Education meeting for Y5&6 parents
Wednesday 10th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile Library• Parents' consultation evening
Thursday 11th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.30pm: Parents forum• Parents' consultation evening

What have we been learning in school this week?

Owlet Class

This week we have loved exploring the ice and frost in our outside area and have been finding out about freezing and melting. The frozen water in the water trays has made a fantastic environment for our arctic animals small world play. Hopefully the weather will stay cold enough for us to experience a real Winter Wonderland when we venture out into the woods again. We are going to collect words to use in our Big Write on Friday whilst in the woods.

We have continued the "Once Upon a Time" theme through drama, story and song, creating short plays about the Three Billy Goats Gruff and singing songs about the Gingerbread Man.

In the school field we re-enacted the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' then, once back in school, we programmed beebots to navigate to the various story scenes.

Owl Class

Children in Owl Class had a muddy walk in the Equestrian Centre grounds last Thursday, investigating the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees in winter. This week, we enjoyed our second judo taster session, and some of the children even got to throw Mr Boyer! We have also started to see how to create sprites and backgrounds using Scratch.

Panda Class

This week the children in Panda Class have been thinking about how we learn and choosing strategies to approach tasks. In maths we have been learning about money. Year 3 have been making amounts with coins and finding combinations. Year 4 have been adding and subtracting with column methods. The children have been working extra hard at their big maths and more certificates are ready to come home. Keep learning those 'learn its' Pandas!

Rhino Class

This week the Vikings arrived in Checkendon! Children in Rhino Class were visited by Hrothgar the Viking. They were taken back to his camp after a raid on the classroom. Hrothgar talked about how the Viking warriors dressed for battle and fought their enemies. He told stories about famous Vikings and how Viking traditions have influenced traditions today. The children learned about how the Vikings lived, played some Viking games and acted in a Viking saga.

Purple Polishing

This term, we have introduced Purple Polishing Pens for the children to respond to feedback in their books. This is enabling the children the opportunity to revisit, edit and improve their writing. They will also be trying to improve their learning by adding something extra or to solve more challenging problems. They are 'polishing' their learning to show an even greater understanding.

Sports News

This term got off to an exciting start with our entire Rhino Class attending a Sportshall Athletics event at Henley Leisure Centre on Tuesday 12th January. There were some outstanding individual performances against some very difficult competition. These weren't enough to rank us in the top 3 but we did excel at sportsmanship and effort. Every child showed great enthusiasm and support to their teammates. It was great to see some of the children push themselves out of their comfort zones and enjoy the competition!

Sainsburys Active Kids

Sainsburys are again running their active kids voucher scheme from Thursday 20th January. When you shop at Sainsburys you will be given vouchers at the checkout which can be collected in school and redeemed against equipment which promotes healthy lifestyles. This has been very successful in the past and we have been able to get new baking and cooking utensils as well as sports equipment for the playground. Look out for the collection box in the entrance hall.

Sara Walker, School Sports Co-ordinator

Parents' Consultation Evenings

We will be holding our pupil progress reviews from 3.30pm onwards on Wednesday 10th February for **all classes** and from 3.30pm onwards on Thursday 11th February for **Owl, Panda and Rhino classes**. As part of our commitment to promoting pupils independent active learning, **we would like to invite children to accompany their parents to these meetings**. We are happy for parents to decide whether or not this is appropriate for them. Appointment lists for you to sign will be in the entrance hall from **Monday, 1st February**.

Arrangements for Emergency Closure of the School

On rare occasions, for example during extreme weather conditions or when the school has no heating or water, the head teacher and chair of governors may have to take the decision to close the school. It is school policy to keep the school open if at all possible, but there are occasions when it would not be possible to operate the school within the health and safety requirements.

In the very unlikely event of an emergency closure during the school day, the school will contact parents via the telephone contact details kept in school. All children will be kept safely until collected. Please ensure, therefore, that the school has your up-to-date daytime telephone contact details.

In the event of an emergency closure before the start of the school day the school will notify Oxfordshire County Council and the local radio stations and will send a group email to all parents who have sent emergency contact email details to the office. If parents need to find out whether or not the school is closed they should:

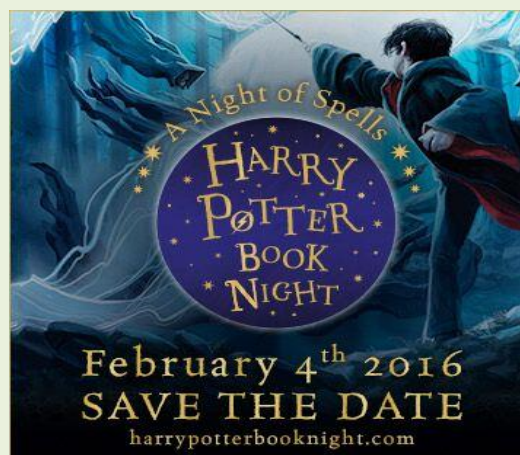
- Check their email if they have asked to be contacted by email;
- Look on the county public website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures;
- Listen to the announcements of the local radio stations:
 - BBC Radio Oxford – VHF/FM 95.2
 - Heart FM (Oxfordshire) – VHF/FM 102.6
 - JACK FM – VHF/FM 106.8

Parents are advised not to call the radio stations otherwise switchboards can become jammed and prevent the radio stations receiving information from schools. Parents may attempt to call the school, but the school cannot guarantee that there will be someone in the office to man the phone.

Our hot school dinners are prepared in the kitchen at Langtree School and delivered to Checkendon in time for lunch. Langtree School may be closed on days when Checkendon School is open. We ask therefore that, if there is snow on the ground but Checkendon School is open, parents assume that hot dinners will not be delivered and send their child with a packed lunch.

Art Club

Please note that Art Club which takes place on Fridays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm is for children in Years 1, 2 and 3. There are still a few spaces left, so if your child is interesting in joining, please ask the school office for a form or contact Susannah Lovegrove on 07970 768082.



Woodcote Library: 5.30pm – 6.30pm

For children aged between 7 -11

Dress Code: Wizarding robes or Harry Potter fancy dress

Free tickets available from Woodcote library

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 9 th February	2.15pm: SRE Education meeting for Y5 & 6 parents
Wednesday 10 th February	Mobile Library
Wednesday 10 th February	Parents' consultation evening
Thursday 11 th February	2.30pm: Parents forum
Thursday 11 th February	Parents' consultation evening
Friday 12 th February	Last day of Term 3
Monday 22 nd February	First day of Term 4
Monday 22 nd February	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Wednesday 24 th February	Wild Science visiting Owlet Class
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day
Wednesday 16 th March	Mobile Library
Friday 18 th March	Sports Relief/PE Day
Thursday 24 th March	2.00pm: Maundy Communion Service in church – parents invited
Thursday 24 th March	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 12 th April	First Day of Term 5
Monday 18 th April	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Wednesday 27 th April	Mobile Library
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th May	SATs Week
Friday 20 th May	2.00pm: Pentecost Service in church followed by dancing at school
Wednesday 25 th May	Mobile Library
Friday 27 th May	RE Day: Christians around the World
Friday 27 th May	Last Day of Term 5
Tuesday 7 th June	First Day of Term 6
Monday 13 th June	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Wednesday 29 th June	Mobile Library (last one – collection only)
Friday 15 th July	Sports Day
Monday 18 th July	Sports Day reserve
Wednesday 20 th July	Last day of Term 6