

# THE ASHCOTT COMPASS



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ASHCOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Edition 3 February 2019

## Congratulations!

By Oliver B and Braydon

### Ashcott pupils are making the news, literally!

We are proud to announce that this edition marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ashcott Compass.

Ashcott Newspaper Club was started in November 2014, and we started interviewing in January 2015.

Teaching assistant Ms Frampton, who used to be a journalist, set up the club with Mr Briar as editor-in-chief. She has been amazed at how the club has progressed.

We asked Ms Frampton why she felt that she should start news club and how she felt, now, five

years later.

"I felt it would be great to give youngsters the chance to experience being real life journalists," she said.

"I thought it would help to boost pupils' confidence to interview adults in the school community and would bring a purposeful meaning to their writing.

"I felt nervous when I first suggested it, I wasn't even sure anyone would be interested!

"I'm extremely proud of how every 'newsclubber' has responded.

"I'm also incredibly proud as I know how much work every member has put in."



### It's a Bug's Life

Woodpecker pupils have been getting up close and personal with creepy crawlies. See page 3.



Above: The inaugural News Club team, five years ago, and left: today's young reporters.

See inside for China Day, welcome to old friends and plans for the next term...

# Winter walks



It may have been a chilly half-term but that hasn't stopped pupils from getting out-and-about.

Owls pupils have been taking part in the mile challenge, walking around the school's playing field.

Sparrows have been on their weekly wellie walks and Woodpeckers have been out exploring the grounds and taking part in the RSPB Big School's Bird Watch.



## Lost words

It's not often we are lost for words, but Owls Class was recently when Miss Stevens showed us a new book.

Lost Words was written by Robert Macfarlane, who realised that many words had been removed from the latest dictionaries: to make room for words people use more often.

These deleted words now appear in Lost Words.

The words are all linked to nature such as acorn, adder, bluebell and many more. Some of the pupils did not believe the words were not in the dictionary and actually had to check. They found out that it was true

and were very shocked.

This is what some of the pupils said:

Maria said: "I feel sad that nature words have been exchanged for weird ones that I do not understand."

Charlie said: "I don't even see what the big deal is if nobody even uses the words anyway."

Chanelle said: "I feel very mad."

We also interviewed Miss Stevens and she wasn't happy at all.

She said: "I think that it is a shame because children won't learn about nature.

"They will open up a dictionary and see the word selfie or something."

**By Evie and Eva**



## Let it snow!

The weather this half-term has been very changeable!

The sun has been out but we have also experienced snow, rain and cold, windy weather.

One morning, the school didn't open until 10am because of the icy and snowy weather conditions. Two days later,

we actually had a snow day! Many of us got to build snowmen before all the snow melted.

Hopefully, the weather, next term, will start to get warmer as the days get longer again.

**Jasmine**



**Each edition of The Ashcott Compass will feature a weather picture drawn by a pupil from either Starling or Sparrow Class.**

**Today's weather picture, of a Snow Day, was drawn by Holly of Starlings Class.**

## Familiar faces return

Recently, Owls Class had a visit from four pupils that go to Crispin school. They were Eddie, Grace, Frank and Thea, who were all pupils at Ashcott Primary School last year! They came to tell the Year 6 about life at secondary school. They told us about their first day and how surprised about just how much homework they get: although Miss Stevens had told them, they didn't

believe her until they started at Crispin School! We asked some present Year 6s what they thought about the visit. Maria said: "Now I know that Crispin is not as scary as I thought." Edwin said: "They have all different houses and the colour of the houses get put on the bottom of your tie." Lily said: "They get much more homework and I think it's a bit



strict."

Charlie said: "They told us how they have unique timetables to tell them which lessons are coming up, where and at what time."

**By Evie and Eva**

## Splat a lot!

A few weeks ago, Owl's class watched the musical Bugsy Malone at Strode Theatre.

Bugsy Malone is a 1976 musical gangster comedy film, written and directed by Alan Parker. Every character in the film was played by a child, with pedal cars and

splat guns — shooting custard splats — instead of machine guns.

It was a very famous film that many of our parents remember. Now it has been staged at Strode Theatre by Crispin School pupils, with a cast that included youngsters who were once pupils at Ashcott Primary School.

