



## CHECKENDON C.E. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Diary for Term 6	
Friday 9th June	2pm: Pentecost Service & Country Dancing, all welcome <i>Tea and cakes will be on sale before the dancing</i>
Monday 12th June	<b>12:00 Closing date for TA vacancy</b> 3pm: Community Worship in the school hall, all welcome
Thursday 15th June	Local author visit: Sue Palmer There is still time to purchase a book which can be signed by Sue. Please contact the office for a form.
Tuesday 20th June	School Photos
Friday 23rd June	6:30pm Festival of Voices, Dorchester Abbey
Thursday 6th July	Reports Issued and Parent Consultation Evenings
Thursday 13th July	Move up morning (children to spend the morning in their upcoming year group)
Friday 14th July	12:00 Sports Day
Monday 17th July	12:00 Reserve Sports Day
Tuesday 18th July	2pm: Rhino Class Performance
Wednesday 19th July	5:30pm: Rhino Class Performance
Friday 21st July	1.15pm: Leavers Service
Friday 21st July	Last Day of Term 6, finish at 2pm

### This week's highlights

On Monday, **School Values Ambassadors** Monty and Audrey led whole school worship on the theme of forgiveness. We learnt about different designs for the Christian symbol of the cross. The value for Term 6 is **Hope** (please see attachment). Children in **Owlet Class** have launched their Treasure Island theme with a letter from One Eyed Jake, the pirate who has shown them his treasure map. The children have all had a go at making their own treasure maps and some of us have begun to look at coordinates. The class have been asked to take a photograph of something they treasure and bring it to school so they can talk about things special to them. Our gardening project is well under way. The courgettes, potatoes and sunflowers have survived the half term and are flourishing. Children in **Owl Class** have been discovering about life in the Sahara Desert by reading a story about a nomadic Tuareg boy, Muhamad. We had some really interesting discussions about Tuareg's advice such as "Leave no path, disturb no rock", "The desert is fair to someone who knows how to live with it" and "Be at one with your surroundings and you will be at peace". Children in **Panda Class** have been learning about sound and how it reaches our ears through vibration. In literacy they have been looking at toys and creating adverts to persuade people not to buy them. Pupils in **Rhino Class** braved the rain this week and visited Reading Station as they launched their learning project 'A ticket to ride'. They visited the station to see the latest redevelopments as they research and explore the reasons

why Reading has such a large station.

### **School Council News**

We had a smaller School Council meeting this week as representatives from Rhino Class were on their visit to Reading. Children in Panda Class reported from their Class Council that some children would like to have the opportunity again to play on their scooters and skateboards on the playground whilst the rest of the school are on the field. We decided that each Class Council should hold a vote on how many children would be interested in this and we can then look into allocating one day a week when a member of staff could supervise these children on the playground. The children in Owl Class reported that in their Class Council they have been practising telling children how it makes them feel if another child upsets them or makes them feel sad. This is part of a strategy for promoting children's interpersonal skills which all members of staff are trialling this term.

### **Fidget Spinners**

Please can you ensure your children leave their fidget spinners at home. Thank you for your support.

### **Parents Forum**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parents' Forum on 25<sup>th</sup> May. We had interesting discussions covering health and safety, school uniform and lost property, curriculum design and home- school communication.

Actions agreed:

- Gillian Seymour to find out about health and safety guidance relating to the electricity pylon on the school field
- Karen Barker to use the A board more frequently as a way of reminding parents about events e.g. community worship, parents' forum
- Gillian Seymour to write a piece about Learning Projects for the School Newsletter (see below)
- School Association to look into online ordering options for school uniform
- Gillian Seymour to write a piece about the importance of naming school uniform for the School Newsletter (see below)
- Gillian Seymour to consult about alternatives to current arrangements for parents' forum (see below)

### **School Development: The Curriculum**

The introduction of a new National Curriculum in 2014 provided a great opportunity to review and re-design the school curriculum here at Checkendon. This year, Gillian Seymour has been working with Curriculum Innovators Bill Boyer and David Lane, to devise and trial new design features. One of these has been the introduction of Learning Projects to replace timetabled weekly lessons in the afternoons in KS1 and KS2. This change is based on research about effective curriculum design carried out by CUREE (Centre for Use of Research and Evidence in Education) which highlighted six core principles to inform the art, science and craft of curriculum development and innovation:

1. Contextualise curriculum and teaching and learning experiences and link learning in school with learning at home and in the community
2. Create curriculum experiences that involve learners actively in identifying and building on their existing knowledge, understandings and skills
3. Structure group work for interdependence by teaching effective group talk skills and planning tasks that use and reinforce such skills
4. Foster a less compartmentalised approach to the curriculum to promote conceptual development
5. Planning for challenging all pupils from the start
6. Aligning curriculum and professional development (CPD) to build capacity and secure excellence in subject knowledge

<http://www.curee.co.uk/files/shared/Finding%20the%20Golden%20Thread%20v3.pdf>

Do ask your children about what they are learning; as always, we welcome feedback!

