

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

Welcome back to Term 2! It has been great to see everyone back in school this week, refreshed and ready to learn. School this week has felt very busy and purposeful, it has been a real joy to walk around and see your children learning.

This month our Value of the Month is Trust. To start our reflections this month, in Collective Worship on Monday we spent time thinking about what it is to trust in yourself and to trust in God. As staff and children, we thought about how God trusts us with skills and knowledge and how we are responsible for using those things to help others and to make a difference in the world. We then thought about the importance of community and the fact that we need the help of one another. We need to trust ourselves for the things that are in our power, trust one another for the things that we can do together and trust God in and through it all.

This week has of course been the COP26 summit and what better illustration of the need to do what we can individually and together than the challenges relating to climate change? There are things that we can all do, as individuals, and it is important that we do them; and then there are the things that we can only do together, and we need to work with one another to achieve those.

There is of course always the danger that as we look at the challenges around us, we can feel overwhelmed. As the days shorten and the days are grey, what we can do can feel small and insignificant, even when we are working with others. It is not just the challenges of climate change that feel overpowering, our own circumstances come with obstacles aplenty and it can be easy to lose heart.

Yesterday, Hindus celebrated Diwali, their festival of light and next month Christians will celebrate Christmas, a remembrance of Jesus coming as light into the world. There is hope outside us and beyond us, to help us with the challenges that we face. Christians trust that God will equip them for whatever each new day brings, whatever the size of the challenge.

I look forward to all that this term will bring and to facing the challenges in community with you all.

Reminder

Don't forget that all children are having their photo taken, as an individual, on Monday.

Where we have children in the same family within school, these photos will be taken on Tuesday.

Thank-you

Thank you to everyone who over the past few weeks has brought a filled shoebox into school. This morning Mrs Raven loaded an amazing 131 boxes into her car to take them to the Methodist Church for onward processing. There were also lots of individual items that will be used to make up more boxes. What an amazing effort – well done everyone!

If you forgot to bring your box in today and you have it ready, do bring it into school on Monday.

Welcome to our new staff



Mrs Xoana Rutherford joined our busy Reception team just before the half-term break.

Xoana's two girls attend The Blake School and so she is delighted to also become part of our on-site school community.

Xoana loves music, she plays the cello and sings regularly with a local choir, she also loves to walk, forage for mushrooms and get messy with her girls.

Xoana is half Spanish and every summer she visits her family in her home town in northern Spain.

Xoana has settled into the Reception classrooms very quickly and is working to ensure that our youngest children have the very best provision and start to their time at The Blake School.

Mrs Nicola Krull joined our Year 5 staff team this week.

In the past year Nicola has moved to the UK from South Africa and made her home in a small village, just outside of Faringdon.

Nicola's two boys attend The Blake School and she is delighted to be working where they attend school.

Nicola is a busy mum to four children; she also has two girls. Whenever she gets the chance, she loves walking, baking and reading.

Nicola's children joined the school during lockdown and so the first time that she had been inside the school building was when she came for her interview! She is now finding her way around and getting to know everyone.



