

# Newsletter

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

*'... it looks like a rather blustery day today, it seems that it may turn out to be... looks like a rather blustery day today.'*

So says Winne the Pooh! And indeed it has been a rather blustery day today. Your children have been amazing, as always, adapting to being indoors all day and enjoying all that the day in school has had to offer them. Thank you for your co-operation, particularly at pick up time, to ensure that all children were collected safely.

Although we come back to school on the last day of February, this week is the last time we will spend as a community reflecting on Love as our Value for the Month. And yet, as I shared with staff earlier today, Love is the glue that holds all our other Values together. Love is what keeps us acting justly, it enables us to be patient, it urges us to be kind and informs wise decisions. We may be finishing exploring Love as our Value, but we will return to it throughout the year as we reflect on all our other values.

Even for our children, for whom we feel an overwhelming love, love is sometimes a decision. When we are tired and our resources are low, we have to choose to show them love, to demonstrate in the words we say and in our actions, that we love them. We all need more love in our lives!

This week, the Year 4 children have put on the most amazing performance of Peter Pan – Adventures in Neverland. I hope you enjoy looking at the photos. Well done to all of them, they were incredible.

Have a peaceful and enjoyable half term. We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

## News from Mrs Patchett

It has been a busy six months since I took on the role of Assistant Head for Inclusion. My new role expands on my previous SENCO role to look at all areas of inclusion, but also has a wider leadership role across the school.

I work very closely with all members of the staff team, supporting them as they look at a wide range of interventions to support all children both in their learning and their wellbeing.

This year the mid-year IEP reviews will take place as part of Parents' Evenings. Class Teachers are best placed to talk through what has been put in place to support your children and what impact this has had. Following your parents' evening appointment, if there is anything further you wish to discuss, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you to those parents of children with SEND who have already completed the questionnaire. I really value your feedback on our provision and will use your comments and suggestions to reflect on and evaluate our current practice and procedures. We will share the headlines from the questionnaire in a future newsletter.

## News from Around the School

The Year 4 children put on a fantastic performance this week. Children in Years 1 and 3 enjoyed their dress rehearsal on Tuesday and parents/grandparents enjoyed their performances later in the week. The show was amazing, with all children contributing and growing in confidence every time they performed. Well done to everyone in Year 4, staff and children have all worked incredibly hard.



## Covid-19 vaccines

The Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group has asked us to pass on the following information to you.

Following the Government's announcement that all children aged 5 to 11 will be offered the COVID-19 vaccination, NHS partners across Oxfordshire are now planning the best way to deliver the vaccine to this age group. Please note that in line with government timelines this service may not be available until April 2022. We ask you to please refrain from contacting the NHS during this time and thank you for your patience. Further information will be available in due course.

## Congratulations



One of our Year 6 children, Olivia, took part in the Choreography Dance Competition for Jazz Dance Fusion on Saturday. We were delighted to hear that she won 1st place in the Junior Division for Jazz, Contemporary and Acro.



## Well done!

On Wednesday eighteen children from Year 6 represented The Blake School at the Witney Athletics Competition. Following the event we asked two of the children who attended to write something for the newsletter about the event. Our thanks to Finn and Lottie who wrote so informatively about the event as below –

*'Everything was very fun and organised, it started with an obstacle relay, which went really well and then it all started to get exciting!' 'There were smaller events like the vertical jump and the chest push.' 'Overall we came 3<sup>rd</sup>, we were very happy with ourselves because we won a place on the podium.' 'Not only did we get a place on the podium, we also enjoyed ourselves very much and cheered our teammates on.' 'We wouldn't have made it without our teacher's help and support.'*



Well done to all the children who took part in the event and represented the school so well.

## Book week – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March

This year, World Book Day is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. On that day we will be encouraging children to come into school dressed as their favourite character from a book. Do encourage your children to think about the stories they love and to come dressed to celebrate their favourite character.

Our eco-council is also leading us through a new initiative to recycle books. Please can children bring a book into school that they no longer want? Children will then be given a token and later on in the week they will be able to exchange that token for a book that somebody else brought in.

They had a great time - oh yes they did!



Loving, learning and flourishing in community