

RESPECT COURAGE INTEGRITY COMPASSION HOPE



CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 8th March 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Just try new things. Don't be afraid. Step out of your comfort zones and soar, all right?
Michelle Obama

Diary for Term 4

Friday 9 th March	Parents Coffee Morning straight after drop off – all welcome!
Tuesday 13 th March	Panda Class visit to Tolhurst Organic Farm <i>Please return your reply slips</i>
Tuesday 13 th and Wednesday 14 th March	Rhino Class SRE <i>Letter in book bags tomorrow</i>
Monday 19 th March	Rhino and Owlet Class visit to Beale Park
Wednesday 21 st March	Panda Class visit to The Living Rainforest
Friday 23 rd March	Sport Relief
Friday 23 rd March	6.30pm to 8pm School Easter Disco
Monday 26 th to 29 th March	Writing Week 2018 'Down Under' <i>Letter in book bags tomorrow</i>
Wednesday 28 th March **Date Change**	9am Measuring the height and weight of children in Reception and Year 6
Wednesday 28 th March	2.30pm Easter Communion Service - all welcome!
Thursday 29 th March	Last day of Term 4, finish at 3.20pm

Diary for Term 5

Monday 16 th April	INSET Day – no children in school
Tuesday 17 th April	8.50am First day of Term 5

At school this week

Worship

Term 4 Value: **Generosity** Week 3: **Giving Time Generously** School Ambassadors: James and Maisie
We talked about the Queen of Sheba's visit to King Solomon. Although he was a busy and powerful king, when the Queen came to visit him seeking advice, he made time to listen to her problems and help her resolve them. Sometimes when people are worried or troubled the best thing we can do is listen carefully to them. We call this being 'generous with our time'. *Dear God, Teach us to be generous with our time especially when our friends need advice. Help us first to listen very carefully and to try to put ourselves in their place; and then speak thoughtfully to them. Amen*

Text: Solomon's Fame from The Lion Bible for Children Music: **Thank you for the music** Abba

Class Highlights

Children in **Owlet Class** have been exploring their animal topic through the Noah's Ark story. They have made an ark which has helped them learn the 'ar' sound and have also been counting in 2s. Children in **Owl Class** had a very exciting skype with Freddie and Louie, Harper's cousins in Sydney, Australia. It is summer for them when it is winter for us and they were just about to go to bed when it was 9am in the morning for us! We

found out lots of information about Sydney and were very jealous about the fact that they live 5 minutes walk from a surfing beach. A tasty highlight in **Panda Class** this week was making chocolates to put in our designed packages. Children had great fun developing their food technology skills in the kitchen. They worked thoughtfully creating and improving their package designs. The final results looked really impressive! Children in **Rhino Class** have been learning about Winston Churchill and how his inspirational leadership helped the Allies to win World War II.

Tolhurst Farm link

Tolhurst Organic is a Community Interest Company managed by the Tolhurst family; it rents the land from the Hardwick Estate of Sir Julian Rose. The farm has held the organic symbol for over 40 years and is one of the longest running organic vegetable farms in England. Checkendon School has a special link with the farm as we are involved in a pilot programme to develop local farm-school links. Mr Boyer successfully bid for a grant of £240 from The British Science Association to help fund Panda Class's field trip there as part of the science Learning Project *From Blossom To Fruit*. Farm staff will help the children set up an experiment to explore the factors influencing plant growth and there will be a follow up visit in due course. Children in Owl Class have already visited the farm (there are photos on the farm website!) and they too will be returning before the end of the year to observe seasonal changes.

Year 6 visit to Junior Citizens Trust

Pupils in Year 6 enjoyed another successful visit to Rewley Road Fire Station in Oxford. They took part in a range of activities designed to give them experience of real life situations such as first aid, fire safety and home dangers. Thank you to Mrs Walker and Mrs Lamping who accompanied the visit.

Owlet Class visit to Byways Dental Surgery

On Wednesday morning Owlet Class visited Byways Dental Surgery. We met Amita, Sheila and Chrissy who explained all about their jobs and what they do. Sheila taught the children about cleaning their teeth and about healthy eating. We learned that fruit is good for our body but not our teeth so we need to drink water after we eat it, or better still, clean our teeth. Amita and Chrissy taught us about what happens when we go to the dentist. The children all got a chance to sit in the chair and find out about the different equipment. All the children were given a gift pack when we left which contained toothbrushes and activity packs.