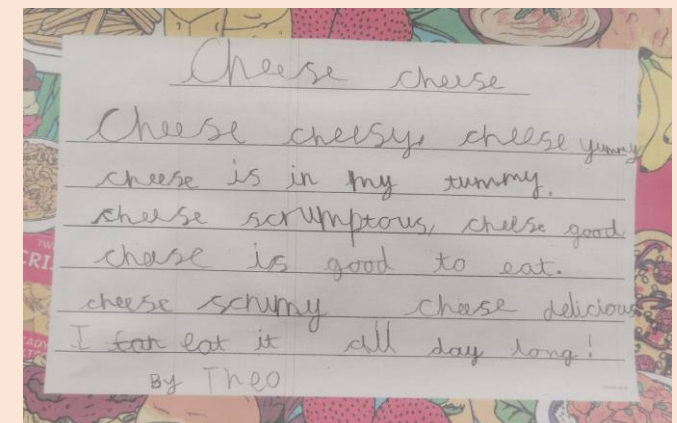
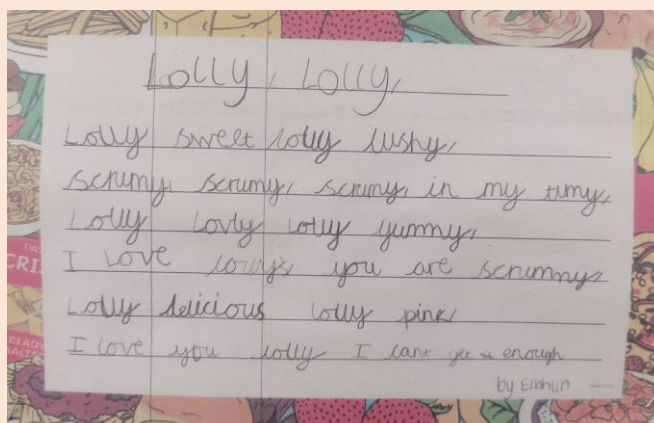
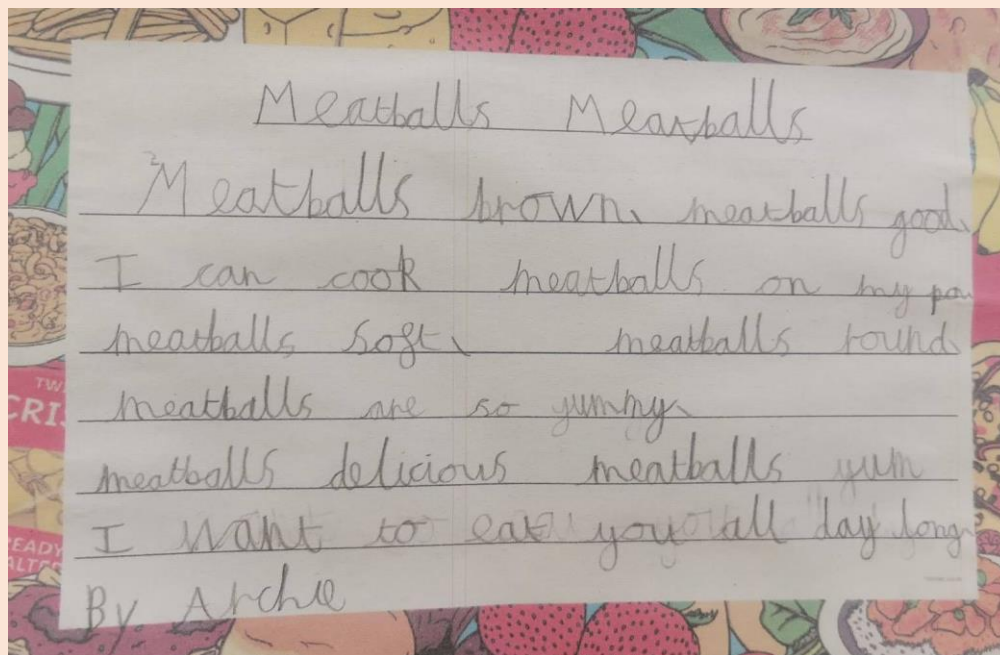
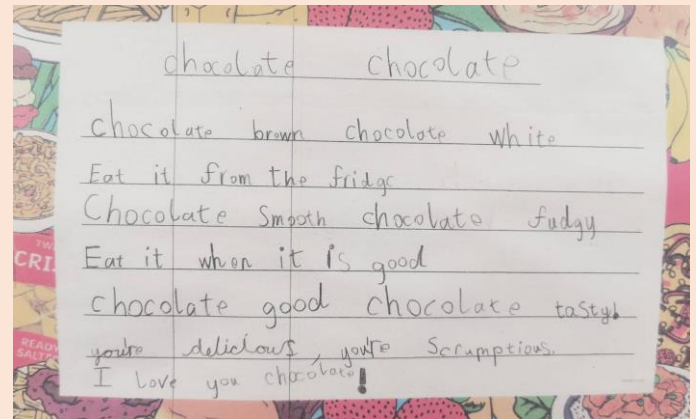
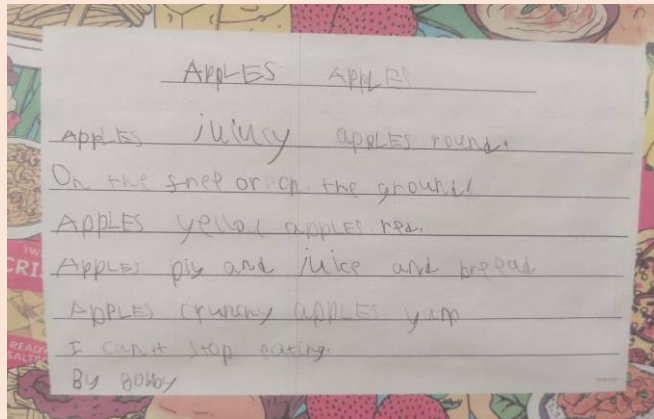
Children wanting a place in Reception in September 2022

One of our great sadnesses last year was being unable to show the parents of prospective pupils around our school. We remain enormously grateful to everyone who provided material for our virtual tour, which is still proving helpful to parents looking around schools and wanting to find out more about us.

This year however, we are able to show parents around face-to-face. If you have any family, friends or neighbours whose child is due to start school next September and who would like to come and have a tour, please do ask them to email the school office to arrange this – office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk, we would love to show them around.

News from around the school

The children in Year 2 have been looking at food poems. They began by looking at 'Spaghetti, Spaghetti' by Jack Prelutsky. The children loved the repetition and tried to explore that in their own poems. Children also tried to include onomatopoeia and some alliteration. We really enjoyed their poems, and we hope you do too.



Loving, learning and flourishing in community