



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

3rd December 2015

Diary for Term 2

Thurs 10 th December	Afternoon: "The Apprentice Sorcerer" travelling theatre performing to whole school. Please return your slips by Monday 7 th December.
Thurs 10 th December	2.30pm – 3.15pm: Parents Forum for School Association reps
Mon 14 th December	2.00pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Tues 15 th December	6.30pm in school hall: Owl and Owlet Class Christmas Nativity
Weds 16 th December	Aspens children's Christmas dinner
Thurs 17 th December	6.30pm: Christmas Service in church

What have we been learning in school this week?



Prayer Spaces

We were delighted to welcome Russell Martin, from Henley Baptist Church to Checkendon School this week to lead the Prayer Spaces programme in our school. This is a nationwide initiative which enables children and young people to explore faith and spirituality from a broadly Christian perspective in a safe, creative and interactive way.

Russell was in school on Monday morning to talk to the children about what Prayer Spaces in Schools is all about. On Tuesday children in Year 5 and Year 6 had the opportunity to visit the spaces (which were set up in the hall) and on Wednesday it was the turn of the other year groups. Sessions were led by Russell and a small group of volunteer helpers from Henley Baptist Church and Checkendon Church. Lots of parents joined in after school on Tuesday.

Children and staff really enjoyed the experience and we would like to say a big thank you to Russell and his helpers. Following the success of this project, we plan to establish a permanent Prayer Space, probably in the school grounds. If you have any suggestions of possible designs for this - do get in touch!

Owlet Class

This week children in Owlet Class have been learning songs for the Nativity and finding out about the first Christmas. We have been creating our own repeating patterns on space bands and continuing to describe 3D shapes. Three new sounds have been added to our phonic knowledge which we have used in our reading and writing.

Owl Class

Children in Owl Class have been out and about again! At the end of writing week, they explored the jungle at the bottom of the field, finding evidence of Shere Khan (claw marks on logs and a dead parrot), King Louie's home, and a river containing hippos and crocodiles. The children built a bridge to cross this dangerous obstacle. This week, we investigated the materials used in some of the old buildings around Checkendon to help understand why the Great Fire of London was so devastating.

Panda Class

Panda Class children have been busy over the last week improving their knowledge of noun phrases and editing skills. We have been planning our own Roman style myths by creating characters and settings. In maths we have been learning to tell the time on an analogue (traditional) clock.

Rhino Class

It's been another busy week in Rhino Class. In maths we have been learning how to check our division questions by multiplying our answers. We have been designing illuminated letters in art. Congratulations to Gigi, Mary and Patrick who represented us in the Climate Change Conference at Whitchurch Primary School on Monday. They researched the UK's energy resources and gave a presentation that discussed ways to reduce our energy use. They were congratulated on a well researched and confident presentation.

Book Fair

Many thanks to all who supported the Travelling Books fair last week and to Julia Butler and Mary Anne Jones for all their help in organising it. We raised an impressive £342.23 in commission to spend on new books!

Thank you from Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse has asked us to thank all of you who brought in shoe boxes for their Operation Christmas Child appeal. They will now be distributing them as Christmas gifts to children less fortunate than ours.

School Milk Scheme

You will have received letters this week regarding this scheme that is available to all of our pupils.

School milk is free for all children under 5 (up until the Friday before their 5th birthday). A subsidised scheme is also available for all pupils five and older at a cost to parents of around £15.00 a term.

Each pupil that registers with Cool Milk will receive a carton of semi-skimmed milk every day, which is delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom. Their school milk will not only provide them with essential nutrients, but as it is rehydrating and energy boosting it also bridges the gap between breakfast and lunch to help children stay focused.

If you would like your child to receive milk (whether he/she is under or over five years), please ensure that you register at www.coolmilk.com or complete a registration form available from our school.

Governor Vacancies

Our Governing Body consists of 12 governors, the majority of whom are appointed on fixed terms. We will shortly have some vacancies arising as their terms come to an end. We are particularly keen to identify friends, relatives or neighbours who may be available to take on a role within the Governing Body.

If you feel you know someone who may be interested in being a governor, please contact Gillian Seymour to arrange an invitation to a joint Governing Body/School Association event we will be holding in January.

Christmas Post Box

As usual we will have a Christmas post box which will be situated in the front entrance hall from Wednesday 9th December. Children are encouraged to use it for the distribution of cards to each other.

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.**

Parents' Collection for David the Lollipop Man

A card and envelope has been organised for a Christmas collection from parents to David. Please see Mrs Griffin in Panda Class if you would like to donate and sign by Monday 14th December. Thank you.

FUN CHILD ATTENTION AND MEMORY STUDY – LEARN ABOUT YOUR BRAIN!

Researchers from Oxford's Experimental Psychology Department are carrying out a study on the development of attention and memory during childhood. Parents can bring their child (aged 6-11) to play fun Pokemon-themed memory games on a computer while we record brain activity. In addition to afternoons after school during school term, we can also book times during weekends and school half term. During the visit, we tell the children more about how our brain works and at the end of the visit children can take a picture of their brain waves! The whole activity will last approximately 1 hour. We reimburse travelling expenses and offer a participation award. To express your interest in participating with your child, please email us at andria.shimi@psy.ox.ac.uk with your name, your child's name, age, and birth date, and a phone number to contact you to arrange a visit. Alternatively you can fill in this form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dj4NA2mOsmcLcbuG-AuRVMKlpOWfRiX7TaqVDsRQ3LM/viewform>
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dj4NA2mOsmcLcbuG-AuRVMKlpOWfRiX7TaqVDsRQ3LM/viewform>

By expressing an interest now you are not bound to participate in the study. For more information please email (andria.shimi@psy.ox.ac.uk) or call (01865 271320).

Checkendon Church warmly invites you to a
Christmas Coffee & Mince Pie Morning

in Checkendon Village Hall,
Saturday 5th December, 10.30am - 12.30pm
No Charge!

Raffle, produce stall, free book exchange, free children's craft table
A display of pre- and post-war Hornby and Basset-Lowke Trains

A chance to catch up with old friends, meet your neighbours, and get into the seasonal spirit!
tel 01491 683737

SUNDAY FUN!!

Organised by Checkendon Church

Sunday 6th December – 11.00am-12.00 noon
At Checkendon School

Games,craft,music,story and activities for 0-11year olds

Parents are welcome to attend or drop off school-age children

Tel: [01491 680252](tel:01491680252)

Cricket Christmas Camps

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

14th – 18th December and 21st – 23rd 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

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 10th December

Thursday 10th December

Monday 14th December

Tuesday 15th December

Wednesday 16th December

Thursday 18th December

Thursday 17th December

Friday 18th December

Tuesday 5th January

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

12.30pm-14.45pm the Highwayman Inn: Parents Christmas Drinks – organised by School Association

6.30pm: Christmas Service in church

Last day of Term 2 ([finish at 2.00pm](#))

First day of Term 3 (Monday 4th January is an Inset day)