



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

6th April 2017

Diary for Term 4	
Monday 24 th April	First Day of Term 5
Tuesday 25 th April	Rhino Class French Themed Day
Thursday 27 th April	13.15: Bluebell Walk: parents welcome to join us
Wednesday 3 rd May	Panda Class Stone Age Experience at Hill End
Thursday 4 th May	Owl & Owlet Class visit to Oxford Natural History Museum
Monday 8 th May	KS2 SATS Reading
Monday 8 th May	3.00pm: Community Worship, All Welcome
Tuesday 9 th May	KS2 SATS Grammar, punctuation & Spelling
Wednesday 10 th May	KS2 SATS Maths
Thursday 11 th May	KS2 SATS Maths
Friday 12 th May	Clothing bags to be returned to school by today please
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th May	Writing Week: please join in for a session if you can!
Thursday 18 th May	School Census: please order a school meal for your child
Friday 26 th May	Last day of Term 5

At Checkendon Primary School this week...

School Values Ambassadors

Henry has been helping with worship this week, setting up the hall and leading prayers.

PE and School Sport

Last week was a busy sporting week after a very enjoyable swimming gala for our Rhinos, a group from Panda class played in a netball tournament on Thursday. Most of the team had never played competitive netball before but they all got to grips with the rules very quickly. They played several matches and learned lots along the way. The award for most improved player was given to Tyssul for listening really well and applying his new skills carefully. Well done!

Worship in school this week

Term 4 Value: Truthfulness

Week 7: Searching for the truth

Text: *Who Made Me?* By Shirley Tulloch

Music for reflection: *Eye Level* The Simon Park Orchestra

Class Highlights

Owlet Class

Owlet Class pupils have been very busy hosting pets all week. So far we have had Ben's puppy Beaumont, Louis's cat Gruff, Persie's tortoises Dorothy and Dash, Bella's dog Bentley and we're looking forward to seeing Aurelia's cats. Children have been listening to information about the pets and asking lots of questions about how to care for them.

Owl Class

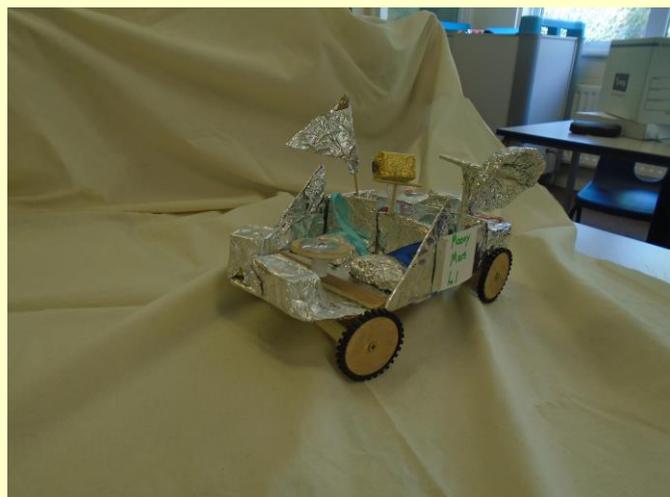
Children in Owl Class (and Mr Boyer) enjoyed comparing a sports car from 50 years ago with a modern sports car. Thank you, Mr Ashley, for bringing in your E-type Jaguar to show us, and especially for letting us sit in it! Since then, we have been designing, sawing, drilling and painting our wheeled vehicles.

Panda Class

Children in Panda Class have continued their study into 'States of Matter' by taking a look at the water cycle and the different processes that happen during this cycle. They made water wheels to help them remember these different processes and have created flap books of different food chains to show the flow of energy. Other highlights have included our Easter crafts and RE day where the children have been using their knowledge of their science topic to create tasty Easter treats whilst learning about the importance of Easter in the Christian faith.

Rhino Class

Rhino Class pupils have been designing and creating exciting moon buggies this week. They thought carefully about the features that a vehicle must have to move in space and also added a few luxuries to their designs.



The Spring Term

Spring has well and truly sprung in the last few days and the chilly days of January seem a long time ago! It has been another busy and successful term here at Checkendon School with lots of exciting learning opportunities, sports events, thoughtful moments, music, fun and laughter.

Children in Owlet Class enjoyed winter and springtime walks through the woodlands with Owl Class to observe the changes caused by the seasons. They went on an exciting visit to *The Story Museum* in Oxford, the highlight being going through the door to Narnia! They had a great time finding out about animals including stroking a cockroach, snake and frog(!) when they were visited by Wild Science.