500 Words 2018

Children in Rhino Class have been working hard writing their stories to enter the Radio 2 500 Words 2018 competition. They have really enjoyed listening to each other's stories; these will be made into a Class Storybook in due course. The 500 Words Final will be broadcast live from Hampton Court Palace on BBC Radio 2's Chris Evans Breakfast Show, on Friday 8th June.

Table Tennis Lunchtime Clubs

Children in Key Stage 2 now have the opportunity to practise their table tennis skills at lunchtimes. Mrs Hood-Cree supervises the club on Tuesdays (Panda Class) and Mrs Seymour on Wednesdays (Rhino Class) Dining tables are converted into table tennis tables with the addition of equipment provided by South Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership and there are usually around 10-12 children participating. We would welcome coaching sessions (regular or one-off) from parents or grandparents who have expertise in this sport. Do get in touch if you can help!

Homecrafts Club

At the request of a pupil in Panda Class, we have set up a Homecrafts club for children in Year 3 and 4. The club is run by Mrs Hood-Cree on Monday lunchtimes and currently has around 10 participants working on projects including comic drawing, pipe cleaner modelling and felt stitching.

Play Tower

Unfortunately, completion of the play tower continues to be delayed by the weather! The current plan is for the contractors to re-visit the site on 14th March – so fingers crossed.

Pay it Forward Day 27th April

Our School is participating in Pay It Forward Day on Friday 27th April. It is a great opportunity to allow the children to think about making someone else a little happier by doing some small thoughtful deed. As a parent

you can get behind the cause and encourage this idea at home too. You never know, you might get a few chores done around the house! The website explains all this further. www.payitforwardday.co.uk Any ideas from parents about activities the children could do in school would be warmly received. Please speak to your child's class teacher.

Aspens School Lunches

Aspens have recently migrated to a new Aspens Select catering system. If you are experiencing any problems logging on they have produced an online video to guide parents. Please contact the office if you would like to be sent the link direct. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FXGFQYfxmU&list=PLsi5PKlfRwDXFq4c4ZnJBvnhCeReDlzik>

Arrangements for Emergency Closure of the School

On rare occasions, for example during extreme weather conditions or when the school has no heating or water, the Headteacher and Chair of Governors may have to take the decision to close the school. It is school policy to keep the school open if at all possible, but there are occasions when it would not be possible to operate the school within the health and safety requirements.

In the very unlikely event of an emergency closure during the school day, the school will contact parents via the email contact details kept in school. All children will be kept safely until collected. **Please ensure, therefore, that the school has your up-to-date daytime contact details.**

In the event of an emergency closure before the start of the school day the school will notify Oxfordshire County Council and the local radio stations and will send a group email to all parents who receive the weekly newsletter. If parents need to find out whether or not the school is closed they should:

- Check their email and the school website
- Look on the county public website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures;
- Listen to the announcements of the local radio stations:
 - BBC Radio Oxford – VHF/FM 95.2
 - Heart FM (Oxfordshire) – VHF/FM 102.6
 - JACK FM – VHF/FM 106.8

Our hot school meals are prepared in the kitchen at Langtree School and delivered to Checkendon in time for lunch. Langtree School may be closed on days when Checkendon School is open. We ask therefore that, if there is snow on the ground but Checkendon School is open, parents assume that hot dinners will **not** be delivered, cancel their lunch online and send their child with a packed lunch.

School Association

Parents Coffee Morning

Checkendon School Association would like to invite all parents to a coffee morning being held in the school hall tomorrow. We thought this might be a nice opportunity for parents, across all years, to simply say hi, catch up and eat cake, even if just for 5 minutes; it would be great to see you. We are aiming to make this a bi-termly social so if you can't make the first one there will be other opportunities. We look forward to seeing you.

School Easter Disco

Save the date...23rd March 2018 for our School Association disco. Tickets cost £6.50 and will include a drink and glow stick. More details to follow!

Proposed changes to the Home to School Travel and Transport policies for 2018

Oxfordshire County Council's current Home to School Transport Policy is more generous than the law requires for Post 16 students who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and for Post 16 mainstream students who attend Henley College. Unfortunately, given the continuing pressure on public finances, the Council now needs to critically consider whether it should continue to maintain spending on this non-statutory assistance for these groups of Post 16 students.

Oxfordshire County Council is currently running a consultation regarding amendments to the Home to School transport policy for statutory and Post 16 children. You can find the consultation at <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/HometoSchoolTravelandTransport/consultationHome>.