### **Please name your child's uniform!**

We would be grateful for your support in reducing the numbers of lost property items that are left in school at the end of each day. It is often difficult to reunite clothes with their owners because they are unnamed. Please would you ensure that all your children's clothes are named and that they are encouraged to take responsibility for taking home their belongings at the end of the day. Book bags need to be taken home so that children can read with an adult daily and then brought back to school so that they can read in school. PE bags may be left in school Monday to Friday, but should be taken home each weekend. Thank you for your support.

### **Parents' Forum: please let us know what you think!**

We really appreciate the wonderful support parents offer the school in a wide range of ways and we are always keen to develop home-school links. The termly Parents' Forum is one way parents can contribute ideas for school improvement. However, although we consulted on the most convenient time to hold this, and altered it to the current time at the request of parents, the forum is generally not well attended. If you would like to attend but have not been able to do so because of the time/day, please suggest an alternative arrangement and we'll consider trialling a different approach in the autumn. Please email or contact the school office with your suggestions. Thank you for your continued support.

### **A Book is a device to ignite the imagination!** Alan Bennett

Parents often ask how they can help their children learn to read; and it's no wonder that they're interested in this essential skill. Reading plays an important role in later school success. ***One study even demonstrates that how well 7-year-olds read predicts their income 35 years later!***

We do everything we can to help your child to develop their reading and writing skills. However, children need their parents' involvement ***throughout primary school*** to ensure that they read and write confidently. Please make sure that you read to them and with them, talk to your children about what you read together and ***try to do this every day***. We provide reading books for your children; ***each class has a library of carefully chosen fiction and non-fiction books and we encourage parents to browse these with their children after school***. Of course you can also borrow books from your local library; your child may also enjoy reading magazines and comics.

Why is this all so important?

1. In school, we ask children to read things and find out what's important – 'browsing'. It is very hard to teach browsing. The best way to learn browsing is going to a bookshop, going to a library or sitting with a pile of books or magazines and talking to an adult about choosing what you want to read.
2. In school, we ask children to think about difficult ideas. This might be about, say, why or how things happened in history. It might be when we ask children to think about 'if' and 'why'. If children read lots of different kinds of books and talk to about what they read, they will start to think about such things as part of their reading.
3. In school, we ask children to think beyond themselves, to think about why or how other people think and behave. If children read lots of different kinds of books, and talk about what they read, they will start to think about such things as part of their reading.
4. In school, we want children to ask questions, to wonder about things, to be curious and interested. If children read lots of different kinds of books, and think about what they have read, they will develop these characteristics.
5. Like adults, children are full of feelings and thoughts. Like adults, these sometimes boil over and the children don't always know what to do with them. Reading books often shows us people facing up to problems and finding ways to deal with them. This means that reading books helps children find ways of dealing with their feelings and thoughts.
6. We know from research all over the world that children who read widely and often make progress

better at school than children who don't.

If you have any further questions about how best to support your child's developing reading skills, please talk to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your support.

### **School Association**

#### **Pentecost Service & Country Dancing: 9<sup>th</sup> June**

We will be selling tea, coffee and cakes after the service before the country dancing. We would love you to donate your bakes or buy cakes for the sale. Please bring your donations into the school office or straight into the kitchen in the morning. Thank you.

#### **School Association Contact Details**

Please contact them at [checkendonsa@gmail.com](mailto:checkendonsa@gmail.com).

