

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

As we draw near to the end of term, the quote on our staffroom board from Walter Elliot has felt particularly apt –

*“Perseverance is not one long race,  
it is a series of short races, one after the other.”*

There are often short pauses between bursts of the race, maybe only a night of sleep, but perhaps a few days between phone calls, a week between exercise classes, or maybe even a month or two between a repeated event. Whatever the space of time, it is vital for our mental health and emotional wellbeing that we seek to make the most of those gaps between races. We need to make the pauses count.

For each of us how to make that pause count best will be different, and of course it will also vary depending on the challenge we face. Ensuring a good night of sleep is important for adults and children alike and gives us the best chance of facing whatever a new day may hold. Fresh air, regular exercise and a healthy diet are also vital to ensure that we are able to give our best. And then there are the things that bring each of us joy and refreshment, reading a book, meeting with friends, baking, a long soak...

As a Christian, one of the key parts of my pauses is prayer. For me, this is a time to sit quietly, to reflect, and to take my concerns to Jesus. I need his strength to adequately deal with the challenges that I face and to persevere. Prayer gives me the energy for the next part of the race. As we draw near to the half-term break, a chance for many of us to have a pause between races, it is my prayer that you and your children will take time to rest and to regain your strength, ready for the next part of the race.

Perseverance is no quick win and not for the faint-hearted!

I would like to close by thanking all of you who completed our online parent survey. The feedback is enormously helpful to us as a school as we look at development priorities for the year ahead. I will share more detailed feedback with you in the coming weeks.

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

## Thoughts from The Priory

Do you ever wish you had a superpower?

I always wanted to be Spiderman when I was growing up, I thought it would be fun to be able to shoot a web and swing between buildings - in fact I still think it would be quite fun.

Recently I filled in a survey and it told me that I did have a superpower and apparently it was optimism, which means I'm nearly always positive about things. It was a good reminder that in many ways our values of the month are superpowers. Perseverance is all about keeping going when things are difficult and when we press through difficult things it is a great achievement.

On Sunday we remember the day of Pentecost which is when the church was born. One of the last things Jesus said to his followers was "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Christians believe that on the day of Pentecost Jesus sent His Spirit to clothe us with power, to help us to persevere, to help us to love others and so that we would know that we are never alone.

One of the fruits of His Spirit is peace and I hope that you and your family would know the peace, strength and love of God's spirit at this time.

*Rev Simon Kirby*

## Oh yes, we did...

In the paperwork that we have circulated about the upcoming pantomimes, we made an error.

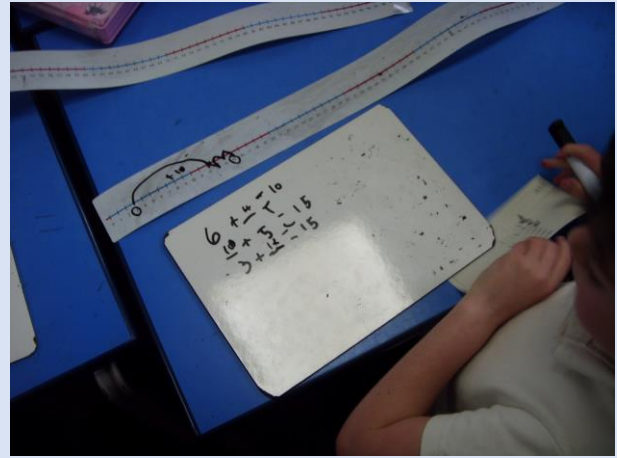
Children in Years 1, 2 **and 3** will be watching 'The Wizard of Oz' and children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be watching 'Treasure Island'.

If you have not yet done so, please [complete the online form](#) and pay for this exciting event.