Owl Class pupils have been out and about locally with visits to the church and Tim Corbishley's garage, and further afield to the Oxfordshire Bus Museum. They had fun using information gathered from these visits to design and make their own vehicles.

Panda Class pupils dressed up as Tudors for their exciting visit to Ufton Court and then as Victorians for their workshop at Reading Museum's Victorian schoolroom, experiencing a morning as a pupil from that era. They were all surprised at how strict Victorian school teachers were!

Children in Rhino Class were made extremely welcome by their hosts at the Reading Gurdwara and enjoyed

learning first-hand about the Sikh religion. They had a fascinating visit to the Science Centre in Winchester, learning how the planets rotate and trying on an astronaut's space suit. In addition to these class visits, pupils in Year 5 had a fantastic time taking part in science workshops held at The Oratory School; carrying out various experiments using Bunsen burners and different chemicals to see what colours the flame turned. Year 6 pupils visited Townlands Hospital for the Junior Citizen Programme to develop their personal safety skills.

Children of all ages have participated in a wide range of sporting events including Sportshall Athletics, football, netball, cross country and swimming. Thank you very much to Sara Walker for her excellent organisation of these events, to teaching assistants and parents for their support and to all those children who took part and represented the school.

Whole school events hosted by the school have included World Book Day, International Happiness Day, Ash Wednesday Service, Comic Relief Joke Competition, PSHE Day, and RE Day. We have also had a very successful Health and Safety Audit and lots of brilliant fund raising events.

A big thank you to our hard working, enthusiastic pupils, our dedicated, skilful staff team, the tireless efforts of the brilliant School Association and all the parents and governors who volunteer their time to support us.

There are different gifts, but the same Spirit. *1 Corinthians 12:4*

Please join us in school during our Writing Week 15th-19th May

We have planned an exciting whole school writing week in May and would like to invite parents, friends and relatives to come along and get involved!

Throughout the week there will be opportunities to take part by joining in writing activities, helping supervise groups of children in our woodland area or talking to groups of children about 'why I write'. We are hoping that this advance notice will enable lots of parents to support the event; timetabling of visits is flexible so that we can accommodate existing work commitments. There will be a letter in book bags after the Easter break; please look out for this and support us if you can.

Thank you

A big thank you to the **School Association** for all their efforts in organising the Easter Egg hunt last week, the children had a fantastic time. In addition, many thanks from all the pupils for the Easter Eggs you kindly gave to each child yesterday. Your continuous hard work, dedication and enthusiasm is very much appreciated, we can't thank you enough.

Thank you to **Charlotte Snowden** who has kindly donated a percentage of the commission from the school photographs taken last year. The cheque had hardly touched the office desk before we saw it as an excellent opportunity to purchase a class set of Stone Age boy by Satoshi Kitamura, a new text for Panda Class. Many thanks Charlotte for your generosity.

A big thank you to **Louise Maze** who has not only donated a set of badminton equipment and a bag of caps and has also offered to run a netball club next term! Please see below for further details.

Many thanks also to **Claire Hyman, Nicky West** and **Honor Von Schmieder** who will be running the Cycling Proficiency course for Year 6 pupils in the summer term. Further details about the course will be issued after the Easter holiday.

Thank you to **Jackie Griffin**, who is stepping down after two years as staff governor, she has been a great supporter of the school and took on an active role in the Achievement Committee. We are delighted to welcome on board **Sarah Tarbox** who will be the new staff governor from June.

...and goodbye

Finally, a huge thank you to **Sarah Doherty**, who leaves the school at the end of this term. She has been a tremendous asset to the school and will be sorely missed. Her calm professionalism, friendliness, enthusiasm and un-flappable helpfulness have really been appreciated by us all.

Staff News

Jackie Griffin is due to have a hip operation on Tuesday 25th April so will be absent while she recovers. We wish her all the very best for a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back to school towards

the end of the academic year. We are delighted to have arranged for Maria Soriano (currently an Au Pair with a family in Stoke Row and a trained teacher in Spain) to cover Jackie's hours when she is off, with assistance at the beginning of the day from Sara Walker and Claire Hyman, many thanks to you both.

Parent Governor urgently required!

From May 2017 there will be a Parent Governor vacancy as Pete Schmidt steps down after completing his term. Pete is on the Resources Committee, with specific responsibility for monitoring the maintenance and upkeep of the school premises. If you may be interested being a school governor please speak to Pete Schmidt.

