



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

26th November 2015

Diary for Term 2

Tomorrow	3.20pm: Travelling Books book fair in Panda Class
Thurs 10th December	Afternoon: "The Apprentice Sorcerer" travelling theatre performing to whole school - letters in book bags next week
Thurs 10th December	2.30pm – 3.15pm: Parents Forum for School Association reps
Mon 14th December	2.00pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Tues 15th December	6.30pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Weds 16th December	Aspens children's Christmas dinner
Thurs 17th December	6.30pm: Christmas Service in church

Lost Uniform Items

There have been a number of uniform items which have gone missing over the past few weeks. Please ensure that your child comes to school in *labelled* clothes and please check that all items your child brings home belong to him/her. Thank you for your help.

Writing Week: Jungle Book

We have had a fantastic week of jungle writing!

Owlet Class

Children in Owlet Class really enjoyed the Jungle Book drama on Monday and drew their favourite parts of the day with teachers scribing their words on Tuesday. The children have been working on their ideas and have been spending the latter part of the week using their phonic skills to write their own short captions and sentences about the Jungle Book.

Owl Class

Following on from the excitement of Monday's play, the children in Owl Class have been writing stories using Jungle Book characters. Year 1 children have been working on adding adjectives to sentences. Year 2 children have been learning about using apostrophes for possession and using commas in lists.

Panda Class

This week children in Panda Class have enjoyed working with teams from across the school to create a play in one day. Using some of the ideas from the play, children wrote an exciting jungle adventure story. After that they worked hard to learn about new features they could add and do some editing.

Rhino Class

Children in Rhino Class have been enjoying Writing Week. We have been developing our descriptive writing and have written descriptions of contrasting settings. We went on a Vocabulary Hunt in the woodland to help us. We have also been developing characters and learning how dialogue can develop our characters as well as moving our stories on. (In swimming we have been practicing survival skills using our pyjamas!)

Book Fair – Buy Christmas Presents and Support the School!

Many thanks to Julia Butler and Mary Anne Jones for all their help in organising the book fair.

You can visit the book fair tomorrow from 3.30pm in Panda Classroom.

There is a wide range of books available suitable for all ages of children at the school and it's 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. If you aren't able to make the event, you can order books on line at: www.travellingbooks.co.uk quoting school reference 910085.

Thank you to Checkendon Village Committee

Checkendon Village held a very successful Crafts for Christmas fair last weekend. They have kindly donated £200 of their proceeds to us for use of our school hall. We are very grateful to them and will put this towards the new play area we are planning on our field.

Road Safety Week

As a whole school we have been raising our awareness of our road safety skills through various activities. Children in the lower years have been learning through play about road safety with the help of toy cars and people. Owlets have been on a learning walk to look at a real car and discuss important features to look out for. Main words that were focused on where to look, listen and hold hands. Toad's Road Code was read to them also to establish what they had learnt. All years have had, or will have, the chance to be involved and produce a giant hand display, to promote holding hands when we cross the roads. Please look out for it. We have tried a seat belt experiment with teddies and dolls to raise the children's awareness of how important seat belts are to wear in a car. No teddies or dolls were injured!!

A leaflet with interesting facts and useful websites will be in book bags tomorrow, for you to read with your children to continue to promote road safety at home.

Many thanks to Wendy Butler for her help with all the activities.

Claire Hyman

Sports News

It's been an action packed couple of months for competitive sport at Checkendon, with children across Key Stage 2 involved in cross country, various football tournaments and sportshall athletics!

We have had a huge increase in the number of children interested in cross country, with 30 children attending the last event! We have had great results with many competitors improving their placings, well done and keep it up!

Last Thursday a group of children from Rhino Class played in a 6-a-side football tournament on what turned out to be a very cold and soggy day. The children all played very well and displayed great sportsmanship coming 4th out of six teams!

On Friday 19 children from Panda Class, accompanied by Mrs Griffin, went to Langtree for sportshall athletics. There was lots of excitement as our athletes cheered each other on and delivered some fantastic performances. Overall we came 4th out of 7 teams and were awarded a team medal for determination.

This month also saw our new sports leaders being chosen, and they've already been put to work taking photos of each other for the notice board. They start training from Friday.

Thank you to all the parents and staff who have helped make these events happen and of course to the children who have all competed with such enthusiasm.

Sara Walker, School Sports Co-ordinator

Governor News

Duncan Brown (our Safeguarding Governor) and Mrs Seymour have been reviewing the school's safeguarding policies and procedures and have now completed the Annual Safeguarding Report.

