



# CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

Diary for Term 2	
Tomorrow, Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Last day of Term 1 – finish at 3.20pm
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Autumn holiday
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Inset Day – no children in school
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	First day of Term 2
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	1.00pm – 3.20pm Our School Values afternoon organised by the School Values Ambassadors – parents welcome
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6: IMPS visit to Townlands Hospital
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Panda Class visit to Chedworth Roman Villa
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Fireworks Night – organised by School Association

## What have we been learning in school this week?

### Outdoor Maths Day

The whole school enjoyed breaking out of the classroom on Monday, applying our maths skills outside in our Outdoor Maths Day. Our whole school session creating 2D and 3D shapes was particularly successful: adults and children learning in collaboration; siblings working together; and the teamwork and shared learning between year groups were outstanding. Children and staff were very enthusiastic about the day and we plan to have more events like this. Thank you especially to the parents that came to help: you made a real difference to the children's learning.

### Owlet Class

In Owlet Class the pupils have been making number lines with autumn leaves, conkers and acorns that they collected during a walk in the woods. They have also been learning the sounds g and o, so 'groovy grandparents', the Oscars and Olivia have been in the spotlight.

### Owl Class

Owl class spent Outdoor Maths Day measuring the trees in the school grounds, trying to work out the tallest and the oldest ones. Today, we all "travelled" in a charabanc to a seaside holiday of 100 years ago with the Hands on Oxfordshire's Heritage service. As well as this, the children have been writing alliterative tongue twisters and completing their seascapes. Parents, please come into the classroom on Friday morning to see them displayed.

## **Panda Class**

The children in Panda Class have had a relaxing morning doing Pilates with Poppy and Jacob's mum. This has helped them to unwind after all their hard work on the topic. This week we really enjoyed our maths day and wrote letters to Highwood School to say thank you for last week.

## **Rhino Class**

Rhino class spent Outdoor Maths Day estimating how many bricks we would need to rebuild our classroom by working out the area of the walls. We also looked for man-made and natural angles around the playground. We have also been learning about how light separates into the separate colours of the rainbow in science. We have been making tunnel books in art, to show a scene from the Highwayman.

## **Parents' Forum**

Suzanne Bradley, Wendy Butler, Jo Crook, Emma Darke, Nicky West and Mrs Seymour had a very interesting and useful first meeting of Checkendon School Parents' Forum on Wednesday morning. The main topic of discussion was the School Development Plan, which identifies priorities for school improvement over the course of the coming year; an outline of this is on the website under the documents tab. We also talked about school uniform, forest schools and providing designated quiet areas at break and lunchtimes. Our next meeting will be towards the end of Term 2; if you have any comments on the topics we discussed or anything else you would like to raise, please talk to your School Association Year Group representative as below:

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

## **Rector's Worship – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

At our worship in church on Wednesday, we enjoyed singing some of the children's favourite songs and hymns from Junior Praise. Revd Alcock asked pupils to nominate songs and explain why they like them.

Olivia Law chose 'Colours of the Day'. She said, 'I like the song colours of the day awn into the mind because when you sing the verses it feels quite sad but straight after them there comes a huge burst of joy and brightness and you feel like you want to really get into the song. The whole song is really emotional when you sing it'. Sam Snowden selected 'God's not Dead'. Joshua Turner chose 'Give me Oil in my Lamp'. Maisie Crook explained that she had chosen 'From the Tiny Ant', 'because it makes me laugh and I like that the whole school has got to sing different parts'. Rhian Hayes chose 'Shine Jesus Shine', 'because it makes me feel happy, when it is dark it makes it light'.

Everyone was impressed by the way the children were able to talk about the reasons for their choices and we all enjoyed the singing!

## **Swimming Gala Success!**

On Tuesday a very excited and enthusiastic group of children from Rhino Class arrived at the Oratory swimming pool for a gala. There were outstanding performances from all of our swimmers with the girls winning all of their individual races and the boys winning almost all of theirs, meaning both teams won overall and have qualified for the county finals later in the year. In addition there were some fun races and team relays where we also performed well, making Checkendon the overall winning school! Patrick Jones was awarded the individual Olympic (and school) value for courage. Well done to all the competitors and thank you to the parents who came to support and help.

## **School Council News**

At our meeting this week we started to plan for this year's 'Children in Need' fundraising event which will take place on Friday 13th November. Lots of ideas were suggested and, following a vote, we decided in the end to combine the two favourite ideas. Inspired by last year's popular 'Guess the weight of the pumpkin' competition we will be holding a 'Guess the weight of Pudsey Bear' competition (provided we can find a large enough Teddy to volunteer!). We also decided to celebrate 'Children in Need' day by having a non-uniform day. Look out for more information in newsletters closer to the date.

## **Oxfordshire County Council Firework Poster Competition**

The School Council arranged for Checkendon pupils to enter a firework poster competition open to all schools across Oxfordshire, launched by Oxfordshire's Trading Standards Service. We were delighted to learn that Olivia Law is on the shortlist of their final judging! Olivia has been invited to attend the County Hall in Oxford on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November when prizes will be awarded. Good luck and well done Olivia!

## **'Boxed up School Values' afternoon organised by the School Values Ambassadors**

Children will work in house groups alongside a group of parents to create 'boxed up school values' 3D art works focussing on each of the 5 school values. Values will be assigned to each house group on the day. As there are 4 houses and 5 school values, the School Values Ambassadors would like to invite parents to make the 5<sup>th</sup> value. Parents are welcome to work on this during the afternoon or at a later time. If you would like to be involved but are not able to be there on the day, please talk to Mrs Seymour.

## **School Lunches**

Aspens Services have asked us to remind parents to **cancel any lunches booked on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** as this is an Inset day when no children are in school.

## **ClubComplete Gymnastics After School Club - Starting in Spring Term on Thursdays**

Please remember to return slips to the school by **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, if you would like your child to attend this club. It will run for 6 weeks from Thursday 7th January to Thursday 11th February from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. The club will be provided by an experienced leader who will teach children the skills required to safely perform gymnastics. Letters/forms are available from the School Office.



**Checkendon**  
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**Fireworks**  
**Fri 6th Nov**  
**Gates open 6pm**

**Adults £3.50 • Children £2.50**  
**Bar • BBQ • Stalls • Games**

### **Cricket Christmas Camps**

**Run by Dan Housego - The Oratory School Cricket Professional (L3 specialist coach)**

**14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**Half day 10.00am – 12.30pm**

**Full day 10.00am – 4.00pm**

**£25.00 half day   £40.00 full day   £160.00 full week**

**Camps will take place in the sports hall at The Oratory School (RG8 0PJ)**

To book or for further information please contact Dan on 07916 804605 or danhousego@hotmail.com or take a look at [www.DanHousegoCricketCoaching.com](http://www.DanHousegoCricketCoaching.com)

## Dates for your Diary

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Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Sat/Sun 21/22 November	Checkendon Village Crafts Fair
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	All years: Jungle Book Make a Play Day workshops: 2.45pm: Parents are invited to watch production in the school hall
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Mobile library (last before Christmas)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	3.00pm: Travelling Books book fair in school hall – parents welcome to view before end of school day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	3.20pm: Travelling Books book fair in Panda Class
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday Workshop for parents
Friday 11th December	School Disco organised by School Association - tbc
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Children’s Christmas dinner
Thursday 17th December	Parents Christmas Drinks – organised by School Association venue tbc
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm: Christmas Service in church
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Term 2 (finish at 2.00pm)