

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

The end of term is always busy and the end of the summer term even more so, there is a real sense of change in the air. There are also lots of tired children and staff, perhaps not helped by a certain football tournament having games that run to extra time!

When times feel uncertain and our resources are at their most stretched, it is even more important than ever to remember 'Thoughtfulness', our Value for this month.

In Collective Worship this morning I was encouraging the children to reflect on some of the images from Charlie Mackesy's book 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'. There are so many images in there that have great wisdom, we could probably have a whole Collective Worship on each image!

As we near the end of term and reflect on 'Thoughtfulness' I was particularly drawn to the image of the Boy and the Mole talking with the words "One of our greatest freedoms is how we react to things."

In a year where our circumstances have, perhaps more than ever, sometimes been forced upon us, periods of self-isolation, lockdown, unwelcome restrictions and tough personal situations, remembering that we can choose how to react is so important.

As a school community, it is always our endeavour to choose to react in a way that upholds the values and ethos of our school. When others are struggling, we can treat them with kindness and compassion; where people's circumstances are hard we can speak words of hope and love; where others make mistakes and hurt us we can show forgiveness and mercy.

In these last days of the school year, especially as the easing of restrictions looms, I am reminded to be thoughtful. Where I am comfortable with something, others may not yet be; where I am looking forward with happy expectation, others feel fearful.

Being part of a community is to take the time to appreciate the views of another and to adapt behaviour to reflect thoughtfulness. We can choose how to react. I am praying for the strength to continue to display the values at the heart of our Christian ethos, whatever the circumstances.

## Parent governors

Thank you to everyone who has already sent their completed parent governor voting slip into school, I am so delighted by the response.

If you have not yet returned your slip, Monday is the last chance to do so.

Many thanks!

Dr Phil Fowler

## End of term

The academic year ends at 1.30pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

As it is the last day, rather than having an extended pick up time, we will have one ten minute slot, from 1:30 – 1:40pm. Please pick your children up within that ten minute window.

There will be breakfast club on the last day of term, but no after school provision.

## Welcoming new staff

Our Year 5 children were today able to meet the two new members of staff who will be their teachers next year.

It was wonderful to welcome Mrs Henderson and Mr Walker to The Blake School and to introduce them to the children. They had a great time getting to know one another and making plans for September. We will introduce both of them to you in the autumn and tell you a bit more about them.

Children in Reception through to Year 4 will be meeting their new teachers on Monday. After some outdoor activities, children will then return to their classrooms to complete an activity that will be part of a display or help their new teacher find out more about them.

We know that transition can be hard for many children, but please be assured that teachers are working very hard to make it as fun and as reassuring as possible.

## News from around the school

Walking through the school this week, the artwork in Year 5 has really grabbed our attention. The children are learning all about the rainforest and the artwork they have been doing is part of that.



### Year 1 meet Rev Simon Kirby

This week, the Year 1 children enjoyed an opportunity to talk to the Vicar of St. Mary's Cogges, Rev Simon Kirby.

The children asked him all about his job; they had lots of questions for him!

- Do you ever leave the church?
- Why do you believe in God?
- Does your church have a bell?
- Why do you wear strange clothes?

If you have any questions that you would like to ask Simon Kirby, do look for contact details on the [St Mary's Church website](#).





We have several cases of headlice in school. This weekend, please do take time to check your child's hair!

## Learn an instrument

At The Blake School we are keen for children to have opportunities for children to flourish whatever their interest, skill or talent. We are always delighted on the days when our peripatetic music teachers are in school as then the school is filled with music.

Mrs Hayes and the music teachers are busy filming children so that we can all enjoy an end of term music concert put on by our children, from the comfort of our own classrooms.

If your child is interested in starting music lessons next year, please do look at the information that is being sent out with this newsletter. Some of the lessons are only viable if we have enough children express an interest, so please do think about whether your child might like to learn an instrument.

There's an instrument out there for everyone, we would love to see your child perform in our end of year concert next year.

## Explore Oxfordshire

Emma, the Market Towns Officer at West Oxfordshire District Council, has been in touch with us this week to ask us to advertise a promotional App – [LoyalFree](#).

Anyone who downloads the app will have access to local deals, rewards and other benefits including finding great local events that will support local businesses.

The app also provides educational trails, where you can learn about the history of each of our towns; fresh air and fun trails where you will discover nature reserves and play areas and a dog friendly trail.

## Return library books

Please can we ask you to check your shelves, cupboards and piles of books for any of our school books, especially library books.

Please return them to your child's class teacher as soon as you can so that we can ensure that our library is ready for use in September.

We are very grateful to Nick Reynolds who has been working very hard behind the scenes cataloguing new books and generally tidying up our library.

If, when you are looking for our library books, you come across any other quality books that you no longer need and you think would be a good addition to our library, please do bring them into school.

Thank you!