Summer Term Clubs

The timetable for the extra-curricular clubs running in the Summer term is now finalised, for full details see the timetable below. As you will see popular favourites such as football, dodgeball and music club are continuing and we are pleased to offer some new clubs next term such as gymnastics, netball and Mad Science.

Netball Club

Louise Maze has very kindly offered to run a netball club for KS2 in the summer term, starting on the 4th May until 13th July. There is a £3 required donation per session, with all the money raised going towards the purchase of new sports equipment for the school. It would be great to have enough children sign up to play 2 teams so please do speak to the school office if you would your child like to participate.

Chill Skills Club

Sophia Cleverly of Relax Kids is opening up her lunchtime Chill Skills Club to all of KS2, please do contact Sophia at the email address below if you would like to find out more or to book a place.

Here's a reminder of how to book the clubs:

Judo, Football, Netball, Drama, Music, Dodgeball and Equestrian Club: Please complete the booking form and return to the office.

Gymnastics: Please book online at www.ignitesportuk.com

Mad Science: Please visit www.bbo.madscience.org, Click on Afterschool Programmes and then Book Online. Find your school listed and check the course description, dates and cost. Register and pay online

Chill Skills Club: Please contact Sophia Cleverly at relaxkidssouthoxfordshire@gmail.com

Please be aware that if the clubs don't have enough children signed up, they will be cancelled, so please do give them your support.

Aspens menu and new App

The new Aspens menu is attached to the newsletter email, could we remind parents to update information regarding children allergies and class. Please also see a communication from Aspens regarding their new App available from Easter.

Transition Workshop for Parents of Year 6 Children

Langtree have arranged Transition Workshops, for parents of pupils in Year 6, please see the attachment for further information.

Parent of former pupils, Alex and Tom Smith awarded OBE

We were delighted to discover that Enterprise M3 Director, Kathy Slack (aka Mrs Smith) was awarded an OBE in New Year Honours List for services to the economy and community of South East England. The award was made in recognition of Kathy's dedication and passion for championing collaborative ways of working with the private, public and not-for-profit sectors across the South East to grow and strengthen the economy.

Kathy said 'Being included in the New Year's Honours list is a great surprise. It is a privilege to gain recognition for doing something I am passionate about and enjoy. Of course this isn't just about me, but is as much on behalf of my team, as well as partners and businesses in the area. Without their dedication, support and commitment, this recognition would not have been possible.'

We love hearing about former pupils (and their parents) do let us know if you have any updates that we could feature in this newsletter.



2017 national curriculum tests for key stages 1 and 2: information for parents

Please see the following link on information regarding the forthcoming statutory tests taking place in primary Schools. We would like to remind parents that any holidays taken in school time is unauthorised, but we especially urge parents to avoid taking holidays during testing periods as it has a detrimental effect both on pupils and the school. Thank you for your support.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-national-curriculum-tests-for-key-stages-1-and-2-information-for-parents>

School Association Clothing Collection

Thinking of having a sort out over Easter? We have arranged a clothing collection in May to raise money for school funds and would be grateful for any donated items of clean clothing. Please look out for collecting bags in book bags next week, please return these to the school office by Friday 12th May. Many thanks for your support.

School Association Contact Details

The School Association Chairs, Wendy and Pete have set up an email address, please contact them at the following address for anything related to the School Association checkendonsa@gmail.com.

Bluebell Walk – Thursday 27th April

Our annual walk through the Bluebell Woods of Checkendon will take place on Thursday 27th April. The staff and children will leave school after lunch and will return before the end of the school day, parents and friends are welcome to join us.

'Play fighting' after school

'Play fighting' is not allowed at school. Several parents have raised concerns about over-boisterous play in the playground *after school* and a number of recent incidents have resulted in minor injuries. Please ensure that children are adequately supervised if they remain on school premises after school. Thank you for your support.

Playing on the field after school

A parent has raised a health and safety concern about children playing round the electricity pylon near the play tower unsupervised after school. Please ensure that children are adequately supervised if they remain on school premises after school. Thank you for your support.

Fund raising for our School Association without doing anything!

Why not collect free funds for our school whilst shopping online? Simply register at

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/checkendonprimaryschoolassociation

Then every time you shop at some of your favourite stores like Amazon, John Lewis, Argos, M&S you will earn vital funds for the play tower and other school projects. Thank you for your support.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

The Sainsbury's Active Kids voucher scheme is returning and Checkendon School are taking part to earn new cooking and sports equipment. We would like to ask parents to collect the vouchers and post them in the collection box outside the School Office.

