



# CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

25<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## Diary for Term 3

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Panda Class visit to Waitrose, Henley
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Mobile Library

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

#### Owlet Class

Children in Owlet Class have become explorers and now have a tree house in the rainforest where they are discovering all about their environment and its creatures. We had a very exciting visit from Wild Science who brought: Molly the millipede; Thor the giant rabbit; Gummy the bearded dragon; and Terry the tree frog to meet us.

#### Owl Class

Owl Class children have been finishing off and evaluating their alien puppets from last term. They should be displayed in the classroom soon. This week, we have been devising questions about Australia ready for our Skype call to Sydney on Monday. We are really excited about talking to Leo's cousins on the other side of the world!

#### Panda Class

Children in Panda Class have begun their topic on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We have read the beginning of Roald Dahl's famous novel and we have used this to practise our speaking and listening skills. We have also been learning about perimeter and area and investigating these. Next week we look forward to launching our DT project.

#### Rhino Class

On Monday, children in Rhino Class had an energetic and exciting launch to their new topic about the USA. They learned all about American sports and had basketball and baseball coaching, many of them showed off their new skills by scoring home runs! They were lucky to have a visitor all the way from California to talk to them about growing up in America. In Maths they have been learning about time and how to interpret timetables. In literacy the children have been continuing to study poems and different themes and styles.

## Term 4 Staffing

To provide some opportunities for single year group teaching in Owl Class and Rhino Class, we are delighted to welcome Alistair Lead and Kirsty Ouellette who will be joining us to teach PE on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons this term. Miss Ouellette is an experienced primary school teacher and British Wheel of Yoga teacher. Some of you may remember Mr Lead as he worked with Mr Gayford in Rhino Class for a year after training as a PE secondary school teacher. As well as teaching Rhino Class on Tuesday afternoons, he is providing PPA cover for Mrs Cox in Panda Class on Wednesday afternoons.

We are very pleased that Paul Meakin has extended his PE coaching here and will be with us on Fridays. We are saying a temporary goodbye to Sam Clothier who we hope to welcome back to the school in the future. His expertise, particularly with the younger children, has been much appreciated by us all.

## Themes for Term 4

Our exciting new themes for this term are:

<b>Rhino Class</b>	USA
<b>Panda Class</b>	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
<b>Owl Class</b>	Down Under
<b>Owlet Class</b>	Animals

## Value for Term 4

We will be focussing on the value of Service this term. We launched the theme with our community worship on Monday. A sheet of activities for you to do at home to explore this value can be found on the values page of the school website under the parents tab.

## New Letterhead with our School Values

Many thanks to David Beard for his expertise in producing our smart new letterhead. We are very grateful for all his efforts on our behalf to get the design just right.

## New outdoor prayer space

Many of you will have noticed the newly installed outdoor prayer space in the corner of the playground. To save money, we purchased this as a self-assembly item and we are very grateful indeed to Peter Schmidt who put it all together so beautifully. We will be talking to the children about what we can do to encourage pupils to use it for reflection.

## Travelling Book Company Books

We were delighted to receive a fantastic range of books bought from the commission of the Travelling Books Fair, thank you again to Julia Butler for her help in organising it. They will be displayed in the entrance hall tomorrow for you to see.

## Damage to car parked outside Church

Thank you for your feedback. We are happy to confirm that no parent at the school was involved in this incident.

## **Parents' Forum – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Class reps met with Mrs Seymour and it proved to be a very productive meeting. Minutes of the meeting are below:

### ***Quiet places at break times***

*The Prayer Space for the school grounds has been ordered and will be installed in the playground in the next couple of weeks by Pete Schmidt who has kindly volunteered to do this.*

### ***School uniform***

*We discussed pros and cons of the more expensive option of school shirts with logos and agreed to canvass opinions more widely.*

### ***Book bags***

*An exemplar book bag will be ordered to trial.*

### ***Early drop off***

*We discussed the possibility of arranging an 8:30 drop off option. This would not be possible without setting up a designated location and paid-for supervision; the breakfast club at pre-school is available for child care before school but this has a minimum booking of one hour. We agreed to canvass opinion more widely on this.*

### ***Sports Day***

*There was a request to set the alternative Sports Day dates a week apart; this will be considered for next year.*

### ***Fundraising***

*The School Association will organise monthly fundraisers on the theme of Healthy Lifestyles; these will be on a class based rota to encourage involvement of as many parents as possible.*

### ***Reading with your child***

*Booklets with advice about how to support independent readers were distributed at parents' evenings.*

### ***PE***

*Reminder: lots of the pupils are keen on taking part in running events. Investigate options for a cross country club at lunchtime 12:00 – 12:40, ask for volunteers to trial this.*

## **Guinness World Record Official Attempt for Largest Lesson – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

You will recall that all pupils at Checkendon School participated in a new world record attempt to teach the world's largest language lesson via a live 'webcast' 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.

Unfortunately, due to insufficient evidence available, the new world record attempt was unsuccessful. The rules were strict and very challenging and it has been a great disappointment to the organisers, David Andrews and Chris Williams.

However, everyone's considerable efforts were not in vain. £20,000 was raised for Children in Need and the children took part in a lesson with over 30,000 other student from all over the world, an incredible achievement everyone should feel proud of.

## LANGTREE SCHOOL

**WANT TO WORK IN A LEADING EDGE SCHOOL? COME AND BE A PART OF OUR EXCITING FUTURE**

**Required to start as soon as possible**

### **Cover Supervisor Grade 6 18-21 (£17,714 – 19,942) pro rata**

The annual salary for this post is approx. £11,000 per annum gross)

**29.5 hours over 5 days, 8.40am – 3.30pm term time only**

A formal teaching qualification is not a necessity, but classroom experience as a Teaching Assistant would be an advantage. The successful candidate will have an affinity with young people and will enjoy the working environment of the classroom. Training will be provided.

An enhanced CRB disclosure is required.

Further details and the application form are available on the school website at [www.langtreeschool.com](http://www.langtreeschool.com) or contact the Headteacher's PA Mary Taylor-Lane: [mtaylorlane@langtreeschool.com](mailto:mtaylorlane@langtreeschool.com) or call 01491 683382

**Closing date: Thursday 10th March 2016 at 12 noon**

**Applications will be processed on receipt so an early response would be advantageous.**

### **Cricket Easter Camp**

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

**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Half day 10.00am – 12.30pm**

**Full day 10.00am – 4.00pm**

**£20.00 half day £30.00 full day £120.00 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](mailto:danhousego@hotmail.com) or take a look online please follow the link: [http://www.danhousegocricketcoaching.com/#contact\\_dhcc](http://www.danhousegocricketcoaching.com/#contact_dhcc)

### **Dates for your Diary**

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Panda Class visit to Waitrose, Henley
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Mobile Library
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Sports Relief/PE Day
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	7.00pm parents workshop
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm: Maundy Communion Service in church – parents invited
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Term 5
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Mobile Library  
SATs Week  
Evening: Circus – organised by School Association  
2.00pm: Pentecost Service in church followed by dancing at school  
Mobile Library  
RE Day: Christians around the World  
Last Day of Term 5  
First Day of Term 6  
3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited  
Mobile Library (last one – collection only)  
Sports Day  
Sports Day reserve  
Last day of Term 6