Eva said: "I thought all of them were

very good and they had great accents."

"It was good, brilliant," said Archie R.

Lily, from Year 6, said: "It was very confusing but I managed to follow a bit of it."

"It was very good and very interesting," said Edwin.

**By Keira and Amelia**

## Bug's Life

Woodpeckers have had an amazing visitor come into their class, but it wasn't just one visitor, there were quite a few!

There were a lot of bugs creeping and crawling all over their boxes.

All of the children of Woodpecker class got a go at seeing and even touching some weird but wonderful creepy crawlies.

Abigail said: "I really liked Bugfest because I found the stick insects very interesting and they were really cool."



Phillippa had an amazing experience of having a millipede crawling around in her hair and Oliver B had a frightening experience of holding a stick insect.

Lilly from Year 4 thought: "I really

liked Bugfest because the millipede was awesome!"

"Holding all the bugs was really cool! Even the really deadly ones!" Oliver B, from Year 4 said.

Layla commented: "I liked the feeling of the millipede because it stuck to my hand."

"I loved the stick insect and tarantula." Lance stated.

Fenn said "It was wonderful! My favourite part was when Nick put the millipede on Philippa's head! He pretended it was a hairband!"

**By Violet and Rosalyn**

## Editorial Comment

*Although we have only had a short half-term, Ashcott Primary School has packed a lot in!*

*From dragons to log-cabins, from winter walks to visits and trips, it has been a very busy few weeks and here are some of my highlights.*

*Owls class have been on a visit to see Buggy Malone at the theatre – there were a lot of familiar faces as several ex-Ashcott pupils had major roles.*

*It was really good and it was really cool seeing people you know up-on-stage. It could be any of us, one day, if we get the*

**The Editorial Comment is a personal point of view about an aspect of the school, written by the guest editor.**

**This edition the guest editor is Rosalyn, of Owls Class.**

*same opportunities.*

*More familiar faces came to visit us, with a trip by Year 7 pupils to tell us about life at Crispin School.*

*With bugs in mind, Woodpeckers have enjoyed a visit by the Bug Man and all his creatures.*

*This term we have really battled with the weather – both at school, home and away.*

*We have had sporting fixtures right across the county. No matter the weather: ice, wind, rain or sleet Ashcott pupils did a terrific job.*

*Eventually, however, the snow did defeat us and we were all given a snow day! I really wanted to go to school but instead my friends and I went sledging and made a snowman as tall as ourselves!*

*This last week we all dressed in red and many of us enjoyed a Chinese lunch as well as other activities, to celebrate Chinese New Year.*

*It's really hard to eat with chop-sticks! We tried to eat just one piece of rice with our chop-sticks!*



# Ashcott sees r

Ashcott Primary School celebrates the Chinese New Year—the



# ed!

Year of the Pig



This term in Owls class, we have been learning about dragons. Each pupil has drawn and created their own unique pet. We have even made the dragon's passport, as well as imagining their habitat. After that we painted, coloured and collaged them. All the class enjoyed it very much and we hope to do something like that again.

**By Bertie W-S and Archie Smith**

## There be dragons...



We are looking for some more children to take on the challenge and here are some of the ones we found.

Braydon said: "I would love to stand in that hall to state my case."

Lily said, "It will be amazing there and hopefully a school will talk about saving the environment or the trees."

Edwin said "It looks so fun to do and I'd love to do it."

Maria said: "I'd love to see it all happen and would love to be a politician."

Mason said "it would be great to judge some people with a keen eye for politics."

**By Mason and Braydon**

## Return of a familiar face

Mrs Davis, who left last year as an assistant teacher, has now returned. She has taken over Mrs House's job in the office.

The pupils are happy because we were sad when she left in 2018, although we still miss Mrs House.

Here are some quotes from other students.

Caden, Charlie, Eddie, Archie and Ethan, all from Sparrows, said: "We are very happy that she came back because she is very nice."

Lily, from Year 6, said: "I am very sad about Mrs House leaving but very happy that Mrs Davis came back. They are both lovely ladies."

**By Isaac and Stanley A**

## MPs of the future

We may think that only boring grown-ups can decide how we live our lives, however, what about a yearly meeting of some of the schools in Somerset who are encouraged to debate some of the problems or challenges they face?

