



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

3rd March 2016

Diary for Term 3

Wednesday 16 th March	Mobile Library
Thursday 17 th March	Owlet Class visit to Bucklebury Farm with Stoke Row School
Friday 18 th March	Sport Relief/PE Day
Wednesday 23 rd March	7.00pm Parents' Workshop: 'What are the secrets of the world's happiest children?'

What have we been learning in school this week?

Owlet Class

Children in Owlet Class have been writing their own prayers for our spring prayer tree. Many children linked their prayers to our animal topic but some prayed for peace and "no fighting". We have begun to find out the answers to questions we asked about animals by using non-fiction books and the internet. The children are choosing an animal to find out about and making an animal habitat from shoe boxes.

Owl Class

Children in Owl Class were very excited to get a Skype call from Leo's cousins in Sydney on Tuesday. Mia and Lily answered our questions brilliantly and we found out a huge amount about life in Australia. We'd like to give a big thank you to Leo's mum and auntie for helping set this up and letting Mia and Lily stay up late on a school night. Hopefully we will get to meet them in person when they visit the UK in June.

Panda Class

This week we launched our DT project with a visit to Waitrose in Henley. We were taken behind the scenes to look at the warehouse and internet shopping area. We were allowed to walk into the enormous fridges and freezers. We had two really helpful members of staff; Elaine and Cornelius who gave us a guided tour and talked to us about packaging and storage. We came away with lots of ideas for our chocolate boxes. On Thursday we explored packaging in the class.

Rhino Class

This week children in Rhino Class have been learning about area, surface area and volume in maths. They have completed their own poems, having read different poems from different authors that follow a similar theme but have contrasting styles. They are continuing to study the work of the American artist, Keith Haring and are creating their own figures in his style. They have written some fantastic stories in 500 words and many children have entered their stories in the Radio 2 story writing competition.

World Book Day

We were delighted that so many children brought in their favourite books to share today. During the morning, pupils spent some time in house groups allocated to classrooms, reading books and talking about their reasons for choosing them. Please look on the website for photos of this enjoyable event.

PHSE Day

On Friday, children of all ages spent the morning in house groups exploring ways values impact on actions. They took part in 4 activities designed to develop their knowledge and understanding of values: discussing and editing the Pupil Code of Conduct; examining the life and beliefs of Mother Theresa; considering the School Values and the Bible texts that underpin them and how this might guide pupil behaviour; and positioning values on a hierarchy from *world shatteringly valuable* to *fairly valuable*. Please look on the website for photos of these thought-provoking activities. As always, the children really enjoyed the opportunity to learn in mixed-age groups and adults appreciated the chance to teach a wider range of age groups than usual. The new draft Pupil Code of Conduct will be discussed at School Council before being implemented later this term.

Re-arranged Parents' Consultation Evening for Panda Class Parents – Thurs 10th March

We are sorry that the meetings were postponed on Thursday 11th February. We have re-arranged the meetings for **Thursday 10th March in Panda Classroom**. The children's work will be available for you to look in the library.

We have kept the original time slots booked and will put the clipboard out in the front hall to remind you of when your appointment is. If you cannot make your slot, please let the school office know so that we can rearrange it.

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.

Appointments for parents and teachers are scheduled to last 10 minutes each, and we ask that you keep to the timing to avoid building up delays for other parents. If you feel you need a longer meeting or would like your child to be involved in a discussion, please make a further appointment with the teacher concerned for a later date.

Parents' Workshop

The next in our series of Parents' Wednesday Workshops will take place on Wednesday 23rd March. The theme will be **What are the secrets of the world's happiest children?** We'll have fun exploring the impact of different cultures on the way children are raised what we can do to make a difference to the pupils here. Please sign up on the list in the entrance lobby if you would like to attend by **Friday 18th March** as *the event will only take place if there is enough interest!*



English Tourism Week Photography Competition

Experience Oxfordshire are currently running a competition with the Oxford Mail and there's a special category for under 18s! We'd love for your students to get involved and enter – and there's some fantastic prizes they could win, as well as having their photo printed in the paper!

There's more link at these web page: <http://experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on/Tourism-Week-2016-Photo-Competition.aspx>

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 16 th March	Mobile Library
Thursday 17 th March	Owlet Class visit to Bucklebury Farm with Stoke Row School
Friday 18 th March	Sport Relief
Wednesday 23 rd March	7.00pm parents' workshop: 'What are the secrets of the world's happiest children?'
Thursday 24 th March	RE Day 'The Living Church'
Thursday 24 th March	2.00pm: Maundy Communion Service in church – parents invited
Thursday 24 th March	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 12 th April	First Day of Term 5
Monday 18 th April	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Wednesday 27 th April	Mobile Library
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th May	SATs Week
Wednesday 18 th May	Evening: Circus – organised by School Association
Friday 20 th May	2.00pm: Pentecost Service in church followed by dancing at school
Wednesday 25 th May	Mobile Library
Friday 27 th May	RE Day: Christians around the World
Friday 27 th May	Last Day of Term 5
Tuesday 7 th June	First Day of Term 6
Monday 13 th June	3.00pm: Community Worship – parents invited
Wednesday 29 th June	Mobile Library (last one – collection only)
Friday 15 th July	Sports Day
Monday 18 th July	Sports Day reserve
Wednesday 20 th July	Last day of Term 6