The Full Governing Body met this Tuesday evening. They were joined by our new Diocese Education Advisor, Elaine Skinner, who has taken over from Lesley Turville.

Items on the agenda included :-

an update of the School Development Plan (a standing item), a review of Governor Responsibilities, the Safeguarding Report, the SEN Policy review and Admissions for 2016.

Governors also agreed the new names and Terms of Reference for their two main sub-committees:- 'Resources' (was 'Finance and Premises') and 'Achievement' (was 'Teaching and Learning').

All Governors have been involved in self-evaluation to ensure the most effective organisation of their jobs and responsibilities. They feel that these names better encompass and reflect their commitment to whole school improvement.

Year 6 Residential Visit

As some of you may know, 2 years ago, the date of the entrance exam for Kendrick School was altered so that it was held on the day after the children in Y6 returned from Woodlands. As a result of this, and other entrance exams close to this time, a small number of children have not been able to participate in the residential visit. We are very keen indeed to encourage all pupils to take part in this fantastic experience, so, Charlotte Harris (the headteacher at Stoke Row) and I have been exploring options.

After careful consideration, we decided to move the date of the Year 6 residential; not only to avoid clashing with the preparation for entrance exams, but also because it would provide better teaching and learning for our mixed Year 5/6 class.

We are very pleased to have been able to book the autumn 2016 visit at the OCC centre Kilvrough <http://www.kilvroughmanor.org.uk/cms/site/kilvrough-manor>; this will take place during the week preceding the October half term. This not only has the advantage of avoiding the exam season, it also means that the children will have an uninterrupted first term and both children and accompanying adults will have the chance to recover from the experience (!) during the half term break.

If you have any questions or queries please talk to Mrs Brereton or email the school office. More detailed information will be provided for parents of current Year 5 pupils in due course.

Parents' Forum

As part of a new initiative to improve home/school communication class reps will be invited to attend termly (6 times a year) parents' forum meetings with Mrs Seymour. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 10th December from 2.30pm – 3.15pm and will provide opportunities to work on school development priorities together. If you are a class rep and are not able to make it, please nominate someone else to attend on your behalf. If other parents would like to come, please get in touch with the school office.

Class Reps for this school year are:

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

Owl and Owlet Nativity Play - Monday 14th December at 2.00pm and Tuesday 15th December at 6.30pm

Please do come along to the Owl and Owlet Nativity Play. There will be two performances: the first on the afternoon of Monday 14th December, starting at 2.00pm; the second at 6.30pm on Tuesday 15th December. Both performances will be in the school hall.

Mr Boyer asks that the children be in school by 6.10pm to change and prepare for the Tuesday evening performance.

Children's Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 16th December

Aspens, our school lunch provider, are arranging a special Christmas Lunch for the children on Wednesday 16th December. We would encourage all children to opt for lunch on this day, even if they have not had a school lunch before.

To order online you will need to set up an account with Aspens (<http://www.aspens-services.co.uk/meals/>).

If you have already ordered lunch for your child on either of these days, the usual menu will not be available so please ensure that you change your orders on line in plenty of time. Thank you.

Carol Service – Thursday 17th December at 6.30pm

Our carol service will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 17th December in the church. We do hope that you and the rest of the family will be able to join us in this Christmas Celebration. All pupils will be singing carols and songs. Key Stage 2 pupils will be reading, acting out the nativity, performing poems and leading prayers. **Year 4 pupils should arrive by 6.10pm, all other children by 6.20pm.**

Message from the School Association:

- **School Disco**

We are sorry to say that the school disco planned for this term has been cancelled. We will definitely return with the disco at the end of the summer term.

- **End of term festive drink at The Highwayman**

Please join us for an end of term glass of fizz at The Highwayman on Friday 18th December from 12.30pm – 2.00pm. Please let either Jo Crook or Suzanne Bradley know if you can come so that we can get a rough idea of numbers. We will have a School Association charity bucket on the bar for anyone who would like to make a donation towards the new school forte. Hope you can join us for a festive drink before we break for Christmas!

Dates for your Diary

Friday 27th November
Thursday 10th December
Thursday 10th December
Monday 14th December
Tuesday 15th December
Wednesday 16th December
Thursday 17th December
Thursday 17th December
Friday 18th December

3.20pm: Travelling Books book fair in Panda Class
Pm: Whole school: "The Apprentice Sorcerer" children's theatre
2.30pm – 3.15pm: Parents Forum for School Association reps
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](#))