



# CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

28<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## Diary for Term 3

<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Appointment lists in the entrance hall for parents to sign up for Pupil Progress Reviews: Parents' Evenings</b>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Safer Internet Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>2.15pm: SRE Education meeting for Y5&amp;6 parents</b>
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mobile Library</b></li><li>• <b>Parents' consultation evening</b></li></ul>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>2.30pm: Parents' forum</b></li><li>• <b>Parents' consultation evening</b></li></ul>

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

### Owlet Class

This week children in Owlet Class have been beginning to learn the first of the digraphs, ch. They heard all about the little pig who was saved from the wolf as he had a basket full of ch food, chocolate, cheese, chips and so on. The children have written their own shopping lists of ch foods they would put in their basket to save them! The Once Upon A Time artwork is progressing and children are now drawing their favourite characters from traditional tales and have begun to write captions in speech bubbles for the characters.

### Owl Class

This week, the children in Owl Class have been investigating non-fiction books, and researching facts about planets so they can create their own page in an information book. They have also designed an "Aliens Love Underpants" puppet, and have started to sew them together. A huge thanks to the mums who came in and helped on Wednesday.

### Panda Class

This week, children in Panda Class have been learning about fronted adverbials and have been busy editing dragon stories that will be added to a new display. Lots of the children have been practising their learn its and moving on in Big Maths.

## **Rhino Class**

This week the children in Rhino Class have been writing recounts in literacy. They have written detailed reports about Hrothgar the Viking's visit. In their topic lessons they have been writing newspaper reports about the Viking invasion of Britain. They have finished their 3D longboats and have been sketching their own decorative dragon heads.

## **School Council and School Ambassadors Visit to Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford**

On Thursday 21st January the School Council and School Ambassadors visited Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. We met our guide, Mrs Holderness, at Tom Gate at the entrance to Christ Church College. Above the gate is Tom Tower and inside this is the college bell. We discovered that whilst the bell chimes normally throughout the day (6 times at 6 o'clock etc) at 9 o'clock at night something amazing happens ... the bell chimes not 9 times but 101 times! The reason for this is that when the college was founded there were 101 students and they complained that when the bell chimed 9 times there wasn't enough time for them to get back to the college before the big heavy doors were locked for the night and they had to sleep on the pavement outside. So the college changed it to 101 chimes, one for each student, and the tradition continues to this day. Next we saw the quadrangle and learnt that Charles Dodgson (better known as Lewis Carroll, the author of 'Alice in Wonderland') was once a maths tutor at the college and it was here that he met the real life Alice who was the daughter of the Dean at the time. After that we walked past the staircase which was used as the moving staircase in the Harry Potter films.

Mrs Holderness then showed us a PowerPoint presentation all about the history of the Cathedral, built in the 12th century as a church dedicated to St. Frideswide a Saxon Princess and healer who is the patron saint of Oxford. It became a cathedral during the reign of Henry VIII. We enjoyed putting on costumes to act out the story of St Frideswide.

Next we learnt about the organisation of the Anglican church and how Canterbury Cathedral is the most important cathedral in the country and the Archbishop of Canterbury is the most important bishop although the head of the Anglican church is the Queen. The country is split into a number of diocese which is the district under the control of a bishop. A cathedral is the principal church of a bishop's diocese. It need not be large or old but it must contain the bishop's 'Cathedra' (or Throne), from which the cathedral gets its name. We live in the Diocese of Oxford which covers the three counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. Within each diocese there are a number of parish churches run by priests.

Before we started our tour of the cathedral one of the children was invited to dress up as a bishop wearing a cloak, mitre (tall pointed hat) and carrying a crosier (a hooked staff). We learnt that only the bishop is allowed to carry the crosier with the hook pointing outwards. Inside the cathedral we admired the beautiful stained glass windows and visited the shrine to St. Frideswide. Our 'bishop' was then allowed to sit on the 'Cathedra' and we also saw the seat where the Queen sits when she visits the Cathedral.

We found out lots of amazing facts on our visit and only wished we could have stayed for longer. It is well worth a visit if you are in Oxford.

## 'Masterchef 2016' Cooking Event

On Wednesday Liam, Hugo, Emma and Perdy were invited to take part in the Masterchef 2016 cooking competition organised by Stoke Row School. It was held in Stoke Row village hall and included the partnership schools who are Goring, Stoke Row, South Stoke, Whitchurch, Woodcote and Checkendon.

The challenge was to produce a selection of sandwiches to appeal to young children. The team had previously chosen the team name of 'Sandwich Stars' and had decided on a space theme for their food. They were provided with the ingredients and equipment and given about 45 minutes to prepare and present their food.

The final creations were judged by three judges including Paul Clerehugh, the chef and owner of the Crooked Billet and a lady who had appeared on the Masterchef series on television. They spoke to the teams about their sandwiches and also tasted some too. The winners were announced as Whitchurch who made a wonderful mermaid platter. All the other teams won gold awards and Paul Clerehugh said the quality was outstanding and he was really impressed with the spectacular and thoughtful planning.

I was very impressed with the creative ideas, planning and teamwork that our team produced and it was a pleasure to take them to the competition.

*Jackie Griffin*

## Programme of Visits during Worship

As you know, we have a programme of visits and visitors from different faiths on Thursday mornings during January and February. Our first speaker, on 14<sup>th</sup> January, was Heather Harper from Greyfriars Church in Reading and today we welcomed back Russell Martin from Henley Baptist Church. We are very grateful to them both for giving up their time to share their experiences of Christianity.

## Parents' Consultation Evenings

We will be holding our pupil progress reviews from 3.30pm onwards on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February for **all classes** and from 3.30pm onwards on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February for **Owl, Panda and Rhino classes**.

Timings are detailed below:

	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Owlet Class</b>	Mrs Martin 3.30 pm – 5.50 pm	
<b>Owl Class</b>	Mr Boyer 3.30 pm – 5.50 pm	Mr Boyer 3.30 pm – 5.50 pm
<b>Panda Class</b>	Mrs Cox 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm	Mrs Cox 3.30 pm – 5.50 pm
<b>Rhino Class</b>	Mrs Brereton 3.30 pm – 5.40 pm	Mrs Breretib 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

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, 1<sup>st</sup> February**.

## Dates for your Diary

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