Term 5 - Extra-Curricular Activities

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	YEARS	ORGANISERS
Monday	08.00-08.40	Judo (8.5.17-19.6.17)	Yr1-6	linkai Tel: 0118 9885822
	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	3.30-4.30	Drama Factory (8.5.17-10.7.17)	Yrs 2-6	Berzerk 07976 652742 Josh Buckland
Tuesday	(S.R.Pavillion) 8.00-8.30	Stoke Row Running Club	Yrs 3-6	Stoke Row Running Club Elise Way - eliseway@hotmail.co.uk
	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	3.30-5.15	Equestrian Club (25.4.17-23.5.17)	All	Check. Equestrian Centre Tel: 01491 680225
	3.30-4.30	Gymnastics Club (25.4.17-18.7.17)	All	Ignite Tel: 01869 220890
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	Lunchtime	Violin	All	Elestr Lee Tel: 0118 9478685
	3.30 – 4.30	Mad Science (3.5.17-18.6.17)	Yr1-6	Mad Science 01753 424240
Thursday	08.00-08.40	Music Club (27.4.17-20.7.17)	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	11.20-11.40	Woodwind	All	Lucy Robertson County Music Service
	Lunchtime	Chill Skills Club TBC	KS2	Sophia Cleverly, Relax Kids 07811268990
	3.30 – 4.30	Netball Club (4.5.17-13.7.17)	KS2	Please sign up at the School Office
Friday	08.00 – 08.40	Dodgeball (28.4.17-26.5.17)	All	Paul Meakin 07976 651635
	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	Lunchtime	Festival of Voices		Mr Boyer Owl Class
	3.30-4.30	Football (28.4.17-14.7.17)	All	Pro-Direct Tel: 07921 726332
	3.30	Guitar	All	Russ Payne Tel: 07921 087816

Dates for your Diary

Monday 24 th April	First Day of Term 5
Tuesday 25 th April	Rhino Class French Themed Day
Thursday 27 th April	13.15: Bluebell Walk
Wednesday 3 rd May	Panda Class Visit to Hill End
Thursday 4 th May	Owl & Owlet Class Visit to Oxford Natural History Museum
Mon 8 th – Thurs 11 th May	KS2 SATS
Monday 8 th May	3.00pm: Community Worship, all welcome
Friday 12 th May	Clothing bags to be returned to school today
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th May	Writing Week
Thursday 18 th May	School Census – Please order a school meal
Thursday 25 th May	2.30pm: Parents Forum, all welcome
Friday 26 th May	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 5 th June	First Day of Term 6
Friday 9 th June	2.00pm: Pentecost Service & May Pole Dancing, all welcome
Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th June	Phonics Assessments
Monday 12 th June	3.00pm: Community Worship, all welcome
Thursday 6 th July	Reports Issued
Friday 14 th July	Sports Day
Monday 17 th July	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 21 st July	1.15pm: Leavers Service
Friday 21 st July	Last Day of Term 6, finish at 2pm

Church Services & Community Worship		
Community Worship	Monday 8 th May 2017	3.00pm
Pentecost Service & Maypole Dancing	Friday 9 th June 2017	2.00pm
Community Worship	Monday 12 th June 2017	3.00pm

Parents Forum	
Thursday 25 th May 2017	2.30pm

Parent Consultation Evenings and Reports	
Reports issued	Thursday 6 th July 2017

Checkendon School Music Club

“The only thing better than singing is more singing” Ella Fitzgerald

When - Before school 8 - 8.40am every Thursday during term time
April 27th - July 20th

Where - Checkendon School Hall

Who - Anyone who enjoys singing and wants to learn more about music
Open to all year groups

What - Singing, playing, moving, kazooing
Clapping, tapping, rapping, performing!

Cost - £50 for the term (12 sessions)

If you would like to book a place for your son/daughter please fill in the form below and return it to the school office with a cheque for £50 per child made payable to Emma Davies by **Tuesday 25th April** at the latest. Places are limited.
Payment is non-refundable.

Emma Davies
daviesems-piano@mybtinternet.com



Music Club

I would like to book a place/places for my child/children and enclose a cheque for £50 per child.

Child's name(s)

Year group

If your child plays an instrument eg piano, violin, flute, guitar, recorder, please specify which instrument and level reached eg beginner, grade 1, 2 etc.

Parent's name

Signature

Checkendon C of E Primary School accepts no responsibility for the organisation of external events.