

Newsletter



It is a real joy to once again be able to share with you a photo of children who have received Values Awards in Collective Worship. Values Awards are given to children who have demonstrated our values in an extraordinary or notable way during the previous week. This week certificates were given for showing love and mercy, for co-operating with others, for being kind and thoughtful, for caring about friends and showing courage. Well done to all the certificate winners as well as those children who are just quietly living out and demonstrating our values day by day.

This week in Collective Worship we read 'The Library Lion'. It is a wonderful book that reminded us all that rules sometimes get broken when showing mercy. It was helpful for us all to reflect that we need to think carefully about the rules that we hold others to and when it would be merciful to allow for a different rule. It is a tough lesson for all of us, that sometimes mercy will inconvenience us and require us to change our comfortable life. But, as was the case with the lion in the library, showing mercy can change someone's life. Looking around our world, showing mercy this week might even save someone's life.

This week's Newsletter is full of all sorts of news from across the school – it is such a pleasure for us to once again be able to hold sports events and go on school trips. I hope you enjoy looking through the photos.

News from Mrs Patchett

Prior to the half-term break, I sent out a questionnaire to all the parents of children who have special or additional needs.

The aim of the questionnaire was to help me reflect on the provision that we currently have in place, where we can improve it and where we are already getting it right.

I am very grateful to all those who completed the questionnaire, particularly where you took the time to leave additional comments.

80% of parents who responded said that there are adequate formal and informal opportunities to speak to members of staff who know their children. There were some helpful suggestions about how communication could be improved that we will be exploring.

90% of parents who responded said that they felt able to raise any concerns with school staff. We recognise that drop off and pick up times are busy and so conversations where concerns need to be discussed need to be planned.

97% of parents who responded said that their views about their child are listened and responded to.

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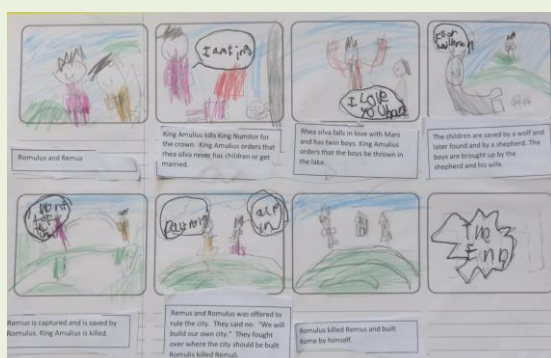
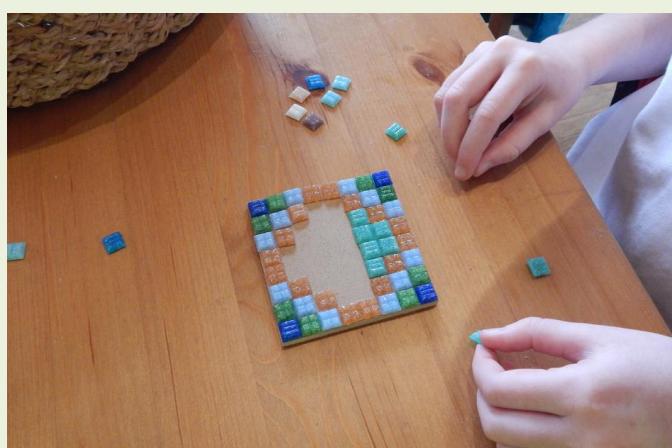
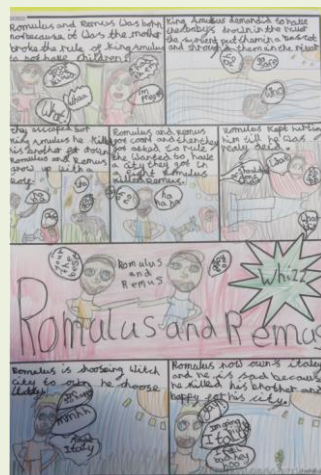
Mid-year IEP reviews are taking place during Parents' evenings before the end of term

We really appreciate parental feedback. After the Easter break we will be sending out the annual questionnaire to all parents, so do look out for the link to that.