## Term 6 - Extra-Curricular Activities

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	YEARS	ORGANISERS
<b>Monday</b>	08:00-08:40	<b>Dance</b> (12.6.17 – 10.7.17 tbc)	Yrs 1-6	Premier Performing Arts Tel:07545 125162 Stacey Gould
	Lunchtime	<b>Piano</b>	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	3.30-4.30	<b>Drama Factory</b> (8.5.17-10.7.17)	Yrs 2-6	Berzerk 07976 652742 Josh Buckland
<b>Tuesday</b>	(S.R.Pavillion) 8.00-8.30	<b>Stoke Row</b> <b>Running Club</b>	Yrs 3-6	Stoke Row Running Club Elise Way - eliseway@hotmail.co.uk
	Lunchtime	<b>Piano</b>	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	3.30-5.15	<b>Equestrian Club</b> (25.4.17-23.5.17)	All	Check. Equestrian Centre Tel: 01491 680225
	3.30-4.30	<b>Gymnastics Club</b> (25.4.17-18.7.17)	All	Ignite Tel: 01869 220890
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunchtime	<b>Piano</b>	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	Lunchtime	<b>Violin</b>	All	Elestr Lee Tel: 0118 9478685
<b>Thursday</b>	08.00-08.40	<b>Music Club</b> (27.4.17-20.7.17)	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	11.20–11.40	<b>Woodwind</b>	All	Lucy Robertson County Music Service
	3.30 – 4.30	<b>Netball Club</b> (4.5.17-13.7.17)	KS2	Please sign up at the School Office
<b>Friday</b>	Lunchtime	<b>Piano</b>	All	Emma Davies Tel: 01491 680252
	Lunchtime	<b>Festival of Voices</b>		Mr Boyer Owl Class
	3.30-4.30	<b>Football</b> (28.4.17-14.7.17)	All	Pro-Direct Tel: 07921 726332
	3.30	<b>Guitar</b>	All	Russ Payne Tel: 07921 087816

# CHECKENDON RUN



10km 5km and Children's

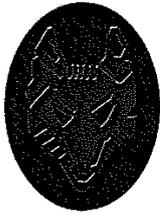
## 11 June 2017

[www.runbritain.com](http://www.runbritain.com)

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[www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Goring and Streatley Wolf Cubs

2ndGoringAndStreatley.org.uk

Dear Mrs Gillian Seymour,

Second Goring and Streatley is a flourishing scout group based locally in Streatley. We are a well-established presence in our communities and heavily involved in the life and activities of our area.

Our group consists of:

- a beaver colony for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 8
- a wolf cub pack for boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 11
- a scout troop for older children.

**Our thriving wolf cub pack is now looking to expand the number of places in the pack, and so we wondered whether any of your children at Checkendon CoE Primary School would like to join us.**

We are members of the British Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Association, which has run alongside the Scout Association almost since scouting began. Although relatively small, the BBS is expanding rapidly because we offer something a little bit different: traditional scouting in a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century setting. Our wolf cubs programme is based around Baden-Powell's original ideas, introducing younger children to the fun and adventure of scouting; Cubs at Streatley is what it always has been: a lot of fun and games and adventurous activities suitable for the children's age.

All our leaders are experienced scouters and most are involved in education (I am a teaching assistant, and our other leaders work at The Downs and Horris Hill schools). Child protection is of course paramount and all our leaders and adults are suitably recruited with full DBS checks.

If you think any of your children might be interested, then we would love to come to the school to explain more to you about what we do, and to show your children a quick slideshow on what cubs is all about, perhaps in Assembly, with a letter for children to take home to parents.

We also have posters advertising the pack with further details on how to join. Would it be possible to display one of these where your parents will see it?

We would very happily welcome any of your children to come along to one of our regular meetings, at 6 – 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings in the Morrell Rooms next to St Mary's Church in Streatley to try us out.

If any of your parents would like further information, please ask them to contact me on:

Tel: 07947 345741

Email: [cubs@2ndGoringAndStreatley.org.uk](mailto:cubs@2ndGoringAndStreatley.org.uk)

Website: <http://2ndgoringandstreatley.org.uk/cubs.php>

Yours sincerely

Karen Wake  
Akela, 2<sup>nd</sup> Goring and Streatley Wolf Cubs



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING



www.farmsunday.org

# LEAF Open Farm Sunday 11th June 2017

Visit a farm on Open Farm Sunday  
and discover the world of farming.

**Pupils, Parents, & Friends**

**are welcome to visit**

**Coombe End Farm**

**Whitchurch Hill**

**RG8 7TE**

**for**

**Walk, Talk and Tea**

**12 Noon 'til 4 pm**

**0118 984 3121 or 984 4070**



www.farmsunday.org | @OpenFarmSunday #OFS17 | LEAFopenfarmsunday



024 7641 3911 | openfarmsunday@leafuk.org | www.leafuk.org

Charity No. 1045781

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