

Loving, learning and flourishing in community

Message from Mr Edwards-Grundy

Although it is not December until the middle of next week, in the Church's calendar, Advent begins this coming weekend. Advent is a traditional time of waiting and preparing. As children open their Advent calendars, they are of course waiting for Christmas, counting down the days until the 25th. However, this year, for us as adults, it is also very much a season of waiting – perhaps a wait even more eager than that of our children as they wait for Christmas!

In this continuing time of uncertainty, we too are waiting; for a vaccine, for changes to restrictions, for the world to go 'back to normal', for it to be different. As waiting for Christmas is a challenge for our children, so the current waiting is difficult for us too and we are not always patient!

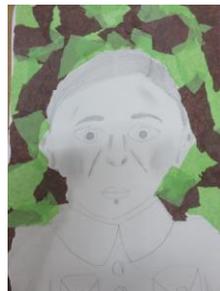
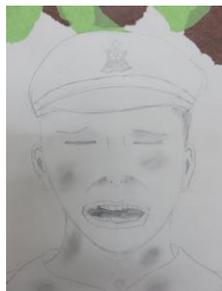
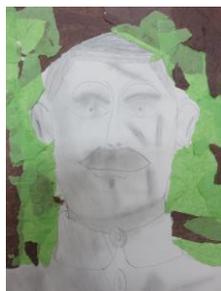
The challenge for me is to make this period of waiting productive; to wait in awe and thankfulness at the brilliance of those who have developed a vaccine at such speed, to wait with love for my neighbours by continuing to adhere to national and local restrictions, to wait patiently in recognition that this season will not last forever.

As I wait I find it helpful to reflect on the changes that I see all around me, it is a reminder that whilst it may feel like I am simply waiting, things are happening all around me. Your children are an excellent reminder of this. Since September, I have watched your children grow and develop, they continue to flourish in their learning and to take on every challenge presented to them.

Waiting is about looking forward. For Christians, the season of Advent is about looking forward with hope, waiting in full assurance that there is light coming to the darkness. I hope that you, along with me, will find joy and hope in the waiting, despite the challenges that we continue to face.

News from around the school

This week Mrs Powell and Miss Main have shared with us some art work that they are doing as part of their Year 6 topic on World War I. The art work was inspired by a newspaper article, which reported on images of soldiers, that had lain undiscovered for years. The children used the images to inspire their portraits and are now working to complete a camouflage background. We think their work is incredible, some of the expressions they have captured are haunting.



Reading books

In a number of year groups we are very short of Oxford Reading Tree (Biff, Chip and Kipper) reading books.

Please can you check your bookshelves at home for these books and send any that you find back into school? We are holding a book amnesty and won't ask any questions or make any comment!

Thank-you!

Raffle tickets

This weekend is your last opportunity to sell raffle tickets for The Friends.

Please return the ticket stubs, cash and any unsold tickets to the school, via your child's class teacher no later than Wednesday 2nd December; the draw will take place on Monday 7th December.

We are really appreciative of all the support that The Friends continue to provide to the school, especially when so many of their usual fundraising activities cannot take place, please do support them if you can.

Additional books of tickets can be obtained from the school office.



Small world items

Our children in Reception learn best through play and investigation and they love new things to play with and explore.

If you are carrying out a pre-Christmas clear out and you find you have any 'good as new' small play items e.g. cars/vehicles, Sylvanians, Small World, please can you send them into school for our Reception classes.

The classes do not need any more building materials such as Lego/Duplo, they are seeking items to encourage creative play.

From the Chair of Governors

It is less than a month to Christmas and less than a week until the end of the second national lockdown. This time, of course, our school has been able to remain open — thanks to numerous changes to how the school is organised.

That, though, is only half the story: the missing bit is that the vast majority of children have been at school throughout. In fact, levels of attendance this autumn have been even higher than they were before the Coronavirus pandemic took hold, which is astonishing.

The governing body as a whole are tremendously heartened by this really positive attendance, which we take as an indicator that not only do the children want to go to school, but they feel safe there. We also believe that it shows that you, their parents and carers, also feel that they are in good hands.

As governors we are continuing to meet and both support and challenge the school through what we expect to be a difficult winter. We are continuing to monitor the school's risk assessments and health and safety procedures in order that we can assure ourselves of the ongoing attention that the school is giving to ensuring the school remains as Covid-19 secure as it can be through this time.

Dr Philip Fowler

With thanks from the Royal British Legion

This week the school received a card of thanks from the Royal British Legion for all of the monies raised during the recent sale of poppy related items.

The school raised an impressive £204.62 for this year's appeal, all of which will go towards supporting the work of the Royal British Legion



with the armed forces community past and present. Thank-you.