

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

It has been a joy this week to welcome your children back to school after the half-term break. It has been lovely listening to the children chatter about their week off and to see them ready and refreshed for this final term of learning.

Term 6 usually brings with it a range of whole school events and celebrations, but this year will be a year for re-imagining and reinventing the end of year markers. Schools are expecting updated government guidance on Monday, which will hopefully provide some clarity regarding expectations on schools through to the end of the academic year. Once the guidance has been received and scrutinised, we will start to make plans. It is frustrating to have to wait, but the past year has repeatedly shown us the importance of adhering to the guidance and so we shall continue, as we have done, to review our practice in the light of the DfE's guidance.

As we have returned to school, our new Value of the Month is Goodness. As the sun shines and long summer days approach, it is easy to see the goodness of God reflected in creation. Within Collective Worship we will be thinking more about how we can protect and look after the beautiful world we have been given. We will also be thinking about how we can demonstrate goodness to one another. On the staff room board this week has been the following challenge –

"Be the reason someone believes in the goodness of people"

It can be hard to achieve this in school, with all the day to day challenges, but it is perhaps even harder to achieve in our homes! It is certainly a challenge I am taking with me into the weekend!

As this concluding term begins, in this strangest of years, and as we again await new guidance and wonder what the future may hold, I am reminded of an old hymn "Through all the changing scenes of life..." The hymn reminds me that whatever the challenges may be, God remains faithful and is worthy of praise. It remains easy to be distracted by the troubles that are all around and the uncertainty ahead, why not take time instead to reflect on the steadfastness that believe God offers to us all?

Could you be our new parent governor?

As we shared with you last term, Dr Sam Sadler has decided that it is time to hang up her governor hat.

Sam has been a proactive member of our school community for many years, being involved in both governors and The Friends.

Within her governor role, Sam has been Vice-Chair and our health and safety lead, as well as bringing many very valuable insights from her day job to the strategic thinking of the school.

To say that we will miss Sam is an understatement!

Sam's departure however does mean that we need to elect a new parent governor.

Governors are normally appointed for a four-year term, although they can of course step down at any time.

Governors meet once a month, currently online and in the early evening.

The focus of governing body meetings is on the strategic priorities of the school, looking at how the school's budget is spent and monitoring standards. Governors also reflect on how the ethos and values of the school are upheld and consider any admissions requests.

If you are a current parent, or someone who has parental responsibility for a child in our school, you are eligible to stand as a parent governor.

If you would like to find out more, or think you would be interested in the role, please do get in touch with Phil Fowler (Chair of Governors) via the governor email – governors@blake.oxon.sch.uk

The governing body really does need parents, so please consider if you have the skills we need and get in touch!

Loving, learning and flourishing in community.

News from around the school

Mrs H Lynch asked if the Year 6 children could be the focus of the newsletter this week, even though they were the focus of the final newsletter of last term!

The two Year 6 classes spent time over last term doing 100 laps of the playground as part of the Captain Tom challenge and this week both classes received their certificates to recognise their achievement.

Well done to all the children in Year 6. You did it your way!



While we were in Year 6 taking photos of the certificates, we also noticed the new displays of their artwork relating to the Wind in the Willows. The care the children have taken with their work is very evident and certainly adds colour to their classrooms.



Thank-you

Thank you to everyone who this morning walked, scooted or cycled to school.

Thank you also for using the large farm museum car park at drop off and pick up, rather than parking outside the homes of our neighbours.

We will continue to monitor this over the coming weeks, as parking on the residential roads is neither necessary, nor courteous to our neighbours.

In this better weather, why not see if you can make leaving the car at home a new habit?

WILD WORLD Heroes

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

Join this year's summer reading challenge.

The challenge is free for all children and can be accessed from the Witney library – [click here](#) to find out more.

Please look after this bear?

Does anyone know who this bear belongs to? It is currently being well looked after by our Year 5 children, but we would really like to reunite the bear with its owner.

Can you help?



Excel tennis

Excel tennis academy will once again be running holiday courses through the summer holidays. Places will be limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Courses will be run in Witney, Standlake and Kingston Bagpuize, for children aged between 4 and 16.

To find out more, or to book a place, please [visit their website](#).

More fun at Forest School...

This week, the children in Mr Hope's class had their first Forest School session. Miss Robertson, who leads the sessions, said that the children quickly settled down to enjoy all that the forest had to offer and had a great time.



Leavers' photo

Next Thursday (17th) children in Year 6 will be having their photo taken for the annual Leavers' photo.

As was the case last year, photos will be taken individually and then by the wonders of modern technology edited into one photo.

Animal Man

Next Friday, Year 5 are welcoming the 'Animal Man' into school as part of their work on rainforests.

We are looking forward to hearing all about the different animals that they get to meet – look out for the photos in next week's Newsletter.

If your child is in Year 5, please make sure you have returned their form.