



Newsletter: 6th March 2020

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) will take place on Friday 13th March.

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

First and foremost, let's clarify where we are with Coronavirus. Understandably, we are getting anxious about it and we have worked determinedly to maximise our effectiveness. As a school, this is what we have done so far:

- We have purchased significant amounts of hand sanitizer and hand gel, both with ethanol (alcohol)
- 3 additional hand sanitizers have been installed
- Children are strongly encouraged to wash their hands before lunch and, should they wish, they can use the sanitizer in the hall as well
- Hand washing instructions are displayed on posters around the school and classes have talked about this
- A number of videos have been used by teachers to show the children how to wash their hands properly. We take this for granted but, on the whole, we don't do it well. Hence, even Radio 4 has been giving adults advice on how to do it thoroughly. Our children know about the 'Happy Birthday X 2' rule (= 20 seconds).
- We have stocked up on tissues and explained the need to cough and sneeze into tissues that are then thrown away. Children are expected to wash their hands afterwards.
- Sneezing and coughing into elbows is something we are working on but, if you're not used to it, it doesn't come naturally.

If you would like to watch a video of hand washing with your child(ren), here are a couple of links for you try:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p07bjh2g/teddles-dont-forget-to-wash-your-hands> -
(suitable for Cygnets)

If you would like further information, the Government has provided this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Moving on

I was delighted to join Mrs GA and Year 2 for their Forest School lesson on Tuesday. What a blessing! As you know, it's a fantastic set up and the children had a brilliant time exploring, digging, making fossils and stream dipping.

As I write this, we have a whole host of children in character outfits and pyjamas to mark World Book Day. We have been listening to our favourite stories and making recommendations to each other. My favourite children's book remains 'The Velveteen Rabbit' by Margery Williams but I now have many more suggestions to work through at my leisure. We have taken some lovely pictures of the classes. What a shame we can't share them. Unfortunately, with 40 sets of parents not giving us permission to share photographs of their children, we can only display them in our classes.*

This is a very busy term for our worship. We have talked a lot about Lent and Reverend Hilary kindly came into school for our Ash Wednesday Service and marked a cross in ash for those who wanted to participate. I have talked about how sacrifice can be shown, not just by taking things away or giving things up in Lent, but also by adding to things we do, sharing more or multiplying our efforts, support or contributions to others ie. We look at Lent using the mathematical symbols of: + - x ÷

Our new Christian theme for this term's worship is respect. I challenged children to come up with either a poem or phrases using the letters in the word respect. Here are a couple of the first ones I received:

*RISE and stand up
EVERYONE is excellent
in their own way
SUPPORT all friends and
family
POSITIVE to your friends
and family
EARN respect and show
respect
CARE for everyone
TRUST worthy*
By Morgan Year 4

Rare relationships, which are good, are AMAZING
Everybody should be respected, even if they are different
from you
Share and care
People should be respected, so should animals
Each day consider one another
Cherish your friends
Today, we can make the world a better place by being
KIND
By Solace Year 5

*If you have not given permission for your child(ren) to appear in photographs (used for the website, to share with parents or for publicity purposes) for a specific reason, we respect and support that completely. However, we are going to try and reduce this number so you will be asked again if you are happy for us to use images of your child(ren) for the purposes outlined above.
Many thanks for your support.

Mrs M C A Gwynne
Interim Headteacher

Caught Being Good Reward System

10 CBG's – Emily M, Isla, Tieran, Kurt, Evie, Charlie A, Isabelle A-H, Millie A, Ellis and Lily T-D

Cup of Kindness

Mrs Middleton-Mai, Mrs Jeffries, Mrs Allcroft & Mr Paynton-Gilkes for taking year 5 to ThinkTank.
Mrs Reid for adding fun to year 6 lessons.

Out of School Achievements

Well done to:

Amber C who has been awarded her silver wings in skydiving and has also passed modern jazz preparatory grade with distinction.

Ellen C for passing modern jazz preparatory grade with distinction.

School Games Award

Congratulations to Harry and Aeva who were both awarded 'self belief' at the Year 1 multiskills festival. This award is given for being brave, taking on new challenges, being confident and trying new sports or activities.

Class News

Cygnets This week Cygnet's have had a super first week with Miss Jackson. They have started their new topic of 'Are we nearly there yet?', travelling to France and learning all things French. They have learnt some French language, learnt about the country and even tasted some yummy croissants. We had an enjoyable (if slightly damp!) walk around the village on Wednesday to see what different types of transport we could see and saw various modes such as canal boats, cars, vans, bicycles and even horses! Although our legs were tired we behaved exceptionally well and showed everyone how super sensible we are!

