Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week in Collective Worship we drew together all our thinking about our Value of Honesty, reflecting on what we have learned about barriers to honesty, but what a difference it can make when we are brave enough to tell the truth.

I read the children the story of Daniel, who ultimately ended up in a pit of lions because he continued to pray every day, even when the King issued a decree forbidding people to do so. Daniel remained true to himself, he didn't change because of what others thought and he didn't hide what he believed in. God saved Daniel from the lions and ultimately his honesty led to others also having faith in God.

Staying true to yourself can be really hard, especially when other people don't think the same as you. However, the richness of our community is only achieved when people are brave enough to be the people who they really are. Being free to be who you are and to hold to what you believe in, is enormously liberating.

In school, when things have gone wrong, we use 'Reflect and Repair' sheets to help children talk about what happened, how they felt and how they can put things right. Part of our discussion with children is supporting them to be honest about their part in what happened, because it is only once the truth is established that everyone can move on.

Honesty is hard for all of us, especially when we have made a mistake but as we learned at the beginning of the month 'the truth will set you free'!

Communication Survey

Within 48 hours of us launching our quick survey to get feedback on our newsletter and the use of MCAS, 47 people had responded. Thank you!

We would love to get more responses. The data shows it is taking you an average of 2 minutes to respond to the survey, so it is a quick job whilst the kettle boils.

The feedback has been really helpful for us. We have already actioned some of your requests and have plans to respond to more. A 'How to' guide for MCAS will be with you after the half-term break!

A lot of you asked for the diary on MCAS to be utilised and so we have added all upcoming events to that. As well as the events being on the diary, if you look under 'Announcements' it also lists the diary events and any letters that go with the event are also attached there. This means that you do not have to search back through your notifications/emails to find letters related to upcoming events such as the flu immunisations for example.

It would really help us if over the half-term break you could check on MCAS whether you have any payments outstanding – the survey feedback says that you are not finding payments intuitive and so we will create a 'How to' guide for this in due course.

Values Awards

After demonstrating so many Values during last week, all of our children in Year 6 received a Values Award!

Well done to the children in other year groups who this week received a certificate. Keep up the good work!



News from Around the School

This year, one of our School Development Priorities is to increase our strategies for promoting regulation and supporting mental health. One of the ways that we are looking to do this is to increase the use of our outdoor area and particularly our outdoor classroom.

Mrs Rowlands has been given a day a week to work with children across the school to get them into the outdoor classroom for regular curriculum learning, as well as for one off events.

Over the next term, all children should have some regular time in the outdoor classroom, please do look out for information about this and ask your children about what they have been learning when they have been outside.

This term Mrs Rowlands has been gathering resources and getting outside each week with the children from her Year 5 class. The children have been loving the team building activities and have worked together very impressively.







More News from Around the School

Our children in Year 4 have been using their design and creative skills to build lighthouses – there are some very impressive structures! Science work has also helped the children create a circuit so that their lighthouse can light up!












Even More News from Around the School

The children in Year 3 are enjoying books by Roald Dahl and have been thinking about the illustrator Quentin Blake. The children have drawn some of their favourite characters from the Roald Dahl books and then have been using watercolours to bring their pictures to life. The children have thought very carefully about proportion so that their characters look lifelike.













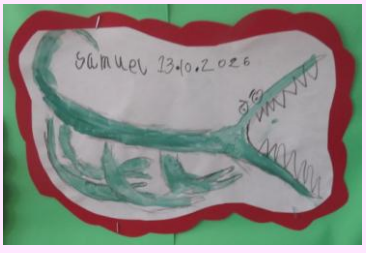
















Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who has taken a shoebox to fill over the half term break. The deadline for returning them to school is 6th November (the first Friday back after the half-term break).

Children should take their box to their classroom and then they will be able to take it and add it to our display, and colour in a square so we can see how many boxes we have created.



We will remember them

After the half-term break, we will be selling poppies and other items to raise money for the British Legion.

If your children would like to buy any of the items, please can they bring money into school in an envelope with their name and the items they require (including colour preference where relevant) clearly listed.

Items will remain on sale until 11th November.



Under 11s girls' football



Well done to our team of girls who played their first match this week in the Witney Partnership league.

Although the girls lost their match against Ducklington, they played brilliantly as a team, with some great work in goal by Lilia and excellent work in defence and attack by the other team members. Well done!

Attendance

At the end of this term, our boys have better attendance than our girls! Well done to our boys for being in school and ready to learn – come on the girls!

Loving, learning and flourishing in community