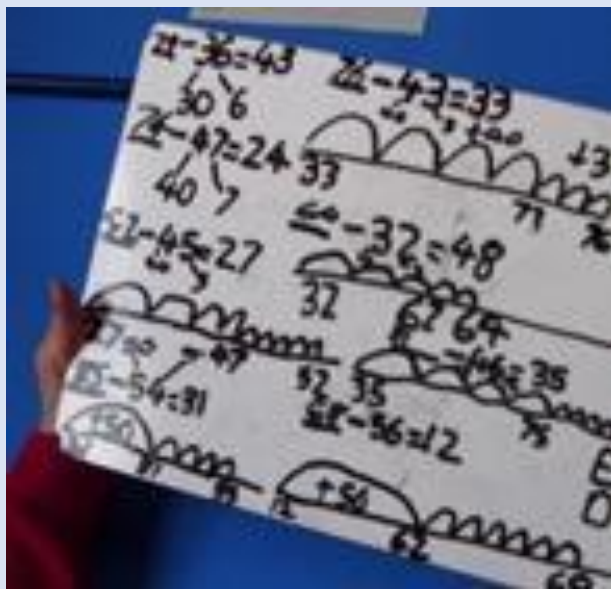
There will be multiple performances so that children can watch the pantomime safely in their bubbles.

## News from around the school

The children in Year 2 have been persevering with their maths this week. They have been looking at missing number questions and how to solve them. They were looking particularly at where the missing number was as this changed their calculation method.



The children used a range of number line and blank number lines to help them calculate the missing number.



It has been a great joy this week to see children around the school persevering with their learning. Every space around the school is being used for small group work, some one-to-one work and additional teaching input. Children are working very hard – well done children.

## The welcome return of inter-school sports

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March nine girls from Year 6 attended a 5-a-side football competition to play against other Witney school teams. It was their first competition as a team, and they worked so hard and represented the school well. Well done to Libby, Lola, Millie, Emelia, Layla, Amber, Maria, Lilly and Isobel for doing their best. We are looking forward to another friendly girl's football match next week.



## St Mary's Cogges, Family Service

St Mary's Cogges are this week restarting their Family Service.

Do join them for a short, family friendly service in the church.

The services will take place every fortnight.

You can book for the 3pm service for this week by clicking [here](#), or for the 4.15pm service by clicking [here](#).

You can book for future weeks, by clicking [here](#), or find out more about what St Mary's are currently doing on their website – <https://coggesparish.com>

## Football after-school club

After more than a year, we are thrilled to be welcoming back Premier Soccer to run their after-school football club.

The club is open to all children in Years 1 – 6 and will start from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

If you want your children to join the club, which will take place outside and in accordance with all guidance currently in place, [complete the form](#).

## Design a banner

If you are looking for an indoor activity to do this weekend, do encourage your children to design a banner for the outside of the school.

The competition winner will see their design printed and displayed at the front of the school.

Designs should be simple, bold and eye catching and should have a strong eco message.

Children should draw their design on a strip of paper 29cm x 5cm, a template was included in the letter with all the competition details sent earlier this week.

Designs should be returned to your child's class teacher, the competition closes on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**STAGE COACH** **HOLIDAY WORKSHOP**  
Creative Courage For Life

**WE GO TOGETHER GREASE**  
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<b>9 - 13 AUGUST 2021</b> <b>16 - 20 AUGUST 2021</b> <b>GREASE</b> Age: 8 - 18 year olds Time: Mon - Fri, 10.00 - 16.00 Performance: Fri, 17.30 Cost: £180 (siblings £160) £50 deposit	<b>9 - 13 AUGUST 2021</b> <b>16 - 20 AUGUST 2021</b> <b>MYSTERY AT MAGPIE MANOR</b> Age: 4 - 8 year olds Time: Mon - Fri, 9.30 - 13.00 Performance: Fri, 12.00 Cost: £130 (siblings £115) £25 deposit
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Venue: Jutys Inn, Oxford, OX2 8AL (9 - 13 August 2021)  
The Kings School, Witney (16 - 20 August 2021)

[www.stagecoach.co.uk/summertown](https://www.stagecoach.co.uk/summertown)  
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**STAGE COACH**  
Creative Courage For Life

Term ends at the end of the school day, this Friday – 28<sup>th</sup> May.

## ARCh readers

We are very blessed as a school to benefit from the ARCh reading team, who come into school throughout the week to listen to children read and provide additional reading support.

The team are looking for a confident 'people person' to join them as a field worker, liaising with schools and ensuring the organisation runs smoothly.

Further details about the part-time role and how to apply can be found [here](#).

## Don't forget...

A number of children are forgetting to bring water bottles into school. Please can we ask that you remind your children to bring these in as we do not have cups for all children to drink from.

Please can we also remind you to make sure that all of your children's clothes are labelled. We hope it won't be long before we have some better weather and children will be taking off their coats and jumpers. Unless these are labelled it is impossible to return them to their owners.