

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

Forgiveness is a wonderful thing, especially if you are the one receiving it! We have all experienced times when we have needed the forgiveness of others and this morning in Collective Worship, I asked the children to bring to mind just such an occasion.

When things go wrong it can leave scars on each of us, we can feel broken. I have been really helped this week by thinking about the Japanese art of Kintsugi, where broken pots are mended, and the cracks are then covered in gold. Instead of being broken and spoilt, they have become a thing of beauty.



As we continue on our journey through this difficult season, I think it is helpful to remember that what may seem broken and spoilt can be restored. None of us is the finished article; I love the slogan "Be patient with me, God isn't finished with me yet!"

Just as we are still on our own personal journey, maybe still more broken pieces than beautiful and restored, so we as a nation continue on a journey which for the past year has required skills and resources we didn't perhaps know that we possessed! Can I encourage you to be patient with yourselves and with one another, Kintsugi takes time, we are not transformed in an instant.

As however we reach a significant marker, with all children now able to return to school, there is a small sense of celebration. Another part of the pot is being restored, together we are moving on.

Well done and thank you for all that you have given since January, for your support and patience as we have grappled with technology and your unstinting commitment to your children's learning.

64 days since we expected to see your children back in school, it is finally time to say to them all a much longed for, "Welcome back"

Welcome back Mrs H. Lynch

We are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Helen Lynch back to The Blake School. Mrs Lynch will be working in Year 6 as Mrs Powell is now on maternity leave.

Mrs Lynch told us that she is really looking forward to teaching some of the children that she taught when they were in Year 3 and seeing how they and their learning have grown since then.

As anyone who knows Mrs Lynch will know, she is especially looking forward to teaching Maths and Science.



Mrs Lynch wonders if any of the children can remember her favourite number?

Since leaving The Blake School Mrs Lynch has been working as a Maths consultant as well as carrying out some private tuition.

See below for Mrs Lynch looking slightly different!



News from around the school

Our Reception children may be the youngest in our school, but they have certainly been very busy during lockdown, both in school and at home. This week they have been learning about 'The Owl and the Pussy Cat' as well as doing some exciting science about floating and sinking.



Well done
Reception for
making boats
that floated.

ACTION CALENDAR: MINDFUL MARCH 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness	2 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world outside	3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive	4 Notice how you speak to yourself. Try to use kind words	5 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day	6 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them	7 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels
8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture & smell of your food	9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others	10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face	11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee	12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying	13 Pause to just watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today	14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that need doing
15 Stop, breathe and just notice. Repeat regularly during the day	16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity	17 Look around and spot 3 things you find unusual or pleasant	18 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down	19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today	20 Celebrate the International Day of Happiness daysofhappiness.net	21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
22 Walk a different route today and see what you notice	23 Tune in to your feelings without judging or trying to change	24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do	25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted	26 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible	27 Have a device-free day and enjoy the space it offers	28 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are
29 Notice what is working today and be thankful that this is so	30 Mentally scan down your body and notice what it is feeling	31 Notice the joy to be found in the simple things of life	"Mindfulness means that we commit fully in each moment to be present" - Jon Kabat-Zinn			

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/mindful-march

Happier · Kinder · Together

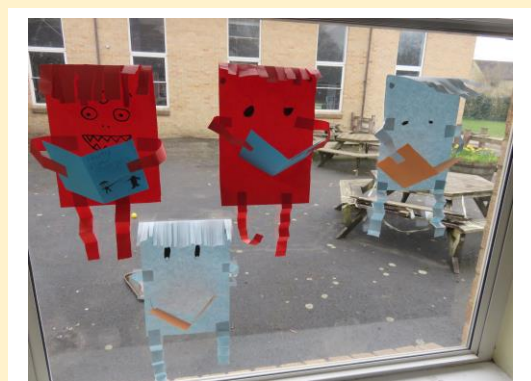
Who are these two members of staff getting in the mood for learning all about 'The Owl and the Pussy Cat'?



World Book Day at home and in school – great costumes everyone!



We loved this creative work to celebrate reading that we saw in Year 4.



Back to school...

Information about the return to school was sent out to everyone earlier this week, including a list of 'don't forget' items. Arrangements remain very similar to those that were in place during the autumn term.

The staff team are really excited to be planning to have all children back in school, but we know that some of your children may be feeling anxious about the return.

Teachers will be planning a range of activities to help children settle back in. If teachers have any concerns about your child they will get in touch with you to discuss them with you.

Comic Relief

This year, Red Nose day is taking place on Friday 19th March 2021.

As usual we will want to be supporting this very worthwhile charity and will be doing so by encouraging the children to come to school in their ordinary clothes for a donation to Comic Relief.

This year the celebrations are going to focus on jokes and so on Friday 19th we will be encouraging every child to come to school with a joke. Children can enjoy sharing these within their classes, but we hope to share some of our favourite jokes with you.

Find out more about Comic Relief and some of the projects that they support by looking at their [website](#).

Excel tennis

The goal of Excel Tennis Academy is to create opportunities for everyone to play and learn tennis. They have therefore created short 20-minute video sessions that children can view and take part in from home.

New videos are posted every week and are absolutely free to view. All children, no matter what their level of ability or experience should be able to take part, they do not even need a tennis racket or ball to get involved.

Find out more by looking at the [Excel Tennis Academy](#) website and have fun!

Share A Smile 🤗 Give Us A Joke!

Help us bring some joy for

Comic Relief.

YOU could be on BBC Radio and even BBC One!

IT'S SIMPLE

STEP 1: Think of your most **HILARIOUS** joke.

STEP 2: **Video** yourself telling it.

STEP 3: **Upload** it to us 

STEP 4: Wait to see if your joke makes it onto BBC Radio Oxford.

The funniest will be played on **National TV!**

activeCamps

School holiday multi-activity camp
for children aged 3-14!
8:15am-6pm

Summer Fields & Rye St Antony 29 March - 16 April



Available for all children where childcare is needed to enable parents or carers to work, seek work, attend education, seek medical care or attend a support group. Vulnerable children can attend our settings regardless of circumstance.

www.active-camps.com
or call 01865 594325



Oxford Active is really keen to offer children the chance to get outside and get active over the Easter break. If you are interested in giving your children the chance to socialise with others and enjoy whole days of activity, then do look at their website for more details.