

## Loving, learning and flourishing in community

### Message from Mr Edwards-Grundy

As I see so many children in odd socks walking around the school and with all the media attention that today will bring, it is easy to see the need for compassion, right on our doorstep. I am heartened by the way I see your children demonstrate compassion, just today on the playground looking out for each other and in a classroom encouraging one another when the learning is tricky. Your children often challenge me! Showing compassion is at the heart of what it means to live well in community and not just on Children in Need day.

I know that many of you will be keeping an eye on the data locally in relation to positive cases of Covid-19. For my part I am committed to ensuring you are aware of how the pandemic is affecting the school community. To date, we have one member of staff and one family isolating because a member of each of their families has tested positive.

This week I have been filming myself giving a virtual tour of our school site. If you know anyone who will be applying for a place in Reception for their child next year, please do let them know that the virtual tour will be released next week.

A member of the public today rung me to make me aware of the number of parents who are driving up the narrow pathway, past the Farm Museum entrance to drop their children at the gate at the back of school. This is not a public roadway, it is access only to the disabled car park for the Farm Museum. Driving up there to drop your children presents a significant risk to our children and to the wider community. If you need to use a car to drop off and pick up, please use the large Farm Museum car park and walk up the side path to the back of school. Thank-you for helping to keep everyone safe!

### News from around the school

This week the Year 5 children have been to Narnia! Miss Hallowell described how the children had a multi-sensory experience visiting Narnia, which had been set up in their middle area. The children used the experience as a springboard for writing poems, thinking about what Lucy would have felt like and describing all that their senses had experienced. We really enjoyed reading their writing, which showed how valuable it had been for them to actually 'visit' Narnia.



## Whose feet are these?

Today children and staff alike wore odd socks to help raise money for Children in Need, but whose feet are these? Answers will be shared next week. Thank-you to everyone who donated and who wore odd socks today – it has been a very colourful day! We raised an amazing £395.22.



Clue – they all belong to members of our staff team!

## Menu change

As the days turn colder, we are delighted that Margarita and her team are able to offer a hot and nutritionally balanced hot meal to our children, freshly prepared in our school kitchen.

From this coming week we are making a change to our vegetarian menu option on Wednesday's of week 3. On those weeks the vegetarian option will be roast Quorn and not the autumnal vegetable bake as advertised.

For those of you who like to plan ahead, we will be having our school Christmas dinner on



Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>  
December 2020. We will send you more details about booking and the menu nearer the time! We are looking forward to it already!

## 100 club - congratulations!

Congratulations to Stephanie Ormonde, who has won £47.50 in the first 100 Club prize draw. £47.50 is also being donated to the school.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Friends by purchasing numbers – they have had a fantastic response.

To save administrative time and to avoid any GDPR difficulties, The Friends are not contacting individuals to let them know their numbers. For transparency they have provided a full list of names and numbers to the school.

If you would still like to sign up for the 100 Club, or if you would like to pay for more numbers, then a further opportunity to do this will be provided in the New Year.

The next draw will be at the end of November.

Watch this space and good luck everyone!

## Welcome to Serena

As Serena finished her first week in school, working as a Teaching Assistant in Year 2, we caught up with her to ask her how she has got on and to find out a bit more about her.



Serena has been working with children for almost twenty years in a wide range of settings. Most recently Serena has been looking after a number of our children as part of the Oxford Active Team providing wrap-around care.

Serena told me "I love working with children, no two days are ever the same and children are great fun to work with." Asked why she applied to work at The Blake she responded "having worked at The Blake School providing wrap-around care, I know the values and ethos at the heart of the school and jumped at the chance to come and work as part of the school team."

## Chorister for a day

If you have a son in Years 2, 3 or 4 who would enjoy the chance to be a chorister for a day with Christ Church Cathedral Choir, please register your interest by emailing [registrar@cccs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk)

The day will take place online on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December and you must register your interest no later than Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

[www.cccs.org.uk](http://www.cccs.org.uk)