Loving, learning and flourishing in community

Message from Mr Edwards-Grundy

After the early days of term when there were inevitably lots of changes to our practice and new routines were being established, this week has felt like being back to 'normal'. Staff had put into place careful arrangements to help children settle back into school and to help them find out what additional support children needed after such a long time out of school. This week, with children well settled and using all that they have learned, staff are now enjoying moving forward with their curriculum plans. It is such a joy to hear and see the work that is going on throughout the building and I would like to congratulate your children on their hard work this week.

In Collective Worship we have been continuing to reflect on the importance of co-operating with one another and how, though we are different, each of us has something unique to bring to our school. I have been really encouraged as I have heard reports of children supporting and celebrating one another this week – our school is a richer place when we work together.

As you will see from my attached letter, we do not know what challenges the weeks and months ahead will bring to us both as a nation and more locally. I am however confident that co-operation and seeing the best in one another will help us navigate well, whatever lies ahead.

News from around the school

Year 2 have produced some fabulous artwork this week, which is now on display in their middle area. Children have been looking hard at their faces and thinking about all the different features on them. They have talked about symmetry, colour, similarities and differences and then enjoyed drawing the 'other half' of their faces. Well done, Year 2.





When Mrs Usher-Wilson was asked to share what her class had been busy doing this week, she had so much to talk about it was impossible to decide what to share! Children have enjoyed writing postcards home, which parents should be receiving very soon, they have also been



thinking about 'counting on and counting back' in their maths and looking at different places in their topic work.

We especially liked seeing how many of the children in Mrs Usher-Wilson's class tackle the challenges at the end of each piece of learning.



It's good to talk!

We are aware that current restrictions mean that it can feel difficult to find an appropriate time to chat to your child's teacher about any concerns, or pass on information you would like to share.

If you would like to have a quick conversation at any time, please don't hesitate to contact the school via the office, either to share the information, or to arrange a time for a member of staff to get in touch.

Staying active!

The Excel Tennis Academy is continuing to run weekly coaching sessions for juniors aged 4 - 16 and adults of all ages and abilities. All sessions are COVID-19 Compliant and follow strict guidelines.

Sessions are available in Witney, Standlake, Eynsham and Kingston Bagpuize. For more information, please look at their website.

In School, we have been enjoying the warm and sunny weather, children have been doing PE outside, and the Reception and Year 1 children have been making the most of their outside areas.

We are committed to keeping your children as active as possible, as this is good for physical and mental health. Children throughout the school all enjoy morning and afternoon breaks as well as a lunchtime play.



Thoughts from the Priory

When you think about church what do you think? Do you think about an old building, 'Songs of Praise' on the telly, a religious service or something else? In the bible two of the strongest descriptions of the church are as a body or a family. One translator of one of the letters in the New Testament writes "The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance."

Elsewhere the church is described as a family and at St Mary's Cogges we very much see The Blake as part of our extended family. We've missed having the children visit the church building, however we continue to pray for the school and our community. The church building is quite old (it's been here for 900 years), and while it's not been open as much lately, the church family is still healthy and ready to support our wider community, so do shout if you need a listening ear, a helping hand or a shoulder to cry on. We really believe that "If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance." We look forward to seeing you again soon. Símon

Oxford Active

We have recently been able to increase the capacity of our before and after school provision. If you are interested in a place at one of the clubs, please contact Oxford Active.

Oxford Active also run clubs over the October half-term, if you would like to find out more about these, you can do so here.

School Nurse Team

Attached is the most recent newsletter from the school nurse team. The newsletter contains lots of useful information for you as parents. If you would like to speak to your school nurse, please call Rebecca on 07771 812 473, or email her on rebecca.priscott@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk