

# Newsletter

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week, in Collective Worship, as we continued to think about Compassion, we thought about how Compassion can help us to love our enemies.

Very often our enemies are people we do not understand, or people whose behaviour can cause us to be afraid. Compassion helps us to understand one another, it gives time to understanding the viewpoint of someone else and it can therefore dispel fear.

Together in Collective Worship we thought particularly about how Compassion can help us to re-pay evil with good, it was a discussion that challenged every one of us. As I shared with the staff team today, the decision to do good where we have been wronged is not an easy one. However, such difficult decisions transform communities and ultimately, we will all benefit as we each show Compassion to one another, perhaps especially where we are least deserving of it.

As I walk around this school, I see Compassion in a myriad of small ways, in each classroom. Adults model Compassion for your children and they in turn choose to show Compassion to one another. Compassion builds community as it helps us to understand one another and to appreciate the different challenges that others face.

This week I have been very moved to see the growing pile of shoeboxes as you and your children fill them with not just lovely toys, but also so many basics that we take for granted. These boxes will transform Christmas for children who would otherwise not receive anything and whose daily lives lack even the simplest of resources. The filling of shoeboxes, perhaps more so this year than many others, as each of us begins to feel the financial squeeze, is a clear outworking of Compassion. It is a recognition of what it must be like to have so little and then to respond to that need.

I want to thank each of you who filled or part-filled a box, for demonstrating Compassion to those who you will never meet and whose lives are very different to your own. Whilst your generosity will mean that children have warm gloves, or pencils with which to colour, it will also send a message of love. Your shoebox will say to each and every recipient, that someone has taken the time to understand what it must be like to be them, and to do something about it. Your gift is Compassion in action, and it will change lives this Christmas.



156 filled shoeboxes!



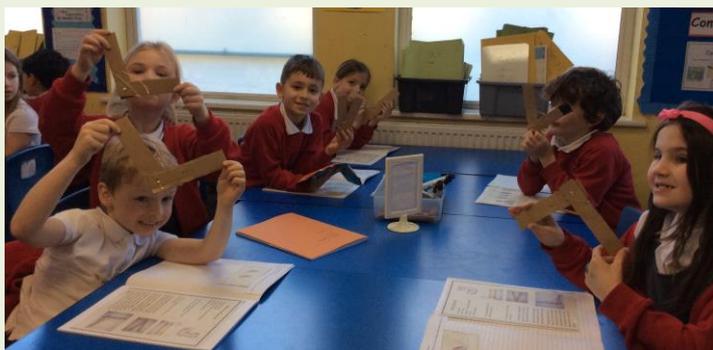
## News from Around the School

This week, children across the school have been thinking about the sacrifice of men and women during periods of conflict, especially during the two World Wars. The children have produced some very thoughtful and beautiful artwork. A particular thank-you to all the volunteers who helped our Year 4 children with their sewing – the children were rightly very proud of their work.



## More News from Around the School

We really enjoyed seeing these pictures of our Year 3 children, who have been learning all about muscles! The children have learned how pairs of muscles work together and made mock muscles for their triceps and biceps.



### Governor news

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote in our recent Parent Governor election.

We are delighted to inform you that following the election, Mrs Clare Huggard has been elected as the new parent governor.

Clare Huggard has a daughter in Year 1. Clare brings a wealth of experience to the governing board and we are looking forward to working with her in the coming months.

We are also delighted to welcome Andy Reid to the Governing Board. Andy is the new Associate Minister at St Mary's Cogges and has been appointed as a Foundation Governor.

If ever you want to contact the governors you can do so via the school office, or by emailing [governors@blake.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:governors@blake.oxon.sch.uk)

### Values Awards Winners

Congratulations to all the children who were this week given a Values Award.



Over the past week, each of these children has shown our Values in a particularly noteworthy way – well done to them all.

***Loving, learning and flourishing in community***