News from Around the School

It has been a very busy week for the children in Year 4. On Wednesday, as part of their topic on the Romans, they went on a trip to Chedworth Roman Villa. They had a great time! In the classroom they have been thinking about the story of Romulus and Remus and have thought about the sequencing of events. The children then looked at features of comics and created their own comic strips.



Boccia

Our Boccia team has played two league games this week, one at home (against Hailey School) and one away (against Queen Emma's School). Both games were great fun, with children growing in confidence with every game. The children won against Hailey and lost against Queen Emma's, but showed great sportsmanship in both. Well done William, Harry, Sophia, Felicity and Michelle.



Boys' football

Following the game, Maxi Shaw wrote the following account –

'Our home match against Hailey School ended in a 6-1 win for us. We played a confident passing game and used the full width of the pitch to test our opposition. Hailey had a strong defence but we managed to get the upper hand and once we had scored a couple of early goals, we never looked as if we would surrender our lead. We were proud to represent the school with a win in our league.'

Congratulations to Maxi who scored a hat-trick and to Toby who saved a penalty in the first half.

Thank to Mr Morris who refereed the match so fairly.



Girls' football

'Nine girls from Year 6 represented The Blake at the Witney Girls' Football Tournament at the Henry Box ATP. We played really well in all of our seven short matches and came away with two wins, four draws and just one loss to Tower Hill who went on to win the tournament. We managed to keep the ball in our opponents' half for most of our matches, and we conceded only one goal. Lucy did a fantastic job in goal. As a result of all our hard work, we finished second out of eight schools. We were very pleased with our performance and really enjoyed ourselves! A special thank you to Mr Noble and Mr Morris for taking us and for being our cheerleaders.'

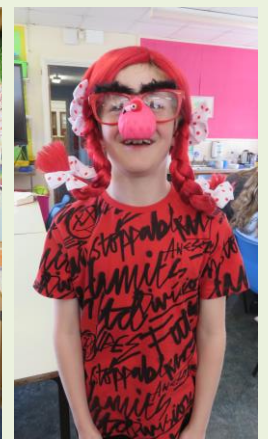


Thank you to Freya for the excellent write up of the game.

Having fun for Comic Relief

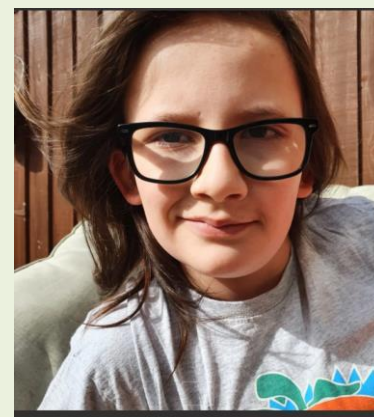
Thank you to everyone who brought in a donation for Comic Relief today – we raised a fabulous £403.87!

We enjoyed seeing hairbands, noses and wigs, which created a lot of laughter around the school.



Well done Jake

When the children in Year 5 said 'goodbye' to Jake on Friday of last week, he looked like this...



When the children in Year 5 said 'hello' to Jake on Monday morning, he looked like this...

Over his birthday weekend Jake had been sponsored to have his hair cut. He has donated his hair to The Little Princess Trust so that it can be made into a wig for a child with cancer and also raised in excess of £300.

What an amazing thing to do Jake!

School councillors meet Witney East councillors

On Wednesday, the School Council had a fantastic session with the Witney East councillors (Joy Aitman, Rosa Bulger and Duncan Enright). The children heard about their roles and responsibilities as well as what the best and worst part of their jobs are.

The children broke off into groups to think of an idea to make Witney better and had a debate and vote. Ideas included a Lego Centre, Book/Literary Festival and Litter Campaign; the winning idea was a Litter Campaign. Joy Aitman is going to work further with the whole school council on this matter - watch this space!



After the event Rosa Bulger wrote to Mrs Patchett, who supports the School Council, saying 'Thank you so much for having us this morning, it was so enjoyable to work with such a bright group of engaged children... we think they would all make fabulous councillors in the future!'

Loving, learning and flourishing in community