Term 4 Extra-Curricular Activities

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	YEARS	ORGANISERS
Monday	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	3.30-4.30	Tag Rugby (26/2/18 – 26/3/18)	Yrs 3-6	Paul Meakin paulmeakinsportscoach@gmail.com
Tuesday	(S.R.Pavillion) 8.00-8.30	Stoke Row Running Club (starting back on 9/1/17)	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 (20/2/18 to 20/3/18)	All	Checkendon Equestrian Centre Tel: 01491 680225
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	Lunchtime	Violin (restarting on 17/1/18)	All	Elestr Lee Tel: 0118 9478685 elestr.lee@btopenworld.com
	3.30-4.30	Gymnastics (21/2/18 to 28/3/18)	All	Paul Meakin paulmeakinsportscoach@gmail.com
Thursday	08.00-08.40	Music Club (11/1/18 – 29/3/18)	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	10:10	Woodwind	All	Lucy Robertson County Music Service
Friday	08.00-08.45 (Hall)	Relax Kids (restarting 12/1/18 with free taster session)	Yrs 1-6	Sophia Cleverly Tel: 07811 268990 relaxkidsouthoxfordshire@gmail.com
	Lunchtime	Piano	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	Lunchtime 12:30	Chess (19/1/18 – 23/3/18)	Y3-6	Mr Boyer Owl Class
	3.30-4.30	Football (12/1/18 – 23/3/18)	All	Pro-Direct Tel: 07921 726332
	3.30	Guitar (restarting on 19/1/17)	All	Russ Payne Tel: 07921 087816

Dates for your Diary

2017/18

Fri 30 th March – Fri 13 th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 16 th April	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 17 th April	First day of term 5
Monday 23 rd April	3pm Community Worship
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 17 th May	School Census
Friday 25 th May	Last day of term 5, finish at 3.20pm
Mon 28 th May – Fri 1 st Jun	Half Term
Monday 4 th June	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 5 th June	First day of term 6
Monday 11 th June	3pm Community Worship
Thursday 5 th July	Annual Reports issued
Friday 6 th July	Sports Day
Wednesday 25 th July	Last day of term 6, finish at 2pm
Thurs 26 th July – Mon 3 rd Sept	Summer Holiday

2018/19

Tuesday 4 th September	Inset day – no children in school
Wednesday 5 th September	First day of term 1
Friday 19 th October	Last day of term 1, finish at 3.20pm
Mon 22 nd Oct – Fri 26 th Oct	Half Term
Monday 29 th October	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 30 th October	First day of term 2
Friday 21 st December	Last day of term 2, finish at 2pm
Mon 24 th Dec – Fri 4 th Jan	Christmas Holiday
Monday 7 th January	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 8 th January	First day of term 3
Friday 15 th February	Last day of term 3, finish at 3.20pm
Mon 18 th Feb – 22 nd Feb	Half Term
Monday 25 th February	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 26 th February	First day of term 4
Friday 5 th April	Last day of term 4, finish at 3.20pm
Mon 8 th Apr – Mon 22 nd Apr	Easter Holiday
Tuesday 23 rd April	First day of term 5
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Friday 24 th May	Last day of term 5, finish at 3.20pm
Mon 27 th May – 31 st May	Half Term
Monday 3 rd June	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 4 th June	First day of term 6
Wednesday 24 th July	Last day of term 6, finish at 2pm

Supported by Checkendon Preschool CIO

CHECKENDON **Run**

10k and 5k
Children's races 2k, 1k & 100m

SUNDAY JUNE 17



★ More Stalls
More Cakes
More People
MORE FUN

www.checkendon-run.org.uk



**SHEKU
KANNEH-MASON**

with
HENLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Ian Brown Conductor

Mozart

Marriage of Figaro: Overture

Elgar

Cello Concerto

Mahler

Symphony No 1 'Titan'

"he held the capacity audience spellbound with an interpretation
of exceptional authority" - *The Guardian*

THE HEXAGON

Sunday 18 March 2018, 7.30 pm

Tickets: 01235 859210 or www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk/contact

£18, £15, £12; U16s/students half price; groups: 1 in 8 free; 1 child free with paying adult (£15 and £12 tickets)
or via Reading Arts 01189 606060 or www.readingarts.com (booking fee applies)

www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk
Henley Symphony Orchestra is a Registered Charity No. 271849



Shiplake College Open Morning Saturday 17 March 2018, 9.15am - 12.00pm. Please book online:
www.shiplake.org.uk/openmorning

Pangbourne College Open Morning Saturday 28th April 2018 9am – 12pm RSVP
registrar@pangbourne.com

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