This year four Year 6's will be put to the parliamentary test, with a Year 5 joining them as judge.

Children's Parliament was created to help the next generation of parliamentarians have their first debate.

We know that the letters will be sent out soon and that the competition will happen sometime in April.

## Coming face-to-face with the past

This term, Owls class has been finding out all about our ancestors.

Cheddar Man was a prehistoric stone-ager (from the Mesolithic period) who was found in Gough's Cave, Cheddar, in 1903.

He is the earliest 'whole' skeleton to be found in England.

Scientists recreated his face with all of his living features; including: scars, hair, eyes, nose and skin colour.

They researched his DNA, that was left from his skeleton, to decide what he would have looked like.

The research was led by the Natural History Museum and

the University College London

We asked Owls teacher, Miss Stevens, why she thought the class should go back in time to learn about Cheddar Man. "It was to do with Somerset and it was different," said Miss Stevens.

"It was very interesting."

What's your favourite thing about the Cheddar Man?

"It was fascinating to think of all the features they could find in just the DNA!" Said Miss Stevens.

Edwin said: "He looks old and hairy."

"I find it really creepy but cool how they made his face," commented Maria.

Olly from Year.5 said: "He's got long hair and blue eyes."

"It looks strange." Said Keira.

**By Rosalyn and Jasmine**



## Our Houses

Before Christmas, Starling class made some beautiful log cabins.

They even had little fake candles to make it look more effective.

They were made out of thick skewers as well as painted cardboard.

Some of the pupils of

Starlings class told us how fun it was to make the miniature log cabins. Chloe quoted: "Yes, I did find it fun making them." Charlie W explained that he really enjoyed it. Isabelle D replied by saying: "Yes, it was fun because we got to stick Christmas trees on!"

**By Phillippa and Taia**

# In our clubs... In our clubs... In our clubs...



## Book Club

Ashcott Book Club has been meeting this term to read *Secrets of a Sun King*, a book set in the Golden Age of Egyptian archaeology, by Somerset author Emma Carroll.

Our netball team did an amazing job in the netball match and won 11 to 4. All of the team are very proud of each other, here are some quotes from a few people in the team.

Keira from Year 5 said: "I thought that everybody did really well and there was lots of teamwork included." In this netball match lots of effort was put in, which helped us win.

Edwin said: "I thought it was amazing."

Jasmine said: "I was very excited and we did better than I thought we would."

Taia said: "Well, we were amazing considering we won the first match!" Our netball team has improved so much since last year.

Everyone has got better at: intercepting, defending an even passing.

Miss Bastata is so proud of everyone in the team.

We all hope we will win the next match with our tremendous team.

## Netball Club



By Violet

## Ashcott Choir

Once again Choir will be visiting Highbridge Music Festival. This year, we have to have a theme so the theme is ...UPLIFT. We are singing Wish and Believe.

We have some new members of the choir (the year threes) who have never been to a music festival before. These are some of their thoughts about how they're feeling.

"I am really excited and a bit scared," quoted Olivia.

Eleia said: "It sounds really fun and I'm looking forward to it."

Flo told us: "She is scared, excited and nervous."

"I feel nervous and excited at the same time," replied Madison.

Lily Rose added: "She is excited and scared."

Katie explained that she is "very nervous whilst really excited."

We cannot forget about Mrs Palmer who has taught choir these amazing songs and we asked her how she thinks choir is going to do.

Mrs Palmer excitedly said: "We're going to smash it again. The choir is very excited and very strong, we're singing in three different parts."

By Phillipa and Taia

# Active Ashcott



## Footballers in final

**Ashcott Football team has taken part in the county finals.**

There were 12 teams in total, some of the teams were from very far away.

We started the day off by losing 4-1 but we were unlucky to lose the second game.

We lost 4-0 and were even more unfortunate in that game but for-

tunately turned it around and won 2-1! The game after, we drew.

In the last game our fortune ended and we lost 3-1 but the football team are looking forward to next season.

**By Archie and Bertie**



Through rain and **snow...**

Thank you to Mrs Jones for these photographs from cross-country in the snow!



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Name: .....

Address: .....

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Name of pupil: .....

Year:..... Class:.....