Year 1 We have had a very exciting start to our new topic, with a visit to the Natural History Museum in Oxford to explore the fossils and dinosaur skeletons on display there. The children enjoyed discovering just how huge a Tyrannosaurus was and were able to sketch their favourite exhibits. On our return they wrote some fabulous reports about the day.

In maths we have been deepening our understanding of place value, recording and demonstrating how many tens and ones there are in two-digit numbers using different types of apparatus and sequencing numbers up to 100.

Our RE lessons are helping us to think about the characteristics people look for in an inspirational leader. The children have thought about what made Jesus so popular and why people still follow Him today.

In Science this week we were so excited to welcome the Science department from Banbury's Wykham Park Academy and their "Animals". What a wonderful experience it was to meet the modern day reptiles and compare them to the dinosaurs we have been learning about.

We have been on the hunt for amphibians at forest school. We looked in the stream, under stones and in the bushes. However, we only found the laminated pictures hidden there. We think perhaps that, although frogs and toads can be spotted all year round, maybe it is still a bit too cold for them. We have been busily creating a new eco system, a small pond area, where we are intending to hatch frogs spawn and, later in the year, hope to attract other wild life too.

Year 2 have had an extremely exciting weeks' learning. We had a fantastic trip to the Oxford Natural History Museum, where we hunted for dinosaur fossils and researched facts for our topic work. The children were an asset to the school in their behaviour and manners.

In English this week we have been innovating characters for our own stories based on The Little Green Dinosaur. We have thought about interesting adjectives, verbs and adverbs to describe the dinosaurs. Next week we will be inventing our own stories using the ideas we have developed in the last couple of weeks.

The class have been developing their understanding of subtraction methods and addition methods over the past fortnight. We have linked this learning to word problems and reasoning. The children have used their counting across tens knowledge to access trickier questions.

We have had a fantastic Thursday celebrating World Book Day and a visitor brought in some animals and lizards for us to hold and observe.

Mr Owens is excitedly awaiting the arrival of the ukuleles that year 2 will be using in their music lessons for the rest of the school term!

Year 3 We have started our new topic of 'Potions' and have been looking at Solids, Liquids and Gases and sorting them into different categories. We have used our ICT time to research how Potions were used in the past for medicinal and magical purposes. We then chose a potion that we found really interesting and wrote all about it to put on our display wall. In maths, we have started to learn how to subtract using an expanded written method and using equipment to help us with this. In English, we have been looking at baddies and goodies in stories and designing a potion to change a persons personality.

Year 4 spent the first two days of the new half term completing assessments in the core subjects and have since been learning about their new topic on 'potions'.

We have explored how medicine has been used and developed through history and we have now linked this subject area to our Art work (mark-making potion bottles), English (analysing a character with a focus on adverbials and descriptive vocabulary) and Science work (Solids, Liquids and Gases). In Maths we have completed fluency, reasoning and problem solving tasks around column addition, column subtraction and times table challenges.

Year 5 had an 'out of the world' experience this week with their trip to a planetarium at Think Tank. They experienced an amazing lesson on the solar system and challenged the instructor with some tricky questions! In the end, he had to guide them into asking questions that he could answer more! Class 5 were mesmerised throughout the whole show and there were a lot of 'wows' expressed! Here are some quotes of what the children thought -

Abbie - 'It was a great experience learning about all the planets.'

George - 'I learnt interesting facts like how the stars made the constellations and the staff were very welcoming too.'

Poppy G - 'It was a great experience learning all about the planets'.

As always, their behaviour was impeccable and good fun was had by all, especially the science garden exploration after lunch, which brought out the best in team skills and friendships.

Year 6 This term class 6 have studied Gallery Rebels. We first started off by finding out about the general history of art. Next, all of us studied colour theories. We were all given three primary colours. With these we had to make all of the secondary and tertiary colours. Another activity was that the class were put into groups of two or three to study a particular art movement and put it in a slide show on PowerPoint, my partners and I were studying Baroque. By Isabelle A-H

Dates for your diary

19 th March	School Disco
26 th March	6pm Year 6 SATs evening
3 rd April	Easter Church Service 1pm
6 th – 17 th April	Easter Holidays
20 th April	Back to school
8 th